

indeed a monstrous order of proceeding, as literally read. But let us analyze it: The Canaanites were the representatives of all false or falsified doctrines. The *men* among them represented the judgment, perverted and corrupted by false teaching and also the *falsehoods* themselves, which the Hebrews were to exterminate, to kill. The *women* married to them, were the affections for the *false*, the *corrupted* affections, from which would be born evils of course, which evils were the *male* children. But the *young women*, unattached to, and uncorrupted by these falses, the pure natural affections for good and truth, they were commanded to spare and appropriate to themselves. Here is indeed beauty for ashes!

So it would be with any of the knotty texts in the entire Bible, if read by this system. Without it, they are dark, mysterious, and often repulsive; but with it they are lucid, beautiful and holy. But the text I quoted when I began, most eminently furnishes an example of the advantages of this method of interpretation.

He that believeth and is *baptized* shall be saved. Of the term *believe* we are to understand of course, that kind of belief which is carried out into acts, that *living* faith which makes men *do* as well as *think* the truth—with a heart unto *righteousness*. To believe in this case, signifies to act, as to hear sincerely, implies obedience, not merely to receive the truth, but that deeper act of the affection, to love and to do it. From this belief, men are baptized, washed, cleansed, purified. He that believes and is *baptized*, by that belief, will be saved. It does not say in the converse part of the text—he that believeth not *and is not baptized*; because he who does not believe in this higher sense, never can be spiritually or really baptized. When the belief extends to, and invests the heart or affections, that purity of life follows which is symbolized by the rite of baptism.

Then we are told that these signs shall follow them that believe. “In my name they shall cast out devils,”—from themselves, from their own hearts, where evil spirits previously ruled. They shall speak with new tongues, for from the abundance of the heart, from which the mouth speaks, the utterances of their hearts will be true and good.

They shall take up serpents—those sensual appetites, that tempted the woman or affections, in the garden of Eden, shall