

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Evolution as Shown in the Bible

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Part III: The Role of the Christian Religion in the Development of Man

There came a time when people's minds were developed to the point where they could learn to follow the law for the sake of future rewards. The law was still in effect. Christ stated, in the Sermon on the Mount: "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them." *Matthew 5:17* Now, however, the rewards would not necessarily be in this life.

Some biblical references to this are the following:

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves do not break in and steal. *Matthew 6:19-20*

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *Matthew 5:3*

Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. *Matthew 18:18*

Whether we are at home or away we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body. II *Corinthians 5:9,10*

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart. *Galatians 6:7-9*

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, by what they had done. *Revelations 20:12*

Since rewards were now promised at the end of the life, people had to develop a right pattern of living and thus build the habit of right living into their vital bodies.

Christianity also holds up the ideal of love.

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." *Matthew 22:35-40*

When we love our neighbor perfectly, the external law is no longer needed to keep us from hurting our neighbor.

He who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other any other commandment are summed up in this sentence, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. *Romans 13:8-10*

When we love God perfectly, we unite in consciousness with the Christ-consciousness (which is universal consciousness), and this gives us the wisdom to direct our own actions. We then no longer need to be subject to the rule of Jehovah.

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another take heed that you are not consumed by one another.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires

of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would. But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are plain: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. *Galatians 5:13-25*

Some hints are given as to how the God consciousness can be attained. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." *Matthew 5:8*. "God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another." *John 1:5-7*. "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." *I John 4:16*

What Jehovah did for men in Old Testament times, our own Spirit (Ego) must now learn to do for us. We can get some information on what needs to be done by re-reading the Old Testament and re-interpreting the old external experiences as internal experiences. The bondage of the Israelites in Egypt corresponds to the Ego in slavery to the lower nature. The story of Pharaoh not letting the people go until repeated plagues came upon him and his people corresponds to the fact that the lower nature holds the Ego in bondage until much pain and suffering has been experienced.

The wanderings of the Israelites in the wilderness corresponds to the Ego's search for enlightenment. While in the wilderness, Jehovah gave a set of laws to the people. Similarly the Ego (the Higher Self) must set up laws to govern the lower self. Jehovah supervised the building of the Tabernacle, which was to be a place where

the priests could contact Him. Similarly, man must learn to build the Tabernacle within himself so that the Ego (the Higher Self) has a channel for communication with the lower self.

Just as it took the Israelites many years of wandering in the wilderness before they reached the promised land, so also the path that the aspirant must tread is long and arduous. But Christ promised "Seek and you will find." *Matthew 7:7* and Paul assured us "now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face. Now we know in part, but then we shall know, even as we are known." John recorded the promise of the Christ Spirit in *Revelations 3:12*: "He who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God; never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God." ★



THE CROSS

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Earth. Until we feel such sympathy for one another, Christ must continue to suffer and to bear the Cross for us.

If we love Him, then we must love one another.

If He is our beloved Lord, then we must be in total sympathy with His annual suffering, for every year He comes and is Crucified for each of us.

If we aspire to be His Disciple, then let us pick up our crosses and "Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." ★