

LEVEL, LEVELED, LEVELING, LEVELS

Just as Jacob lied maliciously in order to harm other people (such as Esau), so his sons did the same things. However, his sons took it to a new and much worse **level**. (They ruthlessly slaughtered all the males in an entire town.)

- **Genesis 34:13-15, 25:** "And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister: And they said unto them, We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one that is uncircumcised; for that were a reproach unto us: But in this will we consent unto you: If ye will be as we be, that every male of you be circumcised; ... And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males."

Jacob put the two sons of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh) on the same **level** as his own sons. (This is why Joseph has two tribes of Israel, and not just one.)

- **Genesis 48:5:** "And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine."

It seems there are multiple **levels** of hell (since there's a *lowest* hell).

- **Deuteronomy 32:22:** "For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume

the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains."

Ahithophel gave Absalom the same **level** of counsel that he gave to David. (In other words, he did his best for both David and Absalom.)

- **2 Samuel 16:23:** "And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom."

People considered the counsel of Ahithophel to be on the same **level** as inquiring at the oracle of God. (However, Ahithophel's counsel was deeply evil.)

- **2 Samuel 16:23:** "And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom."

Jehoshaphat agreed to *not* disguise himself when he went into battle (which made him a target), and to allow Ahab to hide. (This was a foolish decision on multiple **levels**. Jehoshaphat never should have joined forces with Ahab, he never should have fought this battle, and he never should have agreed to the idiotic plan to make himself a target.)

- **1 Kings 22:30:** "And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put thou on thy robes. And the king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle."

Bildad told Job that if he repented of his sins then he would surely be greatly blessed, and would become rich again. (This was wrong on multiple **levels**. First, Job's sufferings were unrelated to sin. Second, that's not how repentance works. God never promised that those who repented of their sins would become immensely wealthy.)

- **Job 8:5-7:** "If thou wouldest seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty; If thou wert pure and upright; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous. Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase."

Zophar told Job that if he repented of his sins then God would fix everything in Job's life. (This is wrong on multiple **levels**. First, Job's sufferings were unrelated to sin. Second, that's not how repentance works. God never promised that He would remove all pain and suffering from the lives of those who repent.)

- **Job 11:13-16:** "If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him; If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles. For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be stedfast, and shalt not fear: Because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away:"

Eliphaz told Job that if just stopped being an evil person and repented, then God would build him up and restore his prosperity. (This was wrong on multiple **levels**. First, Job's sufferings were unrelated to sin. Second, that's not how repentance works. God never promised that those who

repented of their sins would become prosperous.)

- **Job 22:23-25:** "If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver."

Eliphaz told Job that if he repented of his sins then he would be able to decree something and it would happen. (This was wrong on multiple **levels**. First, Job's sufferings were unrelated to sin. Second, no human being has the power to decree things like that. Even the apostle Paul didn't have all his prayers granted.)

- **Job 22:23, 28:** "If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. ... Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways."

Those who reveal secrets are doing something wrong. They're hurting people on a very deep **level**.

- **Proverbs 18:8:** "The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly."

Solomon (the wisest king Israel ever had) was unable to attain the **level** of wisdom that he desired.

- **Ecclesiastes 7:23:** "All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me."

In the millennial temple, the pavement by the side of the gates was the lower pavement. (Since there was a lower pavement, that meant there was also an upper pavement, which means the outer court of the temple had at least two **levels**.)

- **Ezekiel 40:18:** "And the pavement by the side of the gates over against the length of the gates was the lower pavement."

In the millennial temple, there will be three **levels** of side chambers. They will be stacked one on top of another, three levels high. (It seems each level will contain 30 chambers.)

- **Ezekiel 41:6:** "And the side chambers were three, one over another, and thirty in order; and they entered into the wall which was of the house for the side chambers round about, that they might have hold, but they had not hold in the wall of the house."

Not everyone is able to endure the suffering that's required to reach the highest **levels** of the kingdom of God.

- **Matthew 20:21-22:** "And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able."
- **Mark 10:37-38:** "They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know

not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

Jesus isn't the one who determines the **level** of authority that people are given in the kingdom of God. Instead God the Father decides that.

- **Matthew 20:23:** "And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father."

Jesus put praying long prayers for pretense on the same **level** as devouring the houses of widows. It's that serious in His sight. Both of those deeds are sins which are worthy of greater damnation.

- **Matthew 23:14:** "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."

Jesus didn't elevate Mary as the unique "Mother of God", as Catholics do. Instead He put her on the same **level** as everyone else who does His will.

- **Mark 3:32-35:** "And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my

mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."

- **Luke 8:20-21:** "And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee. And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it."

The highest **levels** of greatness in the kingdom of God can only be obtained through intense suffering.

- **Mark 10:37-38:** "They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

Jesus put preaching the gospel to the poor on the same **level** as raising the dead.

- **Luke 7:22:** "Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached."

Jesus put His brothers on the same **level** as all other men, and said that His true brothers were those who heard the word of God and did it.

- **Luke 8:20-21:** "And it was told him by certain which said,

Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee. And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it."

In the parable of the unrighteous steward, the steward helped people by reducing the debt they owed his lord. It seems he reduced it to a **level** where they could pay it.

- **Luke 16:6:** "And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty."

When the religious leaders brought Jesus to Pilate, they **leveled** fierce accusations against Him.

- **Luke 23:1-2, 5:** "And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King. And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place."

The chief priests and scribes **leveled** accusations against Jesus to Herod.

- **Luke 23:7, 10:** "And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time. ... And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him."

Pilate publicly testified that the accusations which had been **leveled** against Jesus were false.

- **Luke 23:13-14:** "And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:"

When the chief captain heard that Jews were lying in wait to kill Paul, he told those who were **leveling** accusations against Paul to tell them to Felix.

- **Acts 23:30:** "And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what they had against him. Farewell."

Tertullus **levels** accusations against Lysias (who doesn't seem to have been at Paul's trial before Felix).

- **Acts 24:7:** "But the chief captain Lysias came upon us, and with great violence took him away out of our hands,"

Paul longed for the salvation of his fellow Jews so greatly that he had tremendous heaviness and sorrow. (In other words, it bothered him on a deep emotional **level**.)

- **Romans 9:2-3:** "That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:"

Paul wanted to speak to the Corinthian church on a more advanced **level**. However, he was unable to do so because they weren't spiritually mature enough.

- **1 Corinthians 3:1-3:** "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

When preaching to a church it's important to keep its maturity **level** in mind. A church that's spiritually immature needs a different type of ministry than one that's mature and well grounded.

- **1 Corinthians 3:1-2:** "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."

Not everyone has the same **level** of knowledge.

- **1 Corinthians 8:9-11:** "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of your's become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom

Christ died?"

Righteousness is something we wait for. (This means we've been promised righteousness, but on some **level** we haven't received it yet. As long as we're in this world we're still struggling against sin.)

- **Galatians 5:5:** "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith."

The church must not tolerate any **level** of sin or heresy. God requires it to be utterly without spot or blemish.

- **Ephesians 5:27:** "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

The basic "first principles" of Christianity are salvation by faith, faith in God, water baptism and baptism of the Spirit, the apostolic gifts, the rapture, and the eternal judgment. All Christians should know these doctrines because they represent the *most basic principles* and are considered to be "milk". Christians who don't know these things are still at the "milk" **level** and are spiritually immature.

- **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, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."

James didn't say that Christians should focus on the gospel and leave everything else alone. Instead he said we must be free from error. James didn't allow any **level** of error in the church.

- **James 1:16:** "Do not err, my beloved brethren."

The earthquake which will strike the world in the second half of the tribulation is triggered by the seventh vial of God's wrath. It will destroy world's cities, move every island, and **level** every mountain. It will be the most severe earthquake of human history, and will cause unparalleled global destruction.

- **Revelation 16:17-18, 20:** "And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. ... And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found."

In the end times, fine linen and purple linen and scarlet linen are considered to be on the same **level** as gold and precious stones. This is more evidence that modern technology isn't going to exist in the tribulation era. By the time we reach those days, the world will have regressed to a pre-technology society.

- **Revelation 18:16:** "And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!"