**Shibboleth**

 A Brief Commentary

 *by*

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**Shibboleth**

*Judges 12:6 Then said they unto him, Say now* ***Shibboleth:*** *and he said* ***Sibboleth****: for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand.*

The above scripture refers to a war between the men of Gilead, and the men of Ephraim. Jephthah at that time was a judge of Israel, and leader of the men of Gilead. Since both sides were men of Israel, when Ephraim had been defeated, some of the men of Ephraim tried to pass themselves off as Gileadites to keep from getting killed. However, there was a little different dialect of languages between the two, therefore, the men of Ephraim could not pronounce the word Shibboleth the same as the men of Gilead. Therefore, the Gileadites knew those men were imposters.

We find the same thing in the world today. Unsaved people try to pass themselves off as Christians, however, they may convince some men but they cannot deceive God.

**God knows his own. Notice in the following verse as Jesus was calling His disciples:**

*John 1:48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee,* ***when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee****.*

*1Corinthians 8:3 But if any man love God,* ***the same is known of him****.*

**We also must remember that the saved were chosen before the foundation of the world:**

*Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

Pretending to be someone other than who you are will not make any real gain in your life, and pretending to be a Christian when you are not **will not** get you into Heaven.

**Let us remember, we are born sinners, not saved:**

Adam & Eve sinned in disobeying God, believing Satan and partaking of the forbidden fruit, as a result their sin passed on to future generations. We inherited their sin, therefore, we are born sinners. As a result we sin also.

*Psalm 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and* ***in sin did my mother conceive me.***

*Romans 5:12 Wherefore,* ***as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men****, for that all have sinned:*

A change must take place in our lives in order to become saved. Not just turning over a new leaf, **“We must be born again.”**

*John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee,* ***Except a man be born again,*** *he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

Jesus here is speaking of a Spiritual birth, for we must worship Him in ”Spirit and in truth.”

*John 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee,* ***Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.***

*John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him* ***must worship him in spirit and in truth.***

**Our cry is not** “Shibboleth” **but rather** “**Abba, Father**” **for we who are saved, God is our father:**

*Romans 8:15-17 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry,* ***Abba, Father.*** *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit,* ***that we are the children of God:*** *And if children, then heirs;* ***heirs of God, and joint‑heirs with Christ****; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

**For those who would try to fake their cry and call God their Father, God will say:**

*Matthew 7:23 And then will I profess unto them,* ***I never knew you:******depart from me,*** *ye that work iniquity.*

**God knows all, from the beginning to the end:**

*Isaiah 46:9,10 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the* ***things that are not yet done,*** *saying,* ***My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:***

**Be very careful my friends, your own heart can deceive you:**

*Jeremiah 17:9,10* ***The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked:*** *who can know it?* ***I the LORD search the heart,*** *I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

**Consider your condition, nothing is worth losing your soul:**

*Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world,* ***and lose his own soul?*** *or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

**As Christians let us say with David:**

*Psalm 139:17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!*

*Psalm 139:23,24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

**Only as saved “born again” Christians can we call God our father:**

*John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee,* ***Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.***

*1Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible,* ***by the word of God,*** *which liveth and abideth for ever.*

**What can you do about it, if you are not saved?**

Get on your knees before God, admit to Him that you are a sinner, lost and helpless and in need of His great salvation. He will give you the **ability to repent,** to despise your sin, turn from it and throw yourself on His mercy.

*2 Timothy 2:25,26 In meekness instructing those* ***that oppose themselves****; if God peradventure will* ***give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*** *And that they may* ***recover themselves out of the snare of the devil****, who are taken captive by him at his will. He will also give you the faith with which to believe unto salvation.*

*Ephesians 2:8 For by* ***grace*** *are ye saved* ***through faith****; and* ***that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God*:**

My friends, You will never know real happiness until you come to know Jesus Christ. He is our life giver, our friend, and our saviour.

*John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him,* ***I am the way, the truth, and the life****: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Praise God, what a Saviour

 Who can take the likes of me.

Take away my sin filled nature,

 Forgive my sin and set me free.

Give me peace I never dreamed of,

 Give me life so full and free

Give me a home in all His glory.

 That will last for eternity.