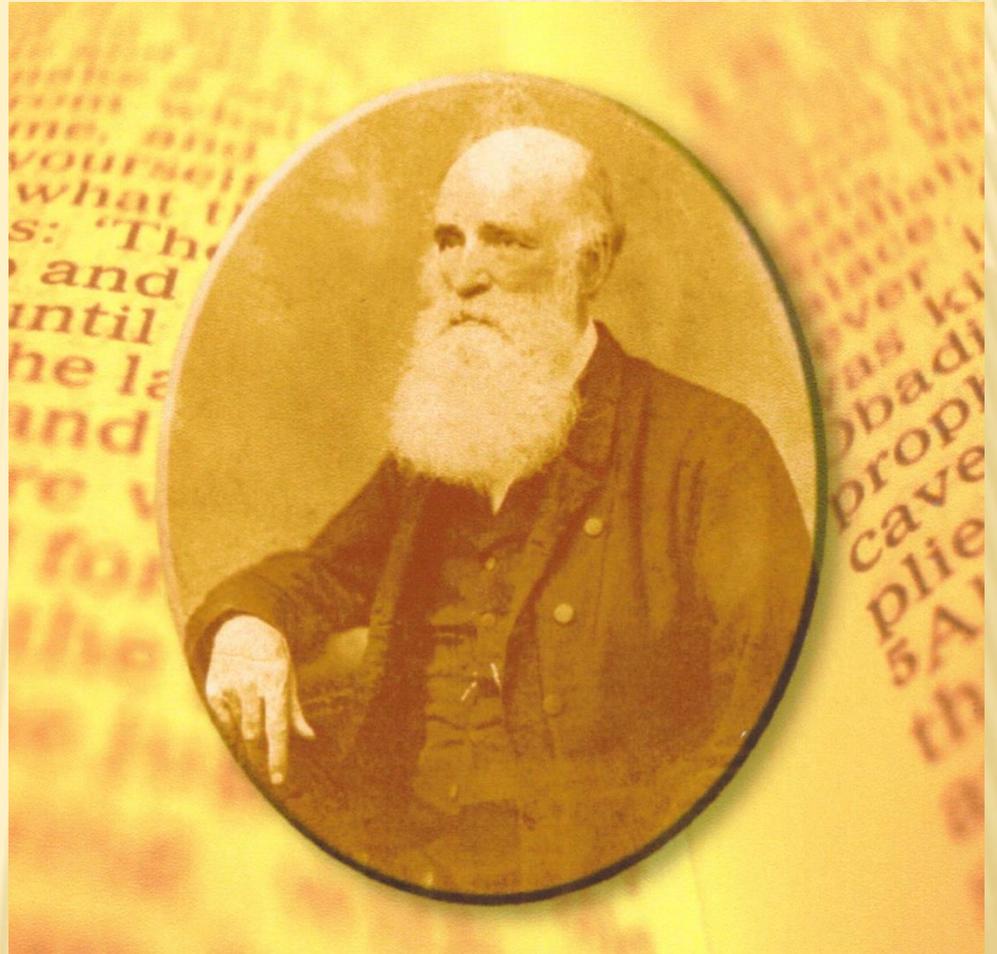


THE TRUTH UNSEALED

The Life and Work of
Brother John Thomas



1805 - 1871

Part II: 1837-1847

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

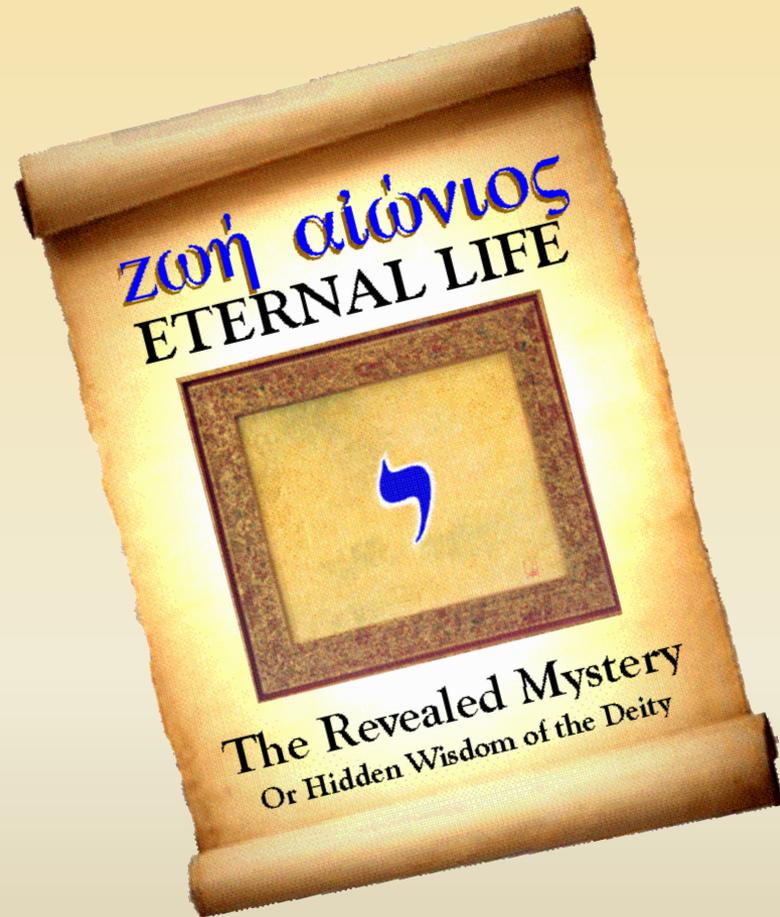
Chapter 4 – 1837: Philadelphia to Amelia The “Thomas / Watt Debate”

- **The Lunenburg Letter – Campbellites further divided by the light of Truth.**

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

“The riches I desire here are liberty of speech, of action, and of opinion; the enjoyment of the right of free discussion in relation to things past, present, and to come. I desire food and raiment and that with these I may be content. I desire to participate in the rich luxury of emancipating the human mind from the dogmata and traditions of men. The liberty I desire is that liberty which is chastened by the Law of Christ. This liberty I cannot enjoy in a city and in a practice of a profession that depends upon the caprice of this singular world.”

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“The possession of intellectual, moral, and physical powers by man in full, perfect, and unending manifestation [Eternal Life], is the subject of an assurance made previous to its realization.”

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The “Lunenburg Letter”

“Dear Bro. Campbell -- I was much surprised today, while reading the Harbinger, to see that you recognize the Protestant Parties as Christian. You say ‘You find in all Protestant parties Christians.’ Dear brother, my surprise and ardent desire to do what is right, prompt me to write to you at this time. I feel well assured, from the estimate you place on the female character, that you will attend to my feeble questions in search of knowledge...”

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The “Lunenburg Letter”

“Will you be so good as to let me know how anyone becomes a Christian? What act of yours gave you the name of Christian? At what time had Paul the name of Christ called on him? At what time did Cornelius have Christ named on him? Is it not through this name we obtain eternal life? Does the name of Christ or Christian belong to any but those who believe the Gospel, repent, and are buried by baptism into the death of Christ?”

***I am your sincere sister by faith in Christ Jesus,
Shelemiah”***

(Sacrifice of thanksgiving to Yahweh)

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THE TRUTH UNSEALED

“Resolved: That, whereas, certain things believed and propagated by Dr. Thomas, in relation to the mortality of man, the resurrection of the dead, and the final destiny of the wicked, having given offence to many brethren, and being likely to produce a division amongst us; and believing the said views to be of no *practical* benefit, we recommend to brother Thomas to discontinue the discussion of the same, *unless in his defense when misrepresented.*”

Paineville, Amelia, Virginia, November 15th, 1838, signed by 23 of the brethren there present.

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

Chapter 6 – 1839-1842:

Illinois Bound:

Fleeing the controversy while Campbellites reconcile

- **The Investigator (1842-1843)**

“The Ancient gospel and worship, the eternal life, the revelation of Messiah, the resurrection from the dead, the glories of the Age to Come, were too much subordinated to trading, pleasure-taking, politics, and so forth for my taste...”

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

“What power has moved me to exchange for these labors and hoosier dainties, the ease, tranquility and comfort of home? What, but the word of man?....and cannot the Word of God excite his creatures to encounter the difficulties of the way of righteousness, that he may attain to glory, honour, incorruptibility, and eternal life; a prize incalculably more estimable than the possession of all Illinois, or the celestial universe for a temporal estate?...”

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

“I am an exile here, as every well-constituted mind ought to feel himself to be. An exile from home, splendor dazzles in vain: my home is not here, I am but a sojourner – a traveler to that glorious home where splendor dazzles, and glory blazes on the paternal hearth of the Father of Lights: an exile from this home, the splendours and possessions of this caravanserai [a desert inn for travelers] are unsatisfying, and stamped with vanity in all their relations.”

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Chapter 7 – 1843-1846: Return to Virginia

The Truth again emerges from Campbellism

- First Ecclesia born of Doctrinal Controversy
- *The Herald of the Future Age (1844-1850)*

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**Fredericksburg Church of the Disciples of Christ
1115 Caroline Street, 1840's**

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

Chapter 8 – 1847:

Travels to New York, a crisis ensues

Dr. Thomas baptized.

- ***Confession, Abjuration and Declaration***
- **Separation from Campbellism.**

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

30 Point Outline of the Truth

Herald of the Future Age (1847)

“10. That the territory of this kingdom is the 3,000,000 square miles of country promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their seed, or descendent, the Messiah; and these are all to possess it coetaneously and forever; that none of them either did or expected to possess it in his corruptible lifetime, and therefore that in the covenant territory, there is a veiled promise of resurrection to eternal life; and of the coming of Abraham’s seed to take possession of it as the inheritance willed and confirmed to him by his Father in heaven.”

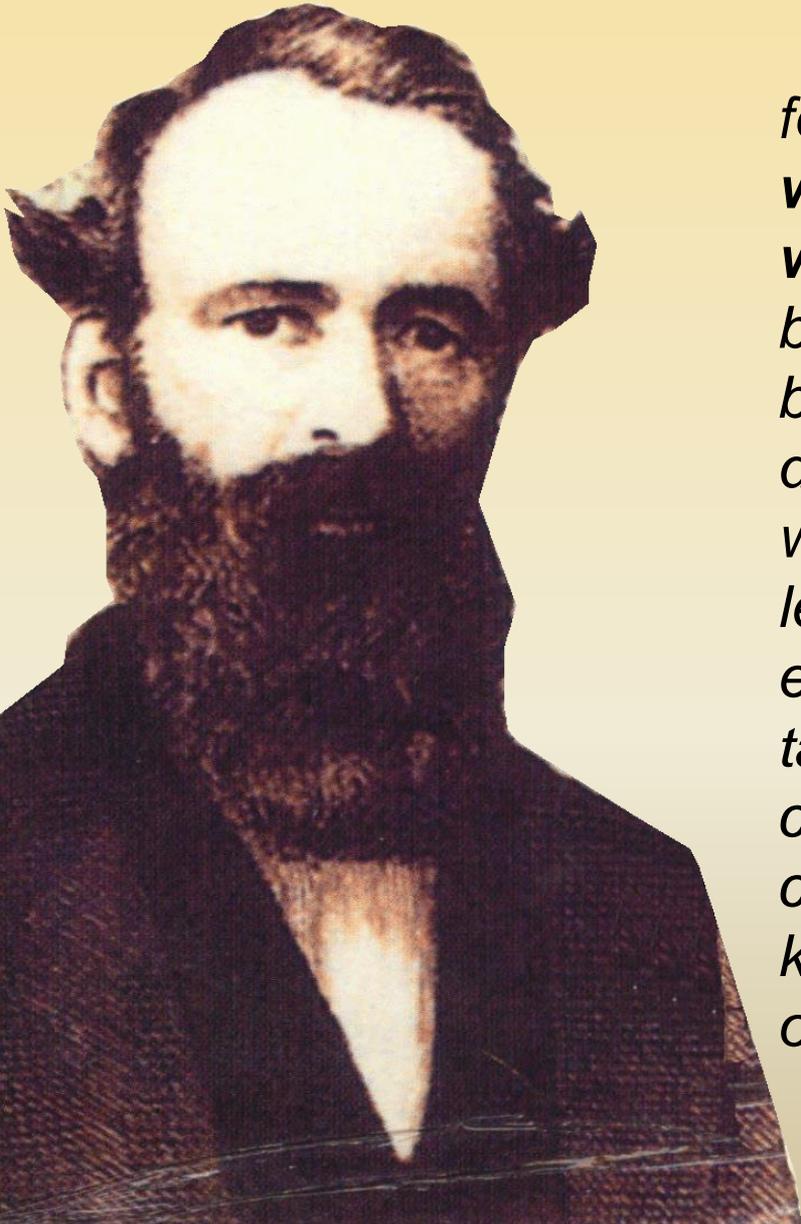
THE TRUTH UNSEALED

“Is it possible, said we, that these things are useless which the spirit hath revealed; and is it to ‘feast on husks’, to dwell on the throne and kingdom of David, the future age, the glorious appearing of the saints, etc.; and doth the heart-warming and enlivening truth consist in the vain philosophy of Philetus? We will look further into this matter and see...”

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

*“...‘Saved by hope’, said we, ‘**what hope?**’...Accordingly we turned to the original, and found that he (Paul) had said ‘**THE HOPE**’; and not only so, but affirms this salvation by the hope in time past – **WE WERE SAVED BY THE HOPE.** ... A number of passages now crowded in upon us, and we perceived that the time when the Roman brethren were saved by the hope, was when ‘they obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine delivered unto them.’ They were then saved from sin, ‘being made freed from it’. The question immediately flashed within us, ‘When you were buried in baptism, were you saved by the hope?’ We had to confess we knew nothing then about the hope; that the covenants of the promise were a hidden mystery to us, and that beyond what we have stated, we were entirely in the dark upon the subject”*

THE TRUTH UNSEALED



*“Thus”, he said, “after a journey of fourteen years, **I had found the Truth, which on the ocean I declared that I would not rest till I had found,** should I be permitted again to tread terra firma; but, in all this journey, I had been directed in a course very different from what I would have selected if I had been left to map it out for myself. I had been entangled into preaching and editing, and taking part in distasteful theological controversies, which however, in their combined influence, brought me to a knowledge of the one faith, and the obedience which it demands.”*

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

Confession, Abjuration, and Declaration March 1847

First:

He Confessed the errors of his ambitious youth, and afterward his errors of belief and action on account of those false beliefs, before everyone (for example, believing that he had been truly baptized by Mr. Scott whilst he was in complete ignorance of the promises to Abraham and David concerning Messiah).

Second:

He Abjured these past beliefs and errors in judgment (for example, while having understood the promises to the fathers of Israel, the throne of David, and the nature of the kingdom of Messiah as matters of Truth, he had not, until recently, perceived that this was in fact ***the Gospel***; this was ***the hope*** upon which salvation was based, and upon which a valid baptism was predicated.)

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

Confession, Abjuration, and Declaration March 1847

Third:

He Declared, in a 7 point disquisition covering 5 pages, his present understanding on the Truth necessary for salvation. These fall under the following headings:

1. First, then, they reveal that ***THE GOSPEL WAS PREACHED TO ABRAHAM.***
2. The same gospel was preached to Abraham's descendants in Egypt and in the wilderness of Egypt.
3. The same gospel was preached to the generation that invaded Canaan under Joshua.

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

Confession, Abjuration, and Declaration March 1847

He Declared...

4. This same gospel of the Rest which was preached to Abraham is amplified throughout all the prophets.
5. John preached, saying, “Repent, for the Royal dignity of the heavens hath come!”
6. The same gospel was preached by the twelve, and by Paul, after the day of Pentecost.
7. The grand principle brought to light by the preaching of the gospel from Abraham to the apostolic era, was: ***LIFE AND INCORRUPTIBILITY THROUGH THE KINGDOM OF GOD.***

THE TRUTH UNSEALED

“The Scriptures must be searched in relation to these conditions. We can only kindle up the beacon fires. The Word is profitable for all things. An ENLIGHTENED believer being thus obedient to the faith, is baptized for the resurrection, for the Kingdom of God, and for all else the Gospel promises. He thus becomes an heir of God, and co-heir with Jesus of the World.”