

Nov./Dec. 2010

The Bible Guys

of Yesterday and Today

האד דאלפ-בט אזעקוראל או

THE ALEPH-BET IN SCRIPTURE

God chose the Hebrews and gave His word to the world in their language. But God also had a hidden purpose for using this 22-letter language.

JESUS IS COMING

Many people believe that Jesus is coming. But just as during His first coming, He fulfilled all that was written about it, so too must His second coming occur "as it is written."

NOAH FOUND GRACE

In the midst of the fierce wrath of God upon the children of disobedience, one man caught God's attention. Now, we are living in a new generation of wrath, will any find grace?

The Bible Guys

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The People of Truth
A Holy Nation

The Aleph-Bet in the Holy Scriptures

by David M. McNabb

If I were to ask you to show me a representation of the Alphabet in the pages of God's holy word, what passage would you think of?

Of course, the alphabet is found on every page, since we use its letters to form the written words that convey the spoken thought. However, I am sure that you would know that my intent would be something other than that obvious point.

So, in seeking to find a reference to the Alphabet, one might very likely think of the words of both the Father and of Jesus in the book of Revelation, "I am the Alpha and the Omega" (Rev. 1:8; Rev. 1:11; Rev. 21:6; Rev. 22:13). This is an amazing phrase, declaring the completeness of God, using the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet: building blocks of the written language of the New Testament. The Greek language itself is a major influence of many modern languages, even as the Gospel which it was written in has influenced the cultures of the world in a most incredible way.

Writing is a most fundamental characteristic of modern civilization, and something most of us take for granted. Many languages are written with alphabets: letters, or symbols, that

represent sounds which are combined to express the spoken words.

This basic system is taught to children from their earliest years, often in the form of one of the first songs they learn (usually with a tune that is shared with other childhood favorites such as 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' and 'Baa Baa Black Sheep').

The names of the letters in English are simply the letter sounds as in A, Bee, Cee, Dee (with consonants often coupled with the long 'e' sound). However, we call the entire family of our letters "the alphabet," because of the Greek influence. The word is formed from the first two letters of their Alphabet: Alpha and Beta.

Greek is not the origin of alphabets, though. When comparing the alphabets of the two languages in which the Scriptures were written, Greek and Hebrew, one can immediately recognize that Greek was itself influenced by the earlier Semitic languages. Take the first four letters of Greek: Α, Β, Γ, Δ (alpha, beta, gamma, delta). Now compare those to the first four letters of Hebrew: א, ב, ג, ד (aleph, beth, gimme, dalet). These similarities, which can be seen throughout the two alphabets, are undeniable evidence of either a common origin or direct influence.

ALEPH-BET Continued on page 6

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Jesus is Coming *as it is written (part 1)* by C. Elden McNabb

Multitudes of Christians in the world today are awaiting the second coming of Jesus. For various reasons, however, not all of us are looking for the same things to occur at His arrival. Actually there are different things recorded in the Holy Scriptures about His coming, and they are all true. There are at least two or three different events referred to in the prophecies about the second coming of Jesus and His appearance to His bride, and to the world. Therefore we must consider them all if we are to know the truth about His coming, and escape the day of His wrath.

The book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ is probably the most difficult book of the Bible to understand. Yet, in it John recorded one of the most well known statements concerning the coming of Jesus. Well known, yes, but it appears to be not so easily understood. He said, "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and *every eye shall see him*, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen" (Rev. 1:1-8). Isn't that amazing, even those who vindictively pierced Him

will be required to get up and see the Son of God, whom they abused, sitting on the Throne of His Glory (Isa. 9:7; Isa. 16:1-5)! We are not told how long they will be around, but they must see him and bear the shame.

John also recorded the words of the angel that spoke with him, saying, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready" (Rev. 19:5-9). And Paul said, "To them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28). John and Paul obviously wanted us to know that the second coming of the Son of God is not about redemption. It is about the resurrection of the dead, and the changing to immortality for those believers which are alive and remain unto His coming. It is about the marriage of the Lamb of God, and a year of rejoicing with His Bride, the Church: Jewish and Gentile. It is they who will then become the ruling faction of the world with Him for a thousand years (Rev. 7:1-8; Rev. 14:1-4; Rev. 21:9-27).

The six thousand years since the creation of Adam will end near the end of September, 2011. God actually began the count-down of the time of the end from April, 1962. Remember that He said, "The Harvest is the end of the world." The harvest of the tares began that year in fulfillment of the commandment concerning the seven sabbatical years and the year of Jubilee. It was then that Pope John XXIII began the Gathering of the Tares by the proclamation of the Ecumenical Movement (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43). Pope Benedict the XVI has recently closed that plan.

The forty-nine years will end on or about April 4, 2011. During the fiftieth year (about April 4, 2011 to April 4, 2012), the prophetic fulfillment of the year of Jubilee will occur. It is the year of "the Marriage of the Lamb." And during that year, Jesus will be handing out the rewards which have been earned by His faithful servants, both to the prophets in the Old Testament era and to the ministers in the New Testament, and to those who assisted them and waited upon them (Mark 9:41; Lev. 25:8-16; Rev. 22:11-17). And to every man that "hath his proper gift of God" (1 Cor. 7:7; 1 Cor. 12:4-11).

On the night before Jesus was crucified, He interrupted the dinner and took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, "and gave it to His disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. *But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom*" (Matt. 26:26-29).

The following day, Jesus sacrificed His life for us. He paid the price for our

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

redemption, and arose again three days and three nights later. Then He stayed another forty days, fulfilling certain prophecies before He returned to His father and began His new job, sitting at the right hand of God, pleading forgiveness for our sins and securing life eternal for us. When the time comes for His second coming, Jesus will leave the mercy seat, and the days of "Jesus the mediator" will be over. Then shall that prophecy be fulfilled "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy let him be holy still" (Rev. 22:11). Jesus will then rise to the position of "King of the World."

As the disciples watched Jesus ascend into heaven forty days after His resurrection, "two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, *shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven*" (Acts 1:11). Jesus took a few of His faithful followers with Him out as far as Bethany where they watched Him as He began His ascent into Heaven. Even so, God will send at least one prophet to gather together a few of Jesus' disciples somewhere, and Jesus will descend into their midst, come out of the cloud, and greet them. We must, therefore, expect that to be the first time Jesus shows Himself to people at His second coming.

Jesus himself declared, "Then shall appear *the sign of the Son of Man* in heaven: and then shall all of the earth mourn, *and they shall see the Son of Man coming* in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels (messengers) with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of Heaven to the other" (Matt. 24:30-31). The sign appears first, then a time of world-wide mourning begins, then a great

trump sounds, and the gathering of God's elect begins.

At least two or three of these events need to be put together with at least one or two of its mates in any effort to "rightly divide" this promise and find out what to expect "At His coming" (Isa. 34:16).

It surely looks as if Jude made a statement which is relevant to the one in Revelation 1:7, "Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh *with ten thousands of His saints*, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him" (Jude 1:14-15).

Moses confirms this, saying, "The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them" (Deut. 32:1-2). By the pen of these two prophets, it is made obvious that Jesus will come to His people and spend some time with them, before going forth with a fiery law to judge. As Paul said, "Unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28). He will come from there to execute judgment on disobedient Christianity, and begin to punish and conquer the nations of the Earth.

God brought Israel out of Egypt to Sinai, and there the "Marriage" took place. Moses wrote upon the tables of stone *the words of the covenant, the ten commandments* (Ex. 34:27-28), and delivered it to the people. Paul showed that it was the Ten Commandments that Jesus nullified by His death when he quoted, "Thou shalt not covet" (Rom. 7:1-7). Moses brought them the marriage covenant, and they accepted it, but they would not keep it.

What God did there is what the scriptures call a prophetic "allegory" (Gal.

4:22-24). This particular allegory, together with others, is given to us that we might know for certain that when Jesus comes He will come to "The mountain of the LORD" for "the Marriage of the Lamb" (Jer. 50:4-6; Isa. 2:1-5; Rev. 19:5-9; Matt. 25:1-13).

Christian preachers almost everywhere are adamantly teaching their people that they cannot know when Jesus is coming. Therefore those precious saints have fulfilled the prophecy in the parable of "The Ten Virgins" (Matt. 25:1-13). Although some Christians are beginning to stir, most "Christians," wise and foolish, have lost sight of the coming of the Bridegroom, and are asleep. Sadly, most pastors are telling their congregations to "Sleep on."

I am having trouble understanding why Christian ministers today are determined that you cannot know when Jesus is coming. They are obviously not the one commissioned by the Master to sound the alarm. But, Jesus told us clearly in the parable of The Ten Virgins that a messenger would make "a cry at midnight" to wake up all of God's children, both wise and foolish (Matt. 25:1-13). Today he is making the cry, according to his instructions.

Malachi prophesied concerning the matter, mentioning only one man in the prophecy, saying, "Behold, I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me" (Mal. 3:1-6). Also, Paul used God's promise to Abraham about a son to show us how God's prophecies are carried out. God did not say to Abraham "Seeds, as of many; but as of one" (Gal. 3:16). There was only one promised seed, and that was Jesus Christ. Even so, God promised by Malachi that He would send a messenger to get a group of people ready for His arrival (Mal. 3:1-6). That is what you can expect.

Believe the prophetic "Word of God." It is true.



Noah Found Grace

by Joel McNabb

When Cain killed Abel, his brother, God sent Cain away from the lineage of the sons of God, thus separating the evil from the good. Later, the sons of God looked on the daughters of men (Cain's descendants), taking them for wives, thus mixing the two seeds. This greatly displeased God, for He saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth. "And the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth Me that I have made them" (Gen. 6:7).

God decided that the only way to fix it was to destroy everything that had life in them, yet He looked around to see if there was anyone on earth that could be saved to start afresh. "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord... Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God" (Gen. 6:8-9). The task God gave to Noah was to "build an ark" to save those that would be with him in the ark. We are not told the number of the population of people on the earth at that time, but we are told that God came to one man and warned him of the flood that was to come to destroy every thing that had breath. Noah believed God and did as he was commanded, and prepared an ark for the saving of his house, by the which he condemned the world (Heb. 11:7).

The New Testament calls Noah a preacher of righteousness. We are not told what he preached, but he warned them, and we can just imagine people mocking and scorning. They were disobedient and did not believe. Peter writes about them, "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water" (1 Pet. 3:20). But

Noah kept working, believing and doing what God told him to do regardless of those who would not believe. The promise to Noah was that God would establish His covenant with him, and he and his family would be preserved and all that remained in the ark with him.

We see that when Noah completed his work, God said "Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth" (Gen.7:1,4). Interestingly here, God gave Noah seven days to get his family and all the animals on the ark. Sounds like a "quick work" to me. After taking all that time to build the ark, God only allows Noah a week to get everyone on board. Once everyone was on the Ark, God then shuts the door and seals them in. For forty days, the deluge of rain was poured on the earth. Those who did not believe were on the outside and could not get in, for the time of the flood had come.

I recently heard someone call the flood in Noah's day "God's genocide." What the atheist did not see is that God delivered Noah and his family from that wicked and perverse generation, by saving them with the flood. It is hard to think that God would destroy so many people, but He cared for the good of man and the earth and saved it from the wickedness that had prevailed.

Out of all the people on the earth, there was only one that found grace in His eyes in those days. God has not changed — and neither has man. Jesus told His disciples, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking,


marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:37-39).

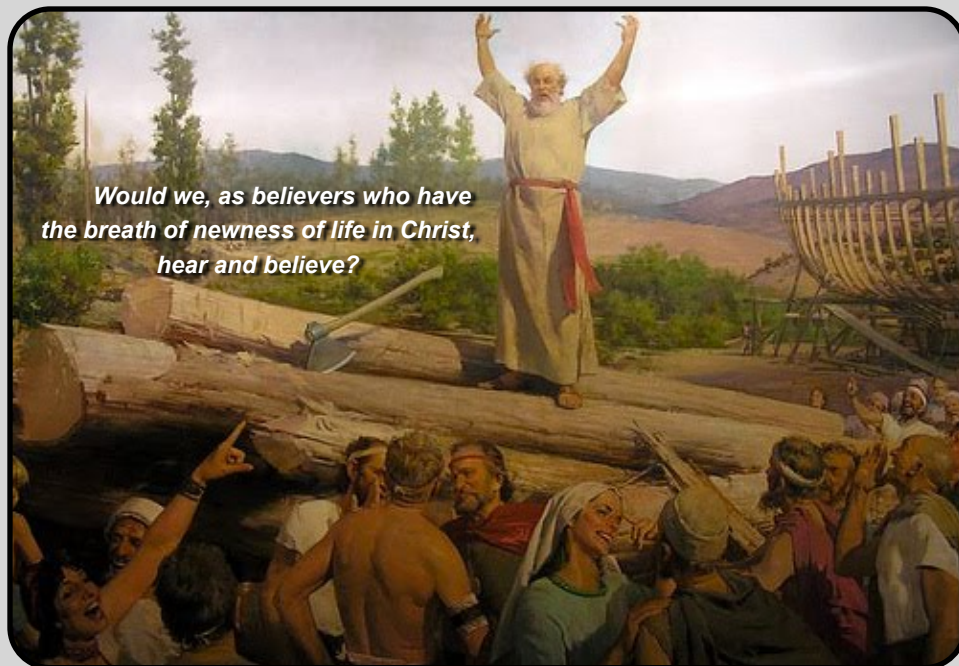
What if God would come to someone today, and tell him that He was going to cause a flood of destruction to come upon Christianity? Would this person be heard, or ignored as some foolish quack? When he begins to preach and warn of the calamity to come, would we, as believers who have the breath of newness of life in Christ, hear and believe? The new seed of God's sons, Christians, have once again looked on the world and saw that it is fair, and have taken up the ways of the world, causing sorrow to come to God again. All the Old Testament is prophetic, not merely stories and history. Jesus said the last days would be like Noah's day, people living their lives for themselves as if nothing could happen to them. We are told by preachers today that the Believers will miss the tribulation that is coming on the earth. But Paul warns, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thess. 5:3). God does not change. If He is going to send destruction, He will let someone know who will believe and prepare for the coming trouble. This someone will be faithful and prudent: "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished" (Pro. 22:3). Who will find grace in the eyes of the Lord?

"And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke. According to their deeds, accordingly he

will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompence to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompence. So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him" (Isa. 59:16-19).

Knowing that the time is short, let us press on with holy vigor to be what God wants us to be. "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16).

May we do the best that we can in this present world, knowing it is time to wake up and be prepared for the coming of the Lord. Maybe we will catch God's eye too, and find grace in His sight. 



Would we, as believers who have the breath of newness of life in Christ, hear and believe?

ALEPH-BET Continued from page 2

So, expanding our search for a representation of the alphabet in Scripture to the Old Testament, many of you will probably think of Psalm 119. This psalm is unique, in that its 176 verses are divided into 22 groups of 8, each group named for a letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet. While this may seem rather random to those who read this passage in a language other than Hebrew, it is very clear the reason why the translators chose to separate the sections. You see, the Psalmist himself made the divisions, because in the Hebrew, all 8 verses of each section begin with that letter of the aleph-bet. So, each of verses 1 through 8 begin with the letter aleph, verses 2-16 begin with the letter beth, and so on.

But why would the writer use this method in this Psalm? What is the Lord -- by inspiring the Psalmist -- intending to show us?

Psalm 119 is amazing for another fact as well. Throughout the "Great Alphabet,"

there is in all but one verse, one of the following ten expressions: Way, Testimony, Precepts, Commandment, Saying, Law, Judgment, Righteousness, Statutes, and Word. Only in verse 122 do none of these appear. Is there a connection between the subject of this verse and the deliberate use of the aleph-bet? Is it because the Psalm seems to pertain to the Word of God, and His Word has been written with letters?

Now, this interesting use of the alphabet is not only found here in Psalm 119. There are others worthy of our consideration.

The next passage I would like for us to consider is Proverbs 31:10-31. These last 22 verses of the Book of Proverbs, like Psalm 119, each begin with the corresponding letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet. Thus, verse 10 begins with aleph, verse 11 with beth, etc.

If you have read the Book of Proverbs, or at least portions of it, you have found that most of it is written with individual verses constituting a complete thought,

and the following verse being an entirely different thought, with little or no context. That is, for much of the book, each verse is a stand-alone, wise saying. Some parts are continuous, such as chapters 8 and 9 which are written to honor "wisdom."

The last 22 verses of Proverbs form a topical section to close out the book. The subject is found in the first phrase of verse 10, "Who can find a virtuous woman?" The rest of this passage goes on to describe this virtuous woman.

The Book of Proverbs is attributed to King Solomon, the son of David, as is Ecclesiastes, the other book of wisdom included in the Bible. Interestingly, Ecclesiastes is concluded with an obvious summary. Solomon wrote, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Eccl. 12:13-14).

ALEPH-BET Continued on page 7

ALEPH-BET *Cont. from page 6*

Perhaps we can infer a writing style from this synopsis at the end of Ecclesiastes. Solomon clearly shows his purpose for writing this book of wisdom in the last two verses: "the conclusion of the whole matter." Is it possible that this is also what he has done at the end of the Book of Proverbs?

I have said many times how important it is for the believer to read Proverbs. At the same time, I caution the reader that Proverbs will reveal to you things about yourself that you may not like. As it shows us the wisdom of God, and how we should apply that wisdom to our lives, Proverbs also often shows us the areas in which we have failed to do so. A frequent reading of it will help us grow and conform more and more to that which the Master desires of us.

So, can we infer that this last short section of Proverbs is, in fact, a summation of the purpose of the Book as a whole? If so, it would seem that the intent of Proverbs is to help us conform to that "virtuous woman." This would be an interesting fact, indeed, considering the many wives of Solomon (both from the children of Israel, and from foreign nations).

So, it would seem that he saw the importance of a virtuous woman, and was inspired by God to write about it. But why?

Like the third book written by King Solomon, *The Song of Songs*, there are deep spiritual implications to this seemingly carnal writing. However, the virtuous woman of Proverbs, and the lover of the Song of Solomon both speak prophetically of the "bride, the Lamb's wife" found in the Book of Revelation.

Perhaps a look at still another example will provide further insight. A little, often overlooked book is found among the writings of the prophets called Lamentations. This book, penned by Jeremiah, is divided into 5 chapters. All have 22 verses, with the exception of

chapter 3, which has 66 (22 x 3). This alphabetic phenomenon is found here as well, except for the 5th chapter. In chapters 1, 2 and 4, each of the 22 verses begin with aleph, then beth, just as in Proverbs 31:10-31. In chapter 3, groups of 3 verses all begin with the letters, similar to Psalm 119.

Is there any connection between this book and one of the examples we have already considered? A simple reading of Lamentations will quickly reveal a strong connection indeed.

From verse one, we see the city of Jerusalem compared to a woman who has lost her glory. "How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! ...all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies. ...And from the daughter of Zion all her beauty is departed" (Lam. 1:1-6). Compare that to Solomon's description of the virtuous woman, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. ...She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms" (Prov. 31:10,17).

Jeremiah continues, "All that pass by clap their hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?" (Lam. 2:15). But Solomon said, "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her" (Prov. 31:28).

Solomon said of her, "She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet" (Prov. 31:21), but what does Jeremiah say had befallen her? "They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills" (Lam. 4:5).

So in Lamentations, we can readily see the connection of the Aleph-Bet to the virtuous woman, as in Proverbs. The one

ALEPH-BET *Cont. on page 8*

THEY KNEW IT NOT

Before daylight on Sunday morning, after Jesus' resurrection the evening before, Mary Magdalene found His tomb open and rushed to the twelve apostles, thinking the authorities had moved Jesus' body. Peter and John ran together to see, and Peter ran in to find only His clothes. Then John went in and saw, and believed. "For as yet they knew not the scripture, that He must raise again from the dead" (John 20:1-10). Amazing! Jesus' two closest disciples did not know the prophecy of the Lord's resurrection.

Today, 2,000 years later, we are in a reverse situation. Jesus is coming back soon and His coming will fulfill a large volume of prophecy. Yet, very few of Jesus' followers are aware that they need to know the prophecies of His coming. Somehow we have gotten the idea that it is not important. But, why else would Jesus tell us that "All the prophets and the law prophesied until John" (Matt. 11:13)?

Amazing! But God is even now raising up a group of apostles and prophets to enlighten us about His coming. As Paul said, "By revelation [God] made known unto me the mystery which in other other ages was not known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophet by the spirit" (Eph. 3:1-5).

Jesus will come very soon and many believers will not be able to believe He is here when they hear about it, because faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:8-18). Apostles and prophets are already here, and Jesus will soon appear. Believe it!

ALEPH-BET *Cont. from page 7*

proclaims her virtue, while the other proclaims her loss of it.

Some other interesting facts are found in the number 22 itself. As we have seen, the Hebrew Aleph-Bet has 22 letters. These letters form the words that are written in God's word in the Hebrew tongue. However, we also have the New Testament, written originally in Greek. All of the books together number 66, or 3 x 22. This is significant since the number 3 signifies divine completion (E. W. Bullinger, *Number in Scripture*, 1894, pgs. 107-122.) Thus, God placed His fingerprint of the divine completion of His written Word in 66 books.

Also, the Book of Revelation, the final writing included in the Holy Scripture, has 22 chapters. This is, no doubt, one last reference to the importance of 22 in connection with the written word.

Finally, there were 22 generations from Adam to Jacob (Israel). In Jacob, God had finally set apart the people for His name, and it was they who received "the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises... and of whom concerning the flesh Christ came" (Rom. 9:4-5). But Paul clarifies, "they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children... They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed" (Rom. 9:6-8).

So, how does this all fit in with Psalm 119? As I showed, it is the WORD that is the central theme of that Psalm, each verse speaking in praise of it in one form or another. The Word is the key that will bring God's people to perfection (Heb.6:1-3), thereby raising up a people prepared for His name (Acts 15:14): the Bride, the Lamb's Wife (Rev. 21:9-10). The Bride is the Holy Jerusalem, even as natural Jerusalem was "the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there" (2 Chron. 12:13).

It is with the "washing of water by the Word" that Christ will sanctify and cleanse the Church, "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; ...that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:27).

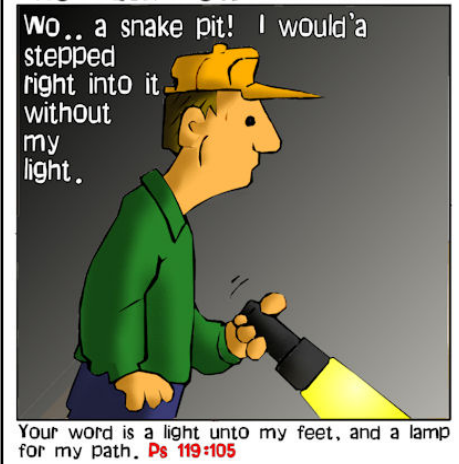
And this is the underlying purpose of all Scripture! Look at the word of God. The Scriptures show us that God's first work with man was the wedding of Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:18-25).

Fast forward about 4,000 years, and we see the beginning of Jesus' miraculous ministry on Earth began at a marriage (John 2:1-11).

Finally, we observe that the last thing described by the Scriptures is the wedding of the Lord with His Church (Rev. 21:1 through Rev. 22:6).

This reveals the divine purpose of the written word which we call the Bible: the preparation of the Bride of Christ, the virtuous woman whose price is above rubies.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Now, I looked up the meaning of the word "rubies" in Proverbs 31:10. In fact, the word actually should have been translated PEARLS!! Let us read it again. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is above *pearls*." Does this perhaps cause you to think of another Scripture?

Jesus said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it" (Matt. 13:45-46). Jesus is that "merchant man," and the Church, the Virtuous Woman, is that pearl of great price that He found, and for which He paid all to acquire.

The Purpose of God's Word is to prepare the Bride unto the coming of the Lord: a virtuous woman, a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle.

That, my friends, is as easy as A-B-C.

