

MURDERING MELCHISEDEC

Sunday Morning: August 19, 2001

Text: Hebrews 5:12 "For when for the time ye ought to be **teachers**, ye have need that **one teach you** (everything you know) again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of **milk** [teachers produce predigested food], and not of **strong** [solid] **meat** [food] (food you digest yourself)."

We continue our studies in the book of Hebrews. I want to read some selected verses in chapter 5 and then read in chapter 6. Hebrews 5:10 "Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec." Hebrews 5:13-14 "For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. *14.* But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Hebrews 6:1-9 "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2. Of the doctrine of baptisms [washings], and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3. And this will we do, if God permit. 4. For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5. And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world [age] to come, 6. If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame. 7. For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: 8. But that which beareth thorns and briers *is* rejected, and *is* nigh unto cursing; whose end *is* to be burned. 9. But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak."

Hebrews 6:10 "For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

The salvation referred to in verse 9 is the so great salvation of Hebrews 2:3. That so great salvation pertains to the millennial reign of Christ.

I read verse 10 of Hebrews 5 to remind us that the writer of the book of Hebrews is sharing truths pertaining to our High Priest. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our high priest after the order of Melchisedec. He is reminding them, and he is not persuaded that they are babes in the sense that he can't tell them anything about this priestly order; but he is reminding us that it is important for us to get off the milk of the Word and get on the solid food. He says in Hebrews 5:12 "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again . ." and again and again.

What is milk? Milk is predigested food. A teacher is one who teaches the predigested food for the babes. When we begin to put solid food on the plate of a young child, then he is encouraged to eat and digest the food himself. So when we think of milk we think of predigested food. Solid food is food that we digest and assimilate and appropriate in our spiritual walk.

FLOWING WITH MILK AND HONEY

Ezekiel 20:6 "In the day *that* I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with **milk** and **honey**, which *is* **the glory of all lands**:"

Part of the study of Hebrews chapter three and four had to do with bringing the children of Israel out of Egypt through the wilderness and into the land flowing with milk and honey. We really

don't read about any milk in Egypt. We do not find any real milk in the wilderness. You look up the word milk in a concordance and you do not find milk. Milk could be related to the manna that God provided while they were in the wilderness. Manna was prepared food given by God. This might be a type of milk. You do find references to the land of Canaan as a land flowing with milk and honey. There is a possibility of milk when the tribes of Rueben, Gad, and Manasseh saw that the land north of the Dead Sea and in the wilderness was good for cattle. Obviously if you have cattle you are going to have milk. It is the land flowing with milk and honey that was the better land. This was the better inheritance that was promised to the children of Israel when they left Egypt.

Where do we get the solid food? Solid food is made from the milk. We make cheese from milk as well as butter.

SOLID FOOD

Hebrews 5:14 "But **strong** [solid] **meat** [food] belongeth to them that are of **full age**, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses **exercised** to discern **both good and evil.**"

There is no reference in the Word of God that tells us that the milk of the Word will help us to *discern both good and evil*. The solid food, or the meat of the Word, belongs to those who are mature. The mature can take solid food. We are told in John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, . . .:" The word *sons* should be translated to reflect the idea that they can become mature children of God.

In Isaiah 7:15 "Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good." we have a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice that he was able to refuse the evil and choose the good. The way that he was able to do that was through butter and honey. This was not literal butter and honey but was a type to help us to know what we would need to do what he was able to do. His senses were exercised to discern both good and evil and he knew it was his duty to refuse the evil and chose the good. We need to have our senses exercised to discern good and evil and hopefully we will refuse the evil and chose the good.

BUTTER

Proverbs 30:33 "Surely the **churning** of **milk** bringeth forth butter, . . ."

The Bible is our food and it is milk as well as solid food. Both are found in the Bible. How do we get the solid food out of the milk? According to Proverbs 30:33 it is the churning of the milk that brings forth the solid food, which is butter. To get solid food means that you have to be exercised in the milk. The milk of the word has to be churned. To churn the milk means you have to move it back and forth. That is what churning is all about. It is stirring the milk. When you stir the milk the butter fat will come together it becomes butter which is solid food.

We need to know that the meat of the word is not enough. We need more than meat to be able to discern good and evil. We need honey. The Lord provided the abundance of milk which we have to churn, and honey which he will provide for us. We do not have to process the honey, we just have to partake of the honey.

HONEY

1 Samuel 14:27 "But Jonathan . . . put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an **honeycomb**, and put his hand to his **mouth**; and **his eyes were enlightened.**"

Jonathan, Saul's son, had been out fighting Philistines and he needed something to eat, so he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand and dipped it in an honey come, and put his

hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened. The honey helped his eyes to see. What does enlightenment have to do with the butter of the Word? Enlightenment helps us to know what to do with the butter or the solid food. Butter gives us a lot of Biblical truth, but the honey helps us to understand what to do with it. It seems to me that the honey is the ministry of the Holy Spirit that helps us to understand the butter of the Word and its significance.

ENLIGHTENED EYES SEE THE HOPE

Ephesians 1:18 "The **eyes** of your understanding [heart] being **enlightened**; that ye may **know what is the hope** of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,"

If all we are eating is the milk of the word, we will try to apply the common salvation to this verse where the hope of glory is that of being saved. If the honey ministry of the Holy Spirit is working in our hearts, we will be able to see that the calling is not to get saved, but after salvation, we are called unto His kingdom and glory. What is the calling of a child of God? It is not to get saved, but to enter into the kingdom of the heavens. The hope of child of God is to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ in his kingdom. Colossians 1:27 "To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" God has to make this truth know to us and he does this through the Holy Spirit and that can be seen in the type of the honey enlightening our eyes. It takes butter and honey. It takes the solid food that belongs to them that have matured and it also takes the honey of enlightenment.

EATEN BUTTER AND HONEY

Hebrews 6:4 "For *it is* impossible for those who were once **enlightened**, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,"

There is a warning that comes with enlightenment. Those who have the honey of enlightenment and do not chose the good and refuse the evil will suffer some grave consequences. These consequences are spelled out in Hebrews 6:6 "If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame." To fall away is to chose the evil. If they chose evil after enlightenment there is no turning back to the blessing of the butter and honey.

The children of Israel came to the point of decision at Kadeshbarnea of choosing the good of going into the land but they made the wrong choice. The fruit that the spies brought back was the honey that helped them see that the land was as the Lord said it was, but it did not help them to make the right decision. God gave them all the enlightenment they needed to see that entering into the land was the right thing. They tasted the heavenly gift, they saw what they were suppose to see, their eyes being enlightened as in the case of Jonathan, but they did not let that enlightenment help them to make the right choice.

They believed the testimony of the spies that said that there were giants in the land that made them look like grasshoppers. They did not believe the testimony of God in the evidence of the fruit of the land and the witness of Joshua and Caleb that they were well able to overcome.

IT TAKES BOTH

Isaiah 7:15 "**Butter** and **honey** shall he eat, that he may **know** to **refuse** the **evil**, and **choose** the **good**."

It takes both to make the right choices. It is the evidence of the butter with the enlightenment of the honey that should be followed and not our own feeling and the skepticism of others that would discourage us from doing the right thing.

It takes wisdom and maturity provides that wisdom to help us to make the right choices. We are encouraged in Hebrews 6 to go on to maturity that will provide us with the wisdom we need.

ON TO PERFECTION

Hebrews 6:1-2 "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, **let us go on unto perfection**; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2. Of the doctrine of **baptisms** [washings], and of laying on of hands, and of **resurrection** of the dead, and of **eternal** [agelasting] **judgment**."

The word baptisms may cause some concerns because of multiple baptisms. We have multiple baptisms in the word as in the case of Moses and the Red Sea. 1 Corinthians 10:1-2 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2. And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;" The children of Israel went through the Jordan river under Joshua just as they did with Moses. We have the baptism of John in the Jordan river. The Red Sea baptism was a cleansing from the World. The passing through the Jordan River, was in type, a cleansing of the sins of the flesh.

The laying on of hands has to do with earthly blessing and we are pursuing heavenly blessings. Jacob laid his hands on the sons of Joseph and blessed them as Isaac did to Jacob. These two verses encourage to go beyond these doctrines unto the blessings of the heavenly gift referred to in verse 4. This heavenly gift is the gift of agelasting life in the coming kingdom.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD

Ephesians 4:13 "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge** [επιγνωσις, knowledge upon knowledge] of the **Son of God**, unto a **perfect** man, unto the measure of the **stature** [maturity] of the **fullness** of **Christ**:"

God gave spiritually gifted men to bring the saints to **maturity**. The ministry included growing in faith which has to do with pleasing God. Another area of growth was that in the knowledge of the Son of God. Faith and the knowledge **of the Son of God** were essential elements to spiritual maturity. The word knowledge comes from a compound Greek word emphasizing compound knowledge. Knowledge upon **knowledge of the Son of God** and faith would give them a measure of the stature or maturity and fullness of Christ.

Notice that these gifted men given to the church to perfect the saints to do the ministry. Ephesians 4:12 "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, . . ."

IF MATURITY IS PERMITTED

Hebrews 6:3 "And this will we do, if God permit."

This verse should cause us to stop and wonder why God would not permit some of his children to go on to maturity.

The word *permit* is translated *suffer not* in 1 Timothy 2:12 "But I suffer not a woman to teach, . . ." The word suffer in this verse clearly means *I do not allow*. That is what is meant in Hebrews 6:3. We will go on to maturity if God will allow it.

God in his mercy does not allow all of his children grow into this level of maturity because it requires a greater knowledge of the Word and thus greater consequences if they are not faithful to what they learn. Luke 12:48 ". . . For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

PARABLES RESTRICT MOST

Mark 4:11 "And he said unto them, **Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the king-**

dom of God: but unto **them that are without** (the camp, unclean), all *these* things are done in **parables:**"

The Lord restricted the nation of Israel from learning the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens by using parables to teach these truths. Jesus taught in parables to stimulate questions. Those who were stimulated to ask questions were those that the Lord was calling unto his kingdom, so he allowed them to learn the meaning of the mysteries by answering their questions.

IMPOSSIBLE TO ENTER

Hebrews 6:4-6 "For *it is impossible* for those who were once **enlightened** (honey), and have **tasted** of the heavenly gift (butter), and were **made partakers** of the Holy Ghost (honey), 5. And have **tasted** the good word of God (put it to your mouth and taken it in), and the powers of the **world** [age, millennial kingdom age] to come, 6. **If they shall fall away** (butter and honey), to **renew them again unto repentance**; . . ."

Apparently it is possible to come into the knowledge of the truth and turn from it as in the case of the children of Israel. I believe only the called and the elect are permitted to go on to the perfection associated with butter and honey. It is of the many that are enlightened and have tasted the heavenly gift that fall away from the butter and honey. If they rebel, as the children of Israel did who left Egypt, they will not be allowed to enter into the rest of God, the kingdom of the heavens. After the children of Israel refused the testimony that the land was as the Lord had said it was, they were denied entrance into the land flowing with milk and honey. When it dawned upon them that they had made a grave mistake and the consequences were not good, they changed their minds. God told them it was too late to change their minds, but they did it anyway. When they determined to enter the land on their own, they were defeated miserably by their enemies. Numbers 14:44-45 "But **they presumed to go up** unto the hill top: **nevertheless** the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp. 45. **Then** the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and **smote them**, and **discomfited them**, *even* unto Hormah." They did not lose their salvation. If entering into the land flowing with milk and honey is salvation, then Moses and Aaron were not saved (Deut 34:4), yet we find Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration in the Gospels.

BETTER IF THEY HAD NOT KNOWN

2 Peter 2:21-22 "For it had **been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness** (the pearl of great price), than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the **holy commandment** delivered unto them. 22. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The **dog** is turned to his own **vomit** [predigested food] again; and the **sow** that was washed to her wallowing in the **mire** (turning from the pearls)."

We have the same warning in 2 Peter 2:21-22. It would have been better if they had known the way of righteousness than to have known the holy commandment and not obey it. The holy commandment and the way of righteousness are dealing with the same subject. The Holy Commandment was the commandment given to Jesus to teach. John 12:49-50 "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should **say**, and what I should **speak**. 50. And I know that his commandment is (kingdom) life everlasting (the seventh day rest of God): whatsoever I **speak** therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I **speak**." Jesus spoke about the way to enter into the kingdom of the heavens which is the antitype of the land flowing with milk and honey.

The evidence that they have left the way of righteousness is when they turn back to the old doctrines that they once embraced. As the sow went back to the place of comfort and the dog went back to the predigested food which is the milk of the Word. When you start eating the butter

there will be those who will offend you because of what you believe. They in Mark 4:17 ". . . endure but for a time: afterward, when **affliction** or **persecution** ariseth for the word's sake (that is the word of the kingdom), immediately **they are offended**." These are those who have eaten the butter and found that it was not a popular thing to eat, so they stop. It takes the power of God in grace to endure this kind of persecution.

MURDER THE SON OF GOD

Hebrews 6:6 "If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they **crucify** [again, present active plural masculine participle] to themselves the **Son of God** (their high priest, Heb 4:14) **afresh**, and put *him* to an open shame [they are put to shame, present active plural masculine participle, crucifying their high priest]."

We need to work on this verse a bit to help us understand what the Lord is telling is will happen if we fall away. The word afresh is not in the Greek text. The participle *they crucify* is present active and is in agreement with the present active participle *put to open shame*. The present participle implies putting to death the Son of God continually.

Those who fall away to the extent that they put their high priest to death in essence is putting their brother to death. Who is a brother to Jesus Christ? Matthew 12:50 "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Those who go on to maturity are seeking to do the will of the Father, but something happens and they turn from doing the will of the Father to do their own will. That is when they begin to put their high priest to death, and we know that if we hate our brother we will not have a life of honor and glory in the coming kingdom. 1 John 3:15 "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath [esteem or regard] eternal [millennial age] life abiding in him."

Who is the Son of God and what does it mean to put him to death?

WHO IS THE SON OF GOD?

Hebrews 4:14 "Seeing then that we have **a great high priest**, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the **Son of God**, let us hold fast *our* profession."

Hebrews 4:14 tells us that the Son of God is our high priest. So then by putting to death the Son of God we are putting to death our high priest. If we put to death our high priest for ourselves, we no longer have one to call upon that will have mercy upon us and help us to find grace in time of need. When an earthly high priest died, there was another to take his place. There is no other priest, appointed by God, after the order of Melchisedec to take his place. When we put him to death as far as we are concerned we are saying that we have lost interest in the good things that are coming in the kingdom age. They have lost sight of the substance of the kingdom of the heavens having made shipwreck of the faith. Having made shipwreck of the faith, there will be no evidence in their lives of the blessed hope.

The next two verses will help us to understand further what it means to put our high priest to death.

TRODDEN UNDER FOOT

Hebrews 10:29 "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath **trodden under foot** the **Son of God**, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

When we crucify the Son of God we are in essence walking on the Son of God. What do men walk on today? Matthew 5:13 will give us some insight into this.

GOOD FOR NOTHING

Matthew 5:13 "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

Salt is good for enhancing the taste of food. When salt loses it's ability to savor food, then there is no value to that salt and it has become sand in value. The phrase *good for nothing* gives us a vivid picture of the value of the Son of God to those who fall away in such away that they would put their high priest to death, knowing that there is no one to replace him. Those who overcome are the ones that will reign with Christ. Revelation 21:7 "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." What will help us to be overcomers? We find the answer in 1 John 5:5 "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that **believeth** [present active] that **Jesus** is the **Son of God** (the high priest of good things to come)?" Those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God will have the witness in himself.

THE WITNESS WITHIN

1 John 5:10 "He that **believeth** [present active] on the **Son of God** (the high priest of good things to come) hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."

The evidence of faith is believing in the present tense. What are the overcomers believing? They are believing that in the Son of God for the good things that are coming. If we ever stop believing this, we start believing that God is a liar because we do not believe that God made Jesus Christ his Son a high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

THE RECORD GOD GAVE

Hebrews 5:5-6 "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, **Thou art my Son**, to day have I begotten thee. 6. As he saith also in another *place*, **Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.**"

REGARD THE SON

1 John 5:12-13 "He that **hath** [regardeth] the Son **hath** [regardeth] life; *and* he that **hath** [regardeth] not the **Son of God** (the high priest of good things to come) **hath** [regardeth] not life (in the kingdom age). 13. These things have I written unto you that **believe** [present active] on the name of the **Son of God** (the high priest of good things to come); that ye may know that ye **have** [regardeth] eternal life, and that ye may **believe** [present active] on the name of the **Son of God** (the high priest of good things to come)."

Those who regard or esteem the Son as their high priest are regarding or esteeming a life of honor and glory in the coming kingdom of heaven. Those who do not regard or esteem the Son of God do not regard or esteem a life of honor and glory in the kingdom age. John is writing to those who believe, in the present tense, to assure them that they esteem life for the age and that may continue to believe on the name of the Son of God. Believing on the name of the Son of God. To believe on His name is to be assured that he will perform what he said he would do because of who he is.

BLESSING FROM GOD

Hebrews 6:7-8 "For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for **them** (those who mature) by whom it is dressed (tilled), receiveth **blessing from God**: 8. But that which beareth thorns and briers *is* rejected, and *is* **nigh unto cursing**; whose **end is to be burned**. 9. But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and

things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak."

When rain falls on the earth, the earth brings forth fruit for them who sow the seed and reap the harvest receives blessing for their labor. If we labor in the Word, churning the milk, to make butter we will receive blessing from God. What we do with that blessing from God will either bring approval or rejection. If we sow to the flesh we will of the flesh reap corruption, but if we sow to the spirit of sonship we will reap a lasting millennial life in the coming kingdom. Galatians 6:8 "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

AS THE RAIN

Isaiah 55:10-11 "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it."

This passage in Hebrews 6:7 brings to mind the passage in Isaiah 55. As the rain waters the earth so that it will bring forth food for those who are hungry, so will the Word of God produce food for the hungry. The Word of God proceeds out of His mouth and it will prosper in the lives of those who receive it.

HEAVENLY BLESSINGS

Ephesians 1:3 "**Blessed** be the **God** and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath **blessed** us with all spiritual **blessings** in heavenly *places* in Christ:"

The Lord has blessed us according to Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:" with spiritual blessing in the heavenlies. The Lord blessed the nation of Israel in delivering them from the bondage of Egypt. The Lord blessed the nation of Israel with his presence in the wilderness. The Lord blessed them with the water from the Rock and the manna from heaven, but they did not respond to those blessing with obedience and faith. They did not enter into the land flowing with milk and honey.

THE FRUITFUL ENTER THE KINGDOM

Matthew 21:43 "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the **fruits** thereof."

The Lord looked for fruit in the nation of Israel when he came preaching the kingdom of the heavens. Jesus saw a fig tree with leaves which indicated that there was fruit on the tree, but when he came to the fig tree, there was no fruit. Matthew 21:19 "And when he saw a **fig** tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever [the age]. And presently the **fig** tree withered away." Because there was no fruit on the tree, a type of the nation of Israel, Jesus took the kingdom of the heavens away from the nation of Israel and gave it to a nation that would produce the fruits thereof. This nation is a holy nation and a chosen generation. This nation is a people called out of the Gentiles until the end of this age of the church. 1 Peter 2:9-10 "But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10. Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

WORTHY WALK IS FRUITFUL

Colossians 1:10 "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being **fruitful** in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"

We are to walk worthy of the Lord by faith which pleases Him. We are to be fruitful in good works continuing to increase in the knowledge upon knowledge of God, which is butter.

FRUIT LEADING TO HOLINESS

Romans 6:21-22 "What **fruit** (thorns and briars) had ye then in those things whereof ye are now **ashamed**? for the end of those things *is death* [thanatos]. 22. But now being made free from [the] **sin** (of lawlessness), and become servants to God, ye have your **fruit** unto **holiness**, and the **end everlasting** [agelasting millennial] **life**."

If we produce thorns and briars, we will be ashamed and it will bring forth death, thanatos, which is to be demoted to a lesser inheritance. If we will produce our fruits unto holiness we will enjoy kingdom life in the day of rest which is the millennial age.

WITHERED BRANCHES ARE BURN

John 15:5-6 "I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, **the same bringeth forth much fruit**: for without me ye can do nothing. 6. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned."

Fruit bearing requires abiding in the vine which is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. To abide in the Lord is to abide in the Word. Branches of the vine are used in this parable and we do not take them literally, so the fire can be taken figuratively. The real point is that if we do not abide in the Lord and produce fruit that pleases the Father we will not like the reward of our behavior. I know what it means to be burned and I do not like it.

FRUIT OF THE VINE

Judges 9:13 "And the **vine** said unto them, Should I leave my **wine**, which **cheereth God** and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?"

What is the fruit of the vine? Is it branches? If we are the branches and all that we produce is more branches, we will not be a profitable branch. The fruit of a child of God is not another child of God but fruit that will cheer the heart of God and man. If I am producing the kind of fruit that glorifies the Father, I am being a blessing to you. If you are producing the kind of fruit that pleases the Lord you are blessing me.

BEAR MUCH FRUIT

John 15:8 "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much **fruit**; so shall ye be my disciples."

Discipleship is based upon our fruit bearing. If we are living like disciples should live we will be glorifying our Father.

CHOSEN TO BE FRUITFUL

John 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth **fruit**, and *that* your **fruit** should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

Why do think he put a prayer promise on the end of that verse, about asking the Father in my name? If you have put your high priest to death, you might as well not ask the Father anything. You have said in your heart that the Son of God is good for nothing because you have trodden under foot the Son of God.

WE ARE PERSUADED BETTER OF YOU

Hebrews 6:9 "But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak."

The writer of the book of Hebrews was persuaded better things of them. He did not believe they would produce thorns and briers, nor would they crucify to themselves their high priest, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 1 John 2:24 "Let that therefore **abide** in you, which ye have heard from the beginning (the word of the kingdom). If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son (who is our high priest), and in the Father (who has blessed us with all spiritual blessing in the heavenlies)."

May the Lord help us to go on to maturity and produce the fruits that will qualify us to enter into the millennial rest which is the coming kingdom of our Lord.