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# Pilgrims Journal

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*“They confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city.” (Heb 11:13–16)*

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## Table of Contents

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*(click on the title to go directly to the article)*

Immanuel's Land

Not Home Yet

That He May Dwell Among Us

*Part 3 — Entering The Sanctuary*

Heroes of Faith

*The Life Of Jonathan Edwards*

In His House

*Part 3 — Foundations*

Joshua — An Excellent Leader

*Part 2 — A Man Of Prayer*

Workmanship Of His Hands

*Bats: Not At All Creatures Of Blind Chance*

Correspondence With The Commander

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## Immanuel's Land

It is in Isaiah chapter eight that we come across the expression, *Immanuel's Land*, an expression conveying a profound message from God to us, His people: "and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of *thy land, O Immanuel.*" As we all know, "Immanuel" means "God with us." Since creating man in His own image, God is longing to be with His people forever.

This desire for eternal fellowship is clearly evident in the Garden of Eden, where God and His people lived together in perfect harmony and divine love. In this context we could call the whole of the Garden of Eden, "Immanuel's Land." Unfortunately, sin entered and Adam and Eve were driven out from that glorious land. But God did not give up on man. Ever since the fall, the triune God has been actively working to restore man's lost state and make him "Immanuel's Land" again. To this end, the Lord Jesus Christ came down from glory, lived an immaculately perfect, holy life, died on the cross, was buried and rose again on the third day according to the scriptures. After His resurrection, He ascended to the Father and the Holy Ghost was sent down to accomplish the perfect work of restoration in our lives.

Today, we can truly say, a person who has accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord, who has taken the correct water baptism by immersion and received the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues, has (spiritually) become "Immanuel's Land," as the triune God has come to dwell with him and within him. Speaking of this experience our Lord Jesus declared, "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth... ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you....at that day [from the day one receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit] ye shall know that I am in My Father, and ye in Me, and I in you" (Jn 14:16,17,20). In other words, through these experiences, the church as a whole becomes "Immanuel's Land."

## The Promised Land

God wanted to raise up a holy people whom He could claim as "Immanuel's Land." This was part of the purpose of God concerning the children of Israel. With this in mind, the Lord brought Israel out of the land of Egypt. While in Egypt, the Hebrews were not termed "Immanuel's Land." The Lord sent Moses back to Egypt with a promise saying, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people which are in Egypt...and I am come down to deliver them out of the

hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey..." (Exo 3:7-8). By delivering them through the blood of the Passover Lamb, taking them through the Red Sea, bringing them to Mount Sinai, and leading them through the wilderness for forty years, **the Lord helped them to inherit the Promised Land**, which thus became "Immanuel's Land." And God and His people began living a blessed life together.

## Separation Is Essential

In forming the Israelites into "Immanuel's Land," a separation from Egypt was essential. Similarly, in the New Testament, **a life of separation is essential for us to be transformed to "Immanuel's Land."** Hence the Lord woos us with a wonderful promise which is connected with the message of separation: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?...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.' 'Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,' saith the Lord...'And I will be a Father to you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters,' saith the

Lord Almighty" (2Cor 6:14-18). Don't we see "Immanuel's Land" in these verses? What a high and lofty calling and privilege to an unworthy sinful people like us!

The Apostle Peter resounds the same theme when he states, "For the promise [of the baptism in the Holy Spirit] is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off...and with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, 'Save [separate] yourselves from this untoward generation'" (Acts 2:39-40). Therefore, during the days of our pilgrimage on this earth, let us separate ourselves from anything and everything that is not pleasing in the sight of the Lord, and let us maintain our status as "Immanuel's Land." Let us be reminded that **separation is one of our hallmarks** as "Immanuel's Land." Unlike the generation of Noah, let us preserve our separation as the sons of God (Gen 6).

## Boaz's Field

We have received numerous blessings from the Lord as "Immanuel's Land." An unworthy Ruth found a place in "Immanuel's Land." According to the Word of God, "A Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord...for ever" (Deut 23:3). Yet we see the greatness of the gracious Redeemer in giving Ruth—the descendant of a disgraced race—access to Immanuel's Land. When she followed Naomi to Bethlehem, she was brought under the

wings of the God of Israel (Ruth 2:12). As we know, Ruth happened to glean in Boaz's field and Boaz, who is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, was born in Bethlehem. **Ruth, who is a type of the Bride of Christ, became part of "Boaz's Field,"** or spiritually, "Immanuel's Land."

It is interesting to note that the Great Redeemer, many centuries later, chose to be born in Bethlehem in fulfillment to the Holy Scriptures: "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 'Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us'" (Mic 5:2; Isa 7:14; Mat 1:22-23). In Christ, we who once were Gentiles—having our understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God—have been made "Immanuel's Land." **Jesus suffered the loss of all things to make the church His Land,** as it is written in Matthew 13:44, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."

### A Fertile Land

Another feature of "Immanuel's Land" is that it "**drinketh the water of the rain of heaven,**" making it a fertile land. It is planted with "trees of righteousness," the "planting of the Lord." The "water of the rain of heaven" makes

every tree fruitful in this Land. These "trees of the Lord" being planted by the waters, spread out their roots by the river, do not feel the heat, are always green; and are not worried about the time of drought. They always yield **rich fruit to the glory of God.** "The trees of the Lord are full of sap" (Isa 61:3; Jer 17:8; Psa 104:16).

### Jehovah Shammah

As Immanuel's Land in this dispensation of Grace, we are called "**God's husbandry,**" a land which the Lord our God cares for: the eyes of the Lord are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year (1Cor 3:9; Deut 11:12). In this blessed Land of Immanuel, God and His people are living together. Hence the Land is otherwise known as *Jehovah Shammah*. "The name of the city from that day shall be, 'The Lord is there'" (Eze 48:35). **God cares for His land.** He is the rightful Owner of this Land. Our Immanuel has promised to be with us always: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Mat 28:20).

### Captain Of The Host

Immanuel is with His Land to help her in battle, conflict and conquest. Just like the Captain of the hosts of the Lord led Joshua and Israel into the promised land, helping them in their conquests, He is with us also to aid us against

the enemy (Josh 5:13-14). The only thing we need to do is take off our shoes, fall down and worship Him—the rest He will do. When we are faced by the enemy, let us follow our Mighty Immanuel as the Captain of His Land. May there be a shout of triumph always in us! “And behold, God himself is with us for our Captain” (2Chr 13:12). “The Lord his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them” (Num 23:21). Yes, our victory is sure!

### The Sanctified Church

Spiritually, the sanctified church of the Lord Jesus Christ is seen now on this earth as Immanuel’s Land. During the coming Millennial reign of Christ and His saints, the whole earth will be seen as Immanuel’s Land, because it will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea. The earth which is now full of corruption and injustice will then be a **land of righteousness and justice**. Today there is no equity or justice for the poor. The One who created this earth in such a beautiful way will change the current corrupt systems of this world. There shall be nothing hurtful nor destructive in all the land. The nations will learn war no more. Nowadays, nations spend trillions of dollars making nuclear weapons of mass destruction. But when Immanuel takes the reign of His Land, the nations shall beat their swords into

plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation. **There will be peace between man and man, and man and beast, and beast and beast** (Isa 2:1-4; 11:1-9; 35:1-10).

### The Eternal Land

The Lord Jesus died and rose again to make the whole world “Immanuel’s Land,” as it is written, “Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (Jn 1:29). He is still calling the world unto Himself crying, “Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God; and there is none else” (Isa 45:22). In the near future He is going to take the reins of the kingdoms of this world, as it is predicted in Revelation 11:15: “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.” Daniel also spoke of this event: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever....but the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever” (Dan 2:44; 7:18). After the Millennial reign is over, the **eternal Immanuel’s**

**Land—Zion, New Jerusalem, New Heaven, and New Earth**—will come into being. Our eyes will see Immanuel and His land: “Thine eyes shall see the king in His beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off” (Isa 33:17). Let us hasten that day!

## The River Of God

Our spiritual fathers died having seen the eternal Immanuel’s Land and embraced it by faith. Seeking a better country, a heavenly country, they ran the race and finished their course. Now, encompassing us as a great cloud of witnesses, they beckon us to run our race with patience. Therefore, laying aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, let us race toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Heb 11:10-12:1). **The river of God flowing into us transforms our lives as “Immanuel’s Land.”** “And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the *whole land of Ethiopia*” (Gen 2:13). All our stubborn natures are replaced with the gentleness and meekness of Christ by the power of this Holy River flowing into God’s land (Jer 13:23). Laying aside “all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil-speaking,” we grow in the love of Christ (1Pet 2:1-2). Let us “walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it.” For it is given unto us (Gen 13:17).

## The Tabernacle Of God

In the last book of the Bible we see the everlasting glory of Immanuel and His land, wherein God and His people will dwell and walk together. John exclaims, seeing it in a glorious vision: “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Rev 21:3-4).

## Soon To Be Opened!

Soon, we are going to be in that Land which is blessed with the “pure river” and “fruits of the tree of life.” **A land free of curse; a land wherein there is no night; and a land wherein we see the face of the Father and of the Lord Jesus always** (Rev 22:1-5). We as “Immanuel’s Land” are the redeemed, separated, sanctified, and glorified people of God. The gates of the Land are about to be opened. May each one of us, washing our garments daily in the blood of the Lamb of God, remain ready, that we may enter in through the gates into the City and eat of the tree of life and dwell therein with our Savior for ever! □

[Click to return to the Table of Contents](#)

## *NOT HOME YET!*

An old missionary couple had been working in Africa for years and were returning to New York to retire. They had no pension; their health was deteriorating; they were defeated, discouraged, and afraid. They discovered they were booked on the same ship as President Teddy Roosevelt, who was returning from one of his big-game hunting expeditions.

No one paid any attention to them. They watched the fanfare that accompanied the President's entourage, with passengers trying to catch a glimpse of the great man. As the ship moved across the ocean, the old missionary said to his wife, "Something is wrong. Why should we have given our lives in faithful service to God in Africa all these many years and have no one care a thing about us? Here this man comes back from a hunting trip and everybody makes much ado over him, but nobody gives two hoots about us." "Dear, you shouldn't feel that way," his wife said. "I can't help it; it doesn't seem right." When the ship docked in New York, a band was waiting to greet the President. The mayor and other dignitaries were there. The papers were full of the President's arrival. No one noticed this missionary couple. They slipped off the ship and found a cheap flat on the east side, hoping tomorrow they would find a way to make a living in the city.

That night the man's spirit broke. He said to his wife, "I can't take this; God is not treating us fairly." His wife replied, "Why don't you go to the bedroom and tell that to the Lord?" A short time later he came out from the bedroom, but now his face was completely different. His wife asked, "Dear, what happened?"

"The Lord settled it with me," he said. "I told him how bitter I was that the President should receive this tremendous homecoming, when no one met us as we returned home. And when I finished, it seemed as though the Lord put his hand on my shoulder and simply said, ***But you're not home yet!***"

[Click to return to the Table of Contents](#)



# That He May Dwell Among Us



## PART 3 — ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

Upon entrance to the Tabernacle, and after passing the brazen altar, the next article we find in the outer court is the laver. When the priests were consecrated for their service, after they offered their sacrifices, they were washed at the laver and then clothed with the priestly garments. Then they were anointed with the holy anointing oil. After this they could enter into the sanctuary to perform their service to God (Exo 40:11-15). No one but Aaron and his sons, the priests, could enter the sanctuary. Others could enter the outer court, but not the holy place or the holy of holies. Only the high priest could enter the holy of holies once a year.

### Entering The Kingdom

All of this is a type of our experiences in the church of the New Testament times. After coming to Christ, and then taking water baptism, God baptized us with the Holy Spirit. **By these three experiences we enter the kingdom of God.** In other words, we are made a royal priesthood,

i.e. kings and priests. *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”* (1Pet 2:9).

It is good to take a moment and think about the laver. It was made from the looking glasses of the women who assembled at the sanctuary. These were mirrors they would use to look at themselves. **When we take baptism we should no longer look at ourselves, but look at Jesus.** We should look into the word of God which will reveal to us our spiritual condition. God has promised that as we look unto Jesus He will change us from glory to glory into His own image. *“But we all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord”* (2Cor 3:18). We are exhorted to look unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith, to keep looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life, to look for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to look not at those things which can be seen that are temporal, but at those things which cannot be seen which are eternal!

### Daily Cleansing

On the day the priests were consecrated to their service, their entire bodies were washed at the laver before putting



on their priestly garments. But there was also a daily cleansing required at the laver. Every time they approached the altar and every time they entered the sanctuary, they were required to wash their hands and their feet. **Those of us who have taken water baptism need to cleanse ourselves daily by the washing of the water of the Word of God** (Eph 5:26). We need to remember daily that through water baptism we are dead to sin and alive unto God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have been buried into the death of Christ. Sin no longer has dominion over us. We can walk in newness of life! You can read about all this in the sixth chapter of Romans.

### **In The Holy Place**

As the priest would enter the Holy Place, straight ahead of him, right next to the veil, he would see the altar of incense. To his right he would see the table of shewbread with the bread upon it. To his left he would see the candlestick made of pure gold. These three articles have great meaning for us in these times.

### **Table of Shewbread**

Let's start with the table of shewbread. God has invited us to come to the table and dine with Him. There is food and fellowship there and this fellowship is with God. When the elders of Israel went with Moses up to God, the scriptures record, *"they saw God, and did eat and drink."* (Ex 24:11) The two who were on the road to Emmaus that day walking with

the "stranger" had their eyes opened when the "stranger" took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. They said, *"Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"* (Lk 24:32) Even today, Jesus stands at the door and knocks. He says, *"If any man hear my voice, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me"* (Rev 3:20).

### **Bread of Life**

The food that we are invited to eat is **strong food that will help us go on to perfection to be ready for the coming of the Lord**. In order to be made into bread, grain needs to be ground into fine flour. Jesus went through the mill of untold suffering for us. **He is the bread of life**. Whoever comes to Him will not hunger. Eating of this bread speaks of sharing in His sufferings. Eating of this bread speaks of doing His will.

The table had four rings so that two poles (staves) could be passed through the rings to carry the table. We are called to carry the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth. Jesus said, *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"* (Mk 16:15-16).

### **Crown Of Glory**

There was a crown of gold around the table. There is a crown for those who shepherd the church faithfully, imparting the word of God to her. In fact, this crown is the saints

themselves who are ready to be caught up at the coming of Christ. Peter exhorted the elders to *“feed the flock of God... and when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away”* (1Pet 5:2,4). Writing to the Thessalonians, Paul says, *“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy”* (1Thess 2:19-20).

### Golden Candlestick

The light in the holy place was provided by the candlestick of gold. The candlestick is a picture of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rev 1:20). Jesus was seen by the Apostle John as a high priest walking in the midst of the seven candlesticks. Just as **Jesus is the light of the world**, He has called us also to be lights in this world. The light shining in this world full of darkness is the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ which is revealed through His church. **His people are his living epistles exemplifying God’s message of redemption to the world.**

### Parts Of The Candlestick

This candlestick had a base which is representative of Christ who is the foundation and chief cornerstone of the church. The main shaft of this candlestick symbolizes the apostles and prophets, without whom there would be no true church.

The remaining six branches represent all the other ministries in the church. Each member has a ministry to fulfill.

### New Anointing...Daily!

As each member fulfills his or her ministry, the church shines and gives light to the world. It is essential that every member of the body of Christ makes his calling and election sure and fulfills the ministry which God has entrusted to him (for more information on this read 1Cor 12:28; 1Cor 12:7-10; Rom 12:4-8). Without the oil in the lamps, the candlestick would not be able to shine. Therefore all the children of Israel were told to bring oil for the lamps (Lev 24:2). We all need to wait upon the Lord to receive a new anointing daily to shine for the Lord.

When the lamps’ wicks were burned, they had to be trimmed, otherwise they would not be able to burn brightly. **We need to put off every thing of the old nature so that Christ alone may be seen in us.** As the risen Lord spoke to the church of Ephesus as recorded in the Book of Revelation, we need to maintain our first love toward the Lord. Otherwise our candlestick will be removed (Rev 2:5). We will lose all light and will cease to be the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ.


### Altar of Incense

Also in the holy place, next to the veil, was found the altar of incense. Prayer life is close to the heart of God.

The psalmist prayed, “Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense” (Psa 141:2). **Prayer is a sweet fragrance which touches God’s heart.** God hears and answers prayer. Without fire there would have been no fragrance. Our prayer must be fiery, on fire with the Holy Ghost, from the altar of our hearts that are filled with the love of God.

### **Pray Without Ceasing**

This incense upon the altar was called “a perpetual incense before the Lord.” God has called us to pray without ceasing: to pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. As the church prayed without ceasing for Peter when he was in prison, we are called to pray as well. As Jesus said, “*Watch ye therefore and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man*” (Lk 21:36).

There was a crown of gold upon the altar of incense. There will be a great reward in heaven for the saints of God who have prayed and made intercession for the saints according to the will of God while they were upon the earth. And so the Lord says, “*Be faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life*” (Rev 2:10). Let us learn to live in the holy place and exemplify all these qualities in our Christian life. 

[Click to return to the Table of Contents](#)



*"I take Him as my whole portion and felicity, looking upon nothing else as a part of my happiness. I will adhere to the faith of the gospel however hazardous and difficult the profession and practice of it may be. **Henceforth, I am not to act in any respect as my own.** I shall act as my own if I ever make use of any of my powers to do anything that is not to the glory of God, or to fail to make the glorifying of Him my whole and entire business. If I murmur in the least afflictions, if I am in any way uncharitable, if I revenge my own case, if I do anything purely to please myself, or omit anything because it is of a great denial, if I trust myself, if I take any praise for any good which Christ does by me, or if I am any way proud, I shall act as my own and not God's! **But I purpose to be absolutely His.**"*

Those were the words of Jonathan Edwards after writing out his famous "Seventy Resolutions."

Jonathan Edwards was born on October 5, 1703. He was brought up in a godly Christian home and was home-schooled as a child. He entered Yale University at the age of 13 and graduated as the class Valedictorian at the age of 16. He is known today as one of the greatest intellectuals in American history as well as one of its most prominent and influential pastors.

Before Jonathan began his ministry as a full time pastor, he penned his "Seventy Resolutions" which still remain as a guide and inspiration to many today. He wrote them in the span of a few months before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday; they were the guiding principles of his life which helped him live for the glory of God. He would read over these resolutions at the end of every week to remind himself of the dedication and consecration he had made to the Lord. For example, one of his resolutions was: *"Never to do any thing, which I should be afraid to do, if I expected it would not be above an hour before I should hear the last trump."*

In 1727, Jonathan became the assistant pastor in his grandfather's church: a large and prominent church in Northampton, Massachusetts. Two years later, his grandfather passed away and left Edwards, at the age of 25, in charge. It was during these years that the "First Great Awakening" hit the American colonies, largely through the ministry of Edwards. The church was once focused on piety and rituals, but when Edwards (and later George Whitefield), preached emotionally stirring messages revealing man's fallen state and the need for salvation by Christ, many turned to the Lord with deep repentance and revival. The Lord's saving grace became the new focus, as the American colonies "awakened" from their spiritual slumber. It was in 1741 that Edwards preached his most famous message: *"Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."*

In 1750, Edwards became a missionary and his great desire was to reach the native Indians. Prior to this, he had written a book on the life of David Brainerd, who was also a missionary to the Indians. Brainerd died at a very young age, but his testimony and life, documented in the book Edwards wrote, would go on to inspire thousands of missionaries throughout the nineteenth century. After some years as a missionary, Edwards accepted the position of President of the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University), which he held until his death at the age of 54. His writings and testimony are still a source of inspiration today. ◻

[Click to return to the Table of Contents](#)



# IN HIS HOUSE

## PART 3 — FOUNDATIONS

In this series, we are investigating various items that the Bible records as being found in or part of God's earthly dwelling places. As we study these things we begin to get a fuller understanding of what God is doing in us individually and with the church as a whole: as He transforms us into His eternal and heavenly habitation (1Cor 3:16; Rev 21:3). In this installment we will dig a bit deeper and examine the **foundations or bases of God's houses** that are mentioned in the Word of God.

### A Sure Foundation

Strictly speaking a foundation is not so much *in* a house as *under* it. Usually unseen, it is vital to all that is visible. It is the first essential feature of any new construction, upholding and underpinning everything else that is built afterwards. Rooms can be added, removed, remodeled or redecorated but the foundation never changes. Although in scripture there

are many symbolic associations with the word "foundation," in this study we will concentrate on how it stands for the **suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ**. First and foremost, the saved must be certain of the basis for their salvation, which is the crucified and risen Son of God (1Cor 15:1-4). **The Lord alone is the saint's sure foundation.** Who He is and what He did is the bedrock upon which God is building His church. Only what is established on Him will endure. The Apostle Paul testified to this when he said that by the grace of God he had placed a foundation as a wise master builder and that "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1Cor 3:11). With this in mind let us examine some foundations of God's houses mentioned in the Word of God and from them learn more about the basis of our eternal life.

### Pilgrims On Earth

The foundations of God's first earthly dwelling place, called the **Tabernacle of Witness** in the wilderness, were unusual. This sanctuary was made following a **pattern of the true tabernacle** that is in heaven which Moses had received by revelation when on Mount Sinai (Heb 8:5). It was to be a portable habitation, a visible sign of the unseen God living in the midst of His people on their pilgrimage to the promised land. The very fact that tents are *temporary and mobile structures means that they cannot have fixed*

*foundations*. Christians also, as they sojourn toward heaven through this present evil world in tabernacles of flesh, **have no enduring home on the earth**. Only in eternity, after the rapture, will a tabernacle become our permanent habitation (Isa 33:20; 54:2; Rev 21:3).

The compound that Moses had constructed consisted of a courtyard, delineated by pure white linen curtains hung on brass pillars, and the tabernacle proper with tent and coverings made from gilded boards and different layers of curtains. These pillars and boards alone could not have long withstood the blasting desert winds or stood on their own upon shifting sands. They needed firm foundations. Therefore each pillar stood upon a base and every board was made with tenons that fit into two sockets placed underneath (Exo 27:17; 26:21).

### Foundations Of Brass

The pillars that held up the courtyard curtains, which kept out casual or merely curious passers-by, stood on *bases of brass and were held down by pegs of brass*. This metal is symbolic of **judgment and punishment upon sin and rebellion—and also of its cure**. Once, when Israel rebelled against God, He sent fiery serpents to strike them with burning poison. The Lord is holy and just, therefore all evil and iniquity must be judged and dealt with. A price must be paid: a sacrifice made to take away the wrath of our righteous

God upon sin. After those who had been bitten repented and cried out to Him, the Lord instructed Moses to make a snake of brass and lift it up on a wooden pole. Those who looked to it lived. Jesus prophesied that He too would be lifted up like that serpent and that all who looked upon Him with eyes of faith would be **healed of their sin and receive eternal life** (Num 21:8; Jn 3:14).

### Brazen Altar

There was only one entrance through those courtyard curtains for the erring child of Israel. As soon as the sinner entered he was confronted by a *brazen altar upon which a fire blazed continually*, consuming a sacrifice. This altar, built of brass-covered shittim wood, was where the offering of another's life was made in the place of an offender to atone for his sin (Exo 27:2). A repentant Israelite had to bring a clean animal to it upon which he laid his hands as he confessed his sin. He would then slaughter this sacrifice before the Lord; its blood would be sprinkled all around the altar and the butchered flesh burnt upon wood in the altar. The brass of the altar would reflect heat back like a furnace upon the offering, wholly consuming it (Lev 1:4). The only way for us to be saved from the wrath of God is to **come to the altar of Calvary**. Have you seen the punishment and pain for all your sin totally placed on Jesus? Have you seen the penalty and payment of all your iniquity completely carried and fully



paid for by Christ on that wooden cross? If not, then right now is the right time for you to look to Jesus and live.

### Brass Censers

When the rebel Korah along with 250 other famous leaders rose up against Moses and the ministry, they were told to bring *brass censers with incense* before the Lord. As these sinners were offering up their prayers, fire came out from God and consumed them. The 250 censers left behind were then beaten into plates that were attached to the brazen altar (Num 16:38). If we are proud and refuse to humbly come to God in the way He has ordained—confessing our sin and believing in His sacrifice on our behalf—heaven and earth will become as hard and blasting to us as red-hot brass (Deut 28:23; Lev 26:19). ***Our prayers to God and His blessings for us will not get through and we will only have a swift and fiery judgment to look forward to.*** God is holy. No sin or rebellion can stand in his presence.

### Feet Of Brass

In his vision, John saw the risen and glorified Jesus with *feet that resembled incandescent brass*, glowing as from a furnace (Rev 1:15). We will not be able to cling to those fiery feet in eternity if we do not ***come to the cross and worship at His pierced feet today.*** Jesus bore our condemnation and replaced it with salvation. Now and forevermore, our life and existence is based on the finished work of Christ. Through

faith in His death and resurrection we will always have a firm place to stand like those courtyard pillars settled and secure on their bases of brass.

### Redeemed With Silver

Next we will study the second of the three metals (brass, silver and gold) used for structure and support in the tabernacle. Upon entrance through the curtains, leaving the brazen altar and passing the brass laver symbolizing water baptism, one would come to the tabernacle itself. Its framework was made of gold-plated parallel planks, each having two feet-like tenons on one end. These projections slotted into *pierced sockets of silver* placed underneath that kept each board standing upright. Where did all this foundational silver come from and what is its symbolic meaning?

The silver was amassed from the price paid for the *ransom of the souls brought out of Egypt*. In order to deliver His people from bondage, God struck that evil nation with a terrible judgment. As the children of Israel feasted on the Passover Lamb, all the firstborn sons of the Egyptians were killed. This final plague forced Pharaoh to release God's people from slavery. Therefore the Lord commanded that Moses take a census so that every firstborn son of the Hebrews would be ransomed and every man of Israel be *redeemed with silver* (Exo 13:15; 30:12-16). Thus ***silver is symbolic of ransom***

**and redemption.** Every Israelite had to pay the same amount which was a half shekel of silver. This price was called the atonement money for their souls. The rich could not pay more nor the poor less. Each soul is equally precious to God. We too were bound in slavery to sin and Satan and could not break free. We all owe God a life that we cannot afford to give and still live. So our heavenly Father gave His only begotten Son, the Lamb of God, who was crucified on Passover, to deliver us. No one is too big or too small a sinner to be beyond the **price of redemption paid by Jesus Christ.** His death on the cross is sufficient to save everyone everywhere eternally.

### Melted Together By Love

The redemption silver from the Israelites went into the making of one hundred heavy sockets each weighing the ancient measure of one talent (about 75 pounds) (Exo 38:25-27). *Every gilded board stood on two of these bases.* No matter how the wind would blow, sand shift, earth quake or water rage, *all those boards stood sure and secure on their solid silver foundation.* By the blood of the cross the **redeemed are also supported and sustained to “continue in the faith grounded and settled, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel”** (Col 1:23). Since the price of ransom for an individual was not even a whole shekel (1/5 oz.), it took many of those halves to make up a complete base. Though each of us must individually know Jesus as our personal Savior, it is

together with all saints that we become God’s habitation and more fully comprehend the greatness of His love and grace for mankind. ***As we are fitly framed together with others we are better enabled to stand firm in our salvation.***

### Most Precious Gold

For a final thought about the foundation materials, we discover that if a person came even closer and entered into the tabernacle itself, he would see the third and most precious of the metals used in God’s dwelling place: *gold!* (Exo 25:3). All the articles in the holy places, including the Ark of the Covenant, stood on *legs and bases of gold.* One truth this shows is that the ***closer we draw near to God the more precious the sacrifice of His Son becomes to us*** and the more we value our salvation. This principle is displayed in New Jerusalem, that true tabernacle in heaven. Even the city and street of it is of everlasting gold and the very foundations are garnished with all manner of precious stones (Rev 21:18-21).

### Solomon’s Temple

Lastly let us learn from the history of the site of God’s first fixed dwelling place, known as Solomon’s Temple. The foundation of this sanctuary was the location where the *sacrifice of a father’s beloved son was made* as well as being the spot where sin and rebellion was atoned for. In Genesis 22 we read of God testing Abraham. The patriarch was told to take his son Isaac and sacrifice him as a burnt offering

on a mountain that the Lord would show him. Immediately obeying the command, our spiritual forefathers traveled for three days on donkeys and arrived at Mount Moriah. This name means “Yahweh sees.” In contradiction to the Word of God, the false prophet Mohamed proclaimed that it was not Isaac but Ismael (the unrecognized son of a slave conceived by works of the flesh) that Abraham offered. Even today, Muslims still believe this lie. Yet it was the son of promise, Isaac, born in a miraculous way, that was offered upon the mountain God revealed to Abraham. There, like the Son of God at the same location thousands of years later, a willing and obedient child bore the wood of his sacrifice up the mount. God not only tested Abraham but also ***proved His own love for the world by sending His only begotten Son to Calvary***. Isaac was only offered and resurrected figuratively but the Lord actually did it. On Golgotha it was shown to all that Jehovah-Jireh sees mankind’s need and provided the Lamb of God as a sacrifice in our place.

### King David’s Altar

Many years after Abraham’s test, Mount Moriah was the same spot where *King David made an offering that cost him something*. Unlike the census that God commanded Moses to make, Satan caused David to number all of Israel (1Chr 21). This was a symptom that the *king had begun counting on human wealth and strength* rather than God’s.

As punishment David had to choose three days of plague, that is, “the sword of the Lord.” Moses’ census was taken of a people delivered through a plague, but David’s numbering caused a pestilence to fall upon Israel that greatly reduced their number. In the midst of this, God sent an angel to Jerusalem who was seen standing by Ornan’s threshing floor with his sword of judgment outstretched to destroy the city. A threshing floor is typically a hard, flat elevated surface where grain is winnowed and garnered as perpetual winds blow away the chaff. From this we can see how threshing and harvest became symbolic of God’s judgments, upon both the selected and the rejected. When David saw the destroyer he confessed his sin and pleaded for the innocent “sheep” that were suffering because of him. ***Sin and rebellion incur costs to ourselves and to those around us***. God accepted his repentance and intercession and instructed David to build an altar on that threshing floor. Though the ground was given to him, the king insisted on paying the full price for it. After he gave his offerings, God’s wrath was turned away. “Then David said, “This is the house of the Lord God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel” (1Chr 22:1). This prophecy was fulfilled by one of his sons who built the temple on the very place where the altars of David and Abraham had stood. “Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared unto

David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite” (2Chr 3:1).

### **Precious Foundation Stone**

This connection is echoed in the very first words of the New Testament, “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Mat 1:1). At this same location centuries later, the ***Son of David interceded, suffered and died for us, bearing all our judgment and condemnation.*** He paid the full price of our sin and rebellion, delivering us from the wrath to come. ***Salvation is free for us, but it cost God the greatest price.*** So we see that all the foundations of God’s House are based upon the death and resurrection of that tried and tested, precious and Living Stone, Jesus Christ. □

[Click to return to the Table of Contents](#)



*“And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle”* (Exo 33:11). Joshua was a man of prayer—a divine quality indispensable for spiritual leadership. Joshua not departing from the tabernacle signifies his unbroken and undisturbed fellowship with God in prayer. As a young man, Joshua cultivated the habit of seeking the face of God, which in turn enabled him to become great in the sight of God. Only a man of intercession and prayer can become a proper spiritual leader—for only he will be given divine guidance. Joshua became an excellent leader who led the congregation of the children of Israel right into the Promised Land of Canaan, as he gave preeminence to the **“holy occupation of prayer.”**

### **A Surrendered Vessel**

*“And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against*

*him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, ‘Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?’ And he said, ‘Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come.’ And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, ‘What saith my lord unto his servant?’ And the captain of the Lord’s host said unto Joshua, ‘Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy.’ And Joshua did so”* (Josh 5:13–15). Joshua’s humble and implicit obedience during his encounter with the captain of the Lord’s host reveals the fact that he was a surrendered and willing vessel in the hands of the Almighty God. As a surrendered vessel, Joshua was given authority and boldness. His intimate fellowship with God in prayer enabled him to fearlessly approach a stranger who had a drawn sword in his hand. Truly the righteous are bold like a lion. Also, it is noteworthy that Joshua was unaware that he was standing on holy ground. A holy man of God is unconscious of his holiness.

### **The Power Of Prayer**

*“Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, ‘Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, moon, in the valley of Ajalon.’ And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the*

midst of heaven, and hastened not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel” (Josh 10:12-14). Here we see how the Lord answered Joshua’s prayer instantaneously. Obviously he had faith and confidence that his prayer would be answered because he was fighting the Lord’s battles. Joshua cried out to God in the sight of all Israel and the Lord hearkened to his voice. **“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”** (Jam 5:16). When Joshua commanded the sun and moon to stand still, they obeyed the man of prayer. Through prayer miracles take place. Truly there is tremendous power in prayer.

Jesus took His three beloved disciples to the mountain of prayer and demonstrated the glory of the life of prayer: *“And as He prayed, the fashion of His countenance was altered”* (Lk 9:29). He touched the realm of the supernatural each time He prayed and had fellowship in the Spirit with the Father. Prayer changes our inner man and breaks the devil’s power. It transports us within the veil and makes us partakers of His holiness and glory. Prayer awakens the inner senses so that we can touch God, hear His voice, and see His face. It dispels fear, imparts new strength, and renews our faith and courage. It fits us to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, so that we may serve Him to the end.

## Pray Without Ceasing

The Word of God exhorts us to pray without ceasing. The Lord Jesus says in Luke 18:1 that we should pray always. In connection with His second coming, the Lord says, *“Watch ye therefore, and **pray always**, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man”* (Lk 21:36). “Is it possible to pray always?” “How can we pray without ceasing?” Yes, it is possible by the grace of God. When we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we become the temple or the tabernacle of the triune God. The temple of God is always filled with prayer and praise. Thus, from within our hearts, prayer and praise is offered to God continually as we yield ourselves to the will of the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit is the spirit of prayer, grace, supplication, and intercession, He enables us to literally kneel down before God to offer prayer daily. But that does not mean we literally sit in a place 24 hours in a day to pray, as we must fulfill other duties of life. We pray daily from time to time literally, and during the course of the day, when we are engaged in various responsibilities of life, the Spirit of God in us will offer prayer to God on our behalf. Thus the command to pray without ceasing is obeyed. Even when we take rest in sleep, although our body is inactive in prayer, the Holy Spirit is communing with our spirit, thus enabling us

to have fellowship with God. The Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God, whether we are asleep or awake. Hallelujah!

To better understand the above facts, let us consider the life and testimony of **Daniel, “the undefiled.”** Daniel knelt down, prayed and praised the Lord three times a day (Dan 6:10). During this period, he was not only one among the three governors over the vast kingdom of King Darius, but also the chief among them (vs.1-3). It is certain that none of us today have the same amount of work and responsibility as he had then. We read that even the king testified to the fact that, in spite of such great responsibility, Daniel served (prayed to) the Lord continually. *“Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, ‘thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee’”* (Dan 6:16). Therefore praying without ceasing is having a mind or a spirit of prayer always.

### House Of Prayer

*“Joshua departed not out of the tabernacle”* (Exo 33:11). The Old Testament tabernacle is a type of the New Testament church. Joshua remaining in the tabernacle reveals his love for the house of God: which is a house of prayer. The psalmist writes, *“I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord.’ Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem”* (Psa 122:1-2). There should be great joy in our hearts when we think about the house of prayer. The

people of God should not neglect the appointed public prayer meetings such as tarry meetings and fasting prayers. *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Heb 10:25).

The Lord Jesus Christ pointed out that the house of prayer was turned into a den of thieves. What does it mean? Of course, in the days of Christ, buying and selling and unsavory money dealings, etc., were taking place in the temple. Thus the house of prayer became a den of thieves. *“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, and said unto them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called the house of prayer’; but ye have made it a den of thieves”* (Mat 21:13-14). But how can the words of Christ be relevant or applicable for us today? What do thieves do? Of course, they steal. Who are these thieves and what do they steal from us? These thieves are various wicked spirits stealing our precious time of prayer, Bible reading, etc., from our lives. Among the “products for sale” in the houses of prayer are computers with instant Internet access. The misuse of the Internet has robbed many children of God of their precious times of prayer. If used in the wrong way, the Internet can be an evil net. Therefore, let us arise and cast the enemy out of the house of God, that we might seek the Lord in prayer without distraction.



## Intercession Of Eunuchs

*“Even them (eunuchs) will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon Mine altar; for Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people”* (Isa 56:7). The intercession of the eunuch-servants of God is indispensable for the perfection of the saints of God. The eunuchs are brought to Mount Zion by the triune God that they might be joined unto Christ in the ministry of intercession. Their burnt offerings (a life poured out) and sacrifices (a consecrated life) will be accepted upon the altar of God. The consecrated servants of God are rewarded with great joy as they remain faithful in the house of prayer. They are expected to be watchful, sober, and vigilant day and night. *“I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give Him no rest, till He establish, and till He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth”* (Isa 62:6-7).

## We Will Serve The Lord

*“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”* (Josh 24:15). Here we see the personal decision and consecration of Joshua to serve the Lord. He proclaimed his decision to the whole house of Israel. As a result, they also entered into a covenant with God to serve the Lord. What an inspiration and encouragement Joshua was to the entire congregation!

Joshua wholly followed the Lord all the way to the promised land and caused the children of Israel also to enter the land of Canaan to enjoy it. *“And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua”* (Josh 24:31).

Dear child of God, Jesus is coming soon. Surely the Lord will perfect that which concerns all of us. Let us continue to look to our Jesus, Who is the Author and Finisher of our faith. *“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. **Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.** For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, **watch**”* (Mk 13:32-37). □

[Click to return to the Table of Contents](#)



Bats really stand out in the animal world. They are the only mammals that can fly, and they live much of their lives hanging upside down. Most species are only active at night, dusk and dawn, spending their days in dark caves. Many bats can find their way (and their prey) in complete darkness.

Bats belong to the mammalian order Chiroptera, which comprises two sub-orders: the Small Bats and Megabats. Megabats include larger bat species such as flying foxes and fruit bats. Unlike Small Bats, Megabats, though they also usually fly at night, mostly locate their food by sight, except for one genus, which echolocates like the smaller insectivorous bats.

With more than one thousand species, bats make up almost a quarter of all known mammal species. The smallest mammal in the world is Thailand's bumblebee bat: it weighs less than a one cent coin. The giant flying fox of Indonesia on the other hand can have a wingspan of nearly 1.8 meters.

When it comes to hunting and catching prey, few creatures use a system as complex and highly specialized as that of the insect-eating bats. These small bats rely on echolocation, or "bat sonar" as it is commonly called, for hunting in the dark. The bat sends out a high-pitched sound, then listens for the echoes reflected from nearby surfaces and objects. By detecting its own reflected sounds, often among other distracting noises, the small mammal is able to avoid obstacles and obtain the information necessary for tracking and catching an insect. This amazing system can accurately distinguish between an individual insect and any others close by.

To achieve this, the bat has a number of very special features. These include a specialized organ in its throat which allows it to produce intense, high-frequency sounds. High frequencies are essential so the bat can determine the fine details of the objects which reflect the sounds.

The bat can also determine where the object is, how big it is and in what direction it is moving. The bat can tell if an insect is to the right or left by comparing when the sound reaches its right ear to when the sound reaches its left ear. The bat's ears have a complex collection of folds that help it determine an insect's vertical position. Echoes coming from

below will hit the folds of the outer ear at a different point than sounds coming from above, and so will sound different when they reach the bat's inner ear. From the echoes of these ultrasonic sound pulses, the bat determines not only the distance and direction of its prey, but also its speed, size, shape and surface texture, all while the bat is in full flight. A bat processes all of this information unconsciously, the same way we process the visual and aural information we gather with our eyes and ears. A bat forms an echolocation image in its head that is something like the image we form in our head based on visual information. Contrary to popular belief, most bats are not blind. Nevertheless they do use sight only as a secondary sense in relation to their surroundings in much the same way as we use sound as a secondary sense. This means that if we hear the horn of a car, we immediately look around with our eyes to determine where that car is in relation to us. Bats use their eyes to see a room in its overall shape and layout, but to precisely navigate around that room, they revert back to their primary sense of hearing to "see" it clearly.

The bat's large external ears act as efficient collectors and resonators of the high-pitched sounds. Its internal ear mechanisms are highly sensitive. The process also requires

a complicated working together of the vocal and auditory centers of the brain. Not only must the nervous system of the bat analyze, in a few thousandths of a second, the reflected sound of its own pulse, it must separate this echo from those sent out by other bats.

Evolution finds the bat to be a puzzle because bats have always been bats. The so-called "earliest" bat fossils according to evolutionary reasoning, are roughly 50 million years old. Yet they are 100% bats. These "oldest bats" are as specialized and "evolved" as any of today's bats.

Formerly bats were seen to be in the same evolutionary tree branch as tree shrews because of their reasonably close physical similarities. But now because of DNA-based testing, bats have been moved into the much larger Laurasiatheria group of animals which includes everything from whales to dogs, cats and horses. In other words, evolutionists don't know where bats fit into the evolutionary story.

Evolutionists believe the development of flight in bats took millions of years, from a number of rare "good" mutations produced randomly among an ocean of "bad" mutations. This process supposedly converted the forelimbs of the land-dwelling ancestor of the bat into wings. The wing membrane also had to be generated by a series of "good"

mutations which also produced, step by step, flight muscles, and the numerous unique arrangements of tendons, nerves and blood vessels required for the specialized features of the bat. If this were true, the fossil record should produce a series of transitional forms documenting intermediate stages, revealing, for example, the gradual conversion of forelimbs to wings as the fingers became longer and longer. But no such evidence linking bats to ground-dwelling mammals exists. Evolutionists simply describe bats as being “already highly evolved when they first appeared in the fossil record.” As mentioned above, the “earliest” bat skeletons, supposedly 50 million years “old,” are virtually indistinguishable from living bats, with fully formed wings.

A recent study revealed rather unexpected aerodynamics of bat flight. Bats are highly maneuverable. Using high-speed video cameras to record the 3D wing and body movements of flying short-nosed fruit bats, the researchers observed some flight characteristics unique to bats.

The stretchy skin on a bat’s wings interacts with air differently compared to the firmer wings of birds and insects. This elasticity, combined with dozens of joints, allows bats to generate unusual wing shapes and motions. This allows bats to fly at a combination of both high speeds and low

speeds with quick turns and other complex maneuvers in mid-flight with little risk of stalling. Furthermore, the bats’ multi-jointed wings not only allow for subtle adjustments to the wing shape during flight, but can also be folded very close to the body to reduce drag.

The book of Genesis recounts how each animal was created “after its kind.” Bats, being as they are, winged creatures, were made along with all other winged creatures on the fifth day of God’s beautiful creation: not by chance, but by specific command. Even evolutionists admit to being puzzled as to how the bat could have come into existence by chance. Yet they refuse to see that which is plain to see by any child: bats are a special creation of God Almighty. Perhaps then we should change the common expression “as blind as a bat” to “as blind as an evolutionist” instead. □

[Click to return to the Table of Contents](#)



**To: Commander and Chief, Jesus Christ, Spiritual Armed Forces**

Dear Lord:

I am writing this to request a transfer to a desk job. I herewith present my reasons: I began my career as a private. Because of the intensity of the battle You have quickly moved me up in the ranks. You have made me an officer and given me a tremendous amount of responsibility. There are many soldiers and recruits under my charge. I am constantly being called upon to dispense wisdom, make judgments, and find solutions to complex problems. You have placed me in a position to function as an officer, when in my heart I know I have only the skills of a private. I realize that You have promised to supply all I would need for the battle. But Sir, I must present You a realistic picture of my equipment. My uniform, once so crisp and starched, is now stained with the tears and blood of those I have tried to assist. The soles of my boots are cracked and worn from the miles I have walked trying to enlist and encourage the troops. My weapons are marred, tarnished and chipped from constant battle against the enemy. Even the *Book of Regulations* I was issued has been torn and tattered from endless use. The words are now smeared. You have promised You would be with me throughout, but when the noise of the battle is so loud and the confusion is so great, I can neither see nor hear You. I feel so alone. I'm tired. I'm discouraged. I have battle fatigue. I would never ask You for a discharge. I love being in Your service. But I humbly request a demotion and transfer. I'll file papers or even clean latrines. Just get me out of the battle—*please*, Sir.

*Your Faithful, but tired, warrior.*



**To: Faithful, but tired, Soldier, Spiritual Armed Forces**

**Location: The Battlefield**

**RE: Transfer**

Dear Soldier:

Your request for transfer has been denied. I herewith present My reasons: You are needed in this battle. I have selected you, and I will keep My word to supply your need. You do not need a demotion and transfer. (You'd never cut it on latrine duty.) You need a period of "R&R"—Renewal and Rekindling. I am setting aside a place on the battlefield that is insulated from all sound and fully protected from the enemy. I will meet you there and I will give you rest. I will remove your old equipment and "make all things new." You have been wounded in the battle, My soldier. Your wounds are not visible, but you have received grave internal injuries. You need to be healed. I will heal you. You have been weakened in the battle. You need to be strengthened. I will strengthen you and be your strength. I will instill in you confidence and ability. My words will rekindle within you a renewed love, zeal and enthusiasm. Report to Me tattered and empty. ***I will refill you.***

*Compassionately,*

*Your Commander-in-Chief, Jesus Christ*

[Click to return to the Table of Contents](#)