

Chapter 2: Ruth Gleaning—Church Age Harvest

Church Age Ch. 1:16-23

Some gentiles (**Church**) cleaved to Jews (**Israel**).

Friendly gentiles accepted God and forsook their old gods (religions). **Ruth (Church)** became a “**spiritual Jew**.”

1948, Jews return to their land. Became a nation.

The **Church** is evangelizing the world.

Christ is “the **Lord of Harvest**.”

Christ (God in human body) redeemed humans (“His brethren”) from sin and death.

Gospel is preached to all and the end comes.

Story of Ruth (with analogy)

Ruth (“**Friend**,” **Church**) cleaved to **Naomi** (**Jew**).

Ruth (Friendly Church) made Jews her people, accepted God, and forsook her old gods.

Naomi (Israel) arrived in Bethlehem at harvest time.

Ch. 2: **Ruth (Church)** gleans (**evangelizes**) field (**world**).

Boaz (Christ) is in charge of harvesting.

Boaz (Christ) is a near kinsman (**human**), who can legally redeem relatives (**humanity**).

End of harvest (end of **bringing in** of the **gentiles**).

Ruth 1:16-22: **Ruth** (“**Church, turning spiritual Jew**”) said: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; **your people shall be my people, Your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me.**” When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her. Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. It happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, “Is this **Naomi (Israel)**? She said to them, “Do not call me **Naomi** (“pleasant”, **Israel**); call me Mara (“bitter”), for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?” **Naomi (Israel)** returned, and **Ruth (Church)** ... with her, who returned from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Ch. 2:1-23:

There was a relative of **Naomi's (Israel's)** husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of **Elimelech (GOD)**. His name was **Boaz (Christ)**. **Ruth (Church)** said to **Naomi (Israel)**, “Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor.” Then she left ... and gleaned in the field after the **reapers (“angels harvesting souls”)**. She happened to come to the part of the field belonging to **Boaz (Christ)**, who was of the family of **Elimelech (GOD)**. Now behold, **Boaz (Christ)** came from **Bethlehem**, and said to the **reapers**, “The Lord be with you!” They answered him, “The Lord bless you!” **Boaz (Christ)** said to his servant who was in charge of the **angels**. “Whose young woman is this?” So the servant who was in charge of the **angels** answered and said, “It is the young Moabite woman who came back with **Naomi (Israel)** from the country of Moab. She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather after the **angels** among the sheaves.’ She came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house.” **Boaz (Christ)** said to **Ruth (Church)**, “You will listen ... Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? When you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the men have drawn.”

She fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?” **Boaz (Christ)** answered, “It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for **Naomi (Israel)** since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.” She said, “Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant ...” **Boaz (Christ)** said to her at mealtime, “Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.” She sat beside the **reapers (angels)**, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back. When she rose up to glean, **Boaz** commanded his young men, “Let her glean even among the sheaves ... Let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.” She gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an **ephah** (a day's work amount or 10 days of food) of barley. She took it up and went into the city, and **Naomi (Israel)** saw what she had gleaned. She brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied. **Naomi (Israel)** said to her, “Where have you gleaned today? Where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you.” She told **Naomi (Israel)** with whom she had worked, and said, “The man's name ... is **Boaz (Christ)** .” **Naomi (Israel)** said to her ... “Blessed be he of the Lord, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!” **Naomi (Israel)** said to her, “This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives.” **Ruth (Church)** said, “He also said to me, ‘You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’” **Naomi (Israel)** said to **Ruth (Church)** ... “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field.” So she stayed close by the young women of **Boaz (Christ)**, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with **Naomi (Israel)**.

CHURCH—“RUTH”

As Ruth was the daughter-in-law to Naomi and Elimelech, so the **Church** is to Israel and God. “Boaz said ... **Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance ... So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife**” (Ruth 4:9-13). Jesus **redeemed** the Church (gentile saints). “**The church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood**” (Acts 20:28).

Ruth is the great ancestor of David and Christ. “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ ... Salmon begat Boaz of Rachab; and **Boaz** begat Obed of **Ruth**; and Obed begat Jesse; Jesse begat **David** the king ... Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born **Jesus [Yeshua] who is called Christ [Messiah]**” (Matt. 1:1-16).

MARRIAGE SUPPER of the LAMB

Contrary to the novel, *Da Vinci Code*, Jesus isn't married to one person Mary Magdalene, but will be united to the Church (*group of billions of saints*). Secular people only think materialistically and see marriage as a physical union. Christ's marriage is on a universal, God-level spiritual union: spiritually “being one” with the Church.

“**The marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife [Church] hath made herself ready. To her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints**” (Rev. 19:7-8). “**The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the savior ... Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself [was sacrificed] for her**” (Eph. 5:23-25).

WEDDING: Becoming spiritually “ONE”

CHRIST
Groom
(JEW)



Eternal union

CHURCH
Bride
(GENTILE)

HAPPY ENDING

Just as there was a happy ending in the Book of Ruth for Boaz, Ruth, and Naomi, so there'll be a joyful ending for Christ, Church, God, and Israel.

CHURCH—“RUTH”

When Ruth (Moabite) became a “spiritual Jew,” Her physical body didn't change. Her age, look, environment, and ethnicity didn't change. She was a Moabite that day. The next day, she is still a Moabite. It is also the same with every other gentile. Maybe today you are a Chinese. Tomorrow you will still be a Chinese. Your physical body would not alter, but your spiritual heart, mind, and spirit will change. Likewise for every non-Jew (gentile).

A gentile can also become “spiritual Jew” by saying, “*Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God*” (v. 16-18).

Three HUMAN PARTS

Angels are **spirits**. Animals are **bodies**. But a human being has a **spirit, soul, and body**.

“**The very God of peace sanctify you wholly [all of you, all three parts]; and I pray that your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord**” (1 Thes. 5:23).

The **body** is “the flesh.” The physical body is made up of molecules, cells, tissues, organs, muscles, and bones. It feels pleasure and pain. The **soul** is the conscience, decision-maker, will, and mind. Your intelligence distinguishes you from animals. You've reasoning power. The **spirit** understands and believes in spirits and spiritual things. It is your “sixth sense” that discerns spiritual good and evil. It senses good angels (friends) and evil spirits (enemies). The **soul** decides for the **body** to contain which wanted **spirit**: Holy Spirit or demon.

A human physical **body** is temporary (it dies), but his **spirit** is eternal. “**The [physical] things ... seen are temporary, but the [spiritual] things ... not seen are eternal**” (2 Cor. 4:18).

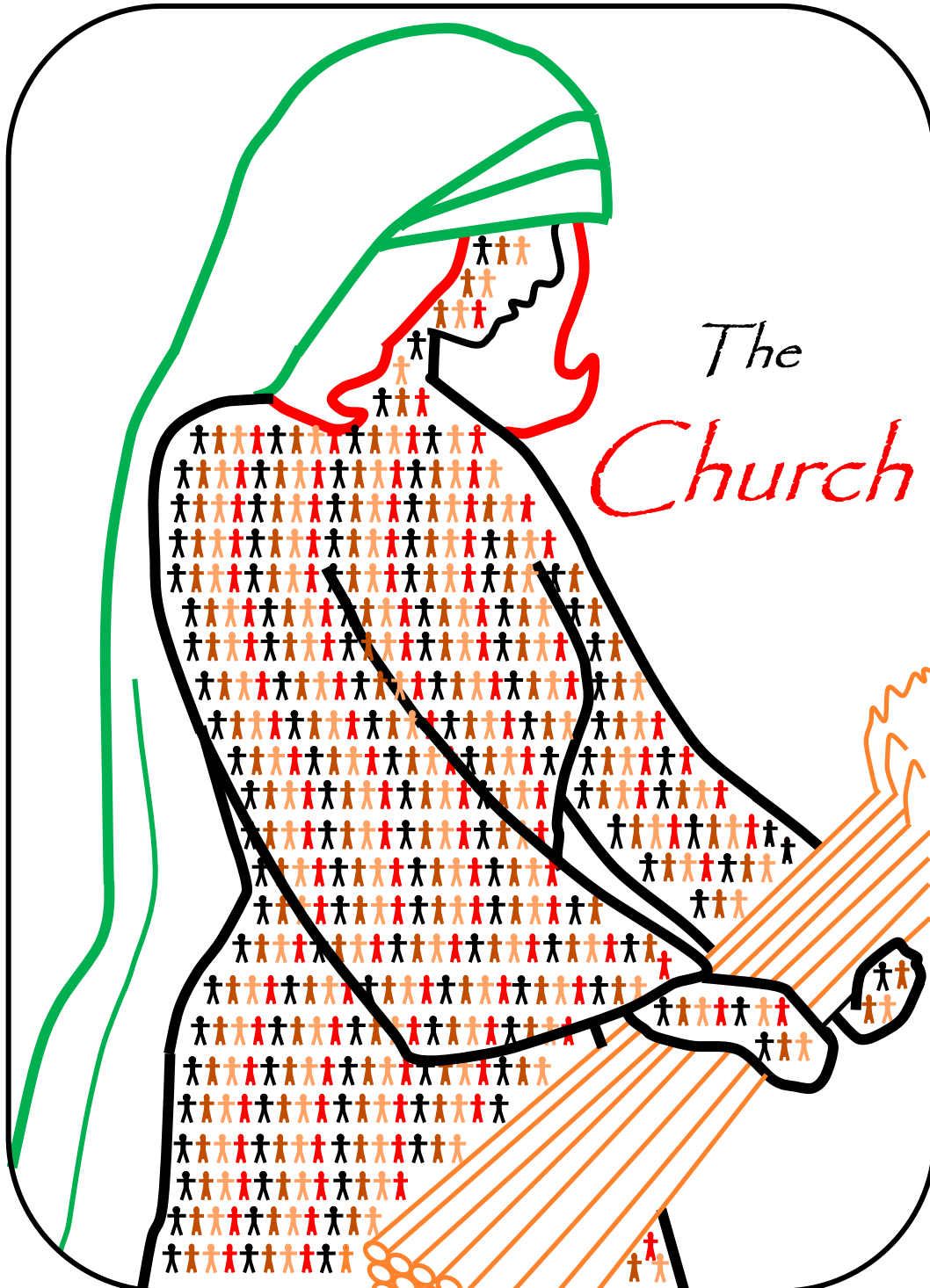
DEATH and RESURRECTION

All physical humans die a **physical** death, but their eternal spirits goes to Heaven, if “saved” or go to Hell, if “unrepentant and unsaved.”

When a man dies, his three human parts are disassembled. Resurrection is the reverse process: His **body** reassembled with the **soul and spirit**. A “spiritual Jew” has eternal life with Christ and our Heavenly Father.




Ruth symbolizes **the Church**:

As **Ruth** has billions of physical cells, so the “**Church**” has billions of spiritual cells. Like **Ruth**, gentiles must give up their old gods (idols, religion, fallen angels) and follow the Jew Jesus. A non-Jew becomes a “**spiritual Jew**” by accepting Jesus’ way of life—loving neighbors and God. As a physical lady keeps herself clean and beautiful, the **church** (gentiles) also must keep herself spiritually clean, which means repenting of sins and being washed in the “blood of Christ.” The Church is a living organism, not an inanimate building. She is people (gentiles of all kinds).



HUMAN RACE / ETHNICITY

Biblically, there's **one** human race: Adam progenies. Three subgroup: **Semites, Hamites** and **Japhetites**. Flood survivors: Noah's sons (**Shem, Ham, Japhet**). Scientifically, there're many subgroups: 3 to over 60, depending on how specific the scholars want to get. For our purpose, we will stick with **three**:

-  * **Africans:** Ethiopian, Kenyan, Nigerian, Zulu, etc.
-  * **Asians & Americans:** Chinese, Indian, Eskimo, etc.
-  * **Europeans:** British, French, Greek, Russian, etc.

For the Gospel, there're **two** groups: Jews and Non-Jews.

CHURCH—BODY of CHRIST

We equated Ruth (gentile) with the Church and Boaz (Jew) with Christ. Like Ruth and Boaz united, so will the Church (wife) unite with Christ (husband). *“The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body”* (Eph. 5:23).

Ruth is symbolic of the Church. Saved gentiles (non-Jews) are part of the one universal Church—the **“body of Christ.”** Christians (spiritual cells) make up the body of the Church. The gentiles consist of many ethnic groups, nations, and tribes.

GENTILES of the WORLD

A gentile can be an Apache, Arab, Belgian, Burmese, Chinese, Croatian, Dominican, Dutch, Ecuadorean, Ethiopian, Fijian, French, Gambian, Guatemalan, Haitian, Hungarian, Indonesian, Icelander, Jamaican, Japanese, Kenyan, Kuwaiti, Laotian, Luxembourger, Macedonian, Mongolian, Nepalese, Nigerian, Omani, Oneida, Peruvian, Poles, Qatari, Quechan, Romanian, Rwandan, Somali, Swazi, Taiwanese, Tatars, Ukrainian, Uruguayan, Venezuelan, Vietnamese, Welshman, Winnebago, Yemeni, Yugoslav, Zambian or Zulu.

MIGRATION HISTORY

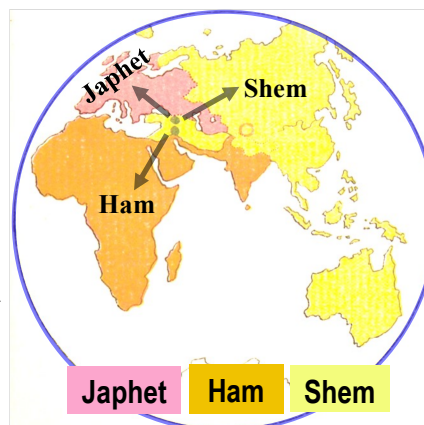
After the Great Flood, only Noah, his three sons, and their wives survived. From this family of eight, the human race multiplied and replenished the Earth. Noah descendants: **Semites, Hamites** and **Japhetites**.

To Bible scholars:

Japhet Progenies migrated to **Europe**.

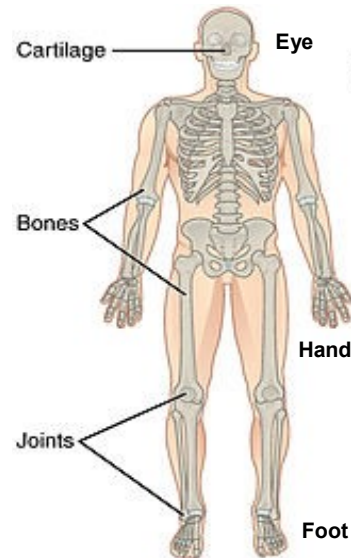
Ham Descendants traveled to **Africa**.

Shem Scion moved to **Middle East, Asia, and America**.



ANATOMY of the HUMAN BODY

A human has one body, but has many cell members. Likewise, a Christian is a unique member in the **“body of Christ.”** Each one is vital. The **saints’** interactions are like the **cells’** interactions in the human body.



The Church and its Members

*“For as the body is one and has many members ... so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks ... slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit ... If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? But God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased ... The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’ ... There should be **no schism [division]** in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. If **one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all members rejoice with it. You are the body of Christ, and members individually.***

*God has appointed these in the church: first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, after that **miracles**, then gifts of **healings**, ... varieties of **tongues**. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts”* (1 Cor. 12:12-30).

SEVEN CHURCHES in ASIA MINOR

Jesus addressed the churches (Christians) of Asia Minor (now Turkey) of the first century.



“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy ... John to the seven churches which are in Asia: ... from him which is ... was ... to come ... I, John ... was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day” (Rev. 1:3-4, 9-10).

CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Message to left-first-love Christians (church).

*“Unto the angel of the church of **Ephesus** write ... I [Jesus] know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience ... for my name’s sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works”* (Rev. 2:1-5).

CHURCH OF SMYRNA

Message to persecuted Christians (church). *“Unto the angel of the church in **Smyrna** write ... I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the **synagogue of Satan**. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer ... the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”* (Rev. 2:8-10).

CHURCH OF PERGAMUM

Message to Balaam-tolerant Christians (church).

*“To the angel of the church in **Pergamos** write ... I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where **Satan’s seat** is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith ... thou hast there them that hold the **doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication”* (Rev. 2:12-14).

CHURCH of THYATIRA

Message to Jezebel-tolerant church.

*“Unto the angel of the church in **Thyatira** write; These things saith the Son of God ... I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience ... thou sufferest [tolerate] that woman Jezebel ... to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols ... I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works”* (Rev. 2:18-20, 23).

CHURCH of SARDIS

Message to apathetic and “**dead**” church.

*“Unto the angel of the church in **Sardis** write ... I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art **dead**. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God ... Repent ... Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy”* (Rev. 3:1-4).

CHURCH of PHILADELPHIA

Message to **faithful** Christians (church).

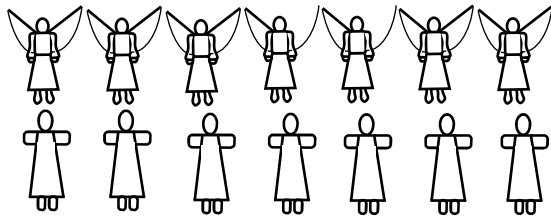
*“To the angel of the church in **Philadelphia** write ... for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them”* (Rev. 3:7-11).

CHURCH of LAODICEA

Message to lukewarm Christians (church).

*“Unto the angel of the church of the **Laodiceans** write ... So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked ... **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten**: be zealous ... repent”* (Rev. 3:14-19).

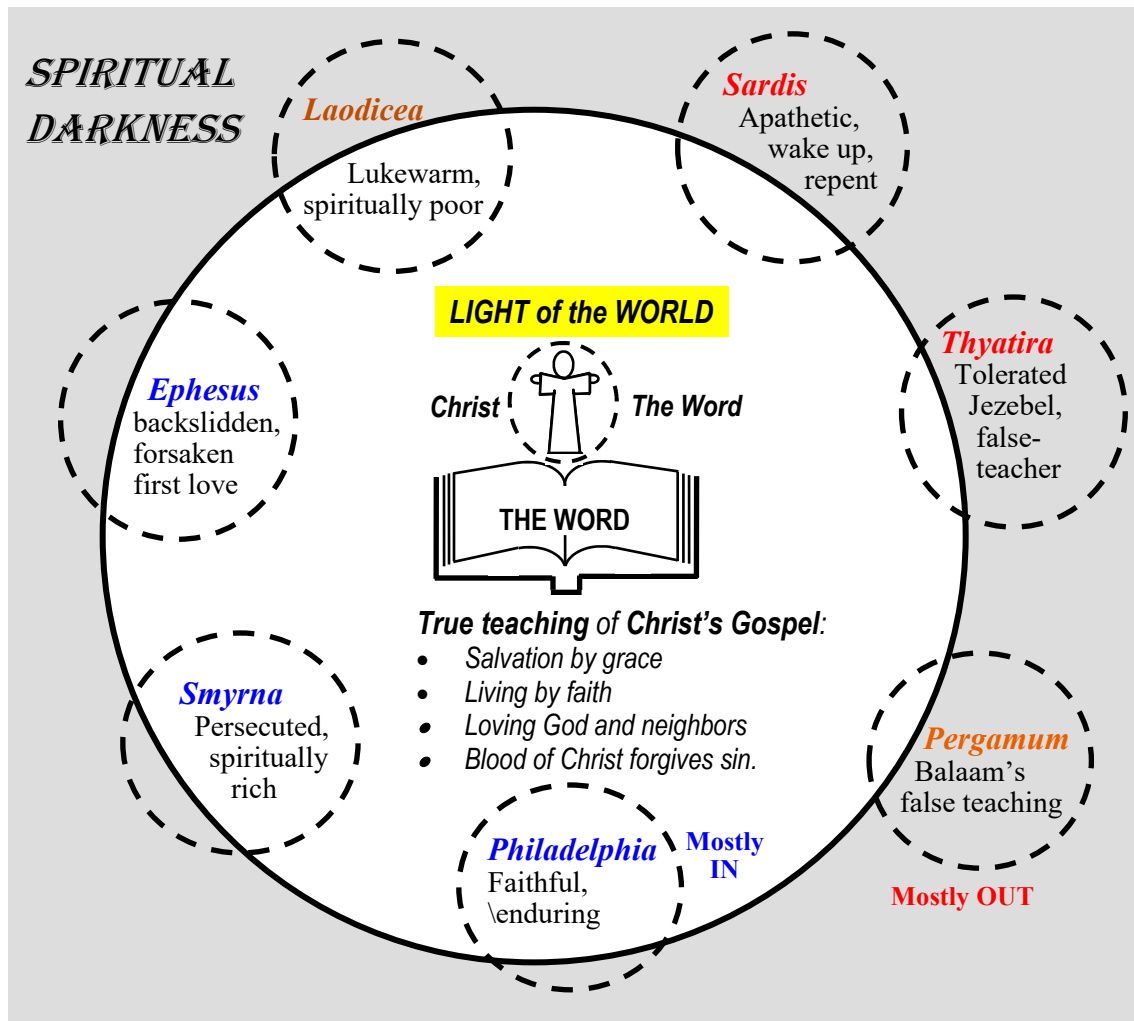
“Angels of the seven churches”



“SEVEN CHURCHES in ASIA MINOR”

- † *Philadelphia* Faithful church.
- † *Smyrna* Persecuted church.
- † *Ephesus* Left-first-love church
- † *Laodicea* Luke warm church.
- † *Pergamum* Balaam tolerant church.
- † *Thyatira* Jezebel tolerant church
- † *Sardis* “Dead”, apathetic church.

SPIRITUAL UNIVERSE



This illustration help us visualize that there're degrees to how well these early churches (groups of Christians) conformed to the true teaching of the Gospel of Christ. Today's churches and denominations are similar. None are perfect. Amish, Baptists, Catholics, Lutherans, Mormons, or Pentecostals don't all come up to the **standard of Christ**. Each believer should also examine himself/herself to conform to the teaching of our Savior.

EXPANSION of RELIGIONS

The Creator made creation and creatures. He created humans with **free will**. When they became excessively wicked He decimated humanity with the Great Flood. The only survivors were a family of eight (Noah, Japhet, Shem, Ham, and their wives). Then they multiplied and expanded in all directions. All survivors believed the true God. But their descendants embellished and distorted the truth about God. The relationship of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

Abraham's sons: **Isaac** by Sarah and **Ishmael** by Hagar. Jesus was born during the reign of Augustus Caesar. Our savior conducted His ministry during Tiberius' reign. He taught the true Gospel. Christianity is based on teaching of Jesus Christ. Love is best.

JUDAISM

The Jews tried to live by the **Law** and Christians by **love**. "**Love אהבה is the fullness of Torah תורה**" (CJB). "**Love is the fulfilling of the Law**" (Rom. 13:10). The purpose of the **Law** is **love**. To **love** is to do the **Law**. In essence, Christianity and Judaism are based on love.

CATHOLICISM

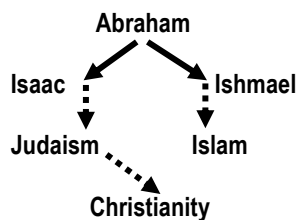
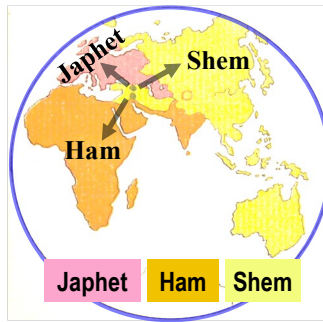
Peter, "the Rock," was considered as the main spiritual leader of the early church, so the Catholics consider him as the first Pope. They ran the early Christianity ship until they veered off course during the Middle Ages. They treated certain religious beliefs as heresies, used harsh Inquisition and torture, and sold indulgence for purgatory atonement. Though Purgatory does not exist.

PROTESTANTS

Martin Luther questioned Catholicism, with his **Ninety-Five Theses**, about selling indulgences to pay for sin. But, it is the blood of Christ that forgives sin. The Reformation returned the emphasis to salvation by grace, living by faith, and loving God and neighbors.

CULTS

Considered major cults: Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, and Seventh-day Adventism. **Good works** done by cults—in accord only with the **Bible**—will survive. "**Every man's work shall be made manifest ... fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is ... If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved**" (1 Cor.3:13).



ISLAM

The belief is in one "God" (Allah). Islamic teaching is summarized by the Muslim teacher Maududi: "**... for Islam signifies nothing but obedience and submission to Allah.**"

If **obedience** is the only thing that matters, Allah would have made humans as androids. **Robots** don't disobey, rebel, or sin against their masters. It is better to live as God's **children** with free-will, faith, and love. Physical children don't go from baby to adult suddenly; likewise, our spiritual growth develops through the "growing pains" of trials and errors.

BUDDHISM and HINDUISM

Buddhism teaches from **dharma**—Buddha's basic Enlightenment teaching:

- existence of **suffering**.
- origin of suffering is **desire** (lust, covet).
- end suffering by **ending desire**.
- reaching the perfect state of **Nirvana**.

This essentially is "**works**" for salvation—trying to reach Nirvana by human effort, but it's faith in Christ that produces good works. **Faith** precedes **good works**. Not vice-versa.

Hinduism teaches Hindus to improve their **karma** (action—that determines destiny), be reincarnated (recycled), and reach perfection — **moksha**, to become one with Brahman—"god." A person (like raindrop) becomes one with Brahman (like ocean). But, this is "**works**" to perfect one's self by human effort. Bible says, "**A man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus**" (Gal. 2:16).

SCIENCE, SECULARISM, COMMUNISM

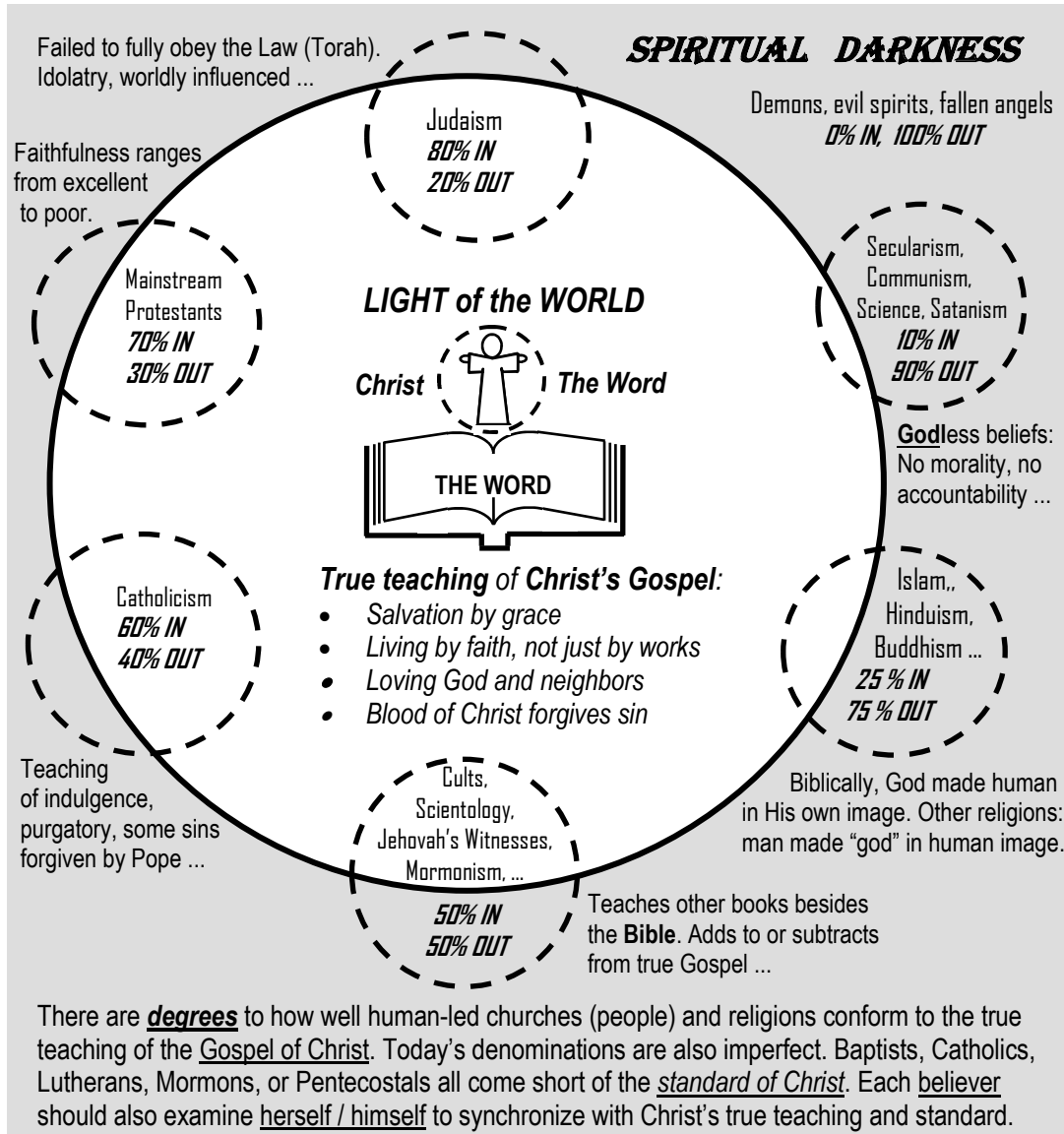
Godless beliefs: Some individuals and people have an atheistic ideology of **no Creator God**. They believe in science, secularism, atheism, communism, or humanism. Some humans live and think by "**creation only, all is physical**" convictions, not by their Creator God.

We can't fully seal off Satanists from being saved, because now and then some realize that Christ (Omnipotent God) is more powerful than the creature Satan. Warlocks and witches still have an opportunity to switch allegiance.

SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS

Fallen angels can not return to Heaven, from where they're cast out. They're already eternally dead. They're 100% against God. We must not associate, listen to, or obey them.

SPIRITUAL UNIVERSE



The percentages (%) are **only arbitrary** numbers. It helps us visualize that there are **degrees** to how well religions, denominations, and cults follow the true teaching of our Savior. A saved saint in the "Mainstream Protestant" has a high probability of being on the right path of the true Gospel of Jesus, which leads to salvation and eternal life. Satanists have the lowest possibility. Fallen angels (evil spirits) have none.

There is some truth in every religion. The survivors (8) of the Great Flood all knew the real truth about God when they stepped off the Ark on Mt. Ararat. Stories of the Creator God and a great flood appears in many religions. However, the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japhet embellished and distorted truths. People ignorantly believed in falsehoods and deteriorated into idolatry, ungodliness, and sin. So, false religion have perverted truths. Some 70 %, others 7 %, and various degrees. Christ's Gospel brings back the real truth to the gentiles (non-Jews).

"When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly ... All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then [in future] I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely" (1 Cor. 13:11-12 NLT).