

# The Christian Life Portrayed in the Experiences of Israel

1 Corinthians 10:11

## 1. Judgment

**ISRAEL** – *Exodus 11-12* – Israel was in a land where the judgment of God was falling in the form of death on the firstborn. “I will execute judgment,” *Ex. 12:12*.

**CHURCH** – *Romans 1-3* – All (Jews with the Bible, law, and Gentiles without the Bible) are under the judgment of God being “worthy of death,” *Rom. 1:32*.

\*\*\* *Our greatest problem is judgment – death. Death is everlasting separation from God in a place of conscious torment. “...The lake of fire. This is the second death,” Rev., 20:14.*

## 2. Salvation From the Judgment of God

**ISRAEL** – *Exodus 12* – Israel was to personally apply the blood of a perfect male lamb to sections of their front door. “When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you,” *Ex. 12:13*.

**CHURCH** – *Romans 3:22-5:11* – All (Jews with the Bible, law, and Gentiles without the Bible) are saved from the judgment of eternal death – apart from the law - by faith alone. This faith rests in Christ Jesus, the perfect sacrifice and living Lord, “being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him”, *Rom. 5:9*.

\*\*\* *It was not their performance inside the door that saved them – but God was looking for the spotless blood personally applied on the outside of the door.*

## 3. Under an Enemy who would not let them Serve God

**ISRAEL** – *Exodus 5, 14* – Israel also was in slavery to the authority of an evil master who did not grant them freedom to go and serve their God. “Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go?” / “Why ... let Israel go from serving us?,” *Ex. 5:2, 14:5*.

**CHURCH** – *Romans 5:12 – chap. 6* – Before Christ we were part of Adam’s cursed race in the domain of death and under the control of master sin. “By one man [Adam] ... death passed upon all men” / “ye were the servants of sin,” *Rom. 5:12; 6:17, 20*.

\*\*\* *There are two problems to be saved from – the judgment of God and bondage. Bondage is being controlled by the enemy of God.*

## 4. Salvation From the Enemy’s Authority & Domain

**ISRAEL** – *Exodus 14, 15* – Israel was meant to serve God. So the Lord had to save and free them from the authority of the enemy that restrained them from serving. By passing through the waters of the Red Sea, Israel was freed from the enemy’s domain to own and

hold them. They were alive on the other side and the enemy was dead in the waters. “The Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians,” [Ex. 14:30](#).

**CHURCH** – [Romans 6](#) – The church is saved to serve God, not sin. “But now being made free from sin, and become to servants to God,” [Rom. 6: 22](#). The basis of this new position is the death and resurrection of Christ. His death legally terminates our union with Adam’s domain and His new resurrection life legally unites us to God in His domain. By passing through the waters of baptism (signifying the reality in the Spirit) we are now connected with the results of Christ’s death and resurrection. “Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord,” [Rom. 1:32](#).

*\*\*\* Biblical liberty is not our right to choose. It’s being made free from restraints in order to be able to serve the Lord in what He chooses. It’s truly a complete gospel.*

## 5. **Met an Enemy in the Wilderness to Always Fight in a War**

**ISRAEL** – [Exodus 17](#) – Once Israel was free to serve the Lord and journeyed to the promised land, they met an enemy of God called Amalek. Amalek’s goal was to destroy God’s people. The Lord wanted no compromise or peace pact with Amalek. Amalek was to be fought against and defeated. “Go out, fight with Amalek,” [Ex. 17:9](#). The Lord declared that every generation would have to fight this war against this enemy. “The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation,” [Ex. 17:16](#).

**CHURCH** – [Romans 7](#) – Christians discover, like Paul, that though we are now in Christ as God’s sons, we have an enemy in our body called “my flesh”, [Rom 7:18](#). The flesh is our natural body imbedded with sinful lusts and self-confidence. There is nothing good in the flesh and it wars against the law of God, and against the Spirit of our inward man. “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members,” [Rom. 7:23](#).

*\*\*\* Every generation of Christians will have this same enemy. Every generation will have a civil war in their body and mind to fight.*

## 6. **Present Victory Over this Generational Enemy**

**ISRAEL** – [Exodus 17](#) – Though Amalek fought against Israel, he could be defeated. When Israel used the sword of Joshua with the help of their high priest, Aaron, who was supporting Moses’ hands lifted toward heaven for help, Israel defeated Amalek. “And Joshua discomfited [weakened, disabled] Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword,” [Ex. 17:13](#).

**CHURCH** – [Romans 8](#) – Christians have a high priest in heaven, Christ the Lord, Who “maketh intercession for us,” [Rom. 8:34](#). Also we have the power of the Holy Spirit in us, so now without the law, we have power to mortify (put to death) the deeds of this body of flesh. We can’t eradicate the flesh any more than Amalek was ever annihilated but “through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body,” [Rom. 8:13](#). This is victory for the present until the Lord Jesus gives us a new resurrected body. “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh,” [Gal. 5:16](#).

*\*\*\* The Spirit doesn't promise one won't have lust but that it won't be fulfilled. Desires won't become deeds - fantasies won't become fruit - attitudes won't become actions.*

## 7. **God's Working with Israel Recounted to the Gentile**

**ISRAEL** – *Exodus 18:1-11* – Moses recounted to his Gentile father-in-law, Jethro, all the Lord's faithful and mighty actions in preserving Israel. This caused Jethro to have confidence in the Lord and understand the greatness of Israel's God. He exclaimed, "Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods..." *Ex. 18:11.*

**CHURCH** – *Romans 9-11* – Paul, the Lord's apostle, recounts to the Gentiles God's dealings with Israel down through time. He reveals why Israel, the chosen servants of God, are not presently saved from their sins and justified before God. Because Israel won't submit to God's choice of saving sinners – needing mercy by grace through faith alone in Christ Jesus: "they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law ..." *Rom. 9:32.* Now the Gentiles can have the right mind toward Israel and God.

*\*\*\* Israel's blindness is not God's fault but theirs. And yet God in the future will save all Israel – keeping His promises. Gentiles can therefore have confidence in God.*

## 8. **Jew and Gentile Fellowshiping Together with a Sacrifice**

**ISRAEL** – *Exodus 18:12-27* – Now the Gentile Jethro believing in Israel's God, offers a burnt sacrifice. And Aaron the high priest with the Jewish elders came "to eat bread [fellowship] with Moses' father in law before God," *Ex. 18:12.* Jew and Gentile together!

**CHURCH** – *Romans 11 / 15:4-14* – The remnant of believing Jews as well as the believing Gentiles who both come by mercy have fellowship together. They "with one mouth and one mind glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," *Rom. 15:6.*

*\*\*\* Jew and Gentile are no longer divided in Christ. The sacrifice of Christ has equally cleansed and given both the same Spirit. One Lord, one faith and one body.*

## 9. **A Code of Conduct to Live By**

**ISRAEL** – *Exodus 19-24* – Once the Lord redeemed Israel from judgment and bondage to serve Him, He then gave them a code of conduct to live by. This was the law and involved "the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD your God commanded ...," *Deut. 6:1.* It had moral instruction, social instruction toward their neighbor and religious instruction toward God. God cared how His people lived.

**CHURCH** – *Romans 12-16* – Now on the basis of "the mercies of God" (salvation from judgment and sanctification in the Spirit) the Lord asks Christians to "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service," *Rom. 12:1.* Instructions

are here given (not as law with a penalty, but for guidance of what pleases the Lord) that concern godly conduct. This conduct is toward the body of Christ, enemies, government, morality, and love for believers with different convictions in certain areas.

*\*\*\* Notice the order of God's gospel. Service follows salvation. Service is not a means to secure salvation but a motive that comes from salvation. Now God has the heart!*

## 10. **A Holy House for God to Live in the Midst of His People**

**ISRAEL** – *Exodus 25-40* – God is not content just to save His people for service but desires to be with them. “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them,” *Ex. 25:8*. Detailed instructions are given for the tabernacle (the holy tent sanctuary) where a holy God in their midst could be near them in glory. “And there will I meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory,” *Ex. 29:43*. This house of God would be the gathering center for Israel. Gathering unto God in His way for proper worshipping.

**CHURCH** – *1 Corinthians* – Here much of the instruction concerns the house of God. Here we discover that “the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are,” *1Cor. 3:17*. Here Christians are “gathered together” and “come together in the church,” *1Cor. 5:4; 11:18*. Here the Lord Jesus Christ by His Spirit is in the very midst of His holy saints; “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you,” *1Cor. 3:16*. Here He is glorified in a world that “glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful,” *1Cor. 1:31; Rom. 1:21*.

*\*\*\* The church per se is not a doctor's office, counseling center, gospel mission, Bible school, or concert hall but a holy temple. Things that offend God are not to be present.*

## 11. **Priestly Offerings Unto God**

**ISRAEL** – *Leviticus* – Now that the tabernacle was there, what was it there for? Not for redemption, for Israel was already redeemed. It was for priestly (consecrated holy ones) offerings unto the Lord. “If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD...,” *Lev. 1:2*. It was first a place of giving to God – not getting something from God. It was first where God's people could demonstrate their value, adoration and appreciation of their Lord.

**CHURCH** – *1 Corinthians / 1 Peter 2* – Now the born again church is His holy priesthood. We are to “offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ,” *1 Pet. 2:5*. This would involve “offer the sacrifice of praise ... giving thanks,” and “to do good and to communicate [share],” *Heb. 13:15, 16*. This involves the Lord's Supper: “this do in remembrance of me,” *1Cor. 11:24*. This also involves using our gifts for His service to His body, the church: “present your bodies a living sacrifice,” ... having then gifts differing...,” *Rom. 12:1, 6; 1Cor. 14*.

*\*\*\* There is not only ministry “for the people” but there is a higher calling to “minister unto me” and “to offer unto me” in “my sanctuary” says the Lord, Ezek. 44:11,15. An upward calling!*

## 12. **Journeying to Their Inheritance**

**ISRAEL** – *Numbers* – Here Israel finds themselves saved out of Egypt’s judgment. They are headed home to their inheritance: the promised land of milk and honey. But they are not yet in the promised land. They are in the desert wilderness with all its challenges and testing. Here they are strangers (with no home) and pilgrims (going to a home). Here they will learn the weakness of their own heart, and walking by faith in the God Who promised. “If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us,” **Num. 14:8**.

**CHURCH** – *1 Peter* – Christians find themselves saved from God’s judgment and going “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,” **1Pet. 1:4**. But in the meantime we are “strangers and pilgrims” ... “among the Gentiles [nations-world]” where there are “fleshly lusts, which war against the soul,” **1Pet. 2:11,12**.

*\*\*\* It’s in the wilderness of this world that we learn the depravity of our flesh and our utmost need to have confidence in the Lord Who redeemed us, keeps us and brings us in.*

## 13. **Instructions for the Memorial Feast**

**ISRAEL** – *Num. 9 / Deut. 16* – As Israel journeyed forward the Lord wanted them to remember how He saved them and why. So they were to keep the memorial feast of Passover. “And they kept the passover ... in the wilderness,” **Num. 9:5**. It mattered how they kept it: “thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it,” **Deut. 16:3**. It mattered who kept it: “no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof,” **Exo. 12:48**. It would matter where they kept it once in the land: “in the place which the LORD shall choose to place His name there,” **Deut. 16:2**. It had a purpose for keeping it: “that thou mayest remember,” **Deut. 16:3**. The memorial had a character.

**CHURCH** – *1 Corinthians 11* – The church has a memorial feast: the Lord’s Supper – in remembrance of the Lord Jesus. As we look forward to Christ’s coming, we are to look backward to His death. “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till he come,” **1Cor. 11:26**. It is for those who “call upon the Name of the Jesus Christ our Lord,” **1Cor. 1:2**, who have “believed, and were baptized,” **Acts 18:8**. It is not to be kept with professed believers living in sin – not with “the leaven of malice and wickedness,” **1Cor. 5:8, 13**. It is kept when “ye come together therefore into one place,” **1Cor. 11:20**. The remembrance has a character.

*\*\*\* The way forward is to look backward. The memorial focuses things into perspective: Who saved us, how He saved us and why He saved us. It shows it’s all about the Lord.*

## 14. **Entering Their Inheritance**

**ISRAEL** – *Joshua 1-5* – As necessary as salvation and as important as the tabernacle was, it wasn’t God’s ultimate goal for His people. It was to bring them into their promised inheritance where they would be a people for His Name and glory. It is Joshua (Jehovah my salvation – Greek – Jesus) who would lead them through the Jordan river into their promised inheritance. Moses the lawgiver could not bring them in. “The LORD spake unto Joshua ... Moses my servant is dead ... arise, go over this Jordan ... unto the land”, **Josh. 1:1-2**.

**CHURCH** – *Hebrews* – While there is an aspect of the church being now in the heavenlies in Christ, there is also the aspect of us coming into the kingdom of God to reign on the earth. “We receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved,” *Heb. 12:28*. Christians look “for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” and they “desire a better country, that is, an heavenly,” *Heb. 11:8, 16*. It is not better politics or reformed religion that will bring us into the kingdom but Jesus our Savior. We have “the promise of eternal inheritance,” *Heb. 9:15*. “He that shall come will come,” *Heb. 10:37*. First the Lord comes for us and then with us.

*\*\*\* When Israel crossed the Jordan the manna stopped. They had a new and deeper way of living. So do believers in Christ – old things have passed away and all things are new.*

## 15. **Conquering the Occupied Enemy Under Joshua (Jesus)**

**ISRAEL** – *Joshua 5-12* – Their inheritance was occupied by 7 nations who were godless. Judgment day had finally come. Joshua comes not as a statesman or ambassador but as a warrior. He will bear a sword led by “the captain of the host of the LORD” . . . “with his sword drawn in his hand,” *Josh. 5:13,14*. The warrior’s mission “utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword,” *Josh 6:21*. But first, before the sword destroyed, the saved were taken out. “Joshua saved Rahab,” *6:25*.

**CHURCH** – *Revelation* – Here we meet Jesus the Lord not as a baby in Mary’s arms nor a Savior dying on the cross but as a judging warrior. He comes back in glory, and “out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations,” and “in righteousness he doth judge and make war,” *Rev. 19:15,11*. He comes “with all His saints” whom He first saved from this purging of wrath by taking them out of this world, *1Ths. 3:13, 5:9*. The saved are saved.

*\*\*\* An eternal principle: rebellion and unrepentant sin must be judged and purged before there can ever be peace on earth, justice and good will toward man.*

## 16. **Establishing the Rule of Law in the New Kingdom**

**ISRAEL** – *Joshua 8, 18* – As godless sinners were being removed, God was not content to leave the land empty or neutral. He would replace it with His people who would establish His law with its civil judgments and religious worship as its constitution. It indeed would be one nation under God – for His glory. So with all Israel present in the new promised land, Joshua “wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses,” *Josh. 8:32*. Then the house of God was placed in Shiloh for the assembling center for true worship.

**CHURCH** – *Revelation* – Not only does the Lord write His law in the minds of believers, *Heb. 10:16*, but He will establish the rule of God on earth when Christ returns. “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever,” *Rev. 11:15*. And we will “reign on the earth,” *5:10*. During His kingdom, the Lord’s house (temple) will be established in Jerusalem for the truth of the one true God for the world. And “people shall go and say . . . he will teach us” and from the Lord’s government will “go forth the law, and the word of the LORD,” *Isa. 2:3*. One world under God!

\*\*\* *“The government shall be upon his shoulder” (not a cross) and the Lord will be “our judge... our lawgiver...our king,” Isa. 9:6, 33:22 – judicial, legislative and executive branches.*

## 17. **The Son of David on the Throne of the Lord**

**ISRAEL** – *1 Chronicles 29* – Once Israel was established in the land, God eventually established His choice of king to rule over them. He chose David and his offspring to be the legal royal dynasty. Once the enemies were subdued by David, his son Solomon came to the throne. The situation was that on the earth there was a man, the son of David, that “sat upon the throne of the LORD,” *1Chron. 29:23*. It was under *his* rule that Israel had peace, prosperity and power and “all the earth sought to Solomon [the son of David], to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart,” *1Kings 10:24*. A unity of truth!

**CHURCH** – *Revelation 20-22* – God’s choice to rule the world is not a conservative or a liberal but the son of David. The first verse of the New Testament establishes “Jesus Christ, the son of David,” *Matt. 1:1*. “And the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David,” *Luke 1:32*. Revelation reveals Christ as King upon the throne of the Lord. Here Jesus says to the churches, “I am the root and offspring of David,” *Rev. 22:16*. Christ Jesus is “chosen of God” and “elect,” *1Pet. 2:4,6*. He will rule the world with “wisdom and understanding” and “equity for the meek”. And then, “all nations shall flow unto it [where He is],” *Isa. 11:2-4; 2:3*.

\*\*\* *State and church will be merged into a unity under the Lord Jesus Christ. For justice flows from truth, of which God is the sole source—and will be honored as such.*

## 18. **The Establishing of the Permanent Temple for God’s Presence**

**ISRAEL** – *2 Chronicles* – There was still one more key to establishing the kingdom of God in Israel. That would be God Himself – present. Therefore, the son of David (Solomon) was instructed to build a stationary temple (unlike the portable tabernacle) in Jerusalem, the city of God. When the temple was finished and perfected, “the glory of the LORD filled the house,” *2Chron. 7:1*. The uniqueness of Israel was more than laws and diets but the God of heaven resided there in His glory cloud in that one place on earth.

**CHURCH** – *Revelation 21, 22* – Now the church on earth is the Lord Jesus’ spiritual temple called out of a perverse world. Yet there will be a temple in Jerusalem during the kingdom age of which the Lord Jesus will be present. Yet also there is the eternal state coming of which death is gone and the New Jerusalem is the capital. It is there that “the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them,” *Rev. 21:3*. God Himself will live there – not just a cloud or just His Spirit or just His Son. You ask, what will the temple be like? “For the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it,” *21:22*.

\*\*\* *It is the triune God Himself that makes the kingdom of heaven, heaven. As Moses said, “if thy presence go not with me,” Ex. 33:15, he didn’t want to go to the promised land.*