

JESUS CHRIST THE INCORRUPTIBLE SEED

GOD MANIFESTED IN THE FLESH

by Elder Bob Allgood

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE SCRIPTURES

None of us can truly understand what a passage of scripture is teaching until we know exactly what that passage says. Too often we are guilty of reading the Bible like we read a newspaper, and too often we are guilty of jumping to conclusions or forming preconceived ideas before we really understand the facts. Jesus taught his disciples to “Take heed **WHAT** ye hear” as well as to “Take heed therefore **HOW** ye hear”. Paul taught Timothy to “Study to show thyself approved unto God – and to rightly divide the word of truth”. Rightly dividing the scriptures does not mean to cut the word of truth up into little pieces and omit and forget the context. That which is taken out of context is a pretext and not a precept. A pretext is used to deceive and mislead, whereas a precept is a principle used to teach sound doctrine. The prophet of old asked this question, “Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little” (Isa. 28:9-10).

There are two ways man can understand the scriptures. One is from a purely academic position. That is, one may understand **WHAT** the scriptures say and have a head knowledge of the words as words, without understanding **WHAT** these words mean. The other is to “spiritually discern the things of the Spirit of God”. The natural man (one who is carnal and/or unregenerate) may well understand the scriptures from an academic position, and may be able to quote chapter and verse, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2:14). Unless one has first been quickened by God or born from above, he cannot spiritually discern the word of God. With this in mind, please allow me to ask this question.

Exactly what did the Holy Spirit of God intend for us to understand by the words he inspired Peter to write in 1 Peter 1:23, “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”? This is the only passage I can find in the Scriptures that speaks of an “incorruptible seed” as being “the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”. There are several passages that speak of Jesus the Christ as being the promised Seed, and most certainly He is “The Word” that

was in the beginning with God and was God, and was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1-3, 18). It is my belief, and with the help of God, my intention to prove from the scriptures, that “the incorruptible seed” spoken of by Peter is none other than Jesus Christ. The word incorruptible means not subject to corruption.

Since all of natural mankind is corrupt with sin, it seems clear to me that natural man and anything natural man has any part in, such as the preaching of the word of God, is not under consideration in this passage. The word of God that proceeds forth out of the mouth of God himself is incorruptible and “forever settled in heaven” (Psalms 119:89). But the words that proceed out of the mouth or from the pen of natural man are subject to corruption, either by that man or those who follow after him. When left alone in his natural state man corrupts everything he comes in contact with. In Genesis 6:12 we read, “And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth”. God says of natural man, “For there is none righteous, no not one”.

Within a few days after being delivered from Egypt, with the help of Aaron who became their high priest, the children of Israel corrupted themselves. In Exodus 32:7-8 we read, “And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt”. Do we think that natural man can be the “incorruptible seed” spoken of by Peter? I think not.

But some would say Peter is speaking of the word of God which is preached by man. My answer to that is that all men are capable of corrupting the preached or written word of God. Peter, the apostle who wrote this passage was a great preacher of the truth, and yet made no claim of not being subject to corruption. When Simon Peter saw a miracle by Christ, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord”. That same Peter was often rebuked for speaking things that were not according to the truth, even to the point where Jesus said to him, “Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men” (Matt 16:23). And this rebuke followed Peter’s great confession to Jesus, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”.

Paul was a great preacher of the truth, but said of himself, “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do”. He went on to say, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Rom. 7). Surely Paul made no claim of being the “incorruptible seed”, nor any claim of not being subject to corruption. In fact he said, “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Tim 1:15).

It seems to me there is only one who fits the description of the “incorruptible seed, the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” and that is Jesus Christ himself. Jesus said of the scriptures, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). John said of the scriptures, “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God”.

It is my belief that being born again or born from above (i.e. quickened, made spiritually alive) is the work of the Godhead (see Eph. 2:1-7). Jesus said, “For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will” (John 5:21). He went on to say, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). Jesus had told Nicodemus “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit” (John 3:7-8). Being “born again” is not something a sinner, spiritually dead in trespasses and sins, can do by his actions – for spiritual life must precede spiritual actions.

JESUS CHRIST THE PROMISED SEED

About six thousand years ago, right after the trespass of Eve due to her being deceived, and the deliberate and willful sin by Adam, better known as the fall of man, God in judgment, foretold of Jesus Christ being “the seed” that would bruise the head of that old serpent, the devil. God had created Adam without sin, but subject to sin. “The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul -- And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”. This was God’s law of sin and death. God foreknew Adam would sin because God had chosen a people IN Christ before the foundation of the world and predestinated them unto eternal glory, having made them accepted in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3-6). Christ had been foreordained before the foundation of the world to die for the sins of his people (1 Peter 1:18-21).

God determined that “It is not good that the man should be alone”, but having found no help meet for Adam among the beast of the fields, God took one of his ribs and made a woman. The first marriage was performed in the Garden of Eden, where Adam had said “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man”. In response to Adams vow of marriage, God said, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they

shall be one flesh". Things looked pretty good for this first married couple until the devil came along to mess things up.

Eve was "beguiled" by the serpent into thinking "the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise" and so "she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat AND gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat". As I understand it, when Adam "did eat" the condemnation of sin and death passed upon the whole human race. In Romans 5:12 we read, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned". It is most foolish and vain to ask "WHAT IF" Eve had not given the fruit to her husband or "WHAT IF" Adam had not sinned. She did and he did eat – and here we are. Besides, God's eternal plan of salvation IN Christ was based on his foreknowledge that Eve would be deceived and Adam would deliberately sin. Paul wrote, "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression". From this I take it that Eve was "in the transgression" having been deceived, but Adam being "not deceived" did deliberately and willfully sin.

But not only did the condemnation of sin and death pass onto the whole human race by this transgression, the human nature to sin passed on to all mankind through Adam and Eve through procreation. Some I know would excuse Eve and lay blame on Adam alone, but I find that unscriptural to say the least. First of all when God judged this transgression the second one he judged was Eve. Had she not been guilty of a trespass one would have to ask, why did God pronounce judgment on her? For "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" (Gen. 3:16). Some try to single out Adam as the sole cause of the sin nature passing onto all mankind, but the scripture says, "In sin did my mother conceive me". Women are just as much sinners as are men. It takes a man and a woman to procreate and produce a natural child.

Before passing judgment on Eve and then Adam, God pronounced judgment on the serpent, the devil. "And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:14-15). By these words, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" we see the first prophetic passage of the Messiah who was to come. In Galatians 4:4-5 we read, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons". Christ would come into the world, made of a woman, but not begotten by a man, and therefore He would be the "incorruptible seed". He would bruise the head of the serpent, and destroy him, but would have his heel bruised on the cross when they nailed him to the tree.

We see this truth also in the everlasting covenant made with Abraham. In Genesis 12:1-3 we read, “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: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”. This is not a covenant dealing with the land of Canaan or the Jewish people. Paul explains this in Galatians 3:8 ““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”. Paul makes it clear that Jesus Christ is the promised SEED in whom and by whom we receive the gift of eternal life. The promise of eternal life was confirmed to Abraham long before any scriptures were written. Paul went on to say, “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” (3:16). Paul, speaking of Christ, wrote in Heb. 2:16 “For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham”. I suggest one read this entire passage for the context which proves Paul was speaking of eternal life IN the promised SEED, Jesus Christ.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST

“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:30-35)

The virgin birth of Jesus Christ was a miracle beyond the comprehension of human reasoning. If anyone ever tries to explain to you how this miracle took place, I suggest that you turn and run away as fast as possible. Man can not explain the original creation, when “the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”. As David said in Psalms 139:14 “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” Nor can man explain how God made a woman from a rib He took from Adam’s side, and as his wife she became bone of his bones, and flesh of his flesh, and they were not twain, but one flesh. How much less can man explain the virgin birth of Christ in which God took upon himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. Man may have his opinions as to how God performed this miracle, but I have not yet found the explanation in Scripture.

I have had conversations with other ministers who have tried to convince me that they could explain how God performed the miracle of the Virgin Birth. Since I knew that we are not told in the Word of God how God performed this miracle I knew that these brothers were going to give me “their opinion” as to how God performed this miracle. One told me that he believed “the Holy Spirit of God fertilized the natural egg in Mary’s womb”. He claimed that the sin nature only passes by the seed of man. In effect he was embracing the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. I reject this idea outright. Another told me that “God took the natural egg in Mary’s womb and formed the body of Christ”. Now that may be true. I certainly could not and would not deny it, for we are not told how God performed this miracle. However, since we do not know that this is true, I would not dogmatically promote it as a fact.

We know that natural generation or procreation began with the first Adam, the federal head of the human race, and his wife Eve, who was the mother of all living. Genesis 4:1 tells us “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord”. We know that Natural child- birth has always required the union of a man and woman and the providence of the Lord. “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward”. Many times we are told in Scripture that the Lord closed up the womb of women and they were unable to bare children.

Mary herself realized that this birth would take a miracle and asked the Angel, “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” Mary had never known a man, but she certainly understood how babies were born. She may not have known the technical details as modern women know them today, and certainly not as the medical profession knows them today, but she knew that childbirth required a man and a woman. Therefore the Angel told her that “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” In other words, “Mary, a miracle will take place”.

I will not use the word “predestinated” since that gets some of the brethren all nervous when applied to certain events, but I believe that the virgin birth of Christ was predetermined before the foundation of the world. We certainly know it was prophesied about 800 years before, when the Lord told Ahaz, “Therefore the Lord shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel”. (Isaiah 7:14) We are told in the gospel by Matthew that the virgin Mary was to “bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus” and we are told this was in fulfillment of what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah (Matt 1:22-23). However we are told by Peter that Jesus Christ “was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (I Peter 1:20). Since our Saviour had to be without sin and free from the natural sin nature of Adam’s posterity, it seems only reasonable to me that the virgin birth would have had to be predetermined by God in His eternal purpose and plan of redemption of his elect people.

Matthew tells us the name Emmanuel means “God with us” and that Joseph knew not Mary until she had brought forth her firstborn child (Matt 1:18-25). Paul tells us “But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman –“ (Gal. 4:4). Paul also tells that we should have the mind of Jesus Christ, “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made of himself no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men –“ (Phil 2:5-6). Paul, speaking of Christ, said, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (I Tim. 3:16). Paul also said of Christ, “For in him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily”.

Several times we are told that all things were made by and for Christ, which clearly teaches that He, as God, was the Creator. John, speaking of Jesus Christ, tells us “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” And John goes on to say, “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:1-3, 14). The word made in John 1:3 is the same word made in John 1:14, and the same word made in Phil. 2:7 where Paul says that Christ was “made in the likeness of men”. In Genesis we read several times “And God made“ and in other places “God created”. It seems clear to me that the word made and the word created are used interchangeably. We read in Gen. 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness –“ In Gen. 1:27 we read “And so God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them”. But in Gen. 5:1-2 we read, “In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and Female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day they were created”. Based on this it seems to me that when God made something he created it. But I could be wrong. I use to have a sign in my office, “Once I thought I was wrong, but I was mistaken”. Paul tells us “And so it is written, The first Adam was made a living soul; and the last Adam (Christ) was [made] a quickening spirit – The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven” (I Cor. 45-47).

Nevertheless, we are not told exactly how God performed the miracle of the Virgin Birth and made Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God manifest in the flesh. That is I have not been able to find the explanation in the Scriptures. It may be there, and I may have missed it, but I don’t think so. I have come to believe that if God is silent on a matter we should be careful not to be dogmatic with our opinions. Others may feel they have the light and/or authority to be dogmatic about how this miracle was performed, but as for me I will be swift to hear and slow to speak.

The virgin birth was not a natural birth. In natural birth, prenatal life begins with conception at the time of fertilization of the female ovum in the outer third of uterine tube. It takes about two weeks before the fertilized ovum, as

an embryonic mass, is implanted in the uterus or womb. The angel told Mary “thou shalt conceive in thy womb”. When Adam knew Eve, when Abraham knew Sarah, when Isaac knew Rebecca, when Zechariah knew Elizabeth, when every husband has known his wife and she conceived, she did so in the natural way as described above. What then did the angel mean when he told Mary “thou shalt conceive in thy womb”? This could get very complicated, and if we are not careful we could begin to ask vain questions, so I will try to avoid that at all cost.

It seems to me there are only two options available to consider. (1) God used the egg of Mary and bypassed the natural fertilization process and made a fetus and implanted “that Holy thing” in the womb of Mary, or else (2) God made a fetus without her egg and implanted “that Holy thing” in the womb of Mary. Since God is able to create (make) man from the dust of the earth and make woman from a rib, nothing is impossible with God. Since “God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham” – nothing is impossible with God. We do know that Paul said of Christ, “Wherefore, when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me” (Heb. 10:5). We also know, from medical science, that in natural childbirth a body CAN NOT be formed unless the chromosomes of the male spermatozoon are united with the chromosomes of the female ovum (egg). I will spare you the details. Therefore we know that a miracle had to be performed in either case. Since God does not tell us in his word what he did, I am satisfied to simply know that God did it – and leave the how to those who have more light than I do.

By no means do I believe in the Roman Catholic doctrine of “The Immaculate Conception”. Many think this doctrine has to do with the Virgin Birth of Christ, but it does not. The doctrine of “The Immaculate Conception” teaches that Mary herself was born without sin, and from the very first moment of her existence she was free from the taint of original sin. The original decree setting forth this doctrine was issued by pope Pius IX, on December 8, 1854. Now there may be some Primitive Baptists who believe that some women are without sin, but I am not one of them. While this false doctrine is not directly related to the virgin birth of Christ it can be indirectly related.

Mary was a sinner just like you and me. She, just like all the offspring of Adam and Eve, both male and female, was conceived “in sin” with a natural sin nature. She said, “My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour”, thereby acknowledging her sin and her need of a Saviour. It is evident that the Adamic sin nature passes in natural generation, even though God concluded all of mankind to be in sin when Adam sinned. It seems to me that one would have to believe in the Roman Catholic doctrine of The Immaculate Conception to believe that the sin nature passes only through the male. Some may believe that, but since there has never been any natural child born without the union of both the male and female pronuclei, it would be impossible to prove and I reject the idea that Mary was without sin and the Adamic sin nature and that is the basis of the purity of Christ himself.

THE INCORRUPTIBLE WORD OF GOD

Again looking at one of our main text, Peter spoke of Christ as the incorruptible seed, and said, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (I Peter 1:23) "The word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" in this passage is the same Word (logos) that was made flesh and dwelt among us as recorded in John 1:1-3 and 14. The Words spoken by God are also the living Word (logos) of God and forever true and settled in heaven. There is another usage of the word of God that applies to his word (rehma) which is spoken, preached or written by man. That which man speaks, preaches or writes (outside of divine inspiration, which ended with the Apostles) can be corrupted. The "corruptible seed" mentioned by Peter is referring to the work of man, not of God.

I found the word seed in the KJ Bible in at least 254 verses. The word often appears twice in the same verse. The same Hebrew word Zera (zeh'rah) is translated seed 221 times in the Old Testament. Three Greek words are translated seed in the New Testament. The Greek word Sperma is translated Seed 43 times and Issue once. Obviously this is the word from which we get our English word Sperm, meaning the male fluid of fertilization. The Greek word Speiro is translated Sow 44 times, Sower 6 times and Receive Seed 4 times. The Greek word Sporos is translated Seed 4 times and Seed Sown 1 time. These last two words are primarily used to speak of Seed being sown in a field and to make illustrations which compare that to the spiritual condition of man, such as in The Parable of The Sower and The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matt. 13).

There appears to be four primary applications for the word Seed. First it is used to speak of the Reproduction of Plant Life. In Gen. 1:11-12 it says "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good." For the most part Plant Life reproduces naturally after its own kind, (i.e. a species reproduces the same species). I looked up some information about Hybrid Plant Life and here is what I found.

Modern man has been able to find and produce what is called Hybrids of Plant Life (i.e. cross breeding within the same Botanical Varieties). Many different kinds of hybrid plants were found in the 1700's and 1800's. Hybrid seed corn was sold to farmers in the United States for the first time in 1922. Nearly all the corn planted in the major U.S. corn-growing areas was hybrid corn by 1940. In the 1960's hybrids became an important way to produce other kinds of crops. Today hybrid plants are extremely important to agriculture success. Nearly all corn produced in the U.S. is grown from hybrid seed. Most varieties of sugar beets are hybrids, as are some varieties of barley, rice, and wheat. Many vegetables are produced from hybrid seed such as broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, melons, onions, peppers,

pumpkins, squash, and tomatoes. Many flowers such as marigolds, orchids, petunias, roses, and other flowers that beautify our homes and parks are hybrids. BUT in all this God's purpose in Nature still hold true – each plant produces “after his kind, whose seed is in itself “. God's principle of Nature has not changed.

Second, the word Seed is used to speak of Animal Reproduction. We read, “And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. 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” (Genesis 7:1-4). The preservation of Animal Life (Seed) required a Male and his Female, and each would reproduce “after his kind”.

God did not instruct Noah to save any Fish in an Aquarium – the Sea Life would survive the flood on its own. I have heard there are millions of identified species of Sea Life and millions more to be identified, and ALL of them reproduce “after their own kind”. I was unable to find any reference to Hybrid Sea Life. But as with Plants, modern man has learned how to produce Hybrids of animals within their “own kind” or species. Animal hybrids include mules, which are bred from female horses and male donkeys; and Cattaloes and Beefaloes, the offspring of cattle and American buffaloes. These are raised mainly in Wyoming where I use to live. However animal hybrids have been less successful for commercial purposes than plant hybrids.

Third, the next application of the word Seed has to do with the Offspring or Posterity or Natural Descendants of mankind. Here we are speaking of those born to man by Nature. The first Natural offspring of man was Cain followed by Abel as recorded in Gen. 4:1-2, ¶ And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.” We all know the story how that Cain murdered Abel because Abel was righteous and his works were righteous, but Cain was of that wicked one (I John 3:7-12). Then we read in Gen. 4:25-26, ¶ And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD”. Note that Seth was the “seed” or offspring given by God in the place of Abel. Then Seth and his wife had Seed or Offspring and called his name Enos.

We then begin to read of the Genealogies or Generations of Adam and his “Seed” or Posterity. In Gen. 5:1-2 we read, “¶ This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called

their name Adam, in the day when they were created”. Please note that both Male and Female (i.e. Adam and Eve) were called Adam in the day that God created man. God called THEIR NAME Adam. We could call them Mr. and Mrs. Adam. The name Adam means Mankind. Adam said of his wife Eve, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man” Then God said to Adam, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:23-24). They were ONE - Mr. And Mrs. Adam. Gen. 1:27 tells us “God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him (singular); male and female created he them (plural). And God blessed them (plural), and God said to them (plural), Be fruitful, and multiply ---“. In other words were to have Seed – Offspring – Posterity to populate the Earth (the world). The record of Adam’s Posterity (along with the essential help of Eve since Adam could not Beget children on his own) is recorded in Genesis. Genealogies in the Bible place the man as the Head of the Family Tree – So Adam begat “sons and daughters – BUT not without Eve, his wife, his flesh and bone, TO WHOM he clave until death. I think of it as “Man Beget – but Women give Birth” !!

ALL of mankind is the posterity of Adam. We are told in Acts 17:26 that God “hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; --“. That ONE BLOOD is Adam. Mr. & Mrs. Adam began the process of natural reproduction and natural generation has continued on and on ever since. After the transgression or the violation of the “law of sin and death” in the garden, “Adam called his wife’s name Eve; because she was the mother of all living” (Gen. 3:20). Adam, himself, is charged with bringing sin and death upon ALL mankind. Paul wrote, “Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world (the posterity of Adam), and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”. The Seed of Adam (ALL of mankind) or the Natural Generation that began with Adam and Eve are “sinners” by nature. Wherefore God concluded them all under sin – “For in Adam all die”. David wrote, “Behold I was shapen (formed) in iniquity; In sin did my MOTHER conceive me” (Psalms 51:5). Paul says that we are “by nature the children of wrath, even as others”.

BEING BORN AGAIN BY GOD

It is the belief of this writer that when Peter wrote by inspiration, “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (I Peter 1:23), he was speaking of the SEED, Jesus Christ. John spoke of the seed of God and said, “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for HIS SEED (caps mine – ba) remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.” (I John 3:9).

The above passage has been misused by Arminians and Calvinist to teach that spiritual regeneration or being born again comes through the preaching of the gospel or word of God by man. This teaching is what we commonly call the heresy of “gospel regeneration”. This heresy is one that gives man a part and glory in the eternal salvation of another. Those who teach “gospel regeneration” have never been able to reconcile the eternal salvation of

God's elect, such as the unborn fetus, infants and little children who die without hearing the gospel preached by man, or the deaf and dumb who can not understand the gospel. To appease this inability, they created another heresy called "the age of accountability" for infants and little children, etc.

When one rightly divides the word of truth, they will find that a sinner who is dead in trespasses and sins has no ability to hear and respond spiritually to the gospel until he/she is first quickened (made alive) by God. Furthermore, it becomes obvious to the spiritual mind that many of God's elect people are conceived, live and die without ever hearing the word of God preached by man. Many Biblical examples could be given to support this fact, but that is not the purpose of this article. It is commonly believed "among us" that all God foreknew and predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son are called and quickened by God some time between conception and death. One can use John the Baptist, who was filled with the Holy Ghost when only six months old in his mother's womb and the thief who died on a cross beside Jesus but was promised paradise as reference points. How many of them are blessed to hear the gospel or word of God preached by man is unknown, but it is taught in the Scriptures that "many are called, but few are chosen" to enter in through the strait gate and walk the narrow way of life in this time world. Most of God's people are walking the "broad way" in this world, as evidenced by the man-made doctrines and practices of the many different denominations founded on man's teachings.

It is important that we make a distinction between the "word of God" which is spoken directly by God to his prophets and recorded for our benefit as Scripture and that which man says or publishes about the "word of God". The Word of God is true and incorruptible. Jesus Christ, the living Word of God is true and incorruptible. Man, himself, who preaches the "word of God", as the gospel of Christ, is corrupt and corruptible. If all men who claim to preach the word of God were inspired of God and never spoke any error or perverse things we would not have a multitude of denominations teaching man-made doctrines and practices. Obviously many have perverted the gospel of Christ to another gospel, and speak perverse things to draw away disciples after themselves. This alone should prove that God does not use corrupt man and his corruptible preaching as the means to cause one of his elect to be born again.

A careful examination of the context of our text shows that Peter is speaking of Christ as "the incorruptible seed, the living word (logos) of God which liveth and abideth forever". The "word" (logos) used in I Peter 1:23 is the same "word" (logos) used in John 1:1 where it says "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". John goes on to say, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us", speaking of Christ, being God manifest in the flesh. Paul also confirmed this truth, speaking of Christ, "Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men --". Again, it says in Hebrews "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, ---".

Therefore, the incorruptible seed, the “word of God” in I Peter 1:23 is not speaking of the Scriptures as the inspired “word of God” being preached or written about by men. It is true that the Scriptures are often referred to as the “word of God”, but a different Greek word is used to describe the “word of God” which is written or spoken by man from that which is spoken directly by God. The “word of God” which is spoken directly by God to or through his Prophets is “logos” and the “word of God” which is spoken or written by men in preaching the word is “rhema”. This can be proven from several examples, and as far as I know there are no exceptions.

In I Peter 1:25, we read “But the word (rhema) of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word (rhema) which by the gospel is preached unto you”. Here Peter is saying the gospel is preached unto you by men from “the word of the Lord” that was originally given as the (Old Testament) Scriptures (since the New Testament was not yet complete). The Scriptures or “word of the Lord” which are given by inspiration of God (II Tim. 3:16-17) will endure forever. David testified to this same truth when he said in Psalms 119:89 “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.” Most of the time when we read the word Scriptures in the New Testament it is referring to the Old Testament that had been completed hundreds of years before the coming of Christ. Jesus himself proves this in John 5:39 when he said to the Jews, “Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they are they which testify of me”. The only Scriptures they could search would have been the Old Testament. Also read Luke 24:25-27, 44-45 where the word Scriptures is speaking specifically of the Old Testament law and the prophets and the psalms. However when Paul says “All scripture is given by inspiration of God –“ it is meant both the Old and New Testament. All of the Scriptures, both Old and New, are forever settled in heaven.

This does not mean that the King James Translation of the Bible is forever settled in heaven, or that it will endure forever. In fact the KJV has only existed since 1611 and is under great attack today from those who would pervert the Scripture, and may be discontinued by Publishers sometime in the future. None of us living today may see that time come – but should the Lord tarry, the time is coming. What will endure forever and what is settled in heaven is the “word of God” as it was originally spoken and penned under the inspiration of God, “For all Scripture is given by inspiration of God –“. While the “word of God” has been preserved in the translations from the original, the translations themselves have been subject to corruption and error and the passing of time. Like it or not, our beloved King James Version has words added by the translators that are not inspired and sometimes undesired. Furthermore some words were translated from the Hebrew, Chaldean and Greek into English that require great clarification, and some were translated incorrectly. If the translation of Scripture by men can become corrupted, what do we think the preaching of the gospel by men can become, if not perverted. Therefore men are not born again by men preaching the word of God – but rather by the incorruptible seed, which is Jesus Christ, the living word of God.

Another example of this truth, distinguishing between the word (logos) of God and the word (rhema) published by man, can be seen in Acts 10:36-37.

Peter wrote, “The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; --“. When Peter says, “The word (logos) which God sent” he is speaking of “the word” spoken directly by God to his Prophets. He then says “that word” (rhema) was published or preached by men throughout all Judea.

Granted, for the most part, during the Apostolic days, the Gospel was preached in an unadulterated form by those who loved the Lord and the Truth. But one only has to look at Acts 15 to realize that “the word of God” was mistreated by “certain men” which went out from the church at Jerusalem, teaching the necessity of circumcision in order to be saved. Paul himself pointed out that there were some “who would trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ”. Furthermore Paul warned the church at Ephesus, “Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after themselves”. Only people living in darkness and ignorance could believe that the preaching by corrupt man could be the “incorruptible seed” or the “word of God” in I Peter 1:23 which God would use to cause one to be born again.

THE INCORRUPTIBLE SEED

The expression “not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the word of God” used by Peter in our text has a particular reference to Jesus Christ. The word “seed” primarily means “offspring” or that which is reproduced in a regenerative process, and has several applications, as I tried to point out in the first part of this article. It can be used to speak of the reproduction of plant life (see Gen. 1:11-12), such as seed of wheat planted in the ground to bring forth much fruit (John 12:24). Jesus used the plant seed as a type to illustrate the effects of “the word of God” planted by the Son of man in the hearts of his people under various conditions of the heart. See Matthew 13:18-23 and 13:37-43. The word seed can also mean the reproduction of Animal life (Gen. 7:1-4).

Mostly, the word “seed” is used to speak of the natural posterity or offspring of mankind (Gen. 4:25-26). In Genesis 17:19 we read, “And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. “ and again in Genesis 46:6-7 “And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him: His sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters, and all his seed brought he with him into Egypt.”

But, by the word “incorruptible” referring to “seed” followed by “the word of God” in I Peter 1:23, it is meant Jesus Christ, the “seed of promise” (Gal. 3:16), the Christ child born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14, Luke 1:35, 2:11), the seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15), the Son given (Isa. 9:6, Matt 3:17, 17:5), the Word of God made flesh (John 1:1-3, 14). This Word was none other than the promised Messiah (John 4:25-26), the foreordained Redeemer (I Peter 1:18-

21), whose name is JESUS, meaning Jehovah is Saviour, or Emmanuel, meaning God with us, who came to save his people from their sins (Matt. 1:21-25).

This man Jesus, being God and man, was not born in the natural process of generation. Mary realized this truth and asked “How shall this be seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” This indeed is a marvelous thing – for He who was in the beginning with God and who was God was now made flesh and became the “only begotten Son of God”.

Men thought then and still do today that Joseph was his father and Mary was his mother. Some even call Mary “the Mother of God”. But Mary was “as his mother” according to scripture, “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 1:18). There is no doubt in my mind that she nursed him and cared for him “as a mother”, but this conception and birth was not a natural birth, for the Son of God has neither a natural father or a natural mother. Paul made this clear when describing Melchisedec. “For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.”

It was impossible for Jesus Christ, the incorruptible seed, to possess the sin nature of natural man that passes by natural generation. This natural generation comes when the egg of the woman is fertilized by the sperm of the male and conception takes place in the womb of the woman. This was all explained in part one of this article and I do not feel it is necessary to repeat it. When Adam transgressed the Law of Sin and Death, the judgment of death passed upon all men, as God concluded all of Adams posterity under sin (Rom. 5:12). Paul wrote in Galatians 3:22 “But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”

While God has concluded “ALL under sin” the sin nature still must pass in natural generation, as David said, “Behold I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me” (Psalms 51:5) and as Paul confirmed that we “were by nature the children of wrath, even as others”. This proves to me that apart from the intervening grace of God, every child conceived in the womb is a vessel fit for destruction at the time of conception and birth. As David said, “The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies”.

NO where in the word of God, can I find where it teaches that the SIN NATURE inherited from our natural parents passes only through the seed of the man. Man who is the head of the woman, as a result of her being deceived

and “in the transgression”, is said to be the one “to beget” sons and daughters”. However I have never yet to find where any man “beget” any son or daughter without a woman being involved. Furthermore to assume or to conclude that the woman is without sin or a sin nature is vain folly and disproved by the fact of death.

Had Mary been the natural Mother of Jesus, rather than a “blessed vessel” through which the child was born there would have been the natural possibility of her blood co-mingling with the pure blood of Christ, and contaminating him with the natural “sin nature” of mankind. Paul says, “Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifices and offerings thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me”. I have always taken this to mean that God prepared a special body for the Lord Jesus Christ that was without sin and that would be sacrificed for the sins of his people. Mary was the vessel that carried that body and thus Christ was “made of a woman”. Jeremiah tells us, “For the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man” (Jeremiah 31:22). That word compass means to encircle or enclose, as a child is in the womb until birth.

It is through the voice of the Son of God that the dead in trespasses and sins are quickened (John 5:21-25). When He calls, His sheep hear his voice and they follow him (John 10:27-28) but a stranger they will not follow for they know not the voice of a stranger (John 10:5). By the grace of God, the chosen of God are made new creatures in Christ Jesus (II Cor. 5:17, yea even sons of God and children of God, the heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:14-17). By His grace, IN Christ, we have been made even as the “seed” of God, “For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren” (Heb. 2:11). As David has written “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.” (Psalms 37:25-26)