

PREPARING
FOR
REVIVAL

Dr. Brian J. Bailey

Version 1.0

“Preparing for Revival”

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PREFACE

In presenting this book I would like to make a few comments on gracious outpourings of the Holy Spirit in past and modern times. The Lord has moved by various means that have often confused earnest believers. God has chosen vessels who have been less than perfect. Samson would be a case in point. He was chosen by God and given a mighty anointing, yet because Samson lacked a consecrated life, he largely failed. Solomon was anointed with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, but he too lacked personal consecration and fell into idolatry because of his wives. The anointing alone is not sufficient. God's preparations in our lives must be deep enough to contain the great things that He will soon release upon the earth. We must prepare for revival.

In modern times the Church has seen similar examples. Revival ministries have been mightily anointed of God and have brought blessings to untold thousands. However, many have eventually failed because they were not fully prepared for what the Lord brought them in to. Receive their ministries, beloved, but do not walk in their ways.

This book is presented in the hope that the Lord will graciously use it to help prepare His people. Great revival must soon come to the Church for her to fulfil her calling and gather the full harvest of souls in these Last Days. By God's grace may we be fully prepared for the mighty revival power that will help make ready this glorious, victorious Church.

CHAPTER ONE

“O LORD, REVIVE YOUR WORK”

The cry for revival has been the prayer of God’s people throughout the ages. It was the heart’s cry of the prophet Habakkuk. In chapter 3:2 his prayer was, “*O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.*”

This prayer—“*O LORD, revive thy work*”—is the cry of every devout saint throughout the ages. It is also on the heart of each of us who will intercede before God that He will send revival to the towns, the cities, and to the nations. But the background to the cry of the prophet is also important.

WHY REVIVAL IS NEEDED

One reason we need revival is that the time of God’s judgments is coming upon the world. In chapter 1:4, Habakkuk showed us the condition of the nation during his time: “*Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.*” That certainly is the case in many nations today. We can also read

One reason we need revival is that the time of God’s judgments is coming upon the world!

in chapter 2:5-20 about five “woes” that deal with certain sins—theft in verse 6, covetousness in verse 9, violence and iniquity in verse 12, drunkenness in verse 15, and idolatry in verse 19. God was saying that He was going to judge the nation of Israel because of these sins.

Those who travel much are seeing that God is pronouncing awesome judgments upon many nations today. However, God is also speaking among the nations of much greater judgments that shall soon come. While the Church can turn away judgment in specific situations and in certain nations, we must understand that revival and judgment are also co-existent. **From the Scriptures it is clear that revival often comes *before* judgment and carries the people of God *through* the judgment.**

To give an example, we can look at the three sieges of Jerusalem. The prophets spoke about the destruction of Jerusalem because of its idolatry, immorality, and violence. This first happened in 586 BC, but before this judgment, God offered them revival under King Josiah.

The next siege of Jerusalem was in A.D. 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans. Before this destruction, the greatest revival that Israel had ever known came in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the early Church. Revival preceded judgment.

We also know from the Word of God that before the Second Coming of our Lord, there will be a third siege of Jerusalem.

The prophet Zechariah describes this in chapter 14:1-4. Isaiah declares that there will be awesome judgments, and great darkness shall cover the earth at that time. But Isaiah also declared that the glory of the Lord shall be seen upon the Church (Isa. 60:1-3).

Habakkuk 3:16-17 states, *“When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops. Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls.”* In these verses we read that God was going to bring judgment upon the people of Habakkuk’s time. Yet in the next two verses we also see the clear difference in the triumphant people of God: *“Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds’ feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.”* This is the picture that we see repeated in Isaiah 60:1-3 of great darkness coming, and yet the glory of the Lord being revealed upon the Church.

It is of the greatest importance that revival comes to the Church before judgment. This is because revival will release the joy of the Lord in our hearts, and the joy of the Lord will be our strength to take us through times of trouble and judgment. The Church must come into revival with miracles and supernatural provision, because the revival is going to keep the Church alive!

During the 1930s in the nation of Wales, there were times of judgment when food was scarce. There were no government food supplies so the Christians had to earnestly pray for food. They usually stored their food in what were called “larders.” Their larders would be empty, and they would pray. When they would open up their larders, they found they were full of milk, bread, meat, and other foods! God supernaturally provided for them. Revival is not just to turn the unsaved to Christ, but revival is necessary for the Church in times of judgment!

In one nation, when many prophecies of judgment started to come, some business-minded Christians began producing freeze-dried foods for the coming tribulation. For \$2,000 they would sell a shipment of food that could feed someone for one year! It is amazing how many Christians bought these packages. Then they also thought that if they had food when other people did not, the other people might come to take their food. So they started to buy guns! It is amazing how distorted peoples’ thoughts can be when they try to save themselves. No, we must be kept by the power of God—we need to have revival and miracles in times of judgment.

HOW REVIVAL STARTS

In the book of Habakkuk, **the first step towards revival was intercession and waiting on God.** When God spoke to Habakkuk that judgment was coming, the prophet cried out in chapter 3:2, “*Revive thy work...in wrath remember mercy.*” This is what the Lord quickened to us some years ago about a

drought in a certain country. We knew that the drought was God's judgment, but then He spoke to us and said, "This drought is from My hand, but now I want you to cry out for My mercy, for rain." It is very important when we see God's judgment coming that we cry

out for mercy. As the children of God, we should humble ourselves and begin crying out, "O Lord, in wrath remember mercy." There will be great judgments, but we want God's mercy. We want to cry out and say, "Lord, we deserve judgment, but Lord, revive Your work."

Revival is not just to turn the unsaved to Christ, but also to aid the Church in times of judgment!

The prophet continued in Habakkuk 2:1 by saying, "*I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me.*" Habakkuk went to his prayer tower, not just for a little prayer, but he said that he was going to wait, and keep waiting, for a word from the Lord.

As we pray and wait upon God, we will find that the next step towards revival is that God will speak to us and reveal to us the hindrances to revival. The first hindrance that the Lord often speaks about is the need for cleansing. In Habakkuk 2:1 when the prophet opened his heart before God, he expected somewhat of a reproof from the Lord when he said, "*...and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.*" King David was like that also.

David cried out, “*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me*” (Ps. 139:23-24).

It is very important to realize that revival begins with us. It is nice to pray that God will revive others, and start to move around us. However, revival always starts with those nearest to God who have been stirred up by the Lord to see the need for revival. Therefore we need to cry out, “Create in me a clean heart” and “Search me, O God.” This is where revival starts. Then the Lord can begin to reveal things in our lives that we did not even think were obstacles that would hinder revival.

In Isaiah chapter six, we find that before the revival in his day, Isaiah had a fresh meeting with God. That is what we also need. We cannot expect the unsaved to meet God until the Church has had a fresh meeting with the Lord. When Isaiah entered the house of God, he saw the Lord seated upon His throne and the Seraphim crying one to another, “*Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*” Then in verse 5 this revelation of the holiness of God was so great that Isaiah cried out, “*Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*” Before this time Isaiah was unaware of how unclean his lips were because he had not seen the Lord to that degree of glory. So often we are totally unaware of things in our lives that can block God’s moving in revival power. This is because we have not yet had a

revelation of God that has shined light upon these unseen things, or perhaps we have been aware of our faults but never dealt with them. Revival starts with the members of the church having a fresh visitation and cleansing from God.

As we wait on the Lord to hear His answer, as Habakkuk did, then God will start speaking. It could be a very little thing that the Lord wants to adjust in our life. There was a certain English preacher who wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He was crying out to God “Lord, fill me with the Holy Spirit.” The Lord spoke to him such a little thing: “Go into the other room, open the door of the birdcage, and release the bird.” In the cage he had a wild bird that he had captured. He made it a prisoner, as it were, and kept it as a pet. The Lord said, “Release the bird.” He thought, “Here I am praying about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and God is speaking about the bird!” He started to pray again, and the Lord kept speaking to him about the bird. So he went and released the bird, and the very next moment he was filled with the Holy Spirit! You might say, “That is a very little thing.” Yes, but it was his hindrance to receiving the baptism! How could that preacher ask for liberty, when he was holding something else in captivity? Even though it was only a bird, Jesus said that a sparrow does not fall to the ground without our Heavenly Father knowing it.

As we wait upon the Lord, He will start speaking to us. Perhaps it will be about what we read, or watch on television, or something that does not appear to be wrong. God can speak and show us that these things are hindrances. The Word of

God is very clear that it is the little foxes that destroy the vine (Song 2:15). God must speak to us and show us the little things that can hinder revival.

As Habakkuk waited on the Lord in chapter two to hear what He would speak, the Lord answered him. In verse four the Lord revealed a problem in Habakkuk's time: "*Behold his soul which is lifted up is not upright within him.*" The Lord revealed the hindrance of pride. As we come near to God, it may be that He will put His finger upon pride. We are sometimes very proud in the Church. We can even be very spiritual and be very proud of our spirituality! Pride is deceitful and can be a block that can hinder revival. We must humble ourselves to realize that we are entirely dependent upon God for Him to pour out His Spirit and bring revival. It is the sovereign grace of God, and thus the attitude of humility is very important.

Another area where there can be hindrances to revival is in our homes. Our houses should be filled with our prayers, crying out, "Lord, send revival." Seeking the face of God should not be something that we do just at church services, but also in our homes.

First Peter chapter three speaks of the relationship of a husband and wife. In verse seven it tells husbands how to dwell with their wives "*...that your prayers be not hindered.*" A husband has to be careful how he relates to his wife, because that could hinder his prayers! Our home and married life can block revival.

Malachi 4:5-6 gives us further proof of this. It states that the last day revival “*before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord*” is going to be characterized by the hearts of the fathers being turned to their children, and the hearts of the children being turned to their fathers, “*lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*” So in both the Old and New Testaments we find that hindrances in our home life must first be removed in order for revival to come.

Revival can start between parents and their children, or between a husband and wife. You cannot come to church and expect God to move if you are out of relationship with your spouse or your children. You cannot say that you are walking with Jesus if you are not walking with your Christian husband or wife! That has to be remedied first. **If revival is not in your home, it is not in the church. The church is a collection of homes.**

I have the privilege of going to many churches in my travels. If the Spirit is not moving in the church, I often find the reason when we visit the homes. That is where practical Christianity begins. If things are not put right at home, it is hypocrisy to put on a good face at church, smile, and shout “Hallelujah!” You can praise and pray and work up a storm, but you will not get revival. Yet if the hearts of the parents will be turned afresh to the children, and if marriage relationships are revived, that can help prepare

**Problems
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revival to come to the church. Will you let revival come to your home? We need to prepare the way of the Lord!

After the Lord spoke to Habakkuk about one such hindrance He went on to show a further step. In Habakkuk 2:4 the Lord said, *“But the just shall live by his faith.”* With the attitude of humility the Church needs to have a holy dependence upon God, and cry out, “Lord, put faith in my heart that You will move!” It is only as God moves that we will have revival. Yet this will not come by our own efforts or activity, it must come from God. Therefore in deep humility we have to draw near to God and realize that it is only as He puts faith in our hearts that we will see revival come. For when we cry out to God in prayer, faith can be released for the heavens to open and for God to pour out His Spirit in revival power.

In the towns, cities, and throughout the nations, there are powers of darkness that bind the people. They are like dark clouds that block the light of the gospel from coming through (Isa. 25:7). Until they are broken and destroyed, there can be no revival. But prayer plus faith brings results.

Once I was in a situation where there was tremendous bondage. Then we went about 2,000 miles away from this place, and in the middle of the afternoon while I was wide awake, two fallen angels came and stood before me. The Lord said to me, “These are the angels that have bound the situation in the other place. Command that a chain come up and bind these angels.” So I simply said to these fallen angels, “The Lord has spoken to me to command a chain to come up and

bind you.” Do you know what those angels did? They simply bowed their heads in submission, because they knew it was their time. There was no jumping up and down and yelling at them. Actually, I was sitting in a chair, with the two angels before me. All God had to say was, “Command...” I said, “Let a chain come up and bind them, and bring them down to hell.” Then I saw a chain come up and bind one angel, then the other, and I commanded them to be cast down and they disappeared. A few weeks later there was a great change in that place which had been bound, and the leader that the fallen angels had been working through was brought down from his position of power. This is what it means in Psalm 149:8-9, “*To bind their kings with [chains]...to execute on them the judgment written.*”

The Lord is very shortly going to cause us to enter into a position in Him where we shall see the enemy forces, and we will hear the quiet Word of the Lord to command their binding. There will be no struggle, for they will bow before the decree of the Word of God that He gives us to speak. We will see the enemy forces bound and the covering that they had upon the people taken away. **Then we will see the sunshine of God’s presence come and bring revival with a great harvest of souls. Beloved, this is what God is offering us if we will lift our vision higher!**

If we follow these steps we can effectively prepare for revival. The heart cry of Habakkuk, “*O Lord, revive thy work,*” was the prayer of a prophet who had already waited before the Lord to hear what God would speak to him personally. That

is what we also must do. The Lord wants us to draw near to Him, and He will draw near to us. He wants us to let Him speak into the inner places of our hearts. Perhaps it is a little insignificant thing that the Lord will speak about, like the bird that was to be set free, but it will release God's power in our lives. Perhaps it is something far more serious that we have not dealt with, such as pride or a problem in our family. We cannot make a formula and say, "Do this one thing, and you will have revival." No, we must come before God, and let the Lord speak to us personally and show us what He wants to change in our lives. It is important that we spend time with God and hear from Him, because revival must start with individuals in the Church.

Many voices are going out across this nation and the world. Some are declaring revival; some are declaring judgment. But what is the truth? We have to "*Write the vision and make it plain*" (Hab. 2:2) so that the people will understand that there will be both revival and judgment. If we only see that glory and revival are coming, there can be presumption. On the other hand, if we only see a gloomy picture of judgment coming, people might despair. We must give a true vision that there will be both revival and judgment.

There must be judgment to bring purification, because God cannot overlook national iniquity. When our Lord returns for His Church, He will also judge the nations. There will be the sheep nations on His right hand, and the goat nations on His left (Mt. 25:31-34). There is therefore to be a national purification in many countries, in order that they will

be sheep nations. So in these last days the Lord is going to deal with the nations, and we must be faithful to declare the word and prepare the people for the time that is coming upon the earth. Let us hear the trumpet that is sounding out, “Prepare for revival and judgment!”

As we look upon the Church, we find that it will be in glorious revival at the time of such judgment. In the timetable of God, things are changing, and it is time for the Church to arise. So the Lord is speaking to His Church and saying, “I want to lift you up, I want to bring My glory and power to you.” By the grace of God we are beginning to see how this revival is going to come to pass.

CHAPTER TWO

“LET MY PEOPLE GO”

The Lord desires to prepare each of us for revival. As the hindrances for revival that are *inside* of us are dealt with by God, the Lord can begin to deal with the *outside* bondages and hindrances we are facing. Our next theme concerns these outer bondages and is expressed in the words that God spoke through Moses to Pharaoh—“*Let my people go, that they may serve me*” (Ex. 7:16). It is a theme of deliverance and spiritual warfare.

THE NATURAL AND THE SPIRITUAL

We are living at the beginning of the most momentous time in the history of mankind. God is shaking the nations and the systems of this world. In our lifetimes we have seen the crumbling of the communist system in Europe and Russia. We are also seeing dramatic changes in the Middle East, Asia, and in other nations. The question is, “Why?”

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:46 that God works first in the natural, and then in the spiritual. We can see natural, physical freedom arising among the nations. Political prisoners have been released, some even to govern their countries. Walls have come tumbling down, even the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain. **But God wants to speak to us concerning spiritual freedom for the Church, as well as for the nations.** This spiritual freedom can be understood by

studying the steps by which the Lord delivered His people from the bondage of Egypt.

THE STEPS TO DELIVERANCE

Like the Israelites in Egypt, we first need a revelation that we are bound. This might be in our life, a problem in our family, or something that is binding the Church. We have to realize that *“we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth,”* as Isaiah 26:18 declares, because we ourselves are in bondage.

The second step is to cry out to God because of our bondage. In Exodus 3:7, the Lord said to Moses, *“I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry.”* We must call upon the Lord, as nothing will happen until we start crying out to God. We must call upon Him as we know that it is the time for deliverance, first naturally for the nations, but also spiritually for the Church.

In Ezekiel 9:1-4, the Lord instructed that a mark was to be put upon the foreheads of the men that sighed and that cried for all the abominations that are done in the midst of God’s people. In Matthew 5:4, the Lord Himself said, *“Blessed are they that mourn.”* Are we holy mourners because of the wickedness in the Church? If God passed by, would He place a mark on our foreheads because we are crying out to Him for the condition of His Church?

After this crying and mourning came the third step, the promise of deliverance. We have to have a definite “rhema”

(spoken word from God) to go against the enemy. For Israel the word was, “*I am come down to deliver them*” (Ex. 3:8). Sometimes we have to wait for that word or promise of deliverance. In Psalm 40:1, David said, “*I waited patiently,*” but then that word of promise may come as in Psalm 102:13, “*Thou shalt arise and have mercy upon Zion.*” I believe that is what God is saying to us now. It is God’s time to deliver His Church from her bondages. We have seen “first the natural” concerning deliverance among the nations, but we also need to see “then the spiritual” concerning deliverance in the Church (1 Cor. 15:46).

The next step is that we need to be commissioned by God. In Exodus 3:10, God spoke to Moses and said, “*I will send you.*” We cannot go unless God sends us. Then in verse 12 the Lord told Moses “*I will be with you.*” **We need the assurance of His presence, knowing that we are not going alone to fight the enemy.** In verse 14, God gave Moses His authority to declare “*I AM hath sent me.*” So often we find the authority of God in a fresh revelation of His name. For your situation you may need to see Jehovah Nissi (the Lord our Banner) or Jehovah Jireh (the Lord our Provider) or another personal revelation of the name of God. In Mark 16:17 our Lord said, “*In My name they will cast out [demons]...*” We need a fresh revelation of an aspect of His name so that we can go forth with the authority of His name. In Acts 19:13-16, the seven sons of Sceva tried to cast demons out of a man without personally knowing the Lord Jesus. The demons replied, “*Who are you?*” and then attacked them! We can see that we have to be sent by God, and also know the power of His name.

Also, we need to have a message. The message God gave to Moses was “*Let my people go, that they may serve me.*” It was a very clear message that is also the message for us today.

Steps to Deliverance:

1. A revelation from God that we are bound
2. A cry out to God because of our bondage
3. A promise of deliverance - a *rhema* from God
4. A commission from God
5. A message from God
6. Persistent confrontations in the spirit

CONFRONTING THE ENEMY

After this there came the confrontations between Moses and Pharaoh. In the natural, in recent decades we have seen in many nations a persistent people’s power that confronted the authorities until they obtained what they wanted. Similarly, in the spiritual we have to persistently confront the enemy in the power of God’s name to bring deliverance and revival.

This is what happened in South Africa with the breaking of apartheid (the segregation of the black Africans from the whites). It is beginning to fulfill a vision I once had in Cape Town. I saw two violent winds of change that were going to sweep through the nation. The first was political, which has taken place already; the other was spiritual, which is still to come.

The result of the first confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh in Exodus chapter 5 was that the burdens became heavier as the enemy showed his strength. This also happens to us when we start to confront our spiritual enemies. They will counterattack and at times we will wonder what has hit us! We will be hit with vigorous attacks of demonic power, and perhaps we will be afflicted physically. What you will often need in the face of this tremendous spiritual battle is fresh encouragement and the assurance that God will deliver. **You do not want to just start stirring up trouble unless you know the end of it!** Moses received this fresh word in Exodus 6:6 where the Lord said, *“I will bring you out.”* However, the people did not listen to Moses because of their discouragement and bondage (Ex. 6:9). Often the congregation can give up quickly and the leader finds himself alone in the battle.

Yet it was due to God’s purposes that the enemy fought back. God had raised up Pharaoh and repeatedly hardened his heart. God said concerning Pharaoh in Romans 9:17, *“...Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.”* God raises up the enemy for your good. God ordains battles so that His power might be revealed and His purposes be accomplished.

Moses could have become very discouraged as confrontation after confrontation failed to release the people from the bondage of Egypt. However, the word for the leader is *“He that endureth to the end shall be saved (and see God’s salvation)”* (Mt. 10:22).

There has to be endurance until the end; we must confront the enemy until his power is broken. We need a holy persistence so that we do not give up before the time of God's deliverance.

Many times Moses had to confront Pharaoh and declare the message "*Let My people go.*" When you have a word from God, you must speak it forth, even to the four walls of your church or your house. The devils can hear. Speak forth the message in faith and you will have the fruit of it, as we are told in Mark 11:23.

An example of this is found in Ezekiel 37:4. Ezekiel was told to prophesy, "*O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.*" After he had spoken the word of the Lord, the bones began to shake and come together. Sometimes we have to prophesy and speak forth the word that God has spoken to us, and only then will the power of God be released for His purpose.

FINANCIAL DELIVERANCE

The important fact about the enrichment of Israel came before the final confrontation. The people of Israel were very poor, but when they were released they would need an abundance of wealth to accomplish God's purpose. They were to build a tabernacle in the wilderness. So just before the last plague, God spoke to Moses in Exodus 11:2 and said that the Israelites should go to the Egyptians and ask them for silver and gold. Here we have a breakthrough beginning. The money started to come because the deliverance was near, and the money was needed to do what God said to do.

So the Lord liberated their finances and they had an overabundance. In fact, when they were going to build the tabernacle, Moses had to restrain the people from giving their offerings because there was too much money coming in (Ex. 36:5-7)! God liberated them into abundance so that the work of God did not suffer through a lack of finances. **We also have to believe God to liberate finances, not for ourselves to live in luxurious riches, but for the work of the Lord.** He has to teach us that He is Jehovah Jireh.

This can be an area where we need deliverance. So often we do not perceive the power of the enemy. I know of a person who went through his life in such poverty because he thought this was pleasing to God. Suddenly the Lord took the veil from his eyes and he saw that his finances were being bound by a spirit of poverty. As soon as he saw that, he began to believe for that thing to be broken. God then released the finances. I am not saying that we are to be billionaires for Jesus, not at all. But we **do often need** a liberation of finances so that we can fulfill God's purposes in our lives.

THE POWER IN THE BLOOD

Then came the last plague. God said, "*Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you; that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt*" (Ex. 11:9). God hardened Pharaoh's heart and the firstborn were slain in the land, but Israel was protected by the blood. We need to make much of the blood of Jesus Christ, because when we are confronting the enemy, we have to be under the blood. There is great power in the

blood. The power of the blood in the land of Egypt saved the entire nation of Israel!

There was once a pastor who had experienced tremendous opposition from the community against his church, so he gathered together a group of praying people. They prayed, “In the name of the Lord Jesus and by the authority of His blood, we bind the strong man from stirring up the opposition and attacking God’s work.” No further trouble was experienced. The opposition that had been against that church began to quarrel amongst themselves, and their power to oppose the church was broken! We must also know when it is time for us to do warfare by the power of the blood.

EVERYONE MUST CHOOSE

Pharaoh allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt after the tenth plague, which was the slaying of the firstborn. Afterwards Pharaoh’s heart was hardened again so his army pursued the children of Israel.

The Israelites were very afraid and said to Moses, “*Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians*” (Ex. 14:12). In their distress, they resented Moses for leading them out of Egypt and wished that they had never left it.

When troubles come, many Christians have the attitude of the children of Israel. They want to return to the world, saying: “We should have stayed in the world. It was much easier there than serving God.” How soon people forget! The Israelites

were slaves in Egypt and were terribly mistreated there, but afterwards they wanted to return to their bondage.

Paul addressed this problem in the lives of the Corinthian believers, saying, *“In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face”* (2 Cor. 11:20). (NIV) It is a sad fact of life that many people, even Christians, love their bondages and do not want to be delivered from them.

A number of years ago several ministers prayed for a lady who had about sixty demons. They were able to cast out most of the demons, but a few of them were very strong and deeply entrenched in her life. My wife and I were asked to come and help them pray for the last few demons to be cast out. By God’s grace, through prayer we were able to cast out all of the demons except one.

We knew that God wanted to deliver this lady and that He was able to do so. We said to her, “You can be delivered if you want to be delivered.” However, she did not want to be delivered of the last demon. That demon wanted to come out because it could no longer stand the power of God, but the lady would not allow it to leave. She wanted to hold on to her sin, so there was nothing more we could do for her. Later that night she said to her friends, “I could have been delivered tonight, but I wanted to hold on to my bondage.”

Not only individuals, but also nations can prefer bondage to freedom. Just like the Israelites, some nations today prefer

bondage and want others to make their choices for them. But the word of God is clear that everyone will have to make their own choice in the last days (Joel 3:14).

Amos 5:19 states that the judgments that will come before the day of the Lord will be *“As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.”* These three animals—the lion, bear, and the snake—typify what is happening among the nations in the last days. The lion is the symbol of England, the greatest former leader of the Colonial powers. The bear is the symbol of Russia, the great former leader of the Communist powers. Many nations left the lion (the Colonial system), and they turned to the bear (the Communist system). Now they are seeing that this system does not work, and the nations and people will soon turn to the snake—the Antichrist.

When the nations were first gaining their independence in Africa about 50 years ago, the Lord prompted me to ask, “Why?” The Lord’s response was, “So that the nations might choose between the Christ and the Antichrist.” God is now shaking the nations so that no nation will have any excuse for why they choose the Antichrist and not Christ. Each nation will have the ability to make its own sovereign choice and not be in bondage to another foreign power.

We are living in momentous times. We are seeing in many nations that the governments are falling. There is a falling away of law and order, fulfilling the prophecy of Paul in

Second Thessalonians 2:3 that there shall come a falling away before the Antichrist is revealed.

DESTROYING THE ENEMY

Moses held the Israelites steady when they grew fearful by saying, *“Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD,”* (Ex. 14:13). **God’s purpose is the absolute destruction of the enemy and we must not stop until we see him completely destroyed.** The Lord then said, *“Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward”* (Ex. 14:15). I believe we are to speak to our congregations and tell them to go forward. In Exodus 14, the Lord led the Israelites through an impossible situation. God opened the Red Sea, Israel went forward, and Pharaoh was destroyed in the sea. As we go forward in faith, God can destroy our enemies; then we will sing like Israel, *“I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously”* (Ex. 15:1).

We must be released from our bondages so that we can accomplish God’s works and enter into revival. Israel could not get their inheritance until their Egyptian bondage had been broken. We have an inheritance among the nations, but to get it we must first throw off our bondages.

The Lord is saying to His people today, *“Arise, shine; for thy light is come”* (Isa. 60:1). We must take off our bondages and do battle. It might be in our individual lives; it might be a family situation; it might be in our church; it might be in our local

**God’s
purpose is to
absolutely
destroy the
enemy.**

community, with the governing spirits. We cannot rest until every bondage and every obstacle is removed. I believe that the process of deliverance is being started in our hearts even right now.

God is calling us to take these following steps. First of all, we must realize our bondages. We have to realize that we have not wrought deliverance for others because we ourselves are in bondage. We must start crying out to God; then wait to receive the word from God upon which we act. As God commissions us with a fresh revelation of His authority, and gives us the message of deliverance, we must speak it forth. Then through persistent confrontations in the spirit, we shall see victory. **We are going to see obstacles and bondages fall.** All will come down as we speak forth the word and believe, covering ourselves with His precious blood. The word of the Lord is deliverance. *“Let my people go, that they may serve me.”*

DEALING WITH OUR BONDAGES

God has been speaking to my heart about families. If you have a problem in your family, God wants to bind that strongman that is troubling them and bring your family into order and unity. Take authority against that strongman in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, and walk in the power of that victory.

I believe that chains of bondage are upon some of you who are reading this. God wants to liberate you. You have to be free of bondages in your own personal life if you are going to take authority in your family and the church. God is a God of

deliverance, but you cannot deliver others unless you are free yourself. Confess those bondages that you want God to break, and declare the victory so that these chains can be broken.

Pastors and elders; you know your church is not free. You know that you have problems in your church. Some of these bondages may include immorality, hatred, and envy. God gave to Moses and the elders the authority to break all the bondages of Egypt, but you also are facing bondages that you must conquer. You need to believe God to break these bondages so that your church can be free. You must take this message to your church and turn the congregation to spiritual warfare. The natural walls are coming down in many nations, but it is time for the spiritual walls to come down also. It was persistent people's power and confrontation in many nations that brought down the powers of bondage. But in the spirit it is not by natural power or might, but by the anointing, that these mountains, shackles, and strongmen will fall. And as we have seen in some nations, it was those in natural bondage and prison who came out to govern their countries. I believe those in the church should now arise from their spiritual bondages to take the lead in their community and in their nation.

BLESSING AND MULTIPLICATION

"Multiplication" is a word that has repeatedly been in my spirit. So often people use the scripture *"Fear not, little flock,"* (Lk. 12:32) and that is sometimes appropriate. But the other side is that God is the Lord of the harvest and the Lord of the harvest is not happy with a tiny little harvest. He is a very big

God and He wants a very big harvest of souls. He wants to fill your church.

When we experienced revival in New Zealand we did not know how many people were in the church until it came to income tax time. At that time we had 3,000 applications for the necessary tax forms, so we knew how many people had joined the church.

There is a time for blessing. Blessing comes first, and then multiplication. Get the blessing of God first in your church by getting the bondages broken, and then believe that God will multiply your church. We are the sons of Abraham, and God told him, *“That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven”* (Gen. 22:17). **After our bondages are broken, God can then bless and multiply us so that the Lord of the harvest might be satisfied with churches filled to overflowing.**

DELIVERANCE AND REVIVAL

We are going to see the powers of the strong one fall because it is God’s time of deliverance and revival for the Church. As the darkness covers the earth in these last days, so the glory of God shall arise upon the Church. The word of the Lord is, *“Let my people go, that they may serve me.”* I trust that God has set your feet on that path of victory, that God has given you a sense of direction and the steps He wants you to take so that you can see deliverance and revival.

CHAPTER THREE

THE FEASTS OF ISRAEL

When we look in the Scriptures, we find that each new revival has its own distinct character, or a particular theme or truth. In studying the feasts of Israel we can understand better these principles of revival. Through these feasts we not only learn more about how God has worked in past revivals, but we also see what He will shortly bring to pass in these last days.

In Exodus 34:23 the Lord commanded His people, “*Three times a year all your men are to appear before the Lord.*” (NKJV) This was in the first, third, and seventh month of their religious calendar. At these times they celebrated the three groups of feasts that are known by their main titles of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

INTERPRETING THE FEASTS

These three groups of feasts that were celebrated every year by the Israelites have several fulfillments that are very important for us. First, they can be viewed dispensationally in terms of their prophetic fulfillment in world history. Secondly, the feasts of Israel also have a spiritual fulfillment in the life of each Christian who is going on towards maturity. And thirdly, these feasts have a spiritual fulfillment in the Church. Let us now consider an overview of these interpretations.

Dispensationally, we can study how these three feasts represent three ages of world history. The first Feast of Passover released the Jews from Egypt and started the Age of the Law, which lasted from Moses to Christ. The second Feast of Pentecost started the Church Age with the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two. This age of the outpouring of the Spirit will continue until the Second Coming of Christ. Then the third Feast of Tabernacles will govern the Millennial Age, when Jesus Christ returns to rule the world for 1,000 years. This can be seen by studying the prophecies about the Second Coming of Christ in Zechariah chapter 14. During the millennial reign of Christ, the nations will yearly celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles (Zech. 14:16-19).

The feasts of Israel also have an application in the spiritual development of each Christian. Passover speaks of salvation, as the Israelites were saved by the blood of the Passover lamb. Pentecost speaks of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, from Acts chapter two. The Feast of Tabernacles speaks of revival and of full spiritual maturity, which we will consider later.

In the development of the Church we can also see a fulfillment of all three of these feasts. While the former Age of the Law was governed by the Feast of Passover, this was also the foundation upon which the Church was built. And while the present Church Age is governed by the Feast of Pentecost, there is also a transition beginning to take place to prepare us for the soon coming Millennium. There will be the final outpouring of the Spirit in these last days, which will prepare the Church for the Second Coming of Christ

and the Millennial Age. This soon coming revival is typified by the Feast of Tabernacles.

THE FEAST OF PASSOVER

The first Passover recorded in Exodus 12 was when the Israelites were delivered from slavery and death in Egypt through the shedding of the blood of the lamb. This speaks of the spiritual experience of our receiving Christ, the Lamb of God, as our personal Saviour when we are delivered from the slavery of sin. The apostle Paul wrote of this, saying, "*Christ our passover is sacrificed for us*" (1 Cor. 5:7).

When this first Passover was celebrated, the Lord changed their calendar year, making this feast a new beginning for the Israelites. We read in Exodus 12:2, "*This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you.*" In the same way we also experience a new beginning at salvation when we are born again. "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new [creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*" (2 Cor. 5:17).

Exodus 12:3-5 continues on to tell that the Israelites were to take an unblemished lamb for each household on the tenth day of the month. In fulfilment of this, Christ our Lamb was unblemished by sin. Verse 6 goes on to say, "*...and ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month.*" The purpose of their keeping the lamb for the four days was to inspect it and make sure it had no blemish. Christ our Passover

Lamb was inspected by four people before His death: Ananias, Caiaphas, Herod, and Pilate. They all found no wrong in Him. In much the same way, we will be inspected by four groups: the world, the Church, Satan, and Christ.

The Israelites were then commanded to kill and eat the lamb. In the New Testament, we are commanded to eat (or partake) of Christ. In John 6:53 the Lord declared, *“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.”* (NKJV) This is not a literal but a spiritual command for us to fulfil. Christ went on in verse 63 to say, *“...the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”* (NKJV) We do not literally eat Christ’s flesh and drink His blood when we partake of communion. The bread and cup are only emblems which represent His body and blood. We spiritually partake of His flesh when we feed upon His Word, because Christ is the Word made flesh (Jn. 1:14). Life and spirit are in the blood (Lev. 17:14), so we spiritually drink His blood as we partake of His life and His Spirit.

In Exodus 12:8 we read, *“...and they shall eat it with unleavened bread.”* (NKJV) Leaven is a symbol of sin, hypocrisy, and false doctrine (study 1 Cor. 5:6-8 and Mt. 16:11-12). Exodus 12:15 then says, *“You shall put leaven out of your houses.”* (NKJV) For us, this can include removing worldly magazines, books, pictures, statues, and television programs from our house. David said, *“...I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes...”* (Ps. 101:2b-3a). Be careful

what you allow in your house, because these things can cause compromise and bring in other spirits.

Then we are told in Exodus 12:11 that the Israelites were to eat the lamb, “...with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste.” (NKJV) This showed that the Passover was the start of their journey out of Egypt towards the Promised Land. We therefore understand that **when we accept Christ as our Saviour, we begin a spiritual journey and are headed for a destination.** We are to press on in our walk with God from our conversion towards our destination, “*unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*” (Eph. 4:13).

**Be careful
what you
allow in
your house,
lest another
spirit
come in.**

“*The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you*” (Ex. 12:13, NKJV). The protection of the Israelites was the blood of the Passover lamb. We must always remember that the blood of Christ saves and protects us. We should therefore speak much about the blood.

PASSOVER AND THE REVIVALS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AGE

The revival that began with the first Feast of Passover in Exodus chapter 12 delivered the Israelites from Egypt. The

power of this revival is what founded the nation of Israel. Generally speaking, the revivals that continued to occur in the Old Testament times of the Age of the Law were all associated with the celebration of the Passover. After Moses' death, Joshua crossed the Jordan to enter the Promised Land at the Feast of Passover (Josh. 5:10). Hezekiah and Josiah had their great revivals at the Feast of Passover (2 Chr. 30:1, 2 Ki. 23:21-22). During the Restoration Era, the feast that Ezra celebrated was the Passover (Ezra 6:19). Down throughout the Old Testament times the Lord sent revivals based on the Feast of Passover. The end of that age was then fulfilled by Christ when He died as the Lamb of God upon a cross at the time of the Feast of Passover (Jn. 19:13-16).

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

After the Passover, the Feast of Pentecost was celebrated in the third month of the Jewish religious calendar. It was first observed after the Israelites left Egypt and came to Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:1-2). At Mount Sinai the presence of God came down with fire, and they heard the voice of God, had divine provision, miracles, healing, and many other blessings. This feast speaks of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which was first experienced by the early Church on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two. **The same experiences that the Israelites had at Mount Sinai are now available through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

I can remember when I was first baptized in the Holy Spirit in the hills of Southern England. Not only did I speak in tongues,

but that night I could not touch my body because it was burning with the fire of God. The Early Church understood this, for John the Baptist had spoken about the baptism of the Holy Spirit with fire.

The significance of Pentecost and the baptism of the Holy Spirit is further shown by the meaning of the name "*Pentecost*." This name comes from the Greek word for "*fifty*." It was named this because it was celebrated fifty days after the Feast of Passover. Fifty is also the number of jubilee, which speaks of liberty, deliverance, and restoration as is mentioned in Leviticus 25. These are correspondingly some of the results of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Leviticus 23:16-17 states that on the day of Pentecost the Israelites made an offering to the Lord of bread that was baked with leaven. Remember, leaven speaks of sin and wrong doctrine. This shows that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not only reserved for those who are pure and holy. The Corinthian church is an example of this as it was a very charismatic church, but it was far from being a holy church. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not given exclusively to those who *are* holy, but it is given to believers who seek for the Holy Spirit to help lead them on *towards* holiness.

We need to understand this in order to comprehend why there is mixture in many Pentecostal and Charismatic churches. The power of God can be there; but sin, wrong doctrine, false worship, and many other things can be there also. Moses met with God while the Lord revealed His mighty power on Mount

Sinai; but at the same time the Israelites at the bottom of the mountain were worshipping the golden calf and committing sin. In a similar way there is corrupt worship and a mixture of spirits in some Pentecostal churches today.

I was in a church many years ago in Switzerland. During the service, God opened my eyes and I saw that on one side of the platform there was an angel of the Lord, but on the other side of the platform there was a fallen angel. At certain times the holy angel would step up to the pulpit and minister through the person who was then leading the service. But at other times the angel would have to step back, and the fallen angel would step up to direct the service through the leader at the pulpit. Why? **Because the people were not whole-hearted in following God, and there was sin in the church.** I have since seen this happen at different churches not only during worship services, but also during the preaching. As leaders, we need to understand how these things can happen.

PENTECOST AND THE REVIVALS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT AGE

When we come into the New Testament Church Age, we find that revivals are centred around the Feast of Pentecost. From the beginning of the Church on the day of Pentecost, it has been the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the power of God that has caused the work of God to prosper. The revivals in Jerusalem (Acts 2-4), Samaria (Acts 8), the house of Cornelius (Acts 10), and the continuing revivals of the book of Acts were all based on the baptism and the miracle working power of the Holy Spirit.

In Church history, the Early Church was overshadowed by the Pentecostal power of the Holy Spirit for several centuries. However, when Emperor Constantine made Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire, the spiritual power of the Church started to be replaced with ecclesiastical power and false doctrine. Eventually this became corrupted into the Roman Pope seeking to rule over kings and nations. Religious and secular historians alike call this the “Dark Ages” of about A.D. 500 to 1500. But God in His mercy continued to grant revivals to different groups and nations through the centuries. In our day He has been restoring to many Christian denominations the power of the Pentecostal message through the Charismatic Renewal.

At the beginning of the Charismatic Movement, the Lord gave me a vision. I saw the Jordan River during harvest time when it overflows all of its banks. It stretches out to become very wide, and it brings life to the desert areas wherever it flows. In this vision the Lord said that He was causing the Charismatic Movement to be like the Jordan when it floods. The Charismatic blessing overflowed from the narrow channel of the Pentecostal churches to bring new life and revival to many denominations. But then in this vision I saw that the waters of the river were going to go down and return to their usual channel. I saw that here and there pools of water would remain for a season; but they would become muddy, polluted, and eventually dry up. The Lord showed me that the churches and people who were touched by the Charismatic Renewal would not all be able to stay in their former places. The blessing that would flow there for a

season would not remain, as many of these groups would again become isolated, stagnant, and dry. The purpose for the flooding of the river was to bring the people from the distant places back into the mainstream of what God is continuing to do in these last days.

The Feast of Passover represents the experience of salvation, and after salvation we need to go on in our spiritual growth to receive the Pentecostal baptism of the Holy Spirit. Yet many people think that if they have received the Holy Spirit, they have arrived at spiritual maturity. **Actually, the Pentecostal experience is only a launching pad into what God has for us.** As Hebrews 6:1 tells us, “...*let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation...of the doctrine of baptisms.*” The baptism of the Holy Spirit is only to be one of the foundations in our spiritual life. We must build upon these foundations if we want to continue on towards full maturity. Let us go on!

TABERNACLES AND THE FEASTS OF THE SEVENTH MONTH

The third group of feasts took place in the seventh month of the religious calendar of Israel. Through the hot and dry summer months preceding this time there had been no new feast in Israel, although there had been the continual harvesting of the crops. This speaks to us of the long and dry middle centuries of the Church Age. Although the Church did not enter into new spiritual experiences during these centuries, it continued to reap harvests and see growth.

After this dry time there came a new group of feasts in the seventh month (Lev. 23:23-43). It is actually composed of three feasts called the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and finally the Feast of Tabernacles. This group is generally called by the name of the longest and last feast, the Feast of Tabernacles.

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Leviticus 23:24 states that on the first day of the seventh month the children of Israel were to have a feast called “*a memorial of blowing of trumpets.*” To find the significance of the blowing of these trumpets we must study Numbers chapter 10. The silver trumpets that Moses made were for several purposes. Their first purpose is shown in verse two where the Lord said, “*You shall use them for summoning the congregation.*” (NKJV) When the trumpets were blown, all the nation of Israel was to gather together at the tabernacle to await further instructions from the Lord. We have seen this Feast of Trumpets fulfilled dispensationally in world history in our own times. This occurred when the Israelites assembled together again from around the world to re-establish their nation in 1948.

The second reason for the blowing of the trumpets shown in Numbers 10:2 was “*for the journeying of the camps.*” (NKJV) In world history the Lord is moving on with His plans, and to accomplish them He has been directing the Jews to return to the Holy Land. This restoration of their nation is part of the Lord’s preparations for the soon coming Millennium, when Christ shall rule the world for 1,000 years from Jerusalem.

Numbers 10:9 tells us that a third reason for the blowing of the trumpets was to sound the alarm for war. This has certainly been the experience of the nation of Israel since their restoration in 1948, as they have been in continual conflict with their Arab neighbours and with the Palestinians, who were known in Bible days as the Philistines.

This helps show the dispensational fulfilment of the Feast of Trumpets in our time, as natural Israel is a type or a sign of what God is doing in spiritual Israel, the Church (1 Cor. 15:46). When Israel became a nation in 1948 the Lord also began to move afresh in revival power that raised up great evangelists and prophetic ministries. The Feast of Trumpets is now continuing to be spiritually fulfilled as God's messengers go throughout the worldwide Church, blowing the trumpet by declaring the prophetic word of the Lord. It is to gather the people to hear from God afresh and direct them to move on. This is what God is saying throughout the world today. He wants His Church to move on. The Lord wants His Church to leave the elementary doctrines of Hebrews 6:1-2, and "*go on to perfection.*" Also, the trumpet call to the Church is speaking of the natural wars that are coming to the earth, as well as the spiritual battles that are to be won in order for the army of God to bring revival to the nations.

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

The next feast is called the Day of Atonement, and is considered the most sacred day of the year to the Jews. Leviticus 23:27 says, "*Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall*

be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.” The Day of Atonement is governed by the number ten, the number of trials and testing. This can be seen in the ten trials of Israel in the wilderness. We can also see this in Daniel 1:12 where we read, “...*test your servants for ten days,*” (NKJV) and in Revelation 2:10, “...*you will have tribulation for ten days.*” (NKJV) On this Day of Atonement the Jews went through trial and affliction as they all fasted and prayed. In Leviticus chapter 16 we can read more about the events of this day. The high priest offered sacrifices and made atonement for the sin of the entire nation.

For the Christian, the feast of the Day of Atonement speaks of cleansing from sin where we enter into living the crucified life of Romans 6:6. For the Church, it represents the cleansing that must take place before the end of this age for the Church to become the holy bride mentioned in Ephesians 5:27 and Revelation 19:7-8.

Dispensationally, I believe that we are in the Day of Atonement now. It started in the year 1973. That year my wife and I were travelling around the Middle East conducting meetings, when we crossed into Israel and spent an evening at a hotel on the Mount of Olives. The awesome presence of God came into our hotel room as the Lord began to show me the next war as well as other sufferings that the nation of Israel was going to enter into. A few weeks later that war began when the Arab nations launched a surprise attack against Israel. This was the Yom Kippur War, which started on the Day of Atonement.

The sufferings that Israel began to enter into at that time are a sign for us, that God is also allowing afflictions and trials to do a work of cleansing and atonement around the world. After this, the Lord spoke very clearly to me in the beginning of 1974 and said, "I am going to reveal sin in high places and remove the leaders of many nations." In the next two years God exposed the sins of many national leaders and removed about 30 of them from their positions. Among them were President Nixon of the United States, President Pompidou of France, and the Chancellor of Germany, Villie Brandt. After this God spoke to us again and said, "Now I am going to reveal sin in My Church. I am going to deal with sin and remove it." This is what the Lord has been doing in recent years in the Church. The Lord has been exposing sin and has been speaking of our need for cleansing and holiness. God has been doing a deep inner cleansing so that the Church will enter into the spiritual fulfilment of the Day of Atonement. Then we will be ready to enter into the experience of the last feast, the Feast of Tabernacles. This experience will bring the worldwide Church into the last and greatest revival which will prepare the way for the Second Coming of Christ and the beginning of the Millennium.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The Feast of Tabernacles was the final and the greatest feast of the year for Israel. Dispensationally it represents the coming Millennial Age, which will be the final and greatest age of the present world, with Christ ruling over all the nations for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-6). One of the scriptures that confirms this is in

Zechariah 14. This chapter begins by describing the final siege of Jerusalem by the Arab armies in verses 1-2. The prophet then describes the Second Coming of Christ in verses 3-15. The Millennium is then mentioned in verse 16: *“And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.”* This tells us that every year during the Millennium, the nations of the world will each send a delegation to Jerusalem to worship King Jesus. This will happen at the yearly celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. Zechariah 14:17-19 also goes on to say that if any of the nations do not send a delegation to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, that nation will be punished with drought for that year. So it is clear that the Millennial Kingdom reign of Christ will be centred around the Feast of Tabernacles.

As previously mentioned, the Feast of Tabernacles will also have a spiritual fulfilment in the Church before the Second Coming of Christ. Just as the nation of Israel is being naturally prepared by God to be ready to take their place in the coming Millennium, so the Lord is also spiritually preparing the Church. This final outpouring of the Spirit in the last days upon the Church is prophetically revealed by the Feast of Tabernacles, and speaks of revival, ingathering, joy, glory, and the appearing of Christ.

TABERNACLES, THE FEAST OF REVIVAL

The name *“tabernacles”* comes from the Hebrew word *“sukkah”* which means, *“a booth or tent.”* This name was

given to the feast because God commanded in Leviticus 23:42 that the Israelites were to dwell in tabernacles or tents for seven days while they celebrated the feast. The root word of “*sukkah*” is “*suk*” which means, “*to cover with oil, to anoint.*” Therefore we expect that the spiritual meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles is that the Church in the last days will dwell under an anointed covering of the Holy Spirit.

We read in Isaiah 25:7 that the Lord from Zion will destroy “*the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations*” (NKJV). This signifies the breaking of the power of the satanic principalities that govern the nations. The Church has seen glimpses of this in previous revivals. During the Welsh revival, the anointing did not just fall on the church services, but on entire communities. In the early part of the 20th century the Lord gave a revival in Sweden where the conviction of the Spirit of God fell upon the entire nation. These glimpses are what we will see in greater measure in the coming revival. The people will be convicted of their sins, even if they do not yet know about Christ, and even if they have never been in a church. This is the kind of revival that we are going to see again in our day. There have been many visions given of the revival that is going to take place, where community after community and city after city will be blanketed by the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord. The people will be falling down in the streets, crying out to God and asking Him for forgiveness. Not only will the Church dwell under the anointed covering of the Holy Spirit, but I believe that we are going to see nations covered by the Spirit of God in these last days.

TABERNACLES, THE FEAST OF INGATHERING

The Feast of Tabernacles is also called “*the Feast of Ingathering*” in Exodus 23:16. There it is mentioned as being “*at the end of the year.*” The explanation of this is found in the two calendars that the Israelites followed.

One was for their religious year, and the other was for their civil or agricultural year. According to their religious calendar, this feast was in the seventh month; but according to their civil or agricultural year, it was at the end of the year. It was the time when the fullness of the year’s harvest was all gathered in.

There will
be a mighty
ingathering
of souls at
the end of
this age.

Just as this feast took place at the end of the year for Israel, its spiritual fulfilment will take place at the end of the age for the Church. There will be a mighty ingathering of souls at the end of this age, as prophesied in such scriptures as Matthew 13:39 & 47, Isaiah 60:1-7, and James 5:7-8. We are not looking for a complete falling away of the saints, where only a few will be left in the earth. No! **There will be great revival at the end of the age that will gather in the fullness of the abundant harvest of the Church.**

TABERNACLES, THE FEAST OF JOY

Deuteronomy 16:13-14 says, “*You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths [Tabernacles] seven days after you have gathered*

in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; and you shall rejoice in your feast.” (NKJV) There is always great joy when there is a good harvest. The Feast of Tabernacles also took place just after the harvest of the oil and the new wine, which both speak of the joy of the Lord. The Lord wants to give those who mourn in Zion the oil of gladness. He wants to fill us with the new wine of His Spirit. The pure joy of Jesus will be seen throughout the Church, and will give us the strength to fulfil God’s will in these last days.

TABERNACLES, THE FEAST OF GLORY

Another aspect of the Feast of Tabernacles is that it is prophetic of the glory of the Lord that will cover the Church at the end of the age. We read of this in Haggai chapter 2. Verse 1 reads, *“In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying.”* This was on the last and greatest day of the Feast of Tabernacles. The message given for this day was, *“The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former;”* as we read in verse 9. This is prophetic of the Church, that the glory of the Church in the last days will be greater than the Early Church. The Early Church had the blessing of Pentecost, which is the baptism of the Holy Spirit; but the Church in the last days will also experience the blessings of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Second Chronicles 5:3 tells us that the Temple of Solomon was dedicated at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles. Why? Because it is a type of the last day Church! We then read in verses 13 and 14 that as the temple was dedicated, the glory

of the Lord filled the temple. The priests could not even continue to minister because of the glory that was revealed. We also read in Isaiah 4:5, “*And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence.*” Just as the glory of God filled Solomon’s Temple on the Feast of Tabernacles, the glory of God will be seen in these last days upon the churches that are dwelling in spiritual Zion.

I have been taken by the Spirit to see visions of what God is going to do in the coming revival in many nations. I have seen the glory of God revealed upon the Church. I have seen God supernaturally protecting His people by the glory of God, just as He protected the Israelites before they crossed the Red Sea. When will the glory of the Lord arise upon His people? Isaiah declared that it will be when darkness shall cover the earth. We are like stars, and we know that the stars are seen at night. The darker the night, the brighter the stars appear to shine. So while deep darkness is coming to the world, we can rejoice that the glory of God is also coming to the saints.

TABERNACLES, THE FEAST OF HIS APPEARING

The Feast of Tabernacles is also a time when the Lord Jesus will reveal Himself to His people in new ways. When Jesus was glorified on the Mount of Transfiguration, it was a type of what will occur in the Church during the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles. Peter wanted to build three tabernacles

so that they could stay there and enjoy the glory of Christ along with Moses and Elijah. Revelation chapter 11 says that in the last days these two witnesses, Moses and Elijah, will be revealed again. But more importantly, we await seeing the glorified Christ revealed among His saints!

Before our Lord physically returns from heaven in His Second Coming, He will reveal Himself in and through His Church in much greater ways. In John 7:2 the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. Then in verse 10 we read, "*But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.*" Then verse 14 says, "*Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.*" Finally, we read in verse 37, "*On the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out...*" Christ progressively revealed Himself in a greater and greater way throughout the days of the Feast of Tabernacles as a sign of what He will do in the Church during these last days. Christ will reveal Himself in greater and greater ways, until He will be seen in His fullness in His people. I have had a little foretaste of what this is going to be like.

A number of years ago, I was sitting on a platform with several other ministers at a convention. We were listening to another minister who was then preaching. Suddenly the Lord appeared, and He walked up onto the platform. Then He walked right into me as I was sitting there. When I looked down I did not see my own hands, but only His nail-scarred hands. I did not see my clothes, but only His white garments. Most importantly, as I watched the speaker, I was watching him through the

Lord's eyes and hearing him with His ears. I even felt in my heart what the Lord was feeling about this minister. That only lasted for about two minutes, but I understood in a new way what it means to have "*Christ in you.*" Let us believe that we can experience what the Word of God says, "...*that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God*" (Eph. 3:19). In these last days Christ and His fullness will be seen and demonstrated in and through His people. Praise the Lord!

The Church still has much to enter into before the Lord returns, and there is not much time left in this dispensation. Great revival must come to the Church for her to fulfil her calling and gather the full harvest of souls in these last days. The Church must come to full maturity and glory to become conformed to the image of Christ. Beloved, let us press in to attain to all that our Lord is offering to His people in these last days. He is standing at the door and is knocking. It is time to seek God earnestly. Who will attain to intimate fellowship with the Lord Jesus so that the glory of God may appear in our churches, our communities, and in the nations? God is solemnly calling. As He offers us His enabling grace, let us be quick to respond.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE PREPARATION OF CHRIST FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

In looking at the life of Christ through the book of Isaiah, we can learn many important truths about how our Lord Jesus Christ became prepared to fulfil His ministry. We know that the life of Christ is a pattern for each of us to follow so that we can also become messengers of salvation and revival. By the grace and anointing of God, there is nothing that happened to the Lord during His earthly ministry that is not also attainable for us. First we need to learn to follow the way of the Lord for our own lives, but then we must have an understanding of these truths for those that we minister to. **God is preparing to pour out His Spirit upon the nations in great revival; and the Lord is raising up leaders and teachers who will be ready to guide the multitudes who are already beginning to come to Christ.**

BEFORE HIS BIRTH

Beginning with Christ's conception, Isaiah prophesied about the life of Christ with great accuracy (Isa. 7:17). Then, in Isaiah 49:1, the prophet went on to say these words of Christ: "*Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb.*" These words are clearly written to the Church of the Last Days, to those who are living in the island nations and in continents far away from Israel.

We find in this prophetic verse that the call of God upon Jesus Christ would be revealed when Jesus was still in His mother's womb. This was fulfilled in Matthew 1:21 where the angel said to Joseph, "*For he shall save his people from their sins.*" Being called from the womb was also experienced by Jeremiah and the Apostle Paul (Jer. 1:5, Gal. 1:15).

Although these men were called of God from before they were born, they did not understand that call until many years later. This can still happen today. God can place a call upon your life before you were born, but you may not understand the message until adulthood or later in life. For this reason the Apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers that God would give them the spirit of revelation so that they would know the hope of His calling (Eph. 1:16-18). In Acts 19:6, we read that the Ephesian believers were Pentecostals who spoke in tongues and prophesied. But Paul knew that they needed more. They needed to understand their calling.

It is very important that we understand and are dedicated to the call of God for our lives. I have known ministers who have looked at the ministry of someone else and have wrongly coveted it. We have to be careful of this. If the Lord is anointing and blessing some brother or sister in a certain ministry, it does not mean that God is calling us to that same ministry. We have seen many ministers destroyed when they tried to move in a different ministry from that which God had given them. **We must realize that there is a personal call on our individual lives so that we will dedicate ourselves wholly to God's will and not look to the left or to the right.**

When you are pastoring a church, you must also be able to choose the other leaders for the church by the anointing of God. Years ago we knew a man who had been travelling through Holland and Germany. This man had done many miracles. He came to us and asked to join our work, but we knew that his life was not upright. As we were speaking to him, the Lord opened my spiritual eyes. Behind him I saw the demon prince that was causing his miracles. This demon was saying “I want to join your ministry.” The Spirit of God then spoke through me and said, “*And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.*” (Heb. 5:4). We cannot take a ministry position unless it is given to us by God!

You must know who people are spiritually, because some are pretenders. The one who praises you so highly when you become the new pastor may be the one who tries to crucify you later on. The person who tells you that you are a gift from heaven may be the one who would like to see you slip into hell! However, be assured that God will honour your ministry when He puts you into leadership. He will show you who the people are spiritually. Perhaps He will visit you in the night and show you who the people are, or at times He will give you a single word or a name to describe that person. The word of knowledge and the word of wisdom can show you. Ask God to show you your Joshuas and your Timothys whom you can train and lead on.

**It is so
important
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In Isaiah 49:1, Christ went on to declare that from the womb He was called by name. This was fulfilled in Matthew 1:21 where the angel told Joseph, *“Thou shall call his name JESUS.”* Jesus is the Greek form of the name “Joshua” which means “Jehovah is salvation.” This revealed that He was to be the Saviour. Names often have a prophetic significance. It is important when you start a church or an organization that you pray to receive God’s name for that work, because in that name will be a revelation of the ministry that God has ordained for you.

HIS EARLY CHILDHOOD

In Isaiah 9:6 the prophet wrote about the birth of Christ, declaring, *“For unto us a child is born.”* We understand that Christ did not just suddenly appear in the world as the mighty Son of God. He came as a baby. The Lord Jesus Christ is our model of a leader. One important truth about leadership is that everything a leader does must be attainable by those who follow him. As a leader of men, Christ came in the same way as men and had to grow in the same way. As pastors and leaders, we must be careful to lead the sheep in such a way that they can follow our example. Our goal is not to impress people, but to lead the sheep.

As a child, Christ had to grow to maturity before He could begin His ministry. The first stage of His spiritual development was that He had to prepare to be an able minister of the Word. Even so, Isaiah 7:15 says about His early life, *“Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know*

to refuse the evil and choose the good.” The butter (or curds) speaks of the abundance of milk, which 1 Peter 2:2 tells us spiritually is the sincere milk of the Word of God. Honey speaks of revelation and is also a type of the Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Sam. 14:27, Eph. 1:18). Because Jesus fed on butter (the Word of God) and honey (the revelation of the Spirit), He was able to refuse the evil and choose the good. As we likewise feed upon the Word of God and allow the Spirit of God to speak to us, we will also gain spiritual discernment and have the ability to make right choices.

We can see a picture of the Lord’s further development in Isaiah 49:2. Here the Lord declares, *“And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword...”* We find in Hebrews 4:12 that the Word of God is like a sharp two-edged sword. While Christ grew as a child, He learned to fill His mouth with the Word of God. By the age of twelve He was in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions (Lk. 2:46-47). All who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. The Lord wants to also do this in each of our lives. We have already said that Jesus Christ is our model leader, and that a leader must do that which his followers can also attain. The Lord wants to accomplish the promise of Isaiah 59:21 in our lives – *“As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.”*

Once, I was on the faculty of a Bible college where some teachers were teaching conflicting doctrines. One of the teachers on the opposing side said, "It's all right, Brian. It is good for the students to hear my side and your side." But later that day in a prayer meeting, the Lord met me in an awesome way and declared, "It's My Word! It's MY Word, not man's word!" Therefore, when we preach and counsel, we need to cry out to God. Do not just throw around a lot of opinions and scriptures. We need to receive the Word of the Lord, so that when we speak we are the messengers of God. When Christ was only twelve years old, He was already able to confound the doctors of the law in Jerusalem with His knowledge of the Scriptures. By that time the Lord Jesus had already fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 49:2 that His mouth would be like a sharp sword.

As Jesus was already skilled with the Word of God at the age of twelve, we might ask the question, "Why did the Father not send Jesus out to preach to the nation at that time?" This is also a question that many young Bible school graduates may ask of the Lord. After they have learned and achieved success in their Bible classes, they may feel that they should be sent forth to preach, pastor a church, or become a missionary. I can remember when I graduated from Bible school. I thought the Lord would lead me directly into the ministry. Instead, He told me to go back home. It was months later before He opened a door into the ministry for me. Young Bible school graduates may be sent forth immediately to test their abilities and "spy out" the land of their inheritance. However, to enter the fullness of their ministry there are more stages of preparation that are needed. This truth is demonstrated in the life of Christ.

We are also told in Isaiah 53:2 that Christ was “*a root out of parched ground.*” It is clear that Jesus grew up in a spiritually dry atmosphere. We often think that if we were in a place where the Spirit is moving that we will be all right, yet at times God puts us where there is dryness. This is important, because dry ground can develop something that a spiritually well-watered place of revival cannot. Dry ground can develop strong roots. There are some trees in rainy climates that grow up very quickly. However, because they do not have deep roots, they are easily pushed over. I am concerned when I see someone shoot up very rapidly in the ministry because there is a danger that they can also quickly come crashing down. It is important that we develop strong spiritual roots so that we can grow up and be fruitful, even if the Lord leads us to minister in a dry or difficult location. Isaiah 9:1-2 tells more about the location where Jesus grew up, and where He also spent most of His time in the ministry. It describes Galilee as “*a dark land*” where “*the people...walk in darkness.*” This was the location where the Father placed His Son, yet because of His preparation, the Lord was made ready to overcome all the difficulties He would face.

Isaiah 49:2 continues to show development and progression in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. After we hear the testimony, “*He hath made my mouth like a sharp sword,*” this scripture continues on to say, “*In the shadow of his hand hath he hid me.*” The first part of that verse was fulfilled by the time the Lord was 12 years old. Then we see nothing at all in the Gospels about Christ’s life for the next 18 years. However, we can see these years of His preparation in the next part of

Isaiah's prophecy. Christ was hidden under the shadow of His Father's hand. We have already seen in Isaiah 9:2 that He lived in a land of darkness, but here we see that He was also personally hidden in that darkness.

Often, our theology causes us to believe that if we are walking in obedience to God, we will constantly be in light. No! It may be that if we have walked in obedience, we will be placed in darkness. Isaiah 50:10 says, "*Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light?*" The verse goes on to say that when we are in darkness, we are to "*trust in the name of the Lord.*" In verse 11, we are warned about trying to make our own way of escape out of the situations where God puts us in darkness. "*Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.*" **If we are in darkness and we are walking uprightly with God, then we are to trust in the Lord and wait.** Isaiah 45:2 says there are "*treasures of darkness*" that we often will not find anywhere else. The Lord can also speak to us when we are in darkness, as He said in Matthew 10:27, "*What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light.*"

There was a time many years ago when we had no money. My wife Audrey was sick, our apartment had no heat, and we did not have any food. We did have a telephone, and I knew that I could have called a number of people who would have been glad to send us relief. However, the Lord spoke to me

and said, “If you pick up that phone, I am through with you.” I knew that the Lord did not mean I would have lost my salvation. I would have probably remained a pastor and continued at the same spiritual level I had attained. But I knew that the Lord was saying I could disqualify myself from having Him lead me onward and upward in the Spirit. It was only after I proved I could remain obedient and trusting in that darkness that the Lord rescued us from that trial. There was a purpose for Christ to be hidden in darkness between the age of 12 and 30. Isaiah 49:2 tells us what happened: “*In the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft.*” During these years when our Lord was hidden from recorded history, He was being shaped and polished to become an arrow that would be able to hit the mark of His high calling.

The Hebrew word “*chatha*,” which is the word most commonly translated as “*sin*” in the Old Testament, can help us to understand this better. It can also be translated as “*to miss the mark.*” We can see this concept in Romans 3:23, where the Scripture says, “*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*” This scripture helps us understand why Christ was prepared to be a polished shaft. He had to be the arrow that would fly straight to hit the mark. He had to be different than the rest of humanity, who like crooked arrows, miss the mark and fall short of the glory of God.

The Lord made this very clear to me many years ago when I had the experience of dying. I had asked Him to end my life and take me to heaven because of the opposition I was facing in the ministry at that time. God answered my prayer.

The angel of the Lord appeared to me one night while I was sleeping. When I awoke, I found him standing above my bed. I came out of my body and stood next to the angel. For a brief moment, which seemed like an eternity, I looked down at my body lying beside my wife who was sleeping peacefully. The realization that my life was over gripped me. I could do no more on this earth to serve the Lord. It was a fearful feeling that everything was over.

The angel turned and I turned together with him. No word was spoken between us. Then it was as though the roof of the parsonage was no longer there and we went quicker than lightning towards heaven, which I could see in the far distance. The nearer we came to heaven, the sadder I became. Although I knew that I was saved, baptized in water, baptized in the Holy Spirit, and living in the light that I had received, strangely, I was not looking forward to going to heaven.

We arrived at the gates of heaven. As I was standing there, I was shown my whole life from birth to that present moment in a series of pictures, one after another in a matter of seconds. Some of the pictures were blank. I understood that these blank pictures were times in my life when I had failed God, but because I had asked for forgiveness, all memory and record of them had been washed away by the blood of Jesus.

The Lord revealed to me God's purpose for my life. I realized that I had not fulfilled it, for I was dying before my appointed time. In an agony of spirit, I pleaded with the Lord to send me back to earth and give me another chance to fulfil my calling

and hit the mark for my life. The angel must have received an order from the Lord, because at that very moment, he and I turned again without a word being spoken, and we went down towards earth at a tremendous speed.

Arriving at my bedside, I saw my body lying there. The angel then touched me and I returned to my body. After a few days I asked the Lord why He had given me that experience, and He replied, "That you might warn My people and show them what it is like to die." Beloved, one never wants to go to heaven before he has hit the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. I know the agony of it, and I would spare anybody that experience.

Revelation 21:4 speaks of how God will wipe away the tears in heaven. When you enter heaven, you will have God's plan for your life shown to you. You will be shown how much of that plan you have completed. You will give an account of more than whether you are saved and have gathered some heavenly rewards. You must also give an account as to whether you have been as an arrow that hits the mark and does not fall short of the glory of God planned for your life. Therefore, as Ecclesiastes 7:17 declares, it is important that you do not die before the appointed time.

In considering how an arrow is prepared, there are basically two parts: the sharp arrowhead often made of metal, and the polished shaft made of wood. These two parts represent the two natures of our Lord Jesus Christ. The sharp arrowhead speaks of Christ as the Son of God who could not sin or fail.

Christ, the Incarnate Word, was already seen as a sharp sword (like the arrowhead) by the age of twelve. The wooden shaft of the arrow represents the human nature of Christ, the Son of Man. As God He could not fail, but as man, He could.

During these years that the Lord was hidden from recorded history, His human nature was being prepared so that He would be as a straight, smooth shaft. If the shaft is crooked or rough when the arrow flies through the air, then even if the arrow is pointed very accurately, **it will miss the mark.** Hebrews 5:8 reveals that our Lord was shaped and polished to become an arrow that would be able to hit the mark—*“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.”* His human nature had to be prepared by the things He suffered. In that way, He could be sent forth to hit the mark assigned to Him by the Father.

The mark Jesus hit was the cross. As Hebrews 5:9 goes on to say of Christ, *“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”* Through His obedient sufferings, Christ was prepared to become the Arrow of God that would accomplish our salvation. It is as we also learn to obediently go through testings and trials that God is able to polish and perfect the shaft of our life. **He wants us to be mature arrows in His hand that will hit the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

There are many ways that God uses to polish us. Some time ago, a pastor came to me and said, “I want to leave my church

because all the members are rebellious. Can I close down the church and send the members to a different church?" When I prayed the Lord told me, "Don't close the church." The Lord showed me that they were like the Moabites in Psalm 60:8, who were being used by God as His *washpot*. The Lord told me, "When I want to perfect and polish a pastor, I bring him to that

church. The rebellious members rub, wash, and polish him until he is polished, then afterwards I send him on and bring in another pastor who needs polishing." I saw that these church members were never going to go on in God, but that the Lord could use them to help prepare others who desired to press on toward the mark.

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The next step in the preparation of Christ is found in Isaiah 49:2, "...in his quiver hath he hid me." After an arrow is prepared for use, it must wait until the proper time when the archer will choose to use it. From this scripture it appears that Jesus was prepared and ready for some time before the Father sent Him forth into public ministry. There are times when God will hide us, and in loneliness we will wait for the Father to choose us and send us forth. This teaches us to depend on God. We can do nothing, except what the Lord shows us to do. This preparation can also help us so that we will be ready if we need to stand alone or make an unpopular decision in the ministry.

ANOINTED AT THE JORDAN RIVER

When Jesus went to the Jordan River to begin His ministry, He was the prepared arrow that was put into the bow of His Father. But we also know that for an arrow to be shot out to hit the mark, it has to be released with power. It was at the Jordan that the Father anointed Christ with the power He would need to speed toward the mark and fulfil His ministry.

We read in the Gospels that the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and rested upon Him. When the Spirit came upon Jesus, the mantle of God was placed upon Him and He became the “*Christ*,” which means “*The Anointed One*.”

The prophet Isaiah reveals to us the mantle of anointing that was upon our Lord Jesus Christ. In Isaiah 11:1 we read, “*There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.*” This refers to our Lord, who was descended from David, whose father was Jesse. The Lord is often referred to in the Scriptures as the Branch.

We then read in the next verse, “*And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.*” These anointings are called the seven Spirits of God in Revelation 4:5 and 5:6. This mantle of the seven Spirits of God which came upon Christ at the Jordan River is different from, and greater than, the baptism of the Holy Spirit. **Christ’s anointing was far greater than what the disciples received on the day of**

Pentecost. We have to be able to understand the difference between these two experiences.

For example, one of the seven Spirits of God is the Spirit of knowledge, while one of the nine gifts of the Spirit that we can receive after we are baptized in the Holy Spirit is the word of knowledge. There is a difference between the Spirit of knowledge and the word of knowledge. Solomon is an example of someone who was given the Spirit of knowledge. A person like the Queen of Sheba could come to Solomon and ask him many questions, and because of the anointing that *rested* upon Solomon, he could answer every one. Because of the mantle placed upon his life, Solomon's knowledge was a continual flow.

But the word of knowledge is not like this. When the gift of the word of knowledge operates, you will supernaturally know a certain fact. Then the gift might not operate for a length of time before it will give you the knowledge of another fact. Sometimes you will get a revelation through the gift of knowledge, and sometimes you will not. But the Spirit of knowledge is a *continuous abiding anointing* of the knowledge of God. This was the anointing upon Christ. Jesus knew by the Spirit of knowledge who each person was personally. John 2:24 tells us, "*He knew all men.*" Christ even knew who Judas was, although He kept that knowledge to Himself.

So while we should each seek to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and should covet the gifts of the Spirit, there is more of the

Holy Spirit that we can receive. This is why the Apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers (who were already Pentecostals and were baptized in the Holy Spirit) that they would receive the Spirit of wisdom (Eph. 1:17). We need the anointing of the seven Spirits of God that was upon Christ to help bring the Church to full maturity in these Last Days. We read in Revelation 5:6 that the Lamb of God had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. We also want to have the nature of the Lamb of God, so that the seven Spirits of God can flow through us and be sent out to minister to others.

The first of these seven Spirits that Christ was anointed with was **the Spirit of the Lord**. We read more about this anointing in Isaiah 61:1. *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach.”* The Spirit of the Lord is to anoint us, and enable us to preach. We want to be able to say with Christ, *“...the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself”* (Jn. 14:10). It is very important for a minister to be anointed by God to preach, because it is the Holy Spirit who confirms the preaching of the word. We cannot just preach and expect to see results because we are eloquent or because we know the Bible very well. We have to be anointed by the Spirit of the Lord.

The second anointing in Isaiah 11:2 is **the Spirit of wisdom**. It is the anointing which gives us the ability to make right choices at the right time. Wisdom could be defined as correctly using knowledge. Knowledge by itself is not enough. You can know something without being able to

properly use that knowledge. To be a good leader we need the Spirit of wisdom, just as Joshua received the Spirit of wisdom from Moses when he was anointed to become the next leader of Israel (Deut. 34:9).

I was once the pastor of a church that was entering into the Charismatic movement. When the Lord began to move in one church service, the wife of one of the deacons spoke out and opposed the work of the Spirit. I closed the service, and went next door to our residence as I considered what to do about this difficulty. As I walked into our dining room, I had a remarkable experience. I saw the seven-branched golden candlestick passing across the wall. Revelation 4:5 tells us that the seven lamps are the seven Spirits of God. As I saw the candlestick, a mighty mantle of the Spirit came upon me. There was an awesome manifestation of the holiness of God that I cannot explain. This mighty mantle came upon me, which I felt was the Spirit of wisdom. O what wisdom the Spirit gave me to answer this church problem! All I did was laugh, as when the Lord laughed at those in Psalm 2 who were opposing Him. I laughed because that woman who had opposed the move of the Spirit had tried to stand against the awesome might of a holy God. When she was in the service she had been perfectly healthy, but within a half hour of that experience, she was in the hospital. God is not mocked!

Some time after this, when I was in Los Angeles, I went to visit Kathryn Kuhlman. She prayed for me and said one word, "Wisdom." I was slain in the Spirit as soon as her hand touched my forehead. The reason I mention this is because I believe

that if we sincerely desire the Spirit of wisdom, God will impart it to us. Kathryn Kuhlman normally prayed for healing, but when she prayed for me, she prayed that the Lord would anoint me with wisdom. I did not need healing, but God knew the desire of my heart. James 1:5 says, *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”*

The third anointing is **the Spirit of understanding**. This can help us to understand God’s ways, and what He is doing (1 Chr. 12:32, Lk. 24:45). The Spirit of understanding also helps us to properly interpret visions and dreams (Dan. 1:17). It is very important when a person has a vision or a dream that he or she understands the revelation correctly.

It is not enough to simply receive a dream, vision, or prophetic word from God. The Spirit of understanding is still needed to correctly interpret it. Nebuchadnezzar and Pharaoh both received revelations from the Lord in their dreams, but Daniel and Joseph were needed to interpret them correctly in order for their dreams to give guidance in fulfilling God’s plans. I have known many people who have ruined their lives because they did not correctly interpret a dream or vision they received from the Lord.

As an example of a vision being misinterpreted, I will tell you more about the deacon’s wife who I mentioned had opposed the work of the Holy Spirit in the church service. God was not pleased with her and the result was that, although she had been healthy up to that time, she had to suddenly be rushed to the

hospital at the end of the service. That night an elder and a church member both had the same vision. They saw the Lord standing outside her hospital room. The interpretation they gave me was, "Everything is going to be all right with our sister because the Lord is outside her room." However, that was not the interpretation that the Lord gave to me. The Lord spoke to me in this way: "She is a self-satisfied Laodicean Christian who thinks that she needs nothing more. I stand knocking at the door of her heart, and desire to meet her in a fresh way by My Spirit, but she will not receive Me." The Lord was outside of her room, not because He was there protecting her, but because she had rejected the Lord and would not let Him inside.

The Spirit of understanding is also the anointing that a teacher must have to understand the Word of God and be able to explain it to others. We should be able to give the sense of every verse in the Bible, just as Ezra the model teacher did. Nehemiah 8:8 says, "*So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.*" To do this, we must have the mind of the Spirit, for He is the Author of the Scriptures.

The fourth anointing is **the Spirit of counsel**. Counsel can be defined as advice or guidance given by a knowledgeable or experienced person. In Isaiah 9:6 we read that one of the names of our Lord is the Counsellor. To be an effective counsellor, we need to have the Spirit of counsel. You should not counsel another person without the anointing of God, because you are setting a person on a path that may determine their eternal destiny.

When a person has problems, he should not be counselled with human wisdom and psychology. We must also be careful when we use scriptural principles, because they can be wrongly applied. Situations are different, and we must hear from the Lord for every person and every circumstance.

This is why Job's three friends counselled him in the wrong way. They said to him, "Now, we know that if a man is upright, God prospers him; and if a man sins, God's judgment comes upon him. Therefore, you must be a hypocrite!" (See Job 8:6,22). However, Job's friends were wrongly applying their principle. They did not understand that God was allowing this upright man to pass through this trial, in order to prepare him for a double portion and an eternal name of honour.

When people come to us for counsel, they don't want to hear our opinions; they need to hear what the Lord is saying. As ministers of the Lord, we are expected as the priests of old to have the Urim and the Thummin to give the right counsel and tell them what the Lord is saying (Ex. 28:30, Num. 27:21).

As an example, there was a pastor's wife in a certain country who had backslidden and was living with a young man. She helped lead this man to the Lord, but also found herself to be pregnant. In their desperation, this couple went to many pastors and asked, "Should we marry?" Every pastor said, "Yes." Then they came to us and the fellow said, "I still want to hear from you whether it is right." The woman said to me, "O don't you go quoting the Bible because I know what you will say!" So I felt from the Lord to ask them to

come back in three days. While I was praying during those three days, I asked the Lord to give me His counsel. The Lord said, “Hand them over to Me.”

Three days later we met with them and they said, “Have you heard from God?” I said, “God told me that we were to hand you over to Him.” So we laid hands on them and handed them over to God.

Do you know what the Lord did? That same night, that woman lost all her affection for the young man. They separated, and three days later the pregnancy was terminated by God. The young man turned to God with all his heart and went to Bible school. He later married someone from another country, and a few years later I had the honour of installing him as a pastor.

When the Lord removed the woman’s affection for the young man she had been living with, the Lord also began to restore her love for her husband. She went back to him, God restored their marriage, and she was also wonderfully restored to the joy of her salvation. The Lord blessed them with a child of their own, and has given the wife many choruses that are sung around the world today.

The point I am trying to bring out is that **counselling is not telling principles and reciting a lot of scriptures. Counselling is having the mind of Christ for each situation**, and telling people what God is saying to them in their particular situation. In the above mentioned counselling, the woman did not want to hear the truth of the Scriptures about

divorce and remarriage. She was trying to persuade the young man to marry her, and had gotten a number of pastors to support her. Yet as the Lord gave us the Spirit of counsel for the situation, everything was turned around. Both of them were able to follow God's best for their lives, and have entered into righteous and fruitful ministries.

The fifth of these anointings is **the Spirit of might**. This was the mantle that Samson had when he did his mighty works. On one occasion Samson took the gates and pillars of the city of Gaza and carried them about 30 miles uphill to Hebron! The Lord Jesus Christ had this same anointing upon Him when He drove out the merchants, overturned the moneychangers' tables, and cleansed the temple. This anointing was also upon Elijah when he ran before the chariot of King Ahab. This was not a feat of human strength or ability, it was the Spirit of might upon Elijah.

This anointing functions in the realm of great miracles and power. We want to have the Spirit of might to see the wonders of God manifested. This anointing is going to be poured out upon the last day Church to make it a mighty army for the Lord (Joel 2:7).

The sixth anointing is the **Spirit of knowledge**. This anointing can supernaturally reveal to us facts from the past or present. The Spirit of knowledge can give a very strong impression or witness to your heart or mind, so that you know something that has happened. Christ was able to know the character of Nathaniel, and also see him under the fig tree, by the Spirit of knowledge (Jn. 1:47-48).

We need the Spirit of knowledge to know what God is saying to His Church today. As Peter said, we want to be established in “*present truth*” (2 Pet. 1:12). During the Charismatic movement, present truth (for that time) was the baptism of the Holy Spirit and healing. However, present truth for today is holiness and going on to perfection. You cannot live in yesterday’s experience or the move of God in past generations. We must hear from the Lord fresh truth for today. As you travel from church to church and from country to country, you find that God is doing something different in each place; and we need to know what to say to the ministers in each situation.

The Spirit of knowledge can also reveal the future. This is one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit promised by Christ in John 16:13: “...*he will show you things to come.*” The Lord is going to reveal to His Church many things, and we want to be in tune with the Spirit.

The Lord showed me the fall of Jerusalem in the last days when my wife and I visited Israel in 1973. I saw the Arab armies surrounding Jerusalem on the hills and then breaking into Jerusalem. In this vision, Jerusalem was almost overrun when the Lord returned. I saw the future fulfilment of the prophecy of Zechariah chapter 14 by the Spirit of knowledge.

The seventh anointing is the **Spirit of the fear of the Lord**. This is the anointing that brings the conviction of the Holy Spirit and produces repentance and revival. It can be poured out upon a nation, a community, or an individual (see Gen. 35:5 and Josh. 2:9).

The Spirit of the fear of the Lord was poured out upon the New Testament Church as seen in Acts 5:11-13: *“And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things. At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico. But none of the rest dared to associate with them, however; the people held them in high esteem.”* (NKJV)

Because of the fear of the Lord (which was occasioned by God’s judgment upon Ananias and Sapphira) there was great conviction of the Holy Spirit upon the people. Only the very sincere in heart came to the meetings.

I have known situations similar to this. There was a very godly church in northern England that no one would attend until everything was made right in their lives with the Lord. The fear of the Lord was on that church with great conviction of sin. If anyone present had done anything wrong, it was revealed through the preaching or through prophecy.

The fear of the Lord has been manifested upon entire nations during times of revival. During the revival in Wales at the beginning of this century, the tavern owners ran out of customers and were forced to close. It was not uncommon to see sinners sobbing and literally crawling on their hands and knees to get to church for prayer. During a revival in Sweden, men and women were so convicted of sin that they would get out of their beds in the middle of night. They walked long distances to find a church that was still open, so they could receive prayer and a release from the burden of their sin.

This is what God is going to repeat in nation after nation in the last days. We need to begin to cry out for the Spirit of the fear of the Lord to be upon our lives. As we walk in the fear of the Lord in our own personal lives, beloved, we can become channels to bring revival to our churches, cities, and our nations.

If you will be totally committed to the Lord and walk in His ways, you will see God pour out the Spirit of the fear of the Lord. May we prepare our hearts now for the last day move of God, so that we become participants and not only spectators!

Because our Lord Jesus Christ was anointed with the seven Spirits of God, He was able to manifest the power of God. With this same anointing, the end time Church will again show the world the power of God and bring revival to the nations.

While Isaiah 11:1-2 speaks of the great anointings that rested upon the Lord Jesus Christ, we further read in verse 5, *“Also righteousness shall be the belt around His loins, and faithfulness the belt around His waist.”* (NKJV)

The anointing alone is not sufficient. Some in the Old Testament were empowered with

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anointings that we have never seen even in our days, and yet they failed. Samson was anointed with the Spirit of might. That Spirit was so great upon Samson that he could take the heavy gates of the city, pull them out from their mortar and bricks, and carry them up to a distant hilltop (Jdg. 16:3). He could do this with the anointing, but his life was not one of faithfulness to the laws of God.

Solomon met God at an early age and received one of the seven Spirits of the Lord, the Spirit of wisdom. Yet his heart became divided and he had a disastrous end. The anointing, as great as it is, is not going to hold you. Saul was anointed, and failed. The anointing is to do God's work, but God requires something else. In Isaiah 11:5 we see that Jesus Christ had it – faithfulness. He not only received the anointing, but was also faithful, as we are repeatedly told in Scripture (see Heb. 2:17 and Rev. 19:11).

The most important thing in meeting with God is that He does a deep work in your heart. It does not matter how great the call of God is on your life, as God anointed many men in the Bible who failed. Many are called, but few are chosen. You may have the call, but you still have to be chosen. And those who follow the Lamb are called, chosen, and found faithful. Revelation 17:4 shows us that these three qualities are needed in these last days—**if you are not faithful, you will not make it.**

“UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN”

We have already read in Isaiah 9:6 where Isaiah prophesied, *“For unto us a child is born.”* Jesus was born as a baby, just

as we all are born again into the kingdom of God as spiritual babies. Then He grew to maturity, just as we have to “*grow in grace.*” But Isaiah went on to say, “*Unto us a son is given.*” This was fulfilled when Jesus was about 30 years old and it was His time to be shown to Israel as the mature Son of God. There at the Jordan River, the Father spoke from heaven and said, “*Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased*” (Lk. 3:22). It was at this time that Christ was given by the Father, not as a baby, but as the mature Son of God. His character had been formed. He was ready as the Arrow of God. It was then, in the fullness of time, that Jesus Christ was presented to Israel by John the Baptist when he said, “*Behold the Lamb of God!*” (Jn. 1:36). There at the Jordan River, He was placed in the bow, and the Father shot Him with power towards the mark ordained for His life. That mark was the cross of Calvary.

Likewise, we must also pass through the preparations that Jesus went through, so that we can become as arrows in the Father’s hand. Our mouth must be made like a sharp sword or arrowhead as we become skilled in the Word of God. We must submit to the chastening of God, learning obedience in the school of suffering until we become polished shafts. We are to be men and women who have become prepared arrows in the quiver of the Lord, to be pulled out and shot forth by the Father in His perfect timing. For then, by the power of the anointings of the Spirit, we will speed straight towards the mark of the high calling of God. Beloved, may each of us become an arrow that hits the mark and brings deliverance and revival, like Christ.

CHAPTER FIVE

OBTAINING THE INHERITANCE

It is clear that the Lord desires to give an inheritance to each one of His children. We can learn how to enter into revival and obtain our full calling in Christ through seeing how the Old Testament people of God entered in and gained theirs. God used three people—Abraham, Joshua, and David, whose different ministries worked together to bring the people of God into their full inheritance.

Abraham received the promise of the inheritance from God, yet he did not receive the fulfilment of that promise. It was Joshua who was raised up to lead the descendants of Abraham into starting to obtain these promises as they conquered the land of Canaan.

Although he started to possess the inheritance, Joshua did not complete the task. It was King David who went on to lead the Israelites into possessing the entire land and gaining the full inheritance promised to Abraham's descendants.

These different types of ministry are necessary in order for us to enter into our full inheritance in the kingdom of God. There is the ministry of an Abraham who receives the promises but perhaps only obtains a very small amount of their fulfilment. Then there is the ministry of a Joshua, who enters in to possess part of the promises. After this there will be a time when God raises up a Davidic ministry to bring us into the fullness of God's plans.

In some situations this will require the successive ministries of different leaders. In other situations the Lord will cause a leader to function in each of these three ministries in different periods of their life. But we should recognize how ministries similar to those of Abraham, Joshua, and David need to work together for us to enter into revival and obtain our full inheritance.

1. ABRAHAM RECEIVED THE PROMISES

The theme of revival has many different aspects to it. One aspect can be seen in the covenanted promises God gave to Abraham. Upon this same sure foundation we can realize how God's promises to the Church will also be fulfilled.

A covenant is an agreement between two parties. We have many agreements in the world today, some of which are broken very easily. Hitler was fond of making covenants and pacts, but he repeatedly broke them. However, it is very different when God made His covenant with Abraham.

GOD'S PROMISES ARE SECURE

In Genesis chapter 15 we read of when the Lord made a covenant with Abraham. In verses 9-10, Abraham took animals for sacrifice and cut them down the middle. The reason is that in the ancient Middle East, when two parties made a covenant, they would cut them open and the two parties would walk together between the pieces to seal their covenant. The two who should have passed between those animals were God

and Abraham. But we read in verse 12 that a deep sleep came upon Abraham, and he did not seal the covenant. Instead, we read in verse 17, “...*And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.*” So the two who sealed the covenant were God the Father (the Smoking Furnace, Heb. 12:29) and the Lord Jesus Christ (the Burning Lamp, Jn. 8:12).

Abraham did not pass between those animals because this covenant does not depend upon the promises or the strength of man. It was made, and will be kept, by the power of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The two of Them were agreeing together to fulfil the covenant that They had made with Abraham. It can therefore never be broken.

A number of years after the Lord made this covenant, He repeated the promise of its fulfilment to Abraham (Gen. 17:1-5). It is wonderful when God speaks to us, but it is more wonderful when God reaffirms a promise He has given you after many years. **Sometime we can forget what God speaks to us, and we need to be careful to guard His promises in our hearts.** Yet even when we forget, the One who made the promise does not forget.

Jumping ahead 400 years we find in the time of Moses that “...*God remembered his covenant with Abraham*” (Ex. 2:24). Throughout the history of the children of Israel, God continually remembered His covenant that He had made with Abraham. Even in recent times we see God preparing the

modern day nation of Israel to enter into the further fulfilment of His covenant promises to Abraham.

It is important to understand this because the covenant to Abraham is the key to revival for God's Church. We are the children of Abraham by faith in Christ (Gal. 3:29), and in these last days, God is going to fulfil His promises to Abraham through the Church. So it is important that we be like the tribe of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32, who understood the times in which they lived and knew what they should do. We do not want to be on the outside only observing what God is doing, but we want to have a personal experience of this revival that God is preparing for His people.

In the appointed time God will remember the promises He made for the Church, and the promises He has made individually with you. I can go back many years when an angel of the Lord stood by me and gave me a vision and promises. I am confident that God will fulfil in my life what I was shown when I was a little boy.

When I was in England many years ago, I saw so vividly how God remembers His promises. There was a missionary who had returned from Africa to educate his children. He became a pastor but lost the vision of God's call to the mission field, and for many years he had one heartbreak after another. (If you put your children first before God, you will have sorrows, but if you put God first, He will look after everything else). As I visited him at a crossroads in his life, God started to quicken the prophecies that He had given him years before.

This man turned to God with all his heart, and asked the Lord to fulfil that vision. God sent him back to Africa, and for six months he led a mighty revival with many people being saved, healed, and filled with the Holy Spirit. After that he returned to England, and now has died and gone to be with the Lord. But in just six months God gave him abundant fruit.

I believe that some of you reading this have had the call of God upon your lives for many years, yet you have ignored it. The Lord desires to put faith in your heart to realize that God remembers His promises to you. If you will turn to God afresh then the promises, gifts, and callings of God upon your life will be renewed and fulfilled.

ABRAHAM'S TWOFOLD INHERITANCE

Abraham was a man of God who received great promises. There were two parts to what he was promised: an earthly geographic inheritance, and a heavenly spiritual inheritance.

In Genesis 13:15-16 the Lord promised Abraham, *“For all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth...”* (NKJV) The Lord told Abraham that as the *“dust of the earth”* his descendants would be given an earthly, geographic inheritance. Then in Genesis 22:17 the Lord also promised to make

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Abraham's seed to be "*as the stars of the heavens.*" This speaks of there also being given a heavenly spiritual inheritance to Abraham through his offspring.

OUR GEOGRAPHICAL INHERITANCE

There is a geographical inheritance that the Lord wants to give to his people. We cannot go just anywhere we want and claim that location as our own. For us to take someplace and possess it for the kingdom of God, we must first receive a vision from God concerning the boundaries that He has given to us. The Lord may give to one church a vision of reaching their local area with the gospel. To another, the Lord may speak and call them to be like Joseph who became a "fruitful bough that went over the wall" (Gen. 49:22). This may mean that they are to take neighbouring areas or cities for Christ, or become engaged in missionary work.

Abraham was given a vision by the Lord that he would become the father of many nations (Gen. 17:4). His inheritance was not just for one or two cities; it was for nations. This is also the vision we need for our time. God is saying to us about the last days, "*And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people...*" (Zech. 2:11). The Scriptures also declare, "*...nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee*" (Isa. 55:5). **There are nations who are waiting for the churches to enter revival and come into the glory of God.** When this happens, these nations will stretch out their

hands to God, as Psalms 68:31 says about Ethiopia. We need to have our vision enlarged to see that before the coming of the Lord there will be great revivals where entire nations will turn to the Lord.

As we study the revivals in the Church Age, we find that whole countries at times were blanketed by the Spirit of God and were transformed until they declared that God was the ruler of their country. In the time of Martin Luther, the nation of Germany was transformed and turned into the ways of God. The revival had such a great impact upon the nation that even today the state church of the nation is the Lutheran Church.

It was the same in England in the time of John Wesley. England was terribly backslidden and was filled with drunkenness and worldliness. But after the revival led by John Wesley, the whole country of England was turned into the ways of God.

At the beginning of the 20th century Evan Roberts led the Welsh Revival. He had an impact upon his entire nation. The whole country of Wales turned to God because this one man was not content to just see the Spirit of God move in only one church or in one area. While the revival did not go over the national boundaries, the mantle of revival spread until the whole nation of Wales turned towards God.

I believe that we must ask the Lord what the geographic boundaries of our inheritance are. You must ask God to show you what He has ordained for you and for your church. The Lord might say to you, "I want you to believe for whole cities

around you to turn to Me and be your inheritance.” But I believe that in these last days, God wants to enlarge us and give many of His people the vision of Abraham. There are nations which are to be our inheritance.

OUR SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE

Secondly, there is a spiritual inheritance. It is not just the geographic or “horizontal” inheritance that we have to obtain, but we have to believe there will be a spiritual or “vertical” inheritance whereby the churches will enter into the fullness of the spiritual inheritance that God has for us in these last days.

In successive generations and revivals, the Church has not only claimed certain geographical areas, but has also increased its spiritual inheritance and come to a higher spiritual realm. Luther had an impact upon all of Germany and claimed that country for God. They left their idolatry and turned to serve the Living God. While the geographical boundaries were captured, Luther also brought them into the higher light of the spiritual inheritance that he had, which was justification by faith.

John Wesley entered into justification by faith, but he went on to also receive the message of holiness and a vision for missions work. The nation of England went on to become a missionary country largely because of that revival. The revival which Evan Roberts brought to Wales restored further truths about the work of the Holy Spirit to the people of

God. Every great revival since the times of Martin Luther has helped to lead the Church into a greater light, so that the Church will be able to enter into maturity and obtain its full spiritual inheritance.

THE INHERITANCE COMES THROUGH THE SEED

As we have seen, Abraham was the one who received great promises from God, yet during his earthly lifetime obtained only a little of their fulfilment. The Lord told Abraham that he would be given the fullness of his inheritance through his descendants, or seed (Gen. 12:15-16; 15:4-5; 22:17-18). Therefore the key lies in the seed.

Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. God took a very long time preparing Abraham, so that he would be ready to bring forth the son of promise. So often the Lord waits to fulfil His promises for our lives because of the quality He is seeking to prepare in us before He blesses and multiplies us.

My wife and I saw a good illustration of this truth when we lived in the Northwest of America. Some Christian farmers there explained to us how they spent years perfecting a new variety of apple which they named the Golden Delicious. They carefully developed the seed for years, but once the seed was perfected, they then quickly began to multiply the trees and send their fruit out to many nations. In the same way, God often takes many years developing the nature of His promised Son within us, but when the pure seed is

produced, then He can multiply it throughout the nations very quickly. Just as Abraham and Sarah had their promised son come forth when they were elderly and beyond natural hope, we will see Christ come forth through the Church at the end of this age. Christ will arise and bring the Church into its full inheritance!

2. JOSHUA BEGAN TO ENTER IN AND POSSESS THE INHERITANCE

During his lifetime Abraham was a stranger in the land promised to him and his descendants. All that he owned of the promised inheritance was the field and cave where he buried Sarah (Gen. 23:3-20). The man whom God then raised up to begin to possess the inheritance was Joshua. The Lord is looking for many “Joshuas” who can lead the people into their inheritance in these last days. The life and ministry of Joshua can be divided into three parts: his preparation, his crossing over into the inheritance, and the possessing of the land.

JOSHUA’S PREPARATION

The first time we read about Joshua in the Scriptures is in Exodus 17:9 when he led Israel in battle against the Amalekites. The Amalekites are a type of the flesh as Amalek was the grandson of carnal Esau (Gen. 36:12). In order to be a leader, we have to have personal victory in our lives over the flesh. Otherwise the Amalekites (the works of the flesh) will rise up again and destroy us, as they did in the

life of Saul. King Saul was told by the Lord to utterly destroy Amalek, but he disobeyed. At the end of his life it was an Amalekite who killed him (2 Sam. 1:6-10). It is important to realize that if we are preparing for leadership, we have to have personal victory over the Amalekites. When we are young we should cry out to God, “O God, create in me a clean and pure heart. Lord Jesus, I want to face these areas of the flesh in my life. At an early age give me victory in these areas, so that later on when I am old, they do not rise up again and overthrow me.”

We also read that Joshua learned to linger in God’s presence as he went up into the mount of God with Moses (Ex. 24:13). Later we find that Joshua stayed in the tabernacle even after Moses finished his business and departed (Ex. 33:11). Joshua stayed in the presence of God to develop a close relationship with Him. All true ministry is the result of our spending time meeting with God and having Him deposit His nature within us.

Before Joshua was selected as the new leader of Israel, he had first learned to be faithful as a servant to Moses (Ex. 24:13). Responsibility is developed little by little as we are faithful in the small tasks of everyday life. Never promote someone who does not carry well the responsibility of the small tasks. If we are chosen to wash dishes or clean the church, perhaps no one else is watching, but God is. Then it is God who will promote the faithful to greater and greater responsibilities. Jesus said, “*He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much*” (Lk. 16:10).

THE CROSSING OVER INTO THE INHERITANCE

The Lord spoke to Joshua just before he was to lead the Israelites over the Jordan into the Promised Land (Josh. 1:1-9). In verse 3 the Lord told him, “*Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given to you.*” This is a repetition of the promise that God first made to Abraham in Genesis 13:17. Now the promise is repeated to the one who is actually going to possess the inheritance.

In Joshua 1:5, the Lord also gave Joshua a promise for his leadership – “*There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*” A leader has to have *personal* promises from God. He cannot go only on the promises that the leader before him had. He cannot think that he will be a pioneer pastor or a missionary because his pastor sent him. He cannot just rely on that fact. No, when one is far away, he must have his own personal promises from God.

In verse seven the Lord continued, “*Only be strong and very courageous, be careful to do according to all the law...*” (Josh. 1:7). (NKJV) Before Joshua crossed over into the inheritance, the Lord met with him and told him to obey *all* the Law, not just part of it. **It is so important for a leader to completely follow God’s laws because the leadership determines how far the church will go on with God.** If the leader allows doctrines that are not right and permits mixture, the inheritance will be contaminated. God wants a godly seed

and holiness. The reason God was going to cast out the former peoples of Canaan was because they were very evil and had polluted the land. Why should God give us the land if we have the same sins as the former people God is going to dispossess? It would be like the time a man tried to cast a demon out of someone, but the demon said to him, “You are not going to cast me out, because my friend is in you!”

People sometimes wonder why there is a need for a new church or a new missions work in a certain place when there are already a number of them there. The reason sometimes is because the others did not completely follow God’s laws. Christ is coming for a Bride without spot or wrinkle. That is why we want to be totally sold out to God. The ones who will be given the inheritance are the ones who seek for holiness.

When the Israelites crossed the Jordan, we are told that there was to be a distance between the people and the ark of about 2,000 cubits (Josh. 3:4). In Bible numerics, 2,000 speaks of the approximate length of the Church Age. So when we read that the people followed the ark (which is a type of our Lord Jesus Christ) about 2,000 cubits behind, this speaks of how the Church is going to enter into God’s inheritance in these last days, about 2,000 years after our Lord entered in.

The inheritance the Church will enter into is also shown through Abraham’s three wives – Hagar, Sarah, and Keturah. Hagar represents Israel during the Age of the Law (Gal. 4:24-25). Sarah speaks of the Church Age (Gal. 4:22-28), and Keturah is a type of Israel in the Millennium. But we read in Genesis 25:1-6 that

while Abraham gave gifts to his other children, he gave his entire inheritance to Sarah's son, Isaac. In a similar way, the Church is to inherit all of the spiritual blessings. Everything that God has promised to Abraham is to be fulfilled spiritually in the Church.

We need to have our eyes opened to see what God has said in His Word for this generation. We have to believe that the Lord will return for a perfected Church without spot or wrinkle. We want to cry out to God and say, "Lord, I want to understand what You are going to release to the Church in these last days. Lord, I want you to work Your perfection, holiness, and beauty in me, so that I fall short in nothing that You have promised for the Church in these last days."

The spiritual meaning of crossing the Jordan is of particular importance. Many years ago when my wife and I first went to Israel, the Lord spoke to us that He wanted us to cross the Jordan River. As we crossed it, I asked, "Lord what does this mean?" The Lord spoke to me, "This is the circumcision of the heart – the crucified life." The crossing of the Jordan is a type of the experience whereby we know that our old man is crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20, Rom. 6:6). We also read in Joshua 3:15-16 of the city of Adam in connection with the cutting off of the waters that flowed down to the Dead Sea. Adam speaks of our old sinful nature, which must be cut off if we want to enter into our "Promised Land."

In Joshua chapter 5, the Israelites immediately came to Gilgal after crossing the Jordan. Gilgal is where the male Israelites were circumcised, which is a cutting away of the flesh. Spiritually, it

represents a cutting away of the natural, sinful, Adamic nature we are born with (Rom. 2:28-29). Gilgal represents God's cutting out that which He spoke to us about in the crossing of Jordan. It can be very painful indeed when God cuts things out of our hearts and lives. Yet just as Abraham in Genesis 17:7-14 was told that he and his descendants had to be circumcised to inherit the land of Canaan, it is also spiritually true for the Christian that we cannot receive our inheritance until we are circumcised in our heart.

We have to believe that the Lord will return for a perfected Church without spot or wrinkle.

In 1981 when I was living in New Zealand, I had a visitation of two angels. One of the angels was very large, and he held out a sword that had the word "Circumcision" written on the tip. The Lord spoke to me and said, "I have come to circumcise My people and I will start with the leaders. Those who allow Me to circumcise them will enter into their further blessings." The other angel was smaller and written across him was the name "Enforcer." The Lord said, "If My people are not willing for Me to circumcise them, I will send the other angel who will enforce My will." Regretfully, we have seen that second angel reveal and judge much sin.

THE POSSESSING OF THE LAND

The purpose of a "Joshua" ministry is to get us across the Jordan, and then get us to start possessing the land. To get

into the land we have to be sanctified, but to actually possess the land, there will then be battles to fight against the enemy. The fact that God has cleansed us and cut wrong things out of our lives does not mean that we have possessed the land. That is only the preparation so that we can stand against the enemy.

To enable Joshua to overthrow the enemy, the Lord appeared to Joshua as the Captain of the Lord of Hosts (Josh. 5:13-15). Every “Joshua” leader must have a revelation of Christ as the Warrior King. We must know that it is “*Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit*” that the Lord is going to overthrow the enemy (Zech. 4:6). It is by the anointing that we will be able to dispossess the demonic powers and the wickedness that control the nations, and also gather a great harvest of souls.

The Lord gave Joshua the plans for the first battle he would face at Jericho. Joshua did not argue, but obeyed exactly what God told him to do. As a result, Israel was victorious. Yet as we study the ensuing battles, we find that the battle plan for Jericho was never used again. This is also seen in the warfare of King David (2 Sam. 5:18-25). **There has to be humility on the part of the leader to not be presumptuous, but enquire of the Lord for His battle plan to overcome each enemy.**

After Jericho, Israel came against the small city of Ai. The advice that Joshua received from his captains was very logical. Because it was a very small city, they thought there was no sense in having the whole army go up. That was human wisdom, but because Joshua did not enquire of the Lord, his army suffered a defeat. He fell on his face before God and the

Lord revealed to him that there was sin in the camp. The sin of one man, Achan, brought defeat to the entire army.

To remove the sin from the camp, they stoned Achan in the valley of Achor (Josh. 7:26). Yet Hosea 2:15 says, *“Then I will give her her vineyards from there, and the Valley of Achor as a door of hope...”* “Achor” means “trouble” in the Hebrew language. In this “valley of trouble,” God said He would put a door of hope.

The Israelites were defeated and discouraged, but God gave them new hope. At times, we go through a personal Valley of Achor. Perhaps it is our own fault. We might not ask God for His battle plan, or perhaps it is the sin in those around us that is stopping us from going on. But in the midst of our “valley of trouble” God gives a door of hope. After the cleansing and humbling of the Valley of Achor, we will be able to defeat our enemies as did Joshua and the Israelites of old.

One other failure that Joshua had is recorded in Joshua chapter 9, where the children of Israel made a league with the Gibeonites. God told them that they were to completely destroy the inhabitants of the land but Joshua failed to enquire of the Lord and the Gibeonites deceived them into making an alliance. We have been in many countries of the world to help numerous organizations and mission works, and we have seen similar situations repeated many times.

We have to be very careful about making alliances with the people in the land that God intends for us to possess. If we

do, we may not be able to possess *all* that God has intended for us. There are often organizations and churches that want to divide up the land. They will say that this is their territory, and may tell us to go work somewhere else. Or they will say that they are just like us so we may simply join in and be a part of their group. But if *God* has said that He wants to give us that place as an inheritance and we make a wrong alliance, we may not be able to possess it.

Joshua and the army of Israel conquered much of the Promised Land, but only settled for partial victory and did not drive out all the enemies (Josh. 13:1; 18:3). This is so true of the human heart. **Many Christians reach a certain level in their walk with the Lord and they are content to dwell there, when they should be pressing on to defeat *all* the enemies and hit the mark of the high calling of God!** David was the one who later brought Abraham's descendants into their full inheritance. Therefore, we need to understand the keys to David's life which will enable us all to fully enter in.

3. DAVID OBTAINED THE FULL INHERITANCE

As we have seen, Abraham received the promises of God that he and his descendants would obtain a great inheritance. Yet Hebrews 11:13 says that he died in faith, not having received the fulfilment of those promises. After that, it was Joshua who began to lead the Israelites into obtaining the Promised Land, but the people of God were content to compromise with their enemies and only possess part of the inheritance. So

many years later, David was raised up by God to complete what Joshua started. David brought Israel into the fulfilment of the dual vision of Abraham, of a natural geographic inheritance as well as a spiritual inheritance.

DAVID OBTAINED THE FULL GEOGRAPHIC INHERITANCE

David was a warrior king who conquered the surrounding nations and obtained the full geographical boundaries that had been promised to Abraham. The last enemy that God had mentioned to Abraham in Genesis 15:18-21 was the Jebusites. The Jebusites lived in the Promised Land right up to the time of David. But when David conquered the last of these enemies, he made their stronghold on the hill of Zion in Jerusalem his capital city.

David went on to rule over Israel and over all the surrounding nations from Zion. He said in Psalm 18:43-44, *“Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; and thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people whom I have not known shall serve me. As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.”*

David also wrote in Psalm 2:8 a specific promise of God which can also apply to us, *“Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.”* In these last days, the Lord will bring great revivals that will give us an inheritance in the nations. Ask the Lord what geographic boundaries are for you and your church; not only in your area and nation but also in

the nations. **Though we may never travel to a foreign land, if we pray for the nations and help support those who go to minister, we can enter into that inheritance.**

DAVID OBTAINED THE FULL SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE

David was a man after God's own heart, one who hit the mark of the high calling of God for his own life. He experienced three anointings to fulfil this. We read of his first anointing in 1 Samuel 16:13, where he was called of God. We also need a similar anointing to open our spiritual eyes and give us an understanding of the purpose for which we are called.

As David prepared to enter into his calling to become king, he was anointed a second time (2 Sam. 2:4). This is where he was chosen to become king over Judah. The third anointing David received was when he became king over all Israel (2 Sam. 5:3). He received this anointing because of his faithfulness. These three anointings caused him to fully enter into his inheritance as one who was called, chosen, and faithful (Rev. 17:14).

David also entered into obtaining the three-fold ministry of Christ as a prophet, priest, and king. He then brought the people of God into a place of partaking of this same spiritual inheritance.

David was a prophet who also helped bring a prophetic mantle upon many in his kingdom (2 Chr. 29:25, 1 Chr. 25:2). We

need to cry out for a restoration of the prophetic mantle which David knew because this mantle is needed to help bring us into the fullness of our inheritance. In these last days, God is going to pour out His Spirit even upon our sons and daughters and cause them to prophesy (Joel 2:28).

David was also a priest. When they were bringing up the Ark of the Covenant, he wore the linen ephod of a priest (2 Sam. 6:14). He placed the ark in a tabernacle on Mount Zion, and brought the nation into praise and worship. Furthermore, Amos 9:11 and Acts 15:14-17 show us that the Lord wants to restore the Tabernacle of David to the Church. We need Davidic ministries to bring the people of God into the fullness of the priestly ministry in these last days.

David was not only a prophet and priest, but he was also a king. He brought all the people of God under a mantle of kingdom authority, as Israel ruled over the surrounding nations. To bring the Church to maturity, we must also enter into this anointing of authority, to rule and reign with Christ.

My wife and I were living in Africa years ago teaching a primitive tribe. I was praying about what I should teach them when the Lord spoke to me, "I am going to have kings and priests out of every tribe, nation, and tongue. Teach the same truths to these primitive people that you teach in the developed nations because I am going to make them kings and priests to rule in eternity." This is a relationship that the Lord wants to bring all of His people into so that we may obtain our full inheritance.

DAVID'S FALL

I want to mention another aspect of David's life. David has been known not only for his godly virtues, but also for his falling into sin. In the books of 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel, the fallen nature of David is portrayed, but in the books of 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles none of that is mentioned. The reason is that the Chronicles present David as a type of Christ, whereas Samuel presents him as a man with a fallen nature.

We need to consider why David fell into adultery with Bathsheba. One reason is that he had many wives, which was a violation of the law of the kings (Deut. 17:17). Secondly, David should have gone to battle when he instead remained at home (2 Sam. 11:1). When David went to battle, God always protected him because he obeyed the laws of battle. However, when he did not obey the laws of marriage for a king, he fell in that area. **God will protect us in every area where we seek to be obedient**, but in other areas where we ignore or reject God, the wall of protection around us may be broken down by God Himself (Ps. 80:12-13).

God wants to warn us not to fall into sin like David did. Jesus prophesied that the generation just prior to the Second Coming would be an adulterous generation (Mk. 8:38). We can see this coming to pass with all the immorality among the nations.

Years ago, I had a vision of a certain country on my first night in that nation. Across it was written the word "Immorality" — God was showing me the cardinal sin of that nation. When

people got saved, water baptized, and filled with the Holy Spirit, they had to get the problem of lust dealt with immediately. It could not be allowed to go on after the baptism in the Holy Ghost; otherwise there were all kinds of hypocrisy and false spirits that came in. God required that we spoke in a very firm manner concerning this sin. Time and again we saw that after the services, the altars would be crowded with people seeking deliverance from these lusts of the flesh.

Any kind of deliverance requires a sovereign act of God.

We were faced with a problem there which the churches are now facing in many nations. Immorality is a terrible problem in the lives of young people throughout the world today. It has to be thoroughly dealt with. It is not removed by just crying and sobbing. I know people who have cried out for deliverance in this area and have gotten none at all. As with any kind of deliverance, there has to be a sovereign act of God. It's not simply being sorry for sin, or confessing it—there must be a true repentance, which includes forsaking the sin.

If you have these kinds of problems in your life, be honest. Go to those over you and ask them to pray for you. Cry out to God, as David did in Psalm 51.

DAVID'S RESTORATION

I want to now concentrate on the restoration of David, because God wants to restore many backsliders into their ministry and

calling in these last days. Looking at a few points in the restoration of David can give guidance for any who have fallen into sin.

First, **there has to be a genuine acknowledgment of sin**, as with King David (Ps. 51:3). Secondly, **there must be an acceptance of God's judgments** (Lev. 26:41-42, 2 Sam. 12:10-14). I have seen people faced with this who have refused God's correction and punishment. As a result, they have turned out of the way. King David accepted God's judgments upon his life.

Thirdly, **there has to be a forsaking of that sin** (Ps. 51:7-10). There must be this cry in our hearts, "*Create in me a clean heart, O God!*" There must not be a holding on to that wicked thing in our hearts, but we must cry out to the Lord for Him to take it away. The fourth point is that there must be a humble waiting upon God, as recorded in Psalm 40:1-2, until God completes the restoration.

The restoration of David became complete. He has been chosen to be resurrected to become the king of Israel during the 1,000-year millennial reign of Christ upon the earth (Jer. 30:9, Ezek. 37:24-25, Hos. 3:5). He will be well qualified to bring restoration to the nation of Israel at the Second Coming of Christ. Because David has been restored from slaying the innocent husband of Bathsheba, he will be able to minister restoration and consolation to the grieving nation when they realize that they killed their innocent Messiah upon the cross of Calvary (Zech. 12:10).

We can be encouraged as we consider David. Even though he committed adultery, he was restored, and he is a type of those who will enter into the blessings of God for the Church in the last days. The Lord will restore many to their full ministry and calling. If you have failed God, He can restore you. God is saying to some of you reading this that He has not disqualified you, but wants to use you again. His hand is upon you, and His calling upon your life is going to be restored even as it was with David. God wants to cleanse you from all guilt. He loves you and wants to restore you if you will only let Him. Consecrate yourself afresh to the Lord and He will renew the call and use you once again. You can still have a part in the revival and harvest of the last days.

As we have seen through the lives of Abraham, Joshua, and David, we can prepare for revival and obtain our full inheritance in Christ. We first need to be **men and women of vision who receive great promises from God** as Abraham did. This will include a geographic, as well as a spiritual inheritance. Then we also need to be **good soldiers of Jesus Christ**, as Joshua was, to enter in and start to possess the promises of God. Finally, we need to become **men and women after God's own heart** in order to enter into a Davidic ministry that will bring the people into the fullness of their inheritance. May the Lord help each of us not to be satisfied with anything less!

CHAPTER SIX

THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE

History records that the rebuilding of the temple at Jerusalem started about 536 B.C. and was completed in 516 B.C. This event has spiritual significance for the Church (which is now the temple of God), for as 1 Corinthians 10:11 reminds us, the things that happened to Israel are examples for our instruction.

THE PURPOSE FOR CAPTIVITY

Originally, the children of Israel knew the tremendous power of God in Egypt under Moses, and they knew the glory of God which filled the temple at the time of Solomon. However, they became a backsliding people until God judged them with captivity. These are also experiences that the Church has passed through. Like the children of Israel, the Church has lost the power that it knew at the beginning.

The captivity was necessary to purify the nation of Israel. They had lost their first love, were not keeping the commandments of God, and had filled the nation with idolatry. In Deuteronomy 28:47, the Lord warned them that if they would not serve Him with joy and gladness, He would send them into captivity. This is similar to when the Lord Jesus Christ said to the Ephesian church, “Because you have lost your first love, if you do not repent I will have to remove your candlestick” (Rev. 2:5). We must never forget that the relationship that God has desired for His people with Himself

is to be like the relationship of a bride and a bridegroom. **It is to be a relationship of joy and love.** If we lose the joy of the Lord and our first love for Jesus, then indeed our spiritual life becomes dead.

Israel's captivity was necessary to restore that love relationship between them and their Heavenly Bridegroom. The purpose for God leading His people into captivity is always remedial; it is to help them. It is very interesting to consider who went into captivity. It was not all of Judah. Judah was divided into two groups – those who went into Babylonian captivity and those who did not. One would think, "Surely those who were living in obedience to God did not go into captivity." But it was actually the opposite. Those who were living in obedience were the ones who went into captivity so that their love could be purified and they could be drawn closer to the Lord. The Lord refers to them as the "*good figs*," while the "*bad figs*" remained in the land (Jer. 24:5-8). God was no longer working in their lives.

So often we think that if we walk in obedience then we will not suffer. On the contrary, if we walk in obedience, we will often enter into the school of suffering! This is because God wants to purify our love and work His righteousness within our lives. We have the example of Job, who suffered so greatly, yet Ezekiel 15:14 tells us that he was one of the three most righteous men in the Old Testament!

The purpose for their going into captivity was that they were to be redeemed from their iniquities; their sinful, Adamic

nature was to be purified. As an example, wine has to be purified by pouring it from vessel to vessel, in order to remove the dregs or sediment that settles to the bottom. In Jeremiah 48:11, we are told that the nation of Moab had become self-satisfied and full of mixture. They were like impure wine that had not been poured from vessel to vessel and had never gone into captivity. God said, “His aroma [their old sinful nature] has not changed.” It is a terrible thing when a person does not yield to God, because the scent of the old nature grows stronger. Their anger, jealousy, or hatred becomes more powerful! Therefore it is very important to yield to God when He disciplines us, so that we may qualify to go into captivity, trials, suffering, and become purified.

LEAVING OUR CAPTIVITY

The Lord declared through the lips of Jeremiah that after 70 years the Israelites would be released from captivity to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Solomon wrote that there is a time for everything. There is a time to go into captivity, as Jeremiah had prophesied in Jeremiah chapters 27 and 28, and there is a time to come out of captivity, as he also prophesied in Jeremiah 29:10-14. That is why it is so important for us to be like the men of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32, because they had understanding of the times and knew what Israel should do.

The Scriptures record that although God had declared He was going to restore Israel after 70 years, most of the Israelites

chose to remain in Babylon. This is very interesting point. When God is going to do something, He openly declares it, revealing it to His servants – the prophets (Amos 3:7). Though God clearly declared His will and even the time when He would move, it was only the captives whose spirits were stirred up who actually left Babylon (Ezra 1:5). The others stayed behind. Ezra chapter 2 shows us that it was a relatively small company that left and went into the new move of God.

I think that is true of all revivals, and of everything that God does. God declares to everyone what He is going to do. God is now declaring throughout the world that revival is coming. But I wonder how many of us will actually enter into that revival? Only those whose spirits are stirred up by God, those who have prepared their hearts! We cannot sit down and wait to see what happens. If we wait and see, then we will be like those in Babylon who saw the others going on while they stayed behind! No—when God speaks, we are to listen and obey. When God says, “Revival is coming! Restoration is coming!” then we are to say, **“O God, early will I seek You. O God, stir up my spirit so that I will be prepared to enter into that which You are about to do!”**

REBUILDING THE ALTAR AND FOUNDATIONS

There are steps that we must take to build the Temple of God and enter into full revival. In Ezra 3:1-6, we see that when the Israelites returned to their land, the first thing they did was rebuild the altar. This also is what we must do when

we are called upon to build or establish a work. **We must first institute worship and build in the spiritual before we build in the natural.** Why worship? Because when we worship, the Lord makes His habitation there. Through our worship, the Lord is building us up to be a spiritual temple inhabited by the Lord of Glory!

The next thing the Israelites did was to lay the foundation of the temple (Ezra 3:7-13). There are two truths we must understand when we are laying a foundation to a spiritual work. First, we must lay good doctrinal foundations in the hearts and lives of the believers. These foundations are written for us in Hebrews 6:1-2. Second, we must have strong foundation stones. The Word of God is very clear that the strong foundation stones speak of mature ministers. One cannot build a glorious temple upon the foundation of spiritual children, it must be built on mature believers. Ephesians 2:20 states that Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone of the holy temple, which is the Church. This verse goes on to say that the temple is also built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, or other mature ministries. We must send mature ministries to be the foundation stones upon which the work of God is built in new locations. It takes time for mature ministries to be formed, and it is also interesting that the greatest spiritual foundation stones are formed through captivity and trials.

In considering a few of the great leaders who were used by God to build strong foundations, Joseph should be mentioned. He laid the foundations through which the Israelites lived and

multiplied in Egypt for over 400 years. Look at the formation process that he went through! He was betrayed by his brethren, sold as a slave, tempted, accused, and then wrongly imprisoned for a number of years. But what a foundation stone came forth! The foundation laid by Joseph carried the Israelites until the time of Moses.

During the long formation of Moses' ministry, we can remember the 40 years he spent in Pharaoh's household along with his 40 years in the wilderness. Yet look what foundations Moses established—he established the law for all generations! What an impact his teachings have had! Even the Church is built upon the teachings of Moses. This is because the New Covenant that has been given to us means that we are to have the laws of God (which were first given to Moses) written upon the fleshly tables of our hearts (Heb. 10:16). The foundational teachings of Moses have lasted about 3,500 years and will help carry us on into the Millennium!

David is another man who has laid foundations that will continue on into the 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth. Not only did he lay the foundations for the kingdom of Israel, but his kingdom and house will last right into the millennium (Ps. 89:3-4). Yet, like Moses, David was prepared in the wilderness, where he was persecuted and went through many trials. If we are going to be chosen by God to raise up spiritual houses, beloved, we have to be formed by God so that we do not crumble or break when the pressures come.

BUILDING WITH A VISION

When the Israelites began to lay the foundations for the temple, their adversaries came, claiming to worship the same God and wanting to help build the temple (Ezra 4:1-2). However, they did not qualify because they were not true Israelites. Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the other leaders said, “*Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God...*” (Ezra 4:3). Many times, those who oppose us are the ones who seek to build with us, but they do not qualify. We should only build with those who qualify and have the same vision and purpose. This is because when we are building, we are actually building a vision. Those who join with us must have the same vision.

Even the secular world acknowledges this principle. There have been investigations about why some businesses are successful, and why other businesses are not. When researchers examined IBM and many other large, long-lasting companies, they said the businesses that succeed are the ones who keep their original vision. The investigators concluded, “Lose the vision and you lose the company.” This truth can also apply to nations. The nation that loses its vision will meet with disaster. This is shown to us by the nation of Israel.

I have been in many organizations in my life, and I have seen that this is the main reason why organizations often fail. They begin by making alliances with the wrong people, mixture comes in, and the vision becomes lost.

Many times the organization becomes democratic, with everybody adding in their own ideas. But if we are going to build and complete the works that God entrusts to us, we have to be very careful not to make alliances with the wrong people.

We can only succeed if we keep the vision that God gives us for our life and ministry. When you go into the ministry or when God gives you something to do, make sure that you understand the vision that God has for that place. Your success depends upon holding on and staying true to that vision. That is why God spoke to Moses, *“And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount”* (Ex. 25:40).

I have been in the ministry for over 50 years, and as I look back on my life, I can see that in the beginning God gave me a vision that He has continued with and increased. By grace, I do not leave that vision. It is the vision of entering into revival and of going on to Zion.

THE REBUILDING IS HINDERED

Because of their enemies, the leaders of Israel were blocked from continuing to rebuild the temple by a royal law that was proclaimed against them (Ezra 4:6-23). They stopped the work and the result was that the people of God lost their vision and settled down. Their innermost thoughts were revealed as, *“This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD’S house should be built”* (Hag. 1:2).

How often we find that when opposition begins to hinder us, we become discouraged, accept these hindrances as the hand of God, and then we stop pressing on. It can sound very spiritual to say that because things are not flowing, it is not God's time.

When there is a problem, if we say it is not really God's time to do this, then we can settle down and have **every excuse for not obeying what the Lord told us to do!** We can say like these Israelites, "We will build our own houses," or say what Peter did in John 21:3 – "I am going fishing." We can go back to our former activities and lose the move of the Spirit.

It was 16 years that the work of God stopped until the Lord moved afresh. The Lord then stirred them up through the prophesying of Haggai and Zechariah with messages such as, "*Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways*" (Hag. 1:4-5). When the prophecies started to stir up the leaders and the people, they rose up to rebuild the house of God.

JOSHUA AND SATAN

Haggai and Zechariah prophesied some important keys concerning leadership. In Zechariah chapter 3 there are the prophecies concerning Joshua, who was the high priest of Israel at that time. Satan was standing against Joshua to accuse him. As leaders, we will have to face all kinds of

accusations. None of us will escape this. This will especially happen when we are beginning a fresh work for God, or a new move of God is ready to start!

Now, how do we handle these accusations and criticism? We have to handle them through the spirit of meekness. We must not let these accusations get into our own spirit and cause such things as bitterness, self-justification, and unforgiveness. Above all we must ask God to give us grace, forgiveness, and forgetfulness, as Joseph had. There is always the danger of being preoccupied with the enemy instead of moving forward. This was what happened in the United States under President Jimmy Carter. President Carter paralyzed the country when he concentrated so completely on the 50 American hostages held by Iran for 400 days. As a leader, you cannot be preoccupied with the enemy. You cannot be preoccupied with the situations that would seek to take away all your strength. You have to keep going forward with the vision that God gave you to accomplish.

Leadership must also seek God for a fresh cleansing, like Joshua the High Priest received in Zechariah chapter 3. Joshua received new garments. There was a fresh anointing given to Joshua for the new work he was to do. In a similar way, we also need to have a fresh anointing, a fresh mantle, to do a new work for God. After these things Joshua was given a plumbline. It is so important that we have a plumbline so that we can build straight. We need to know God's plans for each new work, so that we build according to His pattern.

ZERUBBABEL AND THE MOUNTAIN

The prophecies of Zechariah chapter four concern Zerubbabel, the governor of those Israelites who had returned from the Babylonian captivity. He needed to have an understanding of how the work of God was to be accomplished. He was told that it was *“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts”* (Zech. 4:6). It was by the anointing that he was going to bring down the mountain of opposition he was facing. That great mountain actually was the might of the Persian Empire, as the enemies had obtained a royal law against the rebuilding by the Jews.

Perhaps you have a mountain of opposition against you, perhaps there are even government laws that your enemies want to use against you to hinder the work you are doing for God. You will not succeed by might, by money, or by having a large number of people on your side. You will not build by your own willpower or determination. The way the temple is going to be rebuilt is by the anointing! And that opposition, that high mountain, is going to fall down before you by the grace of God!

We must realize that we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but against satanic principalities and powers in heavenly places (Eph. 6:12). We must win our battles in the spiritual realm, and break the power of the enemy by the anointing of the Spirit of God.

In New Zealand, a friend of mine became the pastor of a church, which for 15 years had not been able to grow larger

than 150 people. Sometimes it would go up to 150 members, then go down to perhaps 30 members. It was up and down many times but could not go beyond 150 people. However, when this new pastor was seeking the Lord, the Lord said “Come to the church every morning at 6 o’clock to pray.” As he was praying there, the Lord gave him a vision. The Lord showed him a huge demon that ruled over the city, which was keeping the church from being able to grow any bigger. The pastor kept praying at the church every morning, and some of the church members started to join him until a large group was praying. As they continued to pray, the Lord gave the pastor a vision that the demon was no longer standing in the heavenlies, but had been partly cast down to where only about half of him was above ground level. The church continued to pray until another person had a dream, that only the head of the demon was still to be seen. As they continued to pray, the demon was then cast completely down, and after that a revival broke out. The church grew to be about 1500 people, which was ten times bigger than it had ever been able to grow. That church first needed deliverance from the enemy that was hindering it.

As we enter into spiritual warfare, the mountains of opposition which face us must be brought down by the Spirit of God. By the grace of God, may we each get the key for victory that we need to release our churches and cities so that revival can flow.

It only took Zerubbabel about four years, from 520 B.C. to 516 B.C., to complete the rebuilding of the temple. The great

obstacles that had risen up against the work of God were removed. In our day, the Lord is also going to do a quick work in rebuilding the temple, which is His Church. We must also be ready to quickly accomplish the work that God has given us to do, not by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of God.

REVIVAL IS COMING!

Ponder these questions, brothers and sisters. Is God starting to stir afresh in your own heart and life? Do you want to meet with God in a new way? Do you want to have a clear vision and a fresh equipping for the ministry? The Lord is building His Church, and is preparing the greatest revival that the world has ever seen. The harvest is great, but the labourers are few. Leaders are being commissioned and equipped by God for this great work—what about you?

We need a deeper cleansing, like Joshua the High Priest, so that we can gain new authority. We need to experience the grace and the promises of God that were given to Zerubbabel, so that by the anointing we can both begin and complete the work that God has called us to.

Is the Lord starting to stir your heart afresh? Do you know God is saying that revival is coming? Do you hear the Lord saying, “Yes, I have ordained you for this time of restoration. I have ordained you for this time when I am bringing back all the things I have promised for My Church.” The Lord your God is speaking specifically to you, that He has a place for

you. The Lord will reveal that place to you and make it clear as you yield your doubts to Him. He has called you and placed His hand upon you, and He can bring to pass the things that seem impossible. The Lord declares that He is the Creator, and He creates things which are not and brings them into being. Only yield yourself to Him, and do not doubt, and He will bring to pass what He has spoken to your heart.

As we enter into spiritual warfare, the mountains of opposition which we face must be brought down by the Spirit of God!

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE VISION OF ZION

The Lord desires to plant an onward vision within us. In Habakkuk 2:2 we read, “*Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.*” In our own lives, we must have a vision from God, either by His Spirit, from the Scriptures, or by the anointed preaching of the Word of God. This vision will enable us to look beyond the present spiritual experience we are in. It can hold us, carry us on, and give us purpose in life.

God has a vision for every dispensation or period of time.

As we enquire what time we are living in, we find that we are living in the last days. But it is very interesting that everywhere in the Scriptures where it speaks of the last days, we read about Zion. All the promises of God are to Zion in the last days. It is the ultimate goal of the Church! The Apostle Paul clearly states this in Hebrews 12:22 when he said, “*But ye are come unto Mount Zion...*”

Geographically speaking, Mount Zion is the southeast part of the city of Jerusalem. In ancient times it was called the city of David, and before then it was inhabited by the Jebusites. This mountain has great spiritual significance for the Christian.

THE JOURNEY FROM EGYPT TO ZION

To understand the spiritual journey that we must take in our Christian experience we must study the journey of the

Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land. The Old Testament “Church,” the children of Israel, started to multiply in Egypt. Egypt is a type or picture of the world. We can see a population explosion in the world today, but there is to be a population explosion in the Church! Salvation was revealed in Egypt. The Passover lamb was slain there to save the Israelites, just as 1 Corinthians 5:7 says that, “*Christ, our Passover, also has been sacrificed.*”

After the Israelites were saved out of Egypt, they crossed the Red Sea, which speaks to us of water baptism. But we read that just after they had crossed the Red Sea, they already knew their destination was Mount Zion. Exodus 15:17 says, “*Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.*” This mountain was Zion (Ps. 79:54,68). That was always the goal!

MOUNT SINAI

We read in Exodus 19:1 that in the third month of their journey they came to Mount Sinai. The feast of the third month in the religious calendar of Israel is Pentecost. We understand that Mount Sinai represents the Feast of Pentecost, or the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

It was the tremendous power on Mount Sinai that enabled Israel to go through the wilderness and come to the Jordan. We need the power that they had on Mount Sinai where the

A vision can hold us, carry us on, and give us purpose in life.

fire of God came down, so that we as leaders can get the people through the wilderness and into their inheritance. We need to emphasize the power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. But the Apostle Paul declared in Hebrews 12:18-22 that we are not called to Mount Sinai, but to Mount Zion. So we must realize that the end destination of our spiritual life is not the Pentecostal experience. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is only to help us along our way to Mount Zion.

Then the call of God came to Moses in Deuteronomy 10:11, *“And the LORD said unto me, Arise, take thy journey before the people, that they may go in and possess the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give unto them.”* In Deuteronomy 2:3 the Lord also said, *“Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward.”* So many churches in our days have become Pentecostal or Charismatic, and have camped around this blessing. Many times the church is satisfied with an experience. But we must not be experience-oriented; we must be Christ-oriented! We must go on to the fullness of what He has for us. Israel of old was told specifically that they had camped around Mount Sinai, or around the blessing of Pentecost, for too long. The Lord said, *“It is time to move on!”*

I believe that God is speaking very clearly to the Church everywhere that it is long past time that we should have left Mount Sinai to move on with the Lord. The Israelites of old

were to move on with the cloud. By the grace of God, we want to follow the cloud of God's presence that has left Mount Sinai and the Charismatic movement. God is moving on! That which was the will of God at a certain time *ceases* to be the will of God when the presence of God moves on. By the grace of God we want to follow His presence, and according to Scripture, His presence is unmistakably going to Zion.

So often, we camp around these blessings for too long. There was a time when we were teaching in the United States, and the Lord spoke to us that we were to go back to Europe where we had ministered in years past. He said, "The things that I show you, you will declare throughout the world." We went back, and what we saw was that some of the great spiritual leaders in many of the countries of Europe had fallen into sin. My heart was broken and I cried out to God, "Lord, why?" The Lord said, "Because they walked around that mountain too long, and became too familiar with their present truth. The spiritual life contained in that truth did not continue to be expressed through them any longer, and the result was that as they walked around that mountain, eventually they became weak and fell into sin." So let us remember the call of the Apostle Paul in Hebrews 12:18-22. Our call is not to Mount Sinai and our ultimate destination is not to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Where are we going? "*But ye are come unto Mount Zion*" (Heb. 12:22).

THE WILDERNESS

After the children of Israel left Mount Sinai, they journeyed through the wilderness. We see this same pattern in the life of

Christ. The Lord Jesus was water baptized in Mark 1:9, just as the Israelites were baptized in type at the Red Sea. Then in verse 10 He was filled with the Holy Spirit, just as the Israelites next came to Mount Sinai, where the fire of God fell. The next event in Christ's life is recorded in verse 12, "*And immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness*" (NKJV), which the Israelites also experienced next.

The wilderness speaks of the trials and testings that are to bring us to obedience. Deuteronomy 8:2 tells us that the Lord led Israel for 40 years in the wilderness to work within them humility, obedience, and purity. We read about the same experience in the life of Christ from Hebrews 5:8: "*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.*" There is only one way that obedience is worked out in our life, and that is through suffering.

The Israelites failed in the wilderness, and we also cannot get through unless God brings us. If we reject God's dealings, we will spend our entire lives in the wilderness and never cross through it. And if we do not pass through, we will never get to our inheritance. There are no shortcuts!

CROSSING THE JORDAN

After the wilderness, the Israelites then crossed over the Jordan. This speaks about the crucified life. While the Red Sea (or water baptism) is our identification *by faith* with the crucified life, the Jordan speaks of having the *reality* of that experience working in our lives. When the Israelites had

crossed the Red Sea they were out of Egypt, but all during their wilderness trials they wanted to return to Egypt. In a similar way, you can get Christians out of the world when they are saved and water baptized, but you still have to get the world of the Christians! It was only when the Israelites crossed the Jordan into their inheritance that they no longer had any desire to go back to Egypt. When they crossed the Jordan and camped at Gilgal, all the males were circumcised, and the Lord said in Joshua 5:9, “*This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you.*” We also need to cross the Jordan and have our hearts circumcised, so that we can enter into the experiential knowledge that we are dead to sin.

Years ago when I was studying in my office one morning, I had a vision of Christ upon the cross, with His back toward me. Then in the Spirit I was caught up and I hung with Christ on that cross. I was *in Christ*, looking through His eyes down upon the people below. I looked down at all the people who were mocking Jesus as He was being crucified. Then the vision ceased, and from my innermost being the Spirit of God rolled forth. It rolled up in my mouth and the words came out, “*I have been crucified with Christ*” (Gal. 2:20). Then I saw the veil of the temple ripped from top to bottom. Then I knew that on the cross my old nature had been crucified! It is very important that we all have a “Jordan experience” and that we walk, by the grace of God, in the light of our being dead to sin. You do not have to have a vision, but you do have to experientially *know* that your old man was crucified with Him.

CONQUERING THE INHERITANCE

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land, they began to dispossess the seven nations that lived in Palestine. It would have been very easy to take the land if no one lived there. Mount Sinai was not inhabited, showing us that there is no battle to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. However, in the Promised Land there were inhabitants, giants, and battles to be fought, just as we now have to fight against principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

Mount Zion was the last and most difficult stronghold to capture. It was the stronghold of the Jebusites. They held out for centuries until the time of David. They had boasted that even if their soldiers were all blind and lame, David and his army could not conquer them. But Zion was taken by David after his third anointing. **There must be a work of God accomplished in us before we can move on to Zion.** This third anointing is very important.

ZION, THE PLACE OF UNITY

Although Mount Zion was the last stronghold in the land of Palestine, we are told in 2 Samuel 5:7 that David captured it and made it the capital of the nation. There is a deep significance there. As Zion was the last stronghold that Israel came to, it is going to be the last place that the Church is brought to also. But there were the Jebusites who lived there. In Deuteronomy 7:1-2 the Lord said there were seven enemy

nations in the land of Palestine. God gave victory over these enemies, and the last enemy was the Jebusites. Spiritually speaking, we have the interpretation of these seven enemies in Proverbs 6:16-19, where the Lord declares the seven things that He hates. The last of these, like the Jebusites, was “*he that soweth discord among brethren.*” It is interesting because we read in Psalm 133 that the brethren who dwell together in unity are like the dew upon Zion, where God commanded His blessing. So Zion is the dwelling place of the unity of the brethren. Where the Jebusites are cast down, we find that discord among the brethren is laid to rest. Where there is the unity of the brethren, the blessing of God will flow.

ZION, THE PLACE OF GLORY

Mount Zion is also the place of the Tabernacle of David. In the time of King David, the Tabernacle of Moses was still at Shiloh. But the Ark of the Covenant was missing from the Holy of Holies. Years before it had been captured by the Philistines, after which it was ignored by King Saul. However, at the beginning of King David’s reign he had the Ark retrieved and put in the tabernacle (or *tent*) upon Mount Zion.

At the ark there was the literal presence of God between the cherubim, where the cloud of the *shekinah* glory of God covered it. Unlike the Tabernacle of Moses, there was no veil in David’s Tabernacle to prevent everyone from seeing the glory of God. David and all the worshipers had open access to draw near to the Ark and experience God’s glory. Therefore the visible glory of God is associated with Mount Zion.

At times God has chosen to manifest His glory. A friend of mine was recently talking to me about the cloud of glory which came into their service. I also remember a time in France a number of years ago when the ministers were praising God on the platform, and a cloud of great glory covered them. There have been touches of it, but what is going to happen is that we shall see the literal glory cloud coming into the churches. We must lift our vision higher! We must not limit God, but must see what the Word of God declares for the Church in the last days. In 2 Corinthians 3:7, it declares that the glory that was manifested in Moses passed away, but the ministration of the Spirit shall be greater. Isaiah declared, “*And His glory will appear upon you*” (Isa. 60:2).

I have seen the glorious Church on earth in a vision. I also saw the Church led by Jesus, coming with Him down from heaven. O, that glorious, heavenly Church! I have seen it descending, and I have seen the Church on earth rising—and they were both identical. Praise God, there is going to be a mighty revival for the Church to get us ready to meet the Lord!

ZION, THE PLACE OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

There arose around the Tabernacle of David all the worship that is associated with David. They entered into a realm of praise and worship there on Mount Zion that the people of God had never seen before. In the last days, God is also going to cause us to enter into praise and worship to a degree we have never known before. In Psalm 65:1 it says, “*Praise*

waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion.” This praise and worship is waiting to be revealed, when the Church ascends to Zion!

A glimpse of this happened with a revival in Scotland during the 1930s. I met the brethren who were responsible for that revival. The ushers moved the people out at midnight to shut the church doors. What did the people do? They camped around the building, singing all night, until the doors were opened at 8:00 in the morning. That is the realm of praise and worship that we are awaiting!

ZION, THE PLACE OF TEACHING

Zion is also the place of teaching in the last days. In Isaiah 2:2, we see that in the last days the mountain of the Lord’s house will be exalted, and all nations will flow to it. This is speaking about Zion, and of how the Church of Jesus Christ shall be lifted up in these last days. Then Isaiah 2:3 says that the people who come up the mountain of the Lord will say, *“He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths.”* God is going to reveal His ways to us. Psalm 103:7 says that the children of Israel saw the acts and the miracles of God, but only Moses knew His ways. Yet in our day, God is going to reveal His ways to those who go up to Zion.

ZION, THE PLACE OF THE LAW

Isaiah 2:3 also goes on to say that *“The law shall go forth out of Zion.”* As I have gone around the nations, the Lord has spoken to me that He is going to honour His law in the last

days. The nations have passed law after law in the last few years, to change the standards of society away from the Ten Commandments. But God is going to exalt His law amongst the nations and in His Church in these last days.

In 2 Kings 10:30, we find that Jehu had fulfilled the ministry for which he was anointed, but in verse 31 we read, “*But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD.*” You can be anointed by God, fulfil a ministry, yet also still walk contrary to the law of God. **The fact that you are anointed and fulfilling a ministry does not mean that you are accepted in the presence of Almighty God!** It is important to give heed to the law of God in these days because we are going to see great sin and deception. Psalm 119:165 encourages us, “*Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*”

ZION, THE PLACE OF REVIVAL

Isaiah 25:7 tells us, “*And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.*” We have heard much in recent years about the fallen angels that rule over nations, cities, and towns. Because of them, the gospel does not have full liberty in those areas. But where those powers of darkness have been bound—where the veil has been broken—then the anointing and the power of God comes down. And so it is that as we go up to Mount Zion we shall have the power to break the veils over the nations of this world. We shall have power with God to break the ruling princes over the cities in which we live, and

cause an outpouring of the Spirit of God to come upon that city. That is the key to revival – it is the tearing and destroying of the veil upon a city or a country. When that veil is removed, the Spirit of God is poured out, the people are convicted, and revival flows everywhere.

During the national revival in Sweden last century, they had this kind of breakthrough. People would walk literally tens of miles through the snow, because they were convicted in their homes of sin. They were looking for a church that was open that could tell them of Christ and His salvation that would cleanse them from their guilt. When God opens His heavens upon a city or upon a nation, the Spirit flows in every home!

In the Welsh revival, when the meetings started in certain towns, the people in the taverns could not pick up their glasses to drink beer because the Spirit of God fell on them. They sometimes crawled to the meetings to get deliverance from their sins! That is the type of revival that we want to see. I once visited a very godly pastor who had been part of that revival. When he whispered the name of Jesus, the sweet fragrance of Christ would fill the room. I walked through his city and there was a certain sense of holiness there. When you walked on the streets, it was different than any other city. There was a holiness of God that was still there from the revival years before. As we walked he said to me, “Do you see that building?” I said, “Yes.” He said, “That used to be a tavern, but it is no longer a tavern because there are no customers.” He then pointed to tavern after tavern, about a dozen that we passed which were all shut up because the Spirit

of God had cleaned them out. The pastor also said, “Our church was not big enough for the crowds that came, so the local theater manager gave us the keys to his cinema because he had no customers either!” **There is power when the veil is destroyed, and that is why God wants us to go up to Zion.** There is power in Zion that can sweep a nation into God!

A brother was recently speaking to me about the tremendous sin there is in his country. I once saw the prince that rules there, and he is a tremendous dark angel. But I believe the time is coming when God is going to dispossess him and set the people free. We are going to experience what David experienced when he reigned in Zion. Every time he went into battle, he won. He did not lose even once.

Deuteronomy 28:13 declares that the Church is to be the head, not the tail. As the Church ascends to her full inheritance, there is going to be a lifting up of the head for the Church. No longer is she going to be the tail, conforming to every desire of this world. She shall be the head, giving direction to governments, presidents, and to those in authority. This is already happening in certain nations. The government officials are going to the Church for guidance because they don't know which way they should go. In the last days many shall get their directions from the Church!

ASCENDING AND ABIDING IN ZION

There are conditions or qualifications for going up to Zion. Psalm 24:3 says, “*Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?*”

And who may stand in His holy place?” This hill was the mountain of Zion, where the ark had been put in David’s Tabernacle. The qualifications in verse 4 are: “He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully.” The qualifications for us to ascend to Zion are all based on righteousness.

**There is power
in Zion that can
sweep a nation
into God!**

When they were praying for revival in the Hebrides Islands, God spoke these verses to them from Psalm 24. As they humbled themselves before the Lord to follow these verses, the Lord suddenly poured forth His Spirit. In town after town there was great conviction of the Spirit of God, because some of God’s saints had gone up to spiritual Mount Zion!

In Psalm 15:1 we are asked the question, “*LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?*” In this psalm we see there are further qualifications of righteousness for those who desire to abide and dwell on Mount Zion. Psalm 24 gives the conditions for us to be able to *ascend* to Zion, but we must qualify further to remain and *abide* in that holy hill!

We must let the Spirit of God search our hearts and bring conviction. As you read this, some are making a choice which is going to determine your eternal destiny. Not to determine whether you are saved or lost, but it will determine whether you will qualify to dwell on Mount Zion. Those who have

been invited to have a deeper, holier walk with God must make a choice that will determine whether they will qualify for Zion or take a lower place.

This is a time of decision. Multitudes, multitudes are in the valley of decision (Joel 3:14). Some are being weighed in the balances. The response from your heart will determine your eternal future – whether you will continue onwards to the fullness of God’s purposes for your life or whether you will remain where you are. **As you make the decision to stand for righteousness, God will give you grace.** God will take you onward and cause you to dwell in His holy hill!

BEING BORN IN ZION

Psalm 87:4-7 speaks three times about those who were born in Zion. Verse 5 says, *“And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her.”* The Lord wants to birth within us the vision that spiritual Zion is our home. He is calling us to catch a vision of where we are to spiritually dwell, both for our own lives and also for our churches.

I trust that these things are being birthed within you, because God desires to give to each of us an onward vision. The question we must ask ourselves is, “Lord, where am I on my spiritual journey?” As we ask in sincerity, the Spirit of God will show us. Are you already saved from Egypt, and water baptized like the Israelites at the Red Sea? Are you also baptized in the Holy Spirit? Hebrews 6:1 tells us that we must

go past these first foundations in our Christian experience, and go on to perfection! We need to learn humility and obedience to overcome the trials of the wilderness. We need to experience the crucified life and cross the Jordan so that we can begin to possess our inheritance. We need to experience the anointings that David had, to go up and conquer the final enemies so that we can ascend and live in spiritual Zion!

Irrespective of where you are in the journey, God can birth within you the vision of Zion. The Holy Spirit can conceive within you the vision that you were born for a greater destiny than you have yet experienced. He can give you a desire in your heart that will never be satisfied until you come to the fullness of Christ! May that onward vision be birthed in each of us which will cause us to run the race with patience until we appear before God in Zion (Ps. 84:7). Never forget that revival (and all of God's blessings) is not your goal; it is only a means to an end—Christ. Keep pressing on until you win Christ! As He then delights in you, you will be used for His glory and will see the revival power released that will cause nations to turn to Christ.

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