

## Literal Liars

Dispensationalists claim to interpret the Bible 'literally' .... by taking the words of scripture at 'face-value' .... usually in the simple, material sense. This is a general, 'surface' reading of the Word of God. The problem with this approach is that it produces doctrines that are later contradicted by the New Testament. Many times God 'foreshadowed' spiritual realities through physical means. A literal interpretation ought not to be forced, when God explained Himself by further revelation.

This study will show some of the errors of 'literalism'. We will begin with:

### The 'LAND' of Abraham

God promised to give Abraham (Gen 17:5) a land -- known as Canaan Land:

**Gen 12:1** Now the LORD had said unto **Abram**, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, **unto a land** that I will shew thee:

**Gen 12:5** And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go **into the land of Canaan;**  
and **into the land of Canaan** they came.

God told Abram He would give him and his seed -- the land -- forever:

**Gen 13:14-15** And the LORD said unto **Abram**, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

15 For **all the land** which thou seest,  
**to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.**

Although Abraham dwelt in the land of Canaan (Gen 16:3) .... even he, himself, discerned that God's promise was 'more than' physical land on earth.

By the testimony of scripture, we can see that Abraham understood

God's promise to be 'beyond' his receiving of 'land on earth':

**Heb 11:8-10** By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Abraham's faithful seed all realized God's 'eternal' promise extended to a HEAVENLY country .... not just an EARTHLY one:

**Heb 11:11-16** Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Though they lived and died in the 'physical' .... they had an awareness of the 'spiritual' .... that God's promise of 'eternal land' was one without sin:

**Heb 13:14** For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

That coming city is the city of God. For now, it can only be seen through the eyes of faith, as the kingdom of God is seen (John 3:3). **Any and all land on earth is not everlasting. It will be burnt up with fire.**

When "the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever" (Psa 37:29), it will be in the new land .... with no sin. The holy city will not be a re-built earthly city, but the heavenly city, that will come down to a new earth, when the true tabernacle (Heb 8:2) of God is with men (Rev 21:1-3):

**2 Peter 3:7, 10, 13** But the heavens and **the earth**, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, **reserved unto fire** against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements **shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also** and the works that are therein **shall be burned up.** (This heaven and earth will pass away - Matt 24:35)

13 Nevertheless **we, according to his promise, look for** new heavens and **a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**

When King Jesus comes back .... His saints will receive their inheritance:

**John 14:2-3** In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

**Matt 25:34** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Just as the eternal city is not made with hands, neither are the houses:

**2 Cor 5:1** For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Israel got their 'physical' land (Josh 11:23). God fulfilled his word to them:

**Josh 21:43-45** And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.

44 And **the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers:** and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.

45 **There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.**

It is the NEW earth that will remain forever .... not this OLD one:

**Isa 66:22** For as the new heavens and **the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me,** saith the LORD, **so shall your seed and your name remain.**

### **The 'SEED' of Abraham**

Abram was so old and still had no son, but God assured him that his heir would be from his own seed .... not from someone else in his household:

**Gen 15:2-5** And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

3 And Abram said, **Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.**

4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but **he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.**

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, **So shall thy seed be.**

Though Abraham's 'physical' seed was numerous as stars and sand .... his 'spiritual' seed was a very small remnant of faith, as Paul quoted (Isa 1:9):

**Rom 9:27, 29** Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **a remnant shall be saved:**

29 And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had **left us a seed,** we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

The Jews told Jesus they were Abraham's seed. Since they were Abraham's 'physical' descendents, Jesus acknowledged them as such. They claimed Abraham as their father .... but Jesus told them they were not Abraham's children. They were of their father the Devil. They did not do the WORKS of Abraham (John 8:31-44), because they did not have the FAITH of Abraham.

Abraham is the father of the FAITHFUL (Rom 4:11-12, 16-18):

**Gal 3:7-9** Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

**CHRIST is Abraham's seed:**

**Gal 3:16** Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

**Just as Christ is Abraham's seed .... when WE are 'in Christ' ....**

**then WE are now Abraham's seed (and his heir):**

**Gal 3:28-29** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Just as Christ is ABRAHAM'S SEED, **Christ is also ISRAEL.** The bringing of ISRAEL out of Egypt was, in reality, a prophecy that was fulfilled in CHRIST:

**Hosea 11:1** When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

Hosea wrote of God's Son ISRAEL .... but many years later ....

God used that same prophecy to be of His Son, CHRIST. So we learn that Christ 'IS' Israel. Would you say that God was 'literal' there .... or did He 'spiritualize' a story that actually happened to Israel, and apply it to Christ:

**Matt 2:13-15** And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child (Jesus) and his mother (Mary), and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

14 When he (Joseph) arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. (as we just read Hosea 11:1)

The 'true' Israel .... is not Israel after the flesh .... but Israel after the Spirit:

**Rom 9:6-8** Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect.

For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:

7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children:

but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

8 That is, 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.

Just as Christ was Israel .... when WE are 'in Christ' ....

then WE are now Israel .... being children of promise:

**Gal 4:28** Now we, brethren, as Isaac was,  
are the children of promise.

Paul taught the conflict .... born 'after the flesh' or after the Spirit':

**Gal 4:29** But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

Jesus explained being 'born of the flesh' or the 'Spirit' issue to Nicodemus:

**John 3:6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh;  
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (also John 6:63)

The flesh and the Spirit are opposed to each other:

**Rom 8:5** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh;  
but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

'Mid-Acts-ers' are accused of living any way they want to live. Their excuse is, "Well, everybody does whatever they want to do." But, that is not so:

**Gal 5:16-17** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit,  
and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.  
17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit,  
and the Spirit against the flesh:  
and these are contrary the one to the other:  
so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

We saw that Israel after the flesh are not the children of God (Rom 9:8).

Caiaphas, the high priest, also showed that God's children were not of Israel only .... but they were all over the world .... in other nations:

**John 11:51-52** And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;  
52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

The 'flesh' does not make us be 'the children of God' .... the 'Spirit' does:

**Rom 8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit,  
that we are the children of God:

Because we are 'in Christ' .... we are God's children:

**Gal 3:26** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Jesus told the Jews they were children of the devil (John 8:44) and that their works gave evidence of it. John wrote about the same contrast:

**1 John 3:10** In this the children of God are manifest,  
and the children of the devil:  
whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,  
neither he that loveth not his brother.

### The 'TEMPLE' of God

During the OLD testament, the temple that was in Jerusalem was the house of God (Ezra 5:15, 6:5; Neh 6:10; Dan 5:3). The temple of God used to be a 'literal, visible, physical' building:

**Matt 21:12** And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

But as Jesus Christ is the seed of Abraham ....

and as Jesus Christ is Israel ....

so Jesus Christ is the TEMPLE:

**John 2:19-22** Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple,  
and in three days I will raise it up. (Matt 26:61, Mark 14:58)

20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building,  
and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

22 When therefore he was risen from the dead,  
his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them;  
and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

Just as Jesus was the temple .... now WE are the temple:

**1 Cor 3:16** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,  
and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Is the temple of God 'literal, visible, and physical' anymore?

**2 Cor 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?  
for ye are the temple of the living God;  
as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them;  
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jesus is the head (Psa 118:22) of the holy temple, which WE are:

**Eph 2:19-22** Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners,  
but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;  
20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;  
21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth  
unto an holy temple in the Lord;  
22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God  
through the Spirit.

An holy temple .... a spiritual house .... "whose 'house' we are" (Heb 3:6):

**1 Peter 2:5** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house,  
an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by  
Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the temple in the great city, the holy Jerusalem (Rev 21:10):

**Rev 21:22** And I saw no temple therein:  
for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

### The 'SACRIFICE' of God

Under the OLD testament .... showing that sin brings death ....

God required Israel to offer blood sacrifices to Him by killing animals:

**Deut 12:27** And thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings,  
the **flesh** and the **blood**, upon the altar of the LORD thy God:  
and the **blood of thy sacrifices** shall be poured out upon the altar  
of the LORD thy God,  
and thou shalt eat the flesh.

The OLD tesatment LAW was a dark, veiled picture .... of Christ's sacrifice:

**Heb 10:1** For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

As Jesus was in Gethsemane praying before His arrest, He told His disciples:

**Matt 26:41** Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation:  
the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

The law could not make a perfect man out of weak, sinful flesh.

So Christ came and did 'FOR' us and 'IN' us .... what the law could not do:

**Rom 8:3-4** For what the law could not do,  
in that it was weak through the flesh,  
God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin,  
condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Animal sacrifices reminded Israel of their repeated need of cleansing:

**Heb 10:2-3** For then would they not have ceased to be offered?  
because that the worshippers once purged  
should have had no more conscience of sins.

3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins  
every year.

Shedding the blood of animals could never 'literally' cleanse from sin:

**Heb 10:4** For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

'Literalists' use Ezekiel's temple vision (in chapters 40-48) to say there will be a re-built 'millennial' temple (although there is NO mention of 1,000 years there). They say the re-institution of animal blood sacrifices will only

be a 'memorial' of Christ's death .... like the Lord's supper is now.

But **Ezek 45:15,17,20**, say that **these sacrifices "make reconciliation"**

**which is 'atonement' ....**

**which is 'literally' more than just 'remembering'.**

Those who claim the temple and the animal sacrifices are 'literal' .... then REJECT that the 'reconciliation' is ALSO 'literal' .... yet they classify themselves as 'CONSISTENT literal'. So the title of this message is 'Literal Liars'.

According to the will of God ....

the Father prepared a body of flesh for the Son ....

so that the Son could be the **ULTIMATE and FINAL sacrifice for sin:**

**Heb 10:5-9** Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein;

**which are offered by the law;**

It was the will of God .... through the Son's sacrifice of Himself ....

to CLOSE the OLD .... and OPEN the NEW.

The OLD testament is GONE .... and the NEW testament is HERE.

The OLD covenant is DEAD .... and the NEW covenant is ALIVE:

**Heb 10:9** Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God.

**He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.**

All at ONCE .... Jesus sacrificed Himself and sanctified His church:

**Heb 10:10** By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

OLD testament animal sacrifices had to be done again and again, but there will be no more 'godly' ones in the future. **Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient:**

**Heb 10:11-14** And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever,** sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For **by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**

By Jesus' ONE sacrifice He 'made the comers thereunto perfect' (Heb 10:1).

Mission --- ACCOMPLISHED:

**John 17:4** I have glorified thee on the earth:

**I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**

Sin is not chargeable to the saints anymore. Jesus put it away from us:

**Heb 9:26** For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath

**he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**

How could anyone read Hebrews and think that God will ever 'go BACK' to the OLD testament? He will surely NOT return to what He said has "vanished away" and been "abolished" (Heb 8:13, 2 Cor 3:7,11,13,14,16).

The blood of the NEW testament is for the remission of our sins (Matt 26:28)

**Eph 5:2** And walk in love, as **Christ** also hath loved us,

and **hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God** for a sweetsmelling savour.

## The 'LAW' of God

God wrote the old testament law on stone tablets for Moses to give to Israel:

**Exo 24:12** And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

God 'non-literally' wrote the new testament law .... on HEARTS and MINDS:

**Heb 10:15-18** Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

16 This is the (NEW) covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (put away)

18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

God has expanded this 'non-literal' promise to include the Gentiles:

**Rom 2:14-15** For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

It is no longer the 'visible, physical' .... now it is the 'invisible, spiritual':

**2 Cor 3:3** Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us,

written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Who's 'literal' now? Many are literal liars:

**Rom 3:4** God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"*