

# Scripture Standard

**Volume 85-4**  
**September 2018**

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**Pleading for a  
total return to  
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principles.**

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**contend earnestly  
for the faith**  
Jude 1:3

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## **IS JUDAS UNJUSTIFIABLY MALIGNED?**

*[Continued from previous issue]*

There are numerous "What ifs" in the scriptures. For example: What if Adam hadn't sinned and no one had died - What would have happened to the ever-increasing population on this small planet? We could speculate for ages as to what might have been - but the facts are: Adam did sin, and Judas did betray the Lord.

## **BUT DIDN'T THE SCRIPTURE HAVE TO BE FULFILLED?**

As Jesus said:

None of them is lost save the son of perdition (i.e. son of ruination); that the scripture might be fulfilled. John 17:12

There are two things to be borne mind about God's predestinations:

1. God's character is holy. He is not a respecter of persons, Acts 10:34. He does not force any person into being damnably sinful against his will, James 1:13-17. Suggesting God arbitrarily damns some and blesses others, risks blaspheming the Holy Spirit of God, Matthew 12:31-32.

He is "not willing that any should perish".

2 Peter 3:9

He has "no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked should turn from his way and live". Ezekiel 18:23,32; 33:11

2. God's foreknowledge forms the basis of His predestinations (Romans 8:29), not the other way around.

Also, in the passage quoted - John 17:12 - Jesus "lost" Judas. To be lost, Judas must have been all right to start with, but somewhere along the line he revealed the characteristic here referred to as "the son of perdition". "Perdition" means ruin. It became evident he was one disposed to being disruptive. He wasn't born bad – he transgressed - he “fell” from apostleship.

Judas by transgression fell.

Acts 1:25

He was chosen personally by the Lord (Mark 3:13). He started off on an equal footing as the others. He was entrusted with the communal money bag. Later he was “lost” (John 17:12) and “fell.” (Acts 1:25)

### **BUT DIDN'T JESUS CHOOSE HIM KNOWING HE WOULD BETRAY HIM?**

It's suggested that Jesus must have known that Judas would betray him when He chose him because:

He knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

John 2:24-25

Also, didn't He say in the upper room:

I know whom I have chosen - but that the scripture might be fulfilled: He who eats bread with me has lifted up his heel against me.

John 13:18

and early in His ministry say:

Did I not choose you twelve and one of you is a devil?

John 6:70

These passages do not say that Judas had evil intentions when he was chosen as an apostle. In fact, there is a note of sadness in Jesus' statement “Did I not choose you twelve...?” coming as it

did after many of His followers had forsaken Him and Jesus had asked the twelve, "Will ye also go away?"

Peter's impulsive yet beautiful response, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that you are that Christ, the Son of the living God" was met with the despondent, "Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"

The word "devil" (diabolos) means a slanderer, maligner, subversive talker. It is the word from which we get diabolical. Already Judas had begun to make disruptive remarks.

### **BUT JESUS SENT HIM OUT TELLING HIM TO GET ON WITH IT**

In the upper room, after saying it was happening:

That the scripture might be fulfilled

John 13:18

Jesus told Judas:

What you do, do quickly

John 13:27

There comes a point when God's Spirit stops striving with men (Genesis 6:3) and He abandons them to their own devices to suffer the consequences. Didn't God abandon the idolaters of old to pursue their alternative lifestyle and to reap the consequences? (Romans 1:26-27) Another example is when Israel wanted a king like the nations around them in preference to God being their ruler. He warned them of the consequences. Then when they were obstinately unrepentant, God "gave them a king in" His "anger and took *him* away in" His "wrath." 1 Samuel 8:7-20 & Hosea.13:11.

Let us be warned:

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:31

In the upper room, Judas had already taken on board the Devil's (the arch-maligner's) idea to betray the Lord. His heart was wide open for Satan to gain entry, which he did after Judas accepted the morsel of food the Lord offered him. From then on it was outright antagonism ("Satan" = Adversary). It was then, when Judas was all keyed up to do his dastardly deed, that the Lord told him:

What you do, do quickly.

John 13:27

It is possible for those who trust God to be indwelt by God, (1 Corinthians 3:16). It should not be thought strange that Judas having taken on board Satan's plan (John 13:2) should become indwelt by Satan.

### **BUT WAS HE WARNED**

It is suggested that Judas' intention was to precipitate a situation which would force the Lord to reveal himself as the mighty royal Messiah. However, several events should have convinced him that it would run counter to the Lord's purpose – that His kingdom was "not of this world".

He must have heard the Lord's answer to Peter's protest that the Lord would not be executed:

Get thee behind me Satan (i.e. obstructionist) you are an offence to me: for you don't savour the things that are of God, but those that are of men.

Matthew 16:23.

And then there was the incident when a Samaritan village refused the Lord's hospitality and the sons of thunder (James and John) wanted them to be consumed with fire from heaven.

The Lord's response was:

Ye know not what kind of spirit ye are of, for the son of man hasn't come to destroy men's lives but to save them

Luke 9:55-56

(Sadly, these vitally important clauses from Luke 9:55-56 are

missing from modern liberal translations, even though they were in mid second century manuscripts)

When the Lord announced, "one of you is a devil (a maligner)" (John 6:67-71) Judas would know he had been rumbled. Even at the last minute - when the Lord, after washing Judas' feet said "one of you will betray me" he could have backed out. He certainly knew the Lord was severely distressed and that he was the cause of His distress (John 13:21). Even to the last, the other apostles were at a loss to know who would betray their Lord, but not Judas. He did not, like the others sorrowfully, apprehensively ask, "Lord, it is I?" but after an awkward delay, secretly presented his query, addressing Him formally, "Rabbi, it is I?" to which the Lord replied, "You've said it" (Matthew 26:22,25). Despite that response, he went ahead.

The rebel no longer acknowledged Jesus as his Lord.

*[To be continued in next issue]*

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## **GAD AND ASHER**

Jonathan Ashurst, Byron GA

Our series continues with the seventh and eighth sons of Jacob: Gad and Asher.

In her desperation to have children, Rachel had given Jacob her handmaid Bilhah to bear children in her stead, and Bilhah had borne Dan and Naphtali. Since Leah was no longer having children of her own, she followed her sister's example and gave her handmaid Zilpah to Jacob. Leah named the two boys Gad which means 'troop', and Asher which means 'happy'. (Genesis 30:1-13, NKJV)

After more children had been born and the family had moved back to Canaan, the sons of the handmaids became jealous of their younger brother Joseph, partly because he had told Jacob a bad report about them. Soon they conspired with their other brothers against Joseph. In the end, Joseph was sold into slavery.

(Genesis 37)

Many more years had passed when a famine forced the brothers to seek food in Egypt. There the ruler treated them with apparent distrust and threatened them. In the end, however, they discovered that the ruler was Joseph their brother. He forgave them and welcomed them and their families to come live in Egypt so he could provide for them. By this time, Gad had seven sons, while Asher had four sons and one daughter (Genesis 42-45; 46:16-17)

Before Jacob died, he blessed his sons:

Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him,  
But he shall triumph at last.

Bread from Asher shall be rich,  
And he shall yield royal dainties.

Genesis 49:19-20, NKJV

Throughout the nation's history, the two themes, troops and happiness, are often featured in connection with these two tribes respectively.

The family grew into a mighty nation. On the way back to inherit the promised land of Canaan, the tribe of Gad was among those who decided to stay in Gilead, on the east side of the Jordan River, an area which they had conquered from their enemies there. Moses and the leaders agreed on the condition that they still help their fellow tribes conquer the land west of the Jordan. One of those tribes was Asher, which settled on the northwest of Israel, on the Mediterranean coast. (Numbers 32; 34:14-15; Joshua 18:7; 19:24-31)

In his final exhortation, Moses blessed the tribes, describing Gad as a fierce lion and a just lawgiver, and delighting in the happiness that Asher's tribe would enjoy. (Deuteronomy 33:20-21, 24-25)

Once the land was settled, Gad and the other tribes returned east of the Jordan and built a large altar. When challenged about their behavior by a large group of their brethren, they defended themselves by explaining that the altar was to serve as a reminder of their continued membership within the nation. (Joshua 22)

In the time of the Judges, the people of Asher did not fully follow God's instructions to drive out the people of the land. Both Gad and Asher ignored Deborah and Barak's call to fight. However, the men of Asher did answer Gideon's summons (Judges 1:31-32; 5:17; 6:35)

The descendants of both Gad and Asher were known as mighty warriors and the Lord brought them great victories. (1 Chronicles 5:11-22; 7:30-40; 12:36-37)

Both Elijah and Barzillai were from Gilead in Gad. (1 Kings 17:1; 2 Samuel 17:27-29)

In the days of king Saul, a troop of Philistines came against the people. While Saul waited in Gilgal, facing the large army, some of Saul's men fled by crossing over the Jordan into the land of Gad. In panic, Saul offered the sacrifice that Samuel was meant to offer. Because of his disobedience, Saul eventually lost the kingdom. Nevertheless, his son Jonathan led the people to victory over the Philistines. (1 Samuel 13-14:46)

Some of the people of Asher humbled themselves in the days of King Hezekiah by coming to participate in the Passover in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 30:11)

Their later unfaithfulness led Jeremiah to mention the tribe of Gad, wondering why they had been dispossessed in spite of the number of Israel's sons. (Jeremiah 49:1-3)

Both Ezekiel and Revelation mention these tribes as well. These

two sons of Jacob were privileged to be included in God's plan of redemption for the world. (Ezekiel 48; Revelation 7:5-6)

Indeed, the baby Jesus himself was blessed by the prophetess Anna, who was from the tribe of Asher. Fittingly, this extraordinary event brought her great happiness!

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Luke 2:36-38

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## **HE BELIEVED JESUS CHRIST**

Dr. P.J. Alexander, 2018

Formally of Philip's Hospital, Tambaram, Chennai, India

I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day.

2 Timothy 1:12

Quotations are from the Revised King James' Version by Fred Miller

## **FOR I KNOW HIM WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED**

The most brutal and awful persecution of Christians by the Emperor Nero of Rome was in full progress. One of the victims of this persecution was the Apostle Paul. He was brought to Rome and imprisoned the second time. It was during this imprisonment awaiting his death, which was in A.D. 68, that he wrote his last

letter, the Second Epistle to Timothy. He tells him that he is living in the expectation of being "offered up" but through it all is the note of Christian triumph, the statement of the man who knows whom he has believed and to whom he is committed in his life and his death.

Despite the sufferings, troubles, dangers and agonies, Paul, while in the prison of Rome made this statement "I know whom I have believed". He tells Timothy that he knows who Jesus Christ is, in whom he has believed.

- Who is Jesus Christ?
- How did Paul believe in Him?
- What was his belief or faith in Jesus Christ?

To answer this question, we must go back to his old life as the Hebrew man, Saul of Tarsus.

He was a unbeliever of Jesus Christ. He did not believe Him to be the Son of God nor the Messiah who was to come into the world. He thought and believed, as did all the other Jewish Pharisees, scribes and high priests, that Jesus was a blasphemer and a liar. He, like those Jews, hated Jesus and His teachings. He thought Jesus of Nazareth was just an ordinary man who was speaking words against God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Like most prominent Jews, he would have very much wanted to have Him executed.

When Jesus was crucified on the cross, he was in Jerusalem and apparently did not care to go and see Him. It seems he was quite nonchalant about Jesus then. He had no interest in the death and burial and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In fact, he did not believe that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, even though the resurrection news echoed around the city of Jerusalem.

When many people began to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, he did not like it and in fact, he wanted to kill all those believers. He wanted to wipe out the name Jesus from the Jewish history. When Stephen was stoned to death he was there on the spot,

guarding the clothes of the Jews who stoned Stephen. We read about this in the book of Acts:

And cast him [Stephen] out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

Acts 7:58

Luke writes:

And Saul was consenting to his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and hauling men and women, committed them to prison.

Acts 8:1-3

Luke continues:

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and desired letters from him to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly a light from heaven shined round about him: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? And he said, Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

Acts 9:1-5

This was how the breathing out threatenings and slaughter of Saul against the Christians was stopped by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Was Saul an ungodly man? No - not at all. He was a strong believer in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all his forefathers. He was a Hebrew and a Pharisee of the stock of

Israel and was circumcised on the eighth day, but was a brilliant religious fanatic in keeping the Law of Moses.

He was also a great man of wisdom and a Greek scholar. But the name of Jesus disturbed him greatly. He thought that Jesus was a blasphemer in saying He is the Son of God. So, he, with Jewish zeal and belief wanted to destroy Christianity once for all. But on his way to Damascus the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him and stopped him from all his Jewish activities.

Dear readers, when he saw the great light shining from Heaven he knew that it was God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He thought he was right in persecuting and killing all Christians. He thought that he was doing this for the God of Heaven. But, when he heard that voice - "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" - he was greatly confused. So, he asked "Who are you, Lord?" Then, the answer that came from that great light, disturbed him very deeply. He never would have imagined or thought that such an answer would be given to him then. The answer was "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting". He was completely nonplussed.

What happened then? Luke gives the details:

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what will you have me to do? And the Lord said to him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told you what you must do.

Acts 9: 6

As he lay there the Lord Jesus told Saul He had work for him to do:

But rise, and stand on your feet: for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of these things which you have seen, and of those things in which I will appear to you; Delivering you from the people, and from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by

faith that is in me.

Acts 26:16-18

What happened afterwards?

Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw nobody: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

Acts 9:8

When he opened his eyes, he could see nothing with them. He had lost his sight. Then when he had been brought into the city of Damascus the Lord instructed a Jewish man of faith, named Ananias, to go to Saul and to get him to be baptized and to open his eyes. So, Ananias, that devout Jew, came to Saul and placing his hands on him prayed and Saul's eyes were opened. Then Ananias told Saul:

And now why do you wait? arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Acts 22:16

Thus, the man Saul was baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of his sins - that very day. He became a new creature. Old things were passed away and all things had become new in his life. He is now a believer in Jesus Christ and he then knew in whom he had believed! And immediately he began to preach Jesus Christ, giving a strong testimony that Jesus is the Son of God.

During his conversion, Saul (whose Roman name was Paul) had seen the glory and power of the Lord Jesus Christ. He did not see Jesus as the lowly Son of Man who walked about on this earth. Instead he saw him in the form of a great light, shining above the brightness of the sun! He with his physical eyes could not see him and his eyes were blinded by that great light from the heaven. When he heard the voice of the Lord of glory speaking unto him, he shuddered and trembled at his voice.

Dear readers, such was the power and might of the Lord Jesus Christ then, that Paul knew that God as Jesus Christ, was

speaking to him. He then knew in whom he had believed! That is why he wrote:

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

God was manifest in the flesh,  
justified in the Spirit,  
seen by angels,  
preached to the Gentiles,  
believed on in the world,  
received up into glory.

1 Timothy 3:16

Paul says that the mystery of godliness is that God was revealed in the flesh. In other words, he says God revealed himself in the form of man, and was justified in the spirit and seen by angels.

When Jesus was in the world he was seen by angels and this was an evidence that God became a Man. Then he was preached to the Gentiles. Then he was believed on in the world as the Son of God. Then after his death, burial and resurrection he was received up into glory - He ascended into Heaven!

Dear readers, this was how Paul believed Jesus Christ and he knew in whom he had believed.

Then, in 2 Timothy 1:12 he says he is not ashamed of all the sufferings and humiliation he had undergone because, he says that he knew in whom he had believed. His faith was in Jesus Christ and he was sure that his loving Saviour is able to keep what he had committed to him against that day.

Paul writes:

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: From now on there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but to all those also who love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7,8

Dear readers, we have so far seen how and why Paul says that he knew in whom he had believed. He believed Jesus Christ and he knew what and who Jesus Christ is.

Dear readers, do we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as Paul did? Are we willing to suffer for Him? as Paul suffered? Do we have that Faith that was in Paul? Think on these things.

I live by the faith of the Son of God,  
who loved me, and gave himself for me... Paul  
Galatians 2:20

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**DR. P.J. ALEXANDER**

Philip's Hospital, Tambaram, Chennai, India

A tribute by Dr. Manu Alexander MS FRCS (Edin) FRCS (Glas)

I recollect my father saying, "Deed before creed". He always made sure he did good deeds to others, before creed. I enjoyed these good deeds from him during my life. He was multitalented, brilliant and a spiritual man.

As for him, he would tell us:

I leave my body below in the land of the dead  
for some to embalm with praises and for  
some others to embalm with curse.  
My soul shall live in the land of the living.

May we all wish  
Dr. P.J. Alexander, Chief of Surgery,  
Philips Hospital, Tambaram, Chennai 600045, India,  
Bon Voyage!

DR. P.J. ALEXANDER

Born 7<sup>th</sup> January 1936



"Gone Beyond the Blue" on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

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### **CAMEROON APPEAL**

If you can assist in any amount, then please forward funds directly to the Church of Christ, Motherwell; account: 00130423; sorting code: 83- 16-15; or by cheque to our treasurer: Ian S Davidson, 21 Glen Lyon, St Leonards, East Kilbride, Glasgow, G74 2JJ.

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### **GHANA APPEAL**

The Church of Christ at Dennyloanhead is very grateful to all sister churches, individual brothers and sisters who contribute to the Ghana Appeal.

Please send donations to: Mrs. Christine Wood, 11 Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RE (Email: [ctkwood@hotmail.com](mailto:ctkwood@hotmail.com))

## NOTICES

### **STRETFORD, Manchester**

The Green Hut, 538 Kings Rd. **M32 8JT**

**Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> September**

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October**

**1:00 pm** Lunch

**2:00 pm** Message

John Purcell: Tel. 0161-439 1758

#### **Map:**

[eusebos.eu/eusebos/d4web-4s/longford.htm](http://eusebos.eu/eusebos/d4web-4s/longford.htm)

### **EASTWOOD,**

### **Nottinghamshire**

Seymour Road, **NG16 3ND**

**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> November**

**6:00 pm** Refreshments

**7:00 pm** Message

Adrian Limb: Tel. 01773-761 670

[cofceastwood@aol.com](mailto:cofceastwood@aol.com)

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Reading Cards are available from:

John Kneller,  
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Fairmilehead,  
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Tel. 0131-445 1832  
E-mail:  
[johnkneller4gpr@btinternet.com](mailto:johnkneller4gpr@btinternet.com)

### **BIBLE QUESTIONS**

Brother Frank Worgan is happy to receive Bible questions requiring urgent answers by letter or e-mail.

11 Stanier Road,  
CORBY, NN17 1XP  
Tel. 01536-206 848

E-mail: [frankworgan@outlook.com](mailto:frankworgan@outlook.com)

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FOUR ISSUES PER YEAR

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION – UNITED KINGDOM .....£5.00

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