



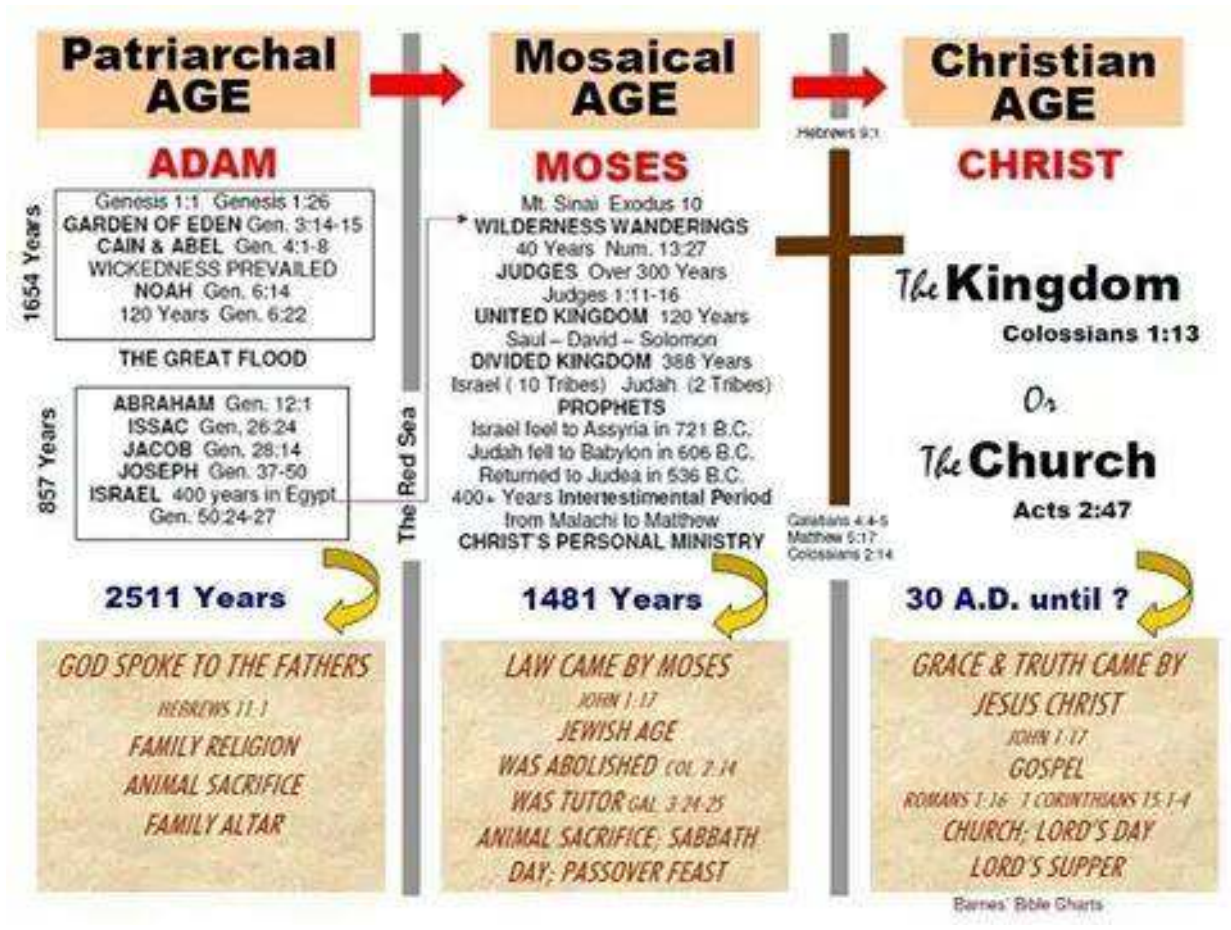
Today's Sermons

Morning: Is It Better In Heaven?
 Evening: Seven Things The Rich Man Realized Too Late

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	28
Sunday AM Worship	34
Sunday PM Worship	n/a
Wed. Bible Study	22
Offering	\$1382



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm
Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm &
 Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

LET THERE BE NO STRIFE
Winfred Clark, deceased

Some words are inviting. Take the word "home." Such brings to mind the security and comfort one feels when he or she is enclosed therein, but not all words are like this. The word "strife" has angry tones and sounds associated thereto. This is the word used by Abraham in Genesis 13:8. Strife had arisen between his herdsmen and those of Lot. To Abraham, such became a matter of concern and needed to be corrected. We would do well to see how he approached the matter.

I. HE SAW THE PROBLEM. Abraham didn't try to act as if such did not exist. Turning his head would not make it go away. The strife was there (Genesis 13:7). All the hoping it wasn't present would not mean it wasn't a fact. This Abraham saw, and he wanted Lot to see the same.

He saw the **seriousness** of the problem. The herdsmen may not see it as such for they would not look at it as did Abraham. This good man knew this could very well spread. Solomon said, "*The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water*" (Proverbs 17:14). Anybody that has seen the erosion that can take place by a trickle of water knows the dangers to a dam or dike if something is not done to stop it. It will not take long for such to cut a path large enough to empty the lake. So it is with strife in the beginning. Such will soon spread from individuals to families and whole churches.

The Hebrew writer speaks of such a danger when he speaks of a root of bitterness that begins to grow and by such most become defiled (Hebrews 12:15). Such needs, therefore, to be seen as a serious matter.

Continued Inside

Abraham also saw the **source** of the strife. In this case, one of the sources was the accumulation of cattle and herds. The land was not able to provide adequate pasture in one place.

Its source can be hatred (Proverbs 10:12); or pride (Proverbs 28:25); or carnality (1 Corinthians 3:3); or envy (James 3:13-16). So Abraham was able to see the seriousness and source of the problem.

II. HE SOUNDED HIS PLEA. Here is a good man who would have his voice heard on the side of peace. He made an appeal for a cessation of strife and all of its attendant evils. This is equal to Paul's plea of Philippians 2:3: "*Let nothing be done through strife . . .*"

His plea was a **responsible plea**. Abraham assumed personal responsibility for what his herdsmen did and said, and he would have Lot do the same. He did not take the hands-off attitude that says, "I am not responsible."

His plea was also set in **reasonable** terms. He would have Lot see who they were. "*We be brethren,*" he said. So that is all the more reason that no strife be allowed to arise between them.

III. HE SET FORTH A PLAN. Abraham saw a way to avoid strife if others wanted to do so. There was a way if men were willing. His plan was **selfless** in nature. You can see Abraham was not looking out for himself first when he said, "The whole land is before us, you go one way and I'll go the other." He would not take first choice, though he had the right to do so. In this, he walks in the spirit of "*Love seeketh not her own*" (1 Corinthians 13:5). Abraham wasn't thinking of self, but rather of a solution for the strife.

His plan was **suitable**. It was workable and evidently did just that. You don't find that word "strife" again concerning those herdsmen. His attitude is good to have around.

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S. I. McMillen, in his book *None of These Diseases*, tells a story of a young woman who wanted to go to college, but her heart sank when she read the question on the application blank that asked, "Are you a leader?" Being both honest and conscientious, she wrote, "No," and returned the application, expecting the worst. To her surprise, she received this letter from the college:

"Dear Applicant: A study of the application forms reveals that this year our college will have 1,452 new leaders. We are accepting you because we feel it is imperative that they have at least one follower."

## Lessons From Geese

Author Unknown

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds following. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds 71% more flying range than of the bird flew alone.

**Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can go further and get where they are going quicker and easier because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.**

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the "lifting" power of the bird immediately in front.

**Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.**

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another takes the lead position.

**Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership - with people, as with geese, people are interdependent.**

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up the speed.

**Lesson: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging - not something less than helpful.**

When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help protect him. They stay with the goose until it is able to fly or dies. Then they launch out on their own joining another formation or they catch up with their own flock.

**Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will likewise stand by each other.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 20 - Preach & Eat
- Sept 20-25 - Tent Meeting w/ Jim Dearman @ Greenfields
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell
- Wireless Internet Password: 94615548