

# THE SEAL OF THE 144,000

The 144,000! Who are these people mentioned in the Book of Revelation? Are only they going to be saved? This mystery has puzzled millions, but the Bible has the answer. We must study the Bible more carefully to find the answers to these disturbing questions.

We read in I Thess. 4:13: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." If we believe what the Bible says about our loved ones who have passed away, we will not sorrow, for we will have hope. As Jesus said of Lazarus the dead are just sleeping.

In verse 16 of I Thess. 4, it says: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." What a glorious day that will be when the Lord comes to awaken the sleeping saints and take them back with Him!

Verses 17 and 18 continue: "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." When Jesus comes, the dead in Christ will rise first, then we which are alive will be translated without even seeing death, "caught up together with them in the clouds."

There will be two classes of people living when Jesus comes, the righteous and the wicked. The wicked shall be stricken dead by the brightness of Christ's coming and the righteous living will be translated. There are two classes of righteous people when Jesus comes, the dead in Christ and the righteous living. The dead will be raised first and caught up into the sky, and the living will be caught up together with them to ascend up into glory to ever be with the Lord.

We read in Rev. 7:4: "And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." The word "Israel" does not necessarily mean Jewish Israel. The term "Israel" means victorious. It is the spiritual title given to any one who prevails over sin.

When Jacob wrestled all night with the angel and would not let him go until he had received a blessing, the angel asked him what his name was. He told the angel that his name was Jacob, which meant "Supplanter" or "deceiver." In Gen. 32:28 we read: "And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but ISRAEL: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with man, and HAST PREVAILED." So the children of Israel are the children of God who have prevailed over the temptations of Satan and overcome the sins in their lives.

For further proof that the word **Israel** belongs to those who prevail over sin, or Christians, let us note what the Lord says in Gal. 3:29: "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and

heirs according to the promise." Those who are Christ's true followers are called Christians. Those who are Abraham's seed are Israelites. Therefore let us paraphrase this text: "If ye be Christians, then are ye Israelites, and heirs according to the promise." A Christian is an Israelite: an Israelite is a Christian. These two terms are synonymous words which mean that if one is a Christian he is automatically an Israelite.

To further substantiate this Bible truth, let us read Eph. 2:11, 12: "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles . . . That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel . . ." Now this means that even the Jews in the flesh are not Israelites but Gentiles because they too are without Christ, having rejected Him as the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

We read in Zeph. 3:13: "The REMNANT OF ISRAEL shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid." The word REMNANT means three things: 1. It is the last part of anything. 2. It is the smallest part of anything. And 3. It must be like the original. Therefore the remnant church will be the last true church, it will be a small church, and it will be like the original church.

If the remnant church is going to be like the original, it will have to keep all the commandments of God including the seventh day Sabbath, or the fourth commandment. Notice this statement in Rev. 12:17: "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." The dragon here represents the devil (Rev. 12:9), and the woman represents the church (Jer. 6:2, Isa. 51:16). Therefore we shall paraphrase this text which would make it read as follows: "The devil was wroth with the church, and went to make war with the REMNANT of her seed (members) which keep the COMMANDMENTS OF GOD and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

In Rev. 19:10 we read: ". . . The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." In Rev. 12 we found the remnant church spoken of as the one that keeps the commandments of God. The remnant of her seed are the Christians who are living at the time of the end, members of the true remnant church which is not defiled by false pagan doctrines, and who know the prophecies.

In Eph. 4:30 it says: "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Those who are going to be saved are sealed by the Holy Spirit, and in Rev. 7:4 we found that 144,000 are going to be sealed. This represents the class of living righteous people who will be translated without ever seeing death when Jesus comes. The question now arises, Is this a literal number or a figurative one? To this question I wish to say that there is not one statement



in the whole Bible that tells us definitely whether this is a literal or a figurative number.

However, we do read in Num. 3:40: "And the Lord said unto Moses, Number all the first born of the males of the children of Israel from a month old and upward, and take the number of their names." Here we find that in the days of Israel they numbered the first born of the males. Therefore it is possible that the Lord may be numbering the living righteous when He comes as He did in the days of old. However, it is not for you or me to speculate concerning this number, but to make sure that we are a part of the company.

One thing that we are sure of, and that is that millions of people are not going to be translated, and as God says, it is just a "LITTLE FLOCK" that will be ready for translation when Jesus comes. In Matt. 7:13, 14 we read: "Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." According to the Bible we must hunt for the true church, because it is something to FIND. My dear Friends, when you have found the true church, in order to stand clear before God in the judgment what are you going to do about it?

While God is sealing or marking His people the devil is also marking or sealing his followers. We read in Rev. 7:1: "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree." If it were not for the angels of God holding the winds of warfare and strife, this world would long ago have plunged to ruin. God is holding back the nations from Armageddon until He has completed His work of sealing the saints.

In the second and third verses of Rev. 7 we read: "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God; and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." The Seal of God is received only in the forehead, whereas the Mark of the Beast is received in the forehead and in the hand. The sealing or marking is the closing work of this world's history, and the future of each individual is dependent upon whether he receives the Seal of God or the Mark of the Beast.

In verse 4 of Rev. 7 John continues telling of what was shown him in vision: "And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." Dear Friends, the sealing time is very short and will soon be over. While the angels are holding back the four winds, let us not have our hearts so filled with other things, that present truth is shut out and there will be no room on our foreheads for God's seal.

As you may remember in my previous lecture on the Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast, it

was pointed out that the Sabbath is the sign or seal or mark of the true God, our Creator. In Eze. 20:20 we read: "...Hallow my sabbaths: and they shall be a sign between me and you..." In Isa. 8:16 it says: "...Seal the law among my disciples." And in Ex. 31:13 God says: "...My sabbath ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you..." This leaves no room for doubts as to what the seal of God is, and what God expects of us.

Seth Williston says: "The weekly Sabbath... was appointed and observed the very first week of time. It is no part of the law of ceremonies, which law was occasioned by the entrance of sin; for the Sabbath was established before sin had entered, and would have been obligatory on Adam and his offspring if sin had not been known among them." **Discourses on the Sabbath**, pp. 11, 12. The Sabbath was not made for the Jews but for all mankind long before the existence of the Jews.

A Methodist, Amos Binney, says: "God's BLESSING and SANCTIFYING the day, meant that He separated it from a common to a religious use, to be a PERPETUAL MEMORIAL OR SIGN that all who thus observe it would show themselves to be the worshipers of that God who made the world in six days and RESTED ON THE SEVENTH." **Theological Compend**, pp. 169, 170. So we see that the Methodists agree that Sabbath keeping is a "PERPETUAL MEMORIAL OR SIGN, that those who keep it are God's holy people.

A Baptist, Dr. W. W. Everts, says: "THE SABBATH WAS MADE A SEAL of God's covenant with Israel... An ordinance so ESSENTIAL to the maintenance of religion naturally became a proof and measure of it, not only for them, but to all ages." **The Sabbath: Its Permanence, Promise, and Defence**, pp. 34, 35. We agree with this Baptist minister that Sabbath-keeping is ESSENTIAL to true godliness, and that it is a proof to all who observe us that we are God's true people.

James G. Murphy says: "The observance of the Sabbath connects man with... the six days of creation, and with the Creator Himself... THE SABBATH THUS BECOMES A SIGN by which the believers in a historical Revelation are distinguished from those who have allowed these great facts to fade from their remembrance." **Commentary on the Book of Exodus**, p. 143. From these statements by the most scholarly Bible students of the century, we can see that it is an accepted fact that the Sabbath is the seal, or sign that we serve God, the Creator.

Someone has said: "IF MEN HAD ALWAYS KEPT THE SABBATH there never would have been an idolater, for the Sabbath is a memorial of the true God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth." It has been Satan's plan to turn God's created children from their Creator, and lead them to worship the creature instead of the Creator. The devil has been jealous of God's power to create, and has tried to keep people from accepting God as the Creator.

"IF MEN HAD ALWAYS KEPT THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH there never would have been an atheist, for the Sabbath, in memorializing creation, gives us a personal God, our Maker and



Friend." Author unknown. Satan has tried to cloak God in such mystery and misunderstanding that many have been led to deny that there is a God. He knew that if he could stop man worshipping on the memorial day of creation, he would soon cause man to forget the Creator. Atheism is one of the direct results of disregarding the Sabbath.

"IF MEN HAD ALWAYS KEPT THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH there never would have been an evolutionist, for the Sabbath presents God as the Creator, not blind force or unaided natural law." Satan must be pleased with himself that he has led many to believe that they descended from apes. This is the ultimate in satisfaction to the devil. He knows how this must grieve God. We see that the keeping of the Sabbath down through the ages would have protected us against the delusion of Evolution. We can see why Satan has been so intent upon keeping the world from the observance of God's true Sabbath.

"IF MEN HAD ALWAYS KEPT THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH Christ's atonement never would have been denied, for the Sabbath not only preserves the truth of Christ as Creator, but also Christ as Re-Creator." In Eze. 20:12 it states that the Sabbath is God's sign of sanctification, or redemption. Satan knows that it is God's sign of redemption, and has tried his best to keep men from accepting the Sabbath in order that they may deny the One who can re-create us, Jesus the Saviour.

"IF MEN HAD ALWAYS KEPT THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH the inspiration of the Bible never would have been denied, for the Sabbath witnesses to the integrity of the book of Genesis. If Genesis stands, the entire Bible also stands." Satan knows only too well that the denial of the Sabbath arouses serious doubts regarding the inspiration of the Bible. It causes contradiction and confusion regarding the plain statements of God in His Word.

Now let us go to the discussion of the sign or mark of the devil, or MARK OF THE BEAST, as it is called in Revelation. We have previously come to the conclusion that the Mark of the Beast is Sunday-keeping. Is there any place in the Bible where we are told to keep Sunday? The Catholics say "No." Father Brady says: "It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday." "New Jersey NEWS," March 18, 1903.

In the same article Father Brady continues: "Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic church." "New Jersey NEWS," March 18, 1903. Since the Bible does not support the Sunday institution, it might be the offspring of the devil. He knew that he was attacking God's great sign of authority when he attacked the Sabbath institution. He has substituted his own mark of authority—the mark of the beast.

In answer to a letter written to Cardinal Gibbons, C. F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons, says: "Of course the Catholic Church claims

that the change (from Sabbath to Sunday) was her act . . . And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." So the Catholics boast that Sunday is their MARK OF AUTHORITY. We have previously showed that the Roman Catholic church is the religious system referred to by the Beast of Rev. 13, and Sunday-keeping is the mark of the Beast.

Rev. John Snyder, in an article in the St. Louis "Globe Democrat," of April 3, 1887, said: "Every instructed man knows that the Catholic Church gave to the Christian world the Sunday . . . And when Protestantism threw off the authority of the Catholic Church, it abandoned the only ecclesiastical foundation upon which Sunday can logically rest." And we might add that if Protestants accept Sunday from the Catholic Church, they are also accepting the MARK or SEAL of THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

To close these remarkable confessions, let us read one more quotation: "As the seamless coat of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, was torn from Him before He was nailed to the cross, so has the fourth commandment been torn from the rest day of the Lord, around which it was placed by the Lawgiver, and given to the papal Lord's day; And this Barabbas the robber, thus arrayed in the stolen fourth commandment, challenged from that time onward, with astonishing success, the OBEEDIENCE OF THE WORLD as the divinely appointed sabbath of the MOST HIGH GOD." *History of the Sabbath*, Andrews, p. 716. Yes, all the world bows down in reverent obedience to the mandates of the Roman Catholic Church, to its traditions and customs, pagan though they are.

Now that we have definitely established just what the Seal of God is, showing to all the world that we are the true church of God, His little flock, let us find out when the sealing work is to be done. It is the last work to be done. When you write a letter you don't seal it before you start to write. You seal the letter after it is written and addressed and placed in the envelope. Christ is writing many letters to His Father, and these letters are written in the hearts of the Christians.

In II Cor. 3:2, 3 we read: "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men. 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 the fleshy tables of the heart." Here the Lord says you are epistles or letters. Any dictionary will tell you that an epistle is a letter. If God says that we are letters and the Lord is writing letters in our hearts, then what is the content of this letter?

The answer is found in Heb. 8:10: "For this is the covenant that I make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." Here we find that the law is written in the hearts of all Christians, but Jesus will not write the law in the hearts of men or women who deny or break the law. If you love



Jesus you will love His law, and keep it, and do it, and He will write it in your heart.

If we are going to keep the commandments of God, it means that we are going to keep the true Sabbath also. We find the fourth commandment in Ex. 20:8-11: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." The Sabbath is the seal of God. After a letter is written it must be addressed and sealed. If we are the letters of the Lord, then we too must be sealed with the seal of the living God.

To whom is the letter being written? Whose address is to be placed on it? We read in Rev. 3:12: "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." Here we find that Christ is writing upon us the name of God and the name of the city of God which is New Jerusalem. Beloved, do you want Jesus to write upon you the address that will mean eternal life? If you do, then you must decide today to keep all of God's commandments so that you may be sealed with the seal of God.

Christ is coming back to collect all these letters that have the correct address and seal. In John 14:1-3, we read: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. 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." The last work of Christ before coming to receive His people as promised, will be to seal His people.

If we are going to heaven we must have the seal of approval. The Lord says that the seal or sign between Him and His people is the Sabbath. Will you (the letter) get to heaven? The United States mail must arrive at its destination and every postal employee makes it his business to see that all mail arrives at its destination. If the U. S. government is so particular to see that its mail arrives at its destination, don't you think, Beloved, that Jesus who is the mail carrier for all the righteous is far more interested than mind can comprehend that His mail should arrive at its destination?

Christ says in John 15:5: ". . . Without me ye can do nothing." So particular is Jesus that He does not have anyone else deliver His mail. He is going to deliver it Himself. If you will let Jesus write the law in your heart (a letter to God) then He will deliver you Himself to the

Father. Are you going to keep all the commandments including the fourth? This decision does not rest upon any other person. You are the one who must make the decision, and then Jesus will help you to keep all of His commandments. Only as you rely upon Jesus for help can you keep His commandments, and this is necessary for salvation.

In Eph. 5:25-27 it says: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; . . . That he might present it to himself a glorious church, NOT HAVING SPOT, or WRINKLE, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and WITHOUT BLEMISH."

And again we read in Jude 24, 25: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." These texts make it very plain that only those who are FAULTLESS and SPOTLESS will be presented to God.

Let us reread Rev. 7:1-4: In verse 1 we read: "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree." The winds of strife are truly being held back today, waiting for God's people to be ready.

In verses 2 and 3 it says: "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." God sends a special angel to do the sealing work. It is truly important.

In verse 4 it says: "And I heard the number of them which were sealed and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." The question now arises, Will only 144,000 be saved? To this I wish to answer "No!" The 144,000 are only the living righteous whom Jesus translates without ever seeing death, but among those who are to be resurrected from the dead, THERE IS A GREAT MULTITUDE.

Notice this statement found in Rev. 7:9, 10: "After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindred, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." Here we find that there is so GREAT A MULTITUDE of those who have been resurrected from the dead that no man could number them.

The next question arises: "Who are the 144,000? This answer is found in Rev. 7:14: "And he said to me, These are they which CAME OUT OF GREAT TRIBULATION, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." According to this Bible statement



the 144,000 are those who have come out of GREAT TRIBULATION.

In verse 15 of Rev. 7 John continues: "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them." Because of the GREAT TRIBULATION, they are allowed special privileges in heaven. Now I ask you, dear Friends, is there any great tribulation or trouble in keeping Sunday? Your answer must be "NO," because the whole world bows down in obedience to that day. But is there any tribulation or trouble to keep Saturday, the seventh day of the week which is the Sabbath of the Lord our God, the fourth commandment?

In Luke 12:32 Jesus said: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Remember, Beloved, it may be a little trouble and tribulation now to keep the true Sabbath of God, but eternal life awaits you, and the privilege of ever being present with Christ throughout eternity. May God grant you the courage and the strength and help to step out in the face of all tribulations so that you may ever be ready when Jesus comes to take home His faithful "LITTLE FLOCK."

In Rev. 14:1 the Revelator says: "And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads." It will be a glorious privilege to stand with Jesus on Mount Sion and sing the song of victory over the beast and his mark. There will be great enthusiasm and joy as we sing that song. As an added privilege and blessing, the name of the Father will be written in the foreheads of this distinguished group.

In verses 2 and 3 of Rev. 14 John continues: "And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth." Wherever Jesus goes throughout the universe of God, as He carries out the directives of the Godhead in the governing of His universe, the 144,000 will go with Him. "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth." They will probably sing their song of their experience to the inhabitants of the other worlds. Only those who have had this marvelous experience of victory can sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. The inhabitants of the other worlds will thrill to these performances.

In verses 4 and 5 of Rev. 14, John further describes the activities of the 144,000: "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." The 144,000 were not defiled with the false doctrines of the false religions

(women) of this world. They held a pure faith. Not only was their faith pure, but also their habits, for there was no guile in their mouths.

Sometime ago a minister of another denomination visiting a friend of mine, during the conversation said he did not think it was necessary to warn his people about the beast. When asked if he expected to get to heaven and stand on the sea of glass, having the harp of God and being able to sing the song of victory, he emphatically said, "Yes, I do." Then my friend said to him, "Let me read to you from God's Word, the Bible, who the people are that are going to stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God and singing the song of victory."

So he turned to Rev. 15:2 and read: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God." Then he said, "Do you see, how clearly the Bible speaks, that only those who have gotten the victory over the BEAST and over his MARK are the people who are going to stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God and singing the song of victory."

In Rev. 15:3 it says: "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." Those who sing this song are praising God for His wonderful works, they are worshipping Him as Creator of heaven and earth. After their victory over the Beast they sing with feeling "Just and true are thy ways."

The story has been told of a farmer who after many years of toiling decided that he would like to spend the remainder of his life in Old Jerusalem, about which he read so much in the Bible. So he had an auction sale, sold his farm and all of his stock and implements, including the furniture of his home.

He made reservations with a certain steamship company to sail from a certain port on a certain day. He also made arrangements for the steamship company to ship his automobile to Old Jerusalem. The day had arrived for the farmer to leave with his family for the port where they were to get the boat to sail for Old Jerusalem.

Knowing the direction in which the port was, he and his family got into the automobile and started on their journey. About noon of that day his wife asked, "John, are you sure that we are on the right road?" He answered, "I think so." But his wife insisted that they should stop to inquire and be sure that they were on the right road.

So to console his wife he stopped at the next gasoline station. There he asked the attendant if this was the road that went to the port where he was to board the boat for Old Jerusalem. The attendant said, "Yes, keep right on going and you will get there." Late in the afternoon his wife again inquired, "John, are you sure we are still on the right road?" "I do not know, but I will ask



at the next gasoline station," was his reply.

Again they stopped and asked a man if this was the right road to the port where they were to get the boat for Old Jerusalem. He answered, "No, you are on the wrong road. Go to the next cross-road, turn left, and keep on going straight until you come to the port." Taking his advice they started on their journey again, and after driving quite a while, they noticed the sun was beginning to lower in the west. The wife again becoming worried asked, "John, are you sure we are on the right road? You know our boat leaves at midnight and we may miss it." Again John replied, "I will stop at the next gasoline station and find out."

Upon inquiring at the next gasoline station the man said, "No, you are on the wrong road. Go to the next cross-road and turn right, and keep on going straight until you come to the port." Taking his advice they turned right at the next cross-road, and after traveling for quite a while it became very dark. His wife being worried spoke again, "John, are you sure we are on the right road?" He said, "I do not know but I will stop and inquire again at the next gasoline station."

He stopped at the next gasoline station and inquired if this was the road that led to the port where he was to get a boat for Old Jerusalem. The man replied, "No, you are on the wrong road, but just wait a minute and I will get a

map and show you on the map the correct road."

So the attendant brought him a map and outlined the road that he was to follow which would lead him to the port where he was to get the boat for Old Jerusalem. And again they started on their journey. His wife said to him as they were nearing the port, "John, isn't it wonderful to be able to have a map to guide you? You cannot go wrong so long as you follow the map." With the aid of the map they arrived at the port on time.

Now, Beloved, what does this illustration bring home to your mind? Notice the chart of this illustration:

Family represents	The people
Old Jerusalem	
represents	New Jerusalem
Port represents	True church
Boat represents	Christ
Station attendants	
represent	False Ministers
Man with map	Minister that follows
represents	the Bible
Map represents	Bible

And so it is, dear Friends, with you and me today. If we expect to get to the New Jerusalem we must follow the map, the Bible, that God has given to us, and which leads to eternal life. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ abide with you and give you strength and courage to step out, keep all the commandments, and be ready when Jesus comes, is my prayer.