

# The Way Back to God

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- *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me Jn 14:6*
- *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out. Jn. 10:9*
- *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12*
- Jesus is the only door and the only way. There is no other!

# A New and Living Way

- *Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 **by a new and living way which He consecrated for us**, through the veil, that is, His flesh, Heb. 10:19-21*
- What is this New and Living way He consecrated?
- **The Gospel**: Christ died for our sins, was buried, raised on the third day. 1Cor. 15:1-3

# The New and Living Way in Prophecy

● And **in that day** there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as **a banner to the people**; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious." 11 It shall come to pass **in that day** That the Lord shall set His hand again the second time To **recover the remnant of His people who are left**, 12 He will set up a banner for the nations, And will assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth. ... 16 **There will be a highway for the remnant of His people Who will be left from Assyria, As it was for Israel In the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.** Isa. 11:10-16

# The Highway of Holiness

- A **highway shall be there, and a road**, And it shall be called **the Highway of Holiness**. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. **Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.** Isa. 35:8
- With Jesus as **the way** and **the door**, and **consecrating a new and living way**
- This is the **Highway of Holiness**

# Jesus' Warns of the Way and Door

- *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Mt. 7:13-14*



# A Paradox: How Can This Be?

- How can Jesus be the way and the door and yet that door is narrow and that way is difficult?
- How can the new and living way He consecrated for us be difficult?
- How can it be that only a few will find it?
- How can it be the Highway of Holiness where even a fool cannot go astray yet be narrow and difficult to remain upon it?
- The answer to this question was actually included in the prophecy about the Highway of Holiness

# Why is the Path Narrow?

- *There will be a highway for the remnant of His people Who will be left from Assyria, As it was for Israel In the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.*

Isa. 11:10-16

- As God led Israel to Canaan
- In exactly the same way Jesus leads us from death into Eternal life.

# The Parallels to the Gates/Paths

- *Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that **all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,** 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. 1Cor. 10:1-5*



# As it Was for Israel...

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- 603,550 men passed through the Red Sea.
- God led them through the wilderness
- They walked the path God gave them.
- 603,550 passed through the gate of the Red Sea yet only 2 Entered the promised land.
- Even with God leading them, 603,448 could not find their way.
- Why????

● Now these things **became our examples**, to the intent that we should **not lust after evil things** as they also lusted. 7 And do **not become idolaters** as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." 8 Nor let us **commit sexual immorality**, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us **tempt Christ**, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 **nor complain**, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now **all these things happened to them as examples**, and **they were written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 1Cor. 10:6-11

# God did not Fail Them...

- They failed God!
- *none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land.*
- Later God said: *“Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.’ So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’”* Heb. 3:10-11; Num. 32:11-12
- It was not the Leader, but the followers...
- The Path was clear ... They wouldn't walk it...

# God Revealed the Real Problem

- God told Israel
- *“Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls.*
- *But they said, We will not walk in it. Jer. 6:16*
- There must be a fellowship between the leader and the followers.
- *Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?  
Amos 3:3*
- When followers won't follow, Leaders can't lead

# The Real Problem

- *Thus says the Lord: “Behold, I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. **Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.**” 12 And they said, **“That is hopeless! So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart.”** Jer. 18:11-12*
- The leader can't lead when the followers refuse to follow.
- No matter how clear the path, they won't stay on it.



# The Danger is Within Each of us.

- The gate is **not** narrow because Jesus made it that way!
- It is narrow because what Jesus' demanded is more than most people are willing to give.
- Jesus consecrated a new and living way (baptism) Mt 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16
- The gate is narrow because the vast majority of “disciples” have ignored Jesus and created other gates –

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- *What is this New and Living way He consecrated?*
- ***The Gospel**: Christ died for our sins, was buried, raised on the third day. 1Cor. 15:1-3*
- *I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*

# The New & Living Way



Christ Died  
For our Sins



He was  
Buried



He was Raised  
From the Dead

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- In baptism, we are buried with Him, crucified with Him, died with Him, raised with Him Rom 6:3-7
- buried with Him in baptism, raised with Him, being dead in your trespasses made alive with Him, forgiven you all trespasses, Col. 2:12-14



# The New & Living Way



Christ Died  
For our Sins  
Crucified  
with Him



He was  
Buried  
Buried  
with Him



He was Raised  
From the Dead  
Raised  
with Him



# The Danger is Within Each of us.

- As Israel before them, “*not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.* (Rom. 10:3).
- Jesus never made “*accept Christ as your personal savior*” a part of the door, but it is a larger gate for many than the one Jesus gave.
- With so many other choices, His command, “*he who believes and is baptized*” is unheeded, disregarded, and thus narrowed.







# Jesus' way is one of denial

- *“Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’”* (Mt. 16:24).
- When we compare this to what most “disciples” want to hear in churches today we see why His path is a *“difficult way”* that few will find.
- For multitudes of believers, *“once saved always saved”* has turned the *“grace of God”* into *“sensuality”* *“a license for immorality”* or *“lewdness”* (Jude 4).

# Fables of Gates and Ways

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- The Paradox of the truth becoming false
- *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 2Tim 4:3-4*

# The Problem was Lust

- They could not stay on the path to life because these desires and cravings were stronger than their desire to enter the promised land.
- These lusts made God's way seem narrow and confining.
- They sought a path to keep their lusts.
- They never found it.
- No matter how clear God made the path leading to life, they would not walk in it, because it was not where they wanted to go.



# Jesus Wanted us Aware

- *Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.  
Heb. 4:1-2*
- *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1Cor. 10:12*