THE DOCTRINES AND RITUAL ASPECTS OF THE DOUKHOBOR SECT.

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Psalm 1.

"Who will save us if not John, the new Moses, born of the incorruptible Virgin, from the Word of God, Jesus Christ? God has proclaimed to us great wisdom: 'The flesh must be crucified, and man redeemed,' says the new Moses concerning the redemption of mankind. But for eternal redemption, it is necessary that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, become man, and that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ is both the Son of God and man.

The Lord speaks through human lips: 'Hearken, now the Kingdom comes! Look to the East, where Mount Zion stands—go there and behold it! From the midst of the mountain flow springs that wash away the impurity from the sons and daughters of Israel. The heavens above Mount Zion are covered with benefactors. O children clad in white robes, adorned with fiery stars! These very heavens proclaim the glory of God; their sound spreads across the earth, and their voice reaches the ends of the universe.

When the end of this world comes, the heavens shall open, thunder shall roar, and lightning shall flash. People shall tremble, and the Kingdom shall be set in motion. Then all nations shall gather in the land where the Kingdom of the Most High King is—there shall appear the throne of the new David. Great terror shall fill the house of David when the Lord descends from Heaven and sits upon the throne to judge the living and the dead. Then the Archangel Michael shall sound the great trumpet; he shall wage war against the ancient serpent. The serpent shall fall, Abel shall strike him with the living scripture, cast down Satan—who brought sin into the world—from his throne, and destroy his dominion, and his glory shall perish.

Then the Lord shall say: 'Amen, amen! Open, O heavens!' The Lord, known by His servants in spirit and not in dead ritual, shall reign in His children forever and ever!"

Psalm 2.

What is a Doukhobor if not one who embodies John, Moses, and Christ? What is said about the incarnation of Christ has been fulfilled in him. Divinity dwells in the flesh, which is the Word of

God, through which great wisdom is spoken and proclaimed. Though the flesh suffers affliction here from men, the inner being will pass through transformation into a better body and thus be redeemed. It is necessary for this exalted being, this Son of God, Jesus Christ, to bear flesh and also be man, for God speaks through human lips. The Eastern kingdom and Mount Zion symbolize the community of Doukhobors; the midst of the mountain represents the one among them endowed with supreme wisdom and power. From him flows a spring of bliss for his faithful, whose virtue is covered with blessings; they are adorned with splendor, and their whiteness shines. These virtues spread glory among people devoted to worldly vanity, whose end will come, but the faithful will appear in great power and spread light among those who understand only dead rituals... Now the Doukhobors endure sorrow and need, but they will overcome the world with their inner strength; their spiritual battle is great, but they will prevail, and the world will heed their spiritual understanding of the Christian religion...

Doukhobor Prayers

The Doukhobors also have the following prayers, which they sing in church gatherings.

Prayer 1.

Where shall I go from Your presence, O Lord? If I ascend to heaven—You are there; if I descend to hell—You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. To whom shall I go, to whom shall I turn, O eternal life, if not to You alone, my Creator? Where shall I flee, and where, apart from You, shall I find comfort, joy, refuge, and peace for my soul? To whom shall I go from You, O Lord my God, for You are the Word of eternal life, which is in me; You are the fountain of life, the giver of great good. My soul thirsts for You, O God of my life! Sweeten us with Your holy name, our sweet Lord Jesus! My soul, my heart is wounded; in all my life, there is nothing more pleasing to me than Your most holy Spirit. Your words are sweeter than honey to my throat and lips; Your righteousness, O Lord, is dearer to me than gold and precious stones, and far sweeter than honey and the honeycomb...

Prayer 2. Whom shall I call upon, whom shall I love, if not You, O Lord my God? You are my life, my salvation, my honor and glory! You are my wealth, my eternal treasure, my hope and expectation, my joy, my eternal rest! Shall I love vain, unknown, perverse, destructive, false things more than You, my true life? You are my life, my salvation, and therefore in You alone I place my hope, all my trust, all my desires, all my prayers. I seek You, O Lord, with all my heart, all my soul, and all my strength; from the depths of my heart I cry out to You; my heart pours itself out to You alone, and I shall be wholly in You, and You in me! I call upon and acknowledge in You the one true God and Him whom You sent, Jesus Christ; in Your light, we shall see the light of Your holy Spirit’s grace. Amen!