

GOODNEWS LETTER
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Ed's note: While, the body of this article is in 12 point type, I have placed Scripture in 10 point type to "set it off." This may sound odd; but, I think it works.

"AS IT IS WRITTEN..."

"And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord...and Moses wrote all the words of the Lord...And he took the book of the covenant and read in the audience of the people:" Exodus 24:3, 4 & 7.

Everywhere we look in God's creation we see His signature written; in all places and in all spaces. It's as if He were speaking to each one of us, personally. He is!

Yet, the Lord doesn't want us to misread what He will do. Knowing that man needs constant spiritual reminding, the Lord wrote down His plan, putting it in many places of the creation. The Tablets of Stone contain His written word of what God demands of man, presenting man a code of morality.

There were prophets always warning man about the Lord's doings; that is, until the Son, Jesus, the Christ entered the world of mankind, in body.

When Jesus came on earth and took upon flesh, He had a lot to say about listening to God; instructing us that the Word of the Lord is all important. *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"* (Mt 24:35).

Jesus explains that His word is so permanent and eternal that it is above the creation - the earth, the universe and everything; even though it may be part of a galaxy far, far away.

To better understand the meaning of "**As It Is Written**", I went to my 1951 **Webster's New World Dictionary**. All I needed to know was the word, "As." Daniel says it is a correlative construction used to indicate the equality or sameness of two things, pg. 85. No wonder His word is above all else!

"**As it is written**" means that when the Lord speaks to mankind, constantly reminding everyone of His plan, He wants us to know about His Person. (1). **Who** He is; (2). **What** He is going to do; and, (3). **Where** His glory is located. "**As It Is Written**" calls man from sin and into a relationship with the Heavenly Father that is guaranteed through the Son of God, Jesus.

The good Lord even allows us to speculate as to **when** he shall return to earth. It's all there. But, we must get in the book and read it; for **WHEN** He speaks to us, He expects us to listen, repent and glorify His Holy Name.

1. **Who is God?** He is the Creator, of course, and more! (Ge. 1:1). God is the Judge, King, Preserver and Shepherd. God is Spirit (Jn 4:24) and therefore, He is **infinite**, **eternal**, **omnipotent** (all powerful), **omnipresent** (all present) and **omniscient** (all knowing). When such a Holy Person addresses us, we are to listen to what He has to say, don't you think?

2, **What did God do?** Clearly, "As It Is Written" shows that through Abraham, God brought forth a nation; which, in turn, brought forth Jesus, the Savior. And we have to remember that what God has done will always be. Nothing new is expected. What God promised to Abraham and fulfilled in Jesus, is what's up ahead for man and will be his future. By faith, it becomes man's future while he lives in the present. But, if we are to live as if we are already raised up, living in His presence, we must listen and apply what's written.

Although, the New Covenant expanded the promise to include all the earth and all peoples regardless of their origin of birth, the promise remains as God gave it to Abraham. We are, "as Isaac was, the children of promise" (Gal. 4:28). The promise means that God will dwell on earth with His kingdom ruling everyone and everything. "As It Is Written," we are told to pray for "**Thy Kingdom Come**" (Mt. 6). And notice that the kingdom message is found more than 150 times in the written word of the New Covenant. The Kingdom presents much more truth than escaping condemnation. There's a glory ahead. Study it and rejoice.

3. **Where is God's glory?** (Glory means 'to honor. ') In the Old Testament, God's presence was often revealed by smoke. Also, a sign of God's presence was seen in fire and clouds. As God became closer to men in the Old, His permanent abode was in the Tabernacle (which means dwelling place) and smoke filled the **Holy of Holies**. Then, we come to our time and the beginning the New Covenant. In the Son, God **tabernacled** within man, living among men. John records, "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God**" (1:1). John wants to show the existence of the Word. He wants us to see Jesus existing "**in the beginning**" - before time, living in eternity. In v 14, John states, "**And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father...**" John writes that the Word had timeless existence. Proof of this comes from Jesus, Himself, "**before Abraham was, I am**" (8:58). God's presence is also in the Third Person of the Trinity. By the Holy Spirit, glory was brought to mankind on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit entered (baptized) the church, according to **Acts 2**. Today, in the church body of Christ, the Holy Spirit leads, guides and directs God's people; just "**as it is written**" in **Ephesians 3:21**, "**Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages...**"

And, the plan reveals more beauty when God takes charge of the earth. At the time of the resurrection, the world bursts open. Rather than a rapture, we ought to expect a rupture. Then, God's glory shall be as it was in the Old; but without smoke or any other opaque to cover His being. **Zechariah 14:4** presents that day to us, "**And His feet shall stand in that day (7th millennia) upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem...**" God loves His chosen dwellings; the Tabernacle and, within His

people. But, when we see Him in Person, it will be in His land that is called Jerusalem. Why, He even has prepared it anew. John witnessed the representation of the Lamb's Bride by being taken to a high mountain. There, he viewed "**the great city**", the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. That time, we believe, will occur after the one thousand years of Kingdom reign on earth when Jesus rules all the nations. And, we rejoice in that His Bride shall be next to Jesus, right there by His side "**As It Is Written**" (Re. 21:9 & 10).