

# The Rising Of The Sons Of Dawn



## Book 2:

Section 1: The Womb Of The Dawn

Section 2: The Bent Double Woman

Tim Bauer

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## Introduction

After many years of separation, Jacob is about to meet his brother, Esau, face to face. Fearing for his life, he has an interesting encounter the night before, wrestling alone with “a man” through the night until daybreak.

After Jacob had the socket of his thigh dislocated, the man said to him, *Let me go, for the dawn is breaking*. Jacob said that he would not let go until he blessed him. I see in this passage of Scripture a picture in type of the last days Christian that holds on firmly to the Lord in a very dark, difficult period on earth until the dawning of a new day.

After wrestling with God and man, these “Sons of Dawn” arise, like Jacob, having overcome and received God’s blessing. As we turn toward the Lord in our hearts, facing Him and our inner struggles, He will cause His face to shine upon us, thereby granting us entrance into our spiritual inheritance at the end of this age.

In the second part of this book I share a revelation regarding a woman who was “bent-double” by Satan for eighteen years. Jesus called her over to Himself, laid His hands on her, and healed her. Her being enabled to stand up straight is a picture of the Body of Christ being set free from that which binds us so that we may walk in an upright, righteous manner in complete victory.

The pressure of God applied at the end of this age will cause us to rise up, like Jacob, in the dawning of a new day. Like the bent-double woman, we too will straighten up, unhindered by the devil, and walk in complete obedience.

May the Lord bless all who read this with even greater revelation knowledge, for His name’s sake. May this message of great hope also make us more determined to hold firmly onto the Lord until He blesses us in the dawning of a new day. To God be the glory!

Tim Bauer

# *Section 1*

## *Chapter One*

### **The Womb Of The Dawn**

**I**n Psalm 110 an interesting phrase jumped out at me as I was reading one day. In time, the Holy Spirit began to unravel a great mystery hidden within this passage concerning the end of this age and His people gaining His glory. David wrote in verses 1-7, *The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies. Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth. The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth. He will drink from a brook beside the way; therefore he will lift up his head.*

The phrase that stood out to me was *from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth*. It seemed like such a strange statement at first, but I was moved from within to pursue its meaning.

As I broke it down, digging into it word by word, I began to get very excited by what the Holy Spirit was explaining. The truth does that to me because it's the only thing that can set us free. When applied, it's used to set our spirit free from the bondage of our fallen nature, as well as the lies of the devil. This is why from the beginning, in the Garden of Eden, the devil began to confuse and distort what God was saying to mankind (Genesis 3:1-5).

Many questions began to form in my mind. Was the phrase "the womb of the dawn" similar to saying "from the beginning of creation" or "like it was at the start, at the origin of mankind?" I prayed and dug deep into the Scriptures, Looking for the Holy Spirit's answer.

It's very encouraging to know that God has declared, I believe not only for David, but also for all Christians who would, through obedience, remain sitting next to Him, that we will be ruling "in the midst of" our enemies. In the end, it's going to be a bad day for the heads of many countries who arrogantly stand against the formidable government of the King of kings. God declares that they, and many others in their nation, will be crushed under His mighty hand of judgment.

Like David, we too are called to sit at the Lord's "right hand" which represents the authority of God over all things. It is only when we remain in this place, under Christ's authority, that victory over our enemies is assured (2 Corinthians 2:14).

Because of His submission to the Father's will, Jesus now sits at His right hand with all authority (Matthew 26:64, Mark 16:19, Acts 2:33). Because of this, when we submissively abide in Christ, His authority and power will flow through us. This is where the battle becomes very real. We have a fallen nature that is easily distracted and prone to wander. All Christians will sooner or later find themselves in the place of frustration over the conflict of two natures within them. The old, sinful man fights the new nature of the Spirit every inch of the way.

In time we all come to the place where, like Paul, we say, *I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot*

*carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do-- this I keep on doing... What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.* (Romans 7:18-25)

We have to understand this inner wretchedness in order to acknowledge our total dependence on the Lord who sanctifies us. It's only as we work together with Him (2 Corinthians 6:1), not against Him, that we can and will eventually be set free. Like the worm in the cocoon, it's the struggle to escape that gives the wings strength to fly when it's time to come out.

The actual Hebrew for sit in Psalm 110:1 means "to dwell, to remain, to abide, to marry." It is the place of His lordship. We are to stay near Him, not wandering away, until all of His enemies, within and without, are brought into submission. Our submission to Jesus as Lord brings everything else into submission unto Him. It is in this place of abiding that the flesh, the world, and the devil will ultimately be defeated.

More than that, it is the only place where the sons of God can receive His glory. The glory of the Son, Jesus Christ, will arise first on those who remain close to Him through obedience, just as the light of the sun first rises on the mountain peaks and then down into the valleys. Arrayed in "holy majesty," they will crush the enemies of God by His authority.

Psalm 149 says that it will be an honor for all of His *godly ones to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron.* At this time there will be no turning of the cheek, but rather a crushing of all that is wicked. The vengeance of God is just as much a part of His character as His mercy. The reassuring thing, though, is that His mercy always precedes His wrath.

The "scepter from Zion" is God's righteous authority granted to His proven sons and daughters who abide in Him. Hebrews 1:8, in quoting Psalm 45:6, speaks of the righteous scepter as the scepter of His kingdom. Righteousness leads to

authority. The key to Jesus' authority was His submission to the will of the Father. It's the same for us as well.

### The Oil Of Gladness

In reference to the superiority of Christ, Hebrews 1:9 declares, *Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy companions.* The anointing came after obedience. The Greek for "gladness" is *agalliasis* [ag-al-lee'-as-is]. It's described as "exultation, extreme joy, gladness." According to Thayer's Greek Lexicon; "At feasts, people were anointed with the 'oil of gladness.' Paul, in Hebrews 1:9, is alluding to this inaugural ceremony of anointing, and uses it as an emblem of the divine power and majesty to which the Son of God has been exalted."

The writer of Hebrews is quoting from Psalm 45 in regards to the oil of gladness. This chapter refers to the royal bride at God's right hand, the place of His authority. One of the definitions for sit in Psalm 110:1 was "to marry." Those in the Body who prove themselves loyal to the King, remaining faithfully at His side, will, like Christ, be exalted "above thy companions."

It also refers to others who are within the royal court. I believe it's speaking of the order of God's government during His thousand year reign on earth. Some within the Body of Christ are more obedient than their brothers and sisters, having drawn closer to the King upon His request. They will rightfully receive more authority in the age to come, reigning with the Lord according to their obedience while on earth.

Isaiah 61 also refers to the oil of gladness. Verses 1-3 say, *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness*



*instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.*

This chapter also refers to the authority of God in His day of wrath at the end of the age, along with righteousness and the bride. Interestingly, when Jesus quoted this passage in Luke 4:14-21, He stopped at “to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” In that moment, and up to now, there was favor and mercy. The rest of the prophecy, referred to as the day of God’s vengeance, is about to be fulfilled. When this transpires there will be no more favor, but rather a fearful realization of what is occurring.

Jude 1:24-25 says, *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*

Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling, or falling away from the faith. He is able, but are we willing? His power is able to form and fashion us into an acceptable sacrifice without spot or blemish. This can only happen in His hands, by His Spirit.

Great joy, even “extreme joy” freely flows from the heart of those who love righteousness and hate lawlessness. Exuberant praise and worship are the result of getting set free by the Lord and abiding in His glorious presence. It’s nothing that can be orchestrated, worked up, or forced. Extreme joy is a result of being anointed with the “oil of gladness” by the Spirit of God who releases the grateful captives from their slavery to corruption.

## *Chapter Two*

# Receiving The Dew

**T**he word “dawn” in Psalm 110:3 is interpreted from the Hebrew word *mishcar* [mish-khawr']. It’s defined as “in the sense of day breaking; dawn.” In the breaking of a new day, the birthing of a new thing in Christ, we are said to receive “the dew of our youth.” Dew is taken from a word that means “to cover over.” It’s that which appears on the ground, covering the grass, at daybreak. Webster’s Dictionary defines it as “anything regarded as refreshing, gently falling, pure, etc.” Dew is refreshing and renewing for that which it falls upon. So is the purifying Spirit of God.

The early morning mist is a picture of the “covering” of the Lord over those who have received His blood atonement through His cross for the forgiveness of their sins. Its appearance always coincides with the rising of the sun after an extended period of darkness. So it will be at the end of this age as the glory of God falls upon His faithful children. We will once and for all regain the dominion and glory of God lost in the Garden of Eden through the deception of the serpent. What glory Christians now possess partially will soon be received in its fullness through a remnant who hear and do what the Spirit reveals to the church. It is in that glorious moment that Satan will fall from heaven, never to return.

In Deuteronomy 33 Moses blesses the sons of Israel before his death. Verses 13-17 deal with his blessing over Joseph in which he said, *Blessed of the LORD be his land, with the choice things of heaven, with the dew, and from the deep lying beneath, and with the choice yield of the sun, and with the choice produce of the months, and with the best things of the ancient mountains, and with the choice things of the everlasting hills, and with the choice things of the earth and its fullness, and the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush. Let it come to the head of Joseph, and to the crown of the head of the one distinguished among his brothers. As the first-born of his ox, majesty is his, and his horns are the horns of the wild ox; with them he shall push the peoples, all at once, to the ends of the earth. And those are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and those are the thousands of Manasseh.*

Multiple times Moses spoke of the “choice” things, the “best” things, for Joseph’s descendants. He even mentioned the earth’s “fullness” for him, as well as God’s favor. I believe this blessing falls on the Joseph-Company of believers at the end of this age who, like Joseph, are separated unto the Lord. It is his obedient consecration before the Lord that distinguishes him among his brothers, much like the royal queen in Psalm 45 who was exalted above her companions.

Last but not least, notice Joseph’s dominion in verse 17 over all nations, driving them to the ends of the earth. The word “horns” comes from the Hebrew word *qeren* [keh'-ren] which is defined as “a horn, a peak of a mountain, a ray of light; figuratively, power.”

To push means to war against. Again, on the mountain of the Lord the Son’s rays of light will fall upon His consecrated ones, granting them power and authority. As the army of the Lord they will then wage war with the nations, driving them to “the ends of the earth.”

### The Perfect One

Song of Solomon 6:8-10 says, *There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and maidens without number; But my dove,*

*my perfect one, is unique: she is her mother's only daughter; she is the pure child of the one who bore her. The maidens saw her and called her blessed, the queens and the concubines also, and they praised her, saying, "Who is this that grows like the dawn, as beautiful as the full moon, as pure as the sun, as awesome ["frightful, terrible, dreadful"] as an army with banners?"*

In this passage, Solomon gives the Bridegroom's (Jesus) description of His Bride. She is defined as the "perfect one," which means complete. She represents those who have entered the "fullness," the completeness of Christ. She is called the pure child of the one who bore her. This purity has come from the dew of heaven that has rested upon her.

Remember, it's in the darkness that the dew is received. At the dawning of a new day is when it's revealed. This is the way it will be at the end of this age when the Lord reveals His bride to the world. She will be recognized by all as the chosen one of the Lord.

This unique one is said to be "like the dawn." She is compared to the full moon in its whiteness, and the sun in its purity and sincerity. Solomon also refers to her as being as frightful as an army with banners. This appears to be related to the dreadful army of God described in Joel 2:1-11 that will be in operation during the day of the Lord.

After the destruction of the enemy, she will then reign with her Husband's (Jesus Christ) authority. Other versions call her the "choice" one, the "favorite" one. She appears to have Joseph's blessing on her. Like Queen Esther, she has willingly gone through the process of purification (consecration) in anticipation of entering the King's presence (Esther 2:12-17). She, like the child described by Solomon, found favor with the King more than any other virgin, as well as receiving praise from others.

### *Chapter Three*

## **Wrestling With God**

**I**n Genesis 32:24-32, after many years of separation, Jacob is about to meet his brother Esau face to face. The last time he saw him was when he had deceived his father into giving him Esau's blessing (Genesis 27). Fearing for his life, he now has an interesting encounter, wrestling alone with "a man" through the night until daybreak, the dawning of a new day.

After Jacob had the socket of his thigh dislocated, the man said to him, *Let me go, for the dawn is breaking*. Jacob said that he would not let go until he blessed him. I see in this passage of Scripture a picture in type of the last days Christian that holds on firmly to the Lord in a very dark, difficult period on earth until the dawning of a new day.

After wrestling with God and man, these "sons of dawn" arise, like Jacob, having received His blessing. After receiving the "dew of our youth," the covering glory of God, we will reign with Him forever more. This is the place we possessed at the beginning of creation in the Garden of Eden.

Notice verse 31 which says *the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel*. Penuel means "facing God." As we turn toward God in our hearts, facing Him instead of turning away from Him, He will cause His face to shine upon us as we cross over into our spiritual inheritance at the end of this age.

Exodus 34:29-30 says that Moses face shone when he came down from speaking with God face to face on Mount Sinai. Ours might also as we come down from the mountain of the Lord, having gained His glory. This sounds similar to the description of “the perfect one” in Song Of Solomon 6:8-10 that we discussed in the previous chapter.

The wrestling of Jacob with God and mankind is every Christian’s struggle. When questioned if only a few would be saved, Jesus responded in Luke 13:24, *Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.* The Greek for strive is *agonizomai* [ag-o-nid'-zom-ah-ee]. It means “to struggle, to contend with adversaries, to fight.” We are being warned by Jesus in this passage to not become lackadaisical as we follow Him. It is a daily struggle that we must not back off from in order to have heaven’s gates opened wide for us. Rather, may we all determine to *strive* like Jacob, holding on firmly until we receive God’s blessing through Christ during the darkness that will soon engulf the entire world.

This theology of Jesus is much different from the theology so prevalent today within the church that says because Jesus did it all we don’t have to do anything in regards to salvation. Adherence to that kind of careless thinking will put you in a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. Our part is to understand there is an edge that we dare not go past in thoughtless presumption that nothing will occur. This New Testament border is called “The Fear Of God.”

Due to Jacob’s hip being put out of socket after wrestling with God, he walked with a different “gate,” so to speak. So will we. All those who overcome the struggle of following Jesus will not walk in the same manner anymore in this world. Their course of conduct, the way they think, feel, and make decisions will be different.

This is why Jesus exhorts us in Matthew 7:13-14 to *Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.*

The *few* who are striving to enter by the narrow door are well aware of the fight they have entered into. It can become very frustrating being around *broadway* Christians who never seem to struggle with much. Now you know why.

Be encouraged, keep holding firmly to Christ. Eventually you will overcome as He did, and receive His blessing which He desires to give us. It cost too much to pour it out on those who are not willing to take up their cross as He did.

This is why Satan has come up with a doctrine that says you no longer have to fight after turning to Christ. He whispers in your ear that the war is over, hoping that you will agree with his fine-sounding argument and put your guard down.

Yes, Jesus defeated the devil at Calvary, but as yet we do not see everything in submission to Him (Hebrews 2:8), including our hearts while on earth. This requires a daily vigil of cross-bearing. Our fallen natures need constant care to restrain them from wandering away from devotion to Christ.

While spending time with the Lord one day the Holy Spirit said to me, "Maturity is revealed in restraint." I recently needed to be reminded of this. The mature in Christ are those who through experience have come to truly understand what Jesus meant when He said "Apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

This is why Paul urges Christians to work together with the Holy Spirit, not receiving the grace of God in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1). The *few* who find the narrow door do so with the Holy Spirit's help, not fighting Him along the way. He is our Guide who, alone, knows the Way in which we should walk. Our old, corrupted nature fights against the new nature from God. Even after turning to Christ, the sinful nature all of mankind is plagued with still desires to reign within us. The only way to bring it into submission is by the power of God. This spiritual discipline will take time to develop.

Paul and Barnabas encouraged the disciples to continue in the faith in Acts 14:22, saying, *Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.* Tribulation exposes the true condition of our heart, causing us to either fight with God's help, or flee. It is the purifier of our soul.

In Revelation 2:25-29 Jesus said to the church in Thyatira, *Hold fast until I come. And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

Like Jacob, we are to “hold fast,” or “hold on,” remaining close to the Lord so as to become an overcomer who will receive the Lord’s authority over the nations, ruling over them with a rod of authoritative iron, as Psalm 110:1-7 said.

Holding fast is also defined as “to be master of, to rule.” As with Cain, the Lord warns all of His children, at one time or another, when sin is crouching at the door, desiring to rule over us, that we must master it. We cannot rule over the nations until we know how to rule over our own spirit. Holding fast to Christ is to seize, or retain His power over our own sin and the power of the enemy.

The definition for “hold fast” in Revelation 2:25 uses the phrases *to have* and *to hold* which, as you know, is a common phrase used in wedding vows. Interestingly enough, one of the definitions for sit in Psalm 110:1 is “to marry.” To sit at the Lord’s right hand is to dwell in His presence. The promise of this verse is that IF we will remain close to Him as a faithful spouse, He will grant us authority over our enemies, within and without.

The Lord also promises in this Scripture to give us the morning star which I referred to in chapter 13 of Book 1, *Satan’s Fall*. The Greek for it pertains to the dawn, early in the morning. This is another reference to the light of Christ that we will gain early on the *third day*, which represents the third thousandth since He was resurrected (2 Peter 3:8; “a day is as a thousand years...” We are now early in the third thousandth, or third day, since Christ died and rose again.).

As the grass is covered with the dew in the dawning of a new day, so will His obedient children be covered with His Spirit of glory in the very near future. Amen!



## *Chapter Four*

# **Saving Tadpoles**

**M**y son Tyler started our conversation within our home fellowship one Sunday morning by asking a question regarding the nursing babies mentioned in Matthew 24:19. Scott, a young man in our home fellowship, had been given a revelation about this passage that he began to share with all of us.

As the conversation went further in our midst, Michelle, a local Christian sister who just happened to join us that particular morning, excitedly shared an amazing insight from the Spirit concerning the destruction of those in the church who never move on into maturity, but continue in immaturity with a false sense of security.

Foolish shepherds bound by false teachings allow them to remain in this state, oblivious to the judgment of the Lord about to be poured out upon them. Their blood will be on these hirelings' hands.

Michelle's Facebook post concerning the insight read as follows;

*"I was at the pond yesterday and it happened again. God spoke to me. I didn't want to hurt the tadpoles in my pond, but I wanted to clean out the leaves and get the pond ready to swim in. If I used the chlorine to sanitize the water I might*

*harm those tadpoles who could not escape the water yet. It made me think of how God might feel about us. That He might want to clean up this filthy and corrupt world, but that He doesn't want to hurt us. He is patient. It must be hard for Him to care about us, having to look at the mess we are in and knowing He could clean it all up, but He has mercy on us and wants to save us. So, He waits and works in our hearts if we will listen."*

Without the growing of legs, the immature tadpoles could not get out of the pond. Michelle's desire was to see them escape so she wouldn't kill them with the chlorine. Out of mercy she patiently waited, hoping they would mature enough to escape before the inevitable cleansing was poured out. Through this, the Lord allowed her, and us, to know and understand His loving and just heart toward His creation in this midnight hour.

Scott proceeded to share an insight from the Scriptures that should put the fear of the Lord in every single Christian. We must guard our hearts so as not to become stagnant in spirit, continuing instead in willful submission to His maturing process within us. Resisting the Holy Spirit's conforming fire in our lives designed specifically to transform us into the image of Christ will cause many to curse God and die in the difficult days that lie ahead. Instead, we must submit and grow up in Christ in order to be spared from the coming judgment. Surrendering to His will gives us the "legs" we need to escape the inevitable place of destruction.

This is the hour of grace and mercy. The door of opportunity to enter God's ark of protection will soon shut, making it too late for those who find themselves on the outside without protection. The pressure of God at the end of this age during an extremely difficult time period most Christians refer to as "the tribulation" will be used to mercifully move those who either simply don't know because of the false teaching they have sat under, or are too stubborn and rebellious to move otherwise. In either case, some will still reject God's final plea and perish.

### The Seven Bowls Of God's Wrath

Revelation 15 and 16 describe seven angels who are commanded by God to *Go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God into the earth*. This is the final cleansing of the Lord poured out upon His creation. Chapter 15 ends with verse 8 telling us that during this time *no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed*. The temple door, the entrance into God's dwelling, will be shut during this wrath with you and I on the side of the door our hearts have chosen.

The first angel poured out his bowl into the earth and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. Revelation 16:3 says the second angel poured out his bowl into the sea and it became blood like that of a dead man. Every living creature in it died, just like the tadpoles.

The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters and they too became blood. John then says in verses 5-6 that he heard the angel of the waters say, *Righteous art Thou, who art and who wast, O Holy One, because Thou didst judge these things; for they **poured out** the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou hast given them blood to drink. They deserve it*. The evil poured out by evil men upon God's righteous servants has rightfully come back on their own heads.

The fourth angel's bowl was poured out upon the sun, scorching men with fierce heat. Instead of repenting after all of these terrible judgments, they blasphemed the name of God, refusing to repent so as to give Him the glory. The stubbornness of our fallen natures amazes me. Instead of turning to the One who can save us, we push His outstretched hand away. Incredibly, three more bowls of wrath remain.

The fifth angel poured out his bowl upon the throne of the beast and his kingdom became darkened. The Bible says all those in this place, under the domain of Satan, will gnaw their tongues in agony. Again, *they blasphemed the God of heaven*

*because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.*

The Greek for “darkened” is *skotoo* [skot-o'-o] which means “to darken, to cover with darkness.” Metaphorically speaking it means “to darken or blind the mind.” It comes from the Greek word *skotos* which is used for “persons in whom darkness becomes visible and holds sway.” This appears to be a preview of what they will encounter in hell.

One of the plagues poured out upon Egypt when God’s people were in bondage to slavery was a plague of darkness. Exodus 10:21 says that it was a darkness that could be felt. The Bible says that for three days no one could see anyone else or leave his “place.” This is the same scenario described in Revelation 15:8 when no one will be able to enter the temple because of the smoke from God’s glory and power until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

Exodus 10:23 gives those who have drawn near to the Lord great encouragement saying, *but all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings.* This took place in the land of Goshen, where God’s children dwelt. The Hebrew for Goshen means “drawing near.” Because of their location, their position in Christ, all the true children of God who have come close to Him through obedience will have the same at the end of this age. While the disobedient writhe in the agony of darkness, the obedient followers of Christ will be kept safe in the light of His glorious presence. Now is the time to draw near to Him so that He may draw near to you and I. Please, LISTEN!

Joel 2 describes for us the Day of the Lord’s great and mighty judgments on earth. It is the cleansing we have been discussing. Verses 1-2 say, *Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; surely it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, so there is a great and mighty people; there has never been anything like it, nor will there be again after it to the years of many generations.* This appears to be the darkness the fifth angel

will pour out upon the kingdom of the beast. It is a place you and I do not want to find ourselves in.

The word darkness is used twice in these verses. The first is taken from the Hebrew *choshek* [kho-shek']. Figuratively, it speaks of misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, and wickedness. To be in a place where God's light is withheld, or obscured, is to be in a very wicked, agonizing place of misery and death. The smoke of God's glory and power (Revelation 15:8) keeps mankind from finding the Way of entry into His dwelling. Like the roving mob of homosexuals in Sodom that the angels struck with blindness, they will be unable to find the door, which is Christ (John 10:7-9), entering into His place of salvation. On the outside, where Satan's evil kingdom of darkness rules, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth without deliverance.

The second, for "thick darkness," is *araphel* [ar-aw-fel'], defined as "gloom (as of a lowering sky), a heavy or dark cloud, gross darkness, thick darkness." It will truly be a day of doom and gloom for all who reject Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. They will not be able to find Him in this day. He will be hidden from their sight. It will be too late.

In 2 Peter 1, Peter tells us that if we possess certain qualities in increasing measure that he lists for us in verses 5-7, they will keep us from being *ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*. He goes on in verse 9 to say, *But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins*.

The Greek for "blind" is *tuphlos* [toof-los']. It means "opaque, as if smoky; by analogy to be blind physically or mentally." It is taken from *tuphoo* [toof-o'-o] which means "to envelop with smoke, i.e. (figuratively) to inflate with self-conceit, to blind with pride or conceit, to render foolish or stupid." This is the blinding affect we have been discussing that occurs to all those who dwell in Satan's kingdom of darkness, including the *foolish* virgins of God who will not listen and prepare (Matthew 25:1-13).

It is critical that you and I notice that Peter did not write this to unbelievers, but to *those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours* (verse 1), and to the person who *has been cleansed from his past sins* (verse 9). Many in the church have been taught that this could never happen to them. This warning is clearly written to Christians.

He continues in verses 10-11, *Therefore, **brethren**, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice [“do”- a doer of the word] these things, you will never stumble [which also means “fall,” as in the great falling away from the faith]; for in this way **the entrance** into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.*

Removing all doubt in regards to his subject, Peter exhorts the “brethren” to be doers of the word, not just forgetful hearers that do not put into practice God’s commands, so that the “entrance” into God’s kingdom will be abundantly supplied to them. With extraordinarily clear vision, our Shepherd, the Way, will joyfully lead us by the hand into the glorious light of His eternal presence. Worthy is the Lamb!

## *Chapter Five*

# **Sons Of Light**

**P**aul said in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, *if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* Having no oil in their lamps, the foolish virgins have no vision, having become blinded by the darkness of unbelief that has engulfed them (John 12:37-41). The wise virgins, on the other hand, are those who have heard the midnight call to prepare their hearts and have obtained extra oil, which is the Holy Spirit, becoming what the Bible refers to as “sons of light.”

In John 12:35-36 Jesus warned the multitude to be careful how they handle His “light” within them. He said, *“For a little while longer the light is among you. Walk while you have [“to possess”] the light, that darkness may not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know [“to see, perceive, notice, discern, discover”] where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, in order that you may become sons of light.”* These things Jesus spoke, and He departed and hid Himself from them. Jesus declared that while we “possess” Him we are to continue walking in Him lest, through careless neglect, darkness overtakes us.

Today, we must continue following Him, remaining near Him through obedience, in order to become “sons of light.” In the end, this light of Christ shining through His obedient children is what will cast the kingdom of darkness down to the earth forever. When it is allowed to shine forth, light always overpowers the darkness (John 1:5).

On the other hand, if we do not continue in belief, obediently walking in submission to Christ, we are in grave danger of being overcome by the powers of darkness. This is why Jesus said in Luke 11:35, *Watch out that the light in you may not be darkness.* He also stated in Matthew 6:23, *If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!* This sheds much light on the darkness of lies that has infiltrated the church in regards to salvation. Jesus said it is the obtaining and *sustaining* of His life within us. Regular maintenance by submission to the Holy Spirit is required in order to finish this race.

The other interesting phrase from the chapter four in Joel 2:2 is *As the dawn is spread over the mountains, so there is a great and mighty people; there has never been anything like it, nor will there be again after it to the years of many generations.* This is a reference to those who hear and obey the call of the Lord at the end of the age to *come up higher*. It is a place of ruling authority in Christ.

Revelation 16:12 describes the results of the sixth angel pouring out his bowl upon the Euphrates River, referred to as the “good and abounding river.” It says its water was dried up *that the way might be prepared for the kings from the east.* The word interpreted “east” is taken from two Greek words. The first, *anatole* [an-at-ol-ay’], is defined as “a rising of light, i.e. dawn; a rising (of the sun and stars), the east (the direction of the sun’s rising).” The other word, *helios* [hay'-lee-os], means “the sun, the rays of the sun, the light of day.”

These kings from the east appear to be those upon whom a light has risen, shining like the light of dawn, whose rising leads the inhabitants of earth into a new day. Remember, the sun always rises in the east. Could these be the “sons of dawn” who have overcome, gaining their God’s glory, and then been



given authority over the nations, as well as “the morning star” in Revelation 2:28? I believe they are.

According to Thayer’s Concordance, the Euphrates, which means “the good and abounding river,” is a large, famous river which rises in the mountains of Armenia Major, flowing through Assyria, Syria, Mesopotamia and the city of Babylon and emptying into the Gulf of Persia. Spiritual Babylon, which represents the harlot bride of Christ (Revelation 17), always has a way of drying up the Lord’s good and abounding rivers of living water that flow through her. Her harlotry cuts off the life of God, withering His hand of authority on earth.

Strangely, the drying up of the “great river” is what prepared the way for the “kings from the east,” the sons of dawn (the revealing of the “sons of God” in Romans 8:19). The falling away of the rebellious causes the emergence of the obedient.

In a vision given to Bill Britton entitled “The Harness Of The Lord,” the Lord revealed His preparation of the remnant of His people through which He will pour forth His glory for all the world to see. He saw those in the church at the end of the age who would not submit to God’s training that is designed to bring us into full maturity. Instead, they chose to break free from the restraints of being confined in the corral of God’s dealings, His “straight and narrow” way.

They were compared to horses who would not submit to their Master’s training, jumping the fence for the temporary thrill of running free in the lush fields of fleshly indulgence. These fields are soon going to dry up, like the Euphrates River, bringing into view the mature sons who stayed the course.

Bill writes;

*“For in the hour when famine sweeps the land, He shall feed by His own hand those who are submitted to His perfect will, and who dwell in the secret place of the Most High. When terror stalks the land, those in His harness shall not be afraid, for they shall feel His bit and bridle and know the guidance of His Spirit. When others are weak and frail and fearful, there shall be those who shall be strong in the power of His might,*

*and shall lack for no good thing. In the hour when the traditions of the religious systems have proven false, and their streams have dried up, then His chosen ones shall speak forth with the true Word of the Lord.”*

(“Eagle Saints Arise” by Bill Britton, p.21)

The first place to receive the light of the sun as it rises in the dawning of a new day is the mountain peaks. Those who answer the call to come up to this place in Christ will become the sons of dawn that will receive the Son’s light. Their rising will cause Satan to lose his place in the heavenly realm over mankind.

This mountainous hike is a steep and difficult journey where we must leave behind everything of this realm, overcoming the world, the flesh, and the devil. Jesus revealed the way for us to take back what the devil deceptively gained from us in the Garden of Eden. His victory in death is ours as well if we will deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. There is no other way but to lay our lives down for His sake, following His lead.

*Isaiah 60:1-3 says, Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you. And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Isaiah prophesied of the dawning of a new day as Christ, the Morning Star, arises on His people. The time for us to arise in God’s redemptive plan for mankind has come. The Holy Spirit is now leading those who hear and believe to lay aside the things of this earth and follow Him up the mountain of His choosing. It is a place of authority in Jesus Christ where we will finally gain His glory, ushering in a new day when the earth will be cleansed of His enemies.

### The Fiery Cleansing Of The Earth

In his book "From Tent To Temple," George Warnock speaks of the fiery cleansing of the earth by the Lord at the end of this age. He says on p.133-135;

*"There are two kinds of cleansing mentioned in the scriptures; cleansing by water, and cleansing by fire. The earth that was cursed must undergo this twofold cleansing and purging, first by water (the Flood), and eventually by fire..."*

*God's people must know this purging, cleansing fire of God that when His fire begins to purge the earth there will be a people in the midst of it all, walking in union with the Son of God like the three Hebrew children in the furnace of fire that was heated seven times more than it ever had before. Seven times more. For although it has been the lot of God's people to know affliction and tribulation from the very beginning, and Paul tells us that His people are 'appointed to tribulation,' in the end-time there will be a greater measure of tribulation than ever before. And with that greater measure of tribulation there will be a greater measure of the grace of God causing his people to overcome in the midst of it. And what to the world is wrath and destruction, to His people it will be a refining and a purifying..."*

*The cleansing work of redemption is in the blood; but only the Spirit of God can apply the cleansing of the blood to the hearts and minds of His people. We must bathe in the brazen sea of His Living Word. The sea is 'mingled with fire.' And this fire will thoroughly cleanse and purge the inner man from all sin and defilement..."*

*The deluge that destroyed the earth is likened in scripture to water baptism, which was an external cleansing by water (see 1 Peter 3:21). But we need another baptism, and we need it before the earth receives her baptism of fire, or I am afraid we will not be able to minister or in any way deliver a Church that is swiftly going to experience the fires of Tribulation.*

*John the Baptist was sent of the Lord to minister the baptism of water unto repentance. But John prophesied there would*

*come another baptism: 'He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.' The fire of God is not intended to make a person excited, or noisy, or acrobatic. The fire of God is something that will burn deeply within, bringing repentance and godly sorrow, and that will burn up the dross so completely and thoroughly that God's priests will be able to 'offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.' The baptism of fire will make us holy.'*

In Revelation 21 John saw the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. "New" speaks of "that which is recently made, fresh, recent, of a new kind, unprecedented." The new heaven and earth that John saw are inhabited by the sons and daughters of a new day, a new thing. They are the sons of fresh oil in Zechariah 4:11-14, the two anointed ones that remain near their Lord. These are the sons of dawn who have gone up the mountain per their Lord's beckoning, and upon whom the Morning Star has arisen.

The final judgments of the Lord on earth have prepared the way for Him to come and inhabit His people. The darkness within the pond, so to speak, has been cleansed, with all of its evil inhabitants destroyed.

Afterwards, in verses 3-5, John tells of a loud voice from the throne he heard which said, "*Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.*" And He who sits on the throne said, "*Behold, I am making all things new.*"

In verse 7 the Lord declared, *He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.* These "sons" are those who have overcome. They have responded to their Lord's summons to leave the lower regions of earth behind and come up His holy mountain. They have subdued and conquered through the Holy Spirit the enemies of

Christ that desired to keep them in the stagnant ponds of fleshly desires. Again, they are the obedient sons of dawn, the bride of the Lamb upon whom the Son has risen in His morning glory.

John describes this glorious bride on God's mountain in verses 9-11 of Revelation 21; *And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. Amen.*

## Chapter Six

# The Sign Of Christ's Return

**A**t their request, Jesus shared with His disciples in Matthew 24 the sign of His return and of the end of the age. Verses 15-22 say, *So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand) then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.*

Scott, the young man in our fellowship I mentioned earlier, was given a revelation from the Lord regarding this passage in Matthew. He said the Lord showed him that both the winter and the Sabbath refer to times when you cannot work or prepare for what is to come.

You cannot grow anything in the winter if you run out of food. It's too late. Also, it's usually a harsher time in regards to the weather. If you enter this season unprepared and uncovered, you could die.

Also, per God's command, it was unlawful to work on the Sabbath. It was a day of rest and worship which required preparation for its needs on the day before. Again, this reinforces the importance of preparing ahead of time, before the judgment of God comes in a day when no one will be able to work.

The ones who listen and prepare, internally first and foremost, are the wise virgins in Matthew 25 who brought extra oil for their lamps. The foolish brought none. They were unprepared and in fact asked the wise virgins for some of theirs to which they replied, *No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.* This verse implies we must obtain our own oil, our own measure of the Holy Spirit. We will not be able to depend upon another Christian's possession in Christ to get us into the wedding feast of the Lamb.

### Codependency and The Foolish Virgins

The codependent spirit of the foolish virgins in the church is also well entrenched within the American society. Our governmental welfare programs are good in the sense of helping people, but bad in that many have become dependent upon them alone for food and sustenance. They're no longer forced, when necessary, to get up and do something.

In many instances we're no longer helping people, but rather enabling them. It's easier to hand out a check than to invest our lives in helping them up. It may also be an easy way to get votes for some politicians by actually keeping these people in this place of codependency with the continued promise of help.

Please don't misunderstand me. I understand the command of God to take care of the poor and the needy. What I am sharing with you comes from my own personal experience through the difficulties our family has experienced.

After my wife's stroke, and my leaving my job as a tool designer per the Lord's call, we found ourselves in the humiliating lines at all of our local government agencies

looking for assistance of all kinds. It was unbelievably depressing and discouraging.

As a father and a husband who was supposed to be the provider for my family, it was very difficult. Living in a small town with children who were very active in our public schools, you get to know many people. The Lord forced me to die to my reputation before them. It has been a very humbling lesson for me personally.

He placed us in this position to feel what the poor feel. It can be an extremely helpless and hopeless place for many with seemingly no way out. Identification with those whom you minister to is very important. Christ did it with mankind when he stepped down into a fleshly body. It has also allowed me to see some areas I think we're failing miserably in.

Giving people fish without showing them how to catch it for themselves creates a codependency. It takes great wisdom, and, believe it or not, mercy, to know when to shut off the flow. When it becomes easier to gather government checks than to look for work we have gone too far.

Again, I understand when you have looked for work but just cannot find any. Maybe your one of many applicants hoping to obtain one available position within a company, as often takes place today. It might be because a person lacks the skills necessary for employment. Thank goodness for those agencies that are out there for this specific purpose. I just think there are better, more productive ways of handling this mountainous issue than what we are presently doing.

In years past it was the church, not the government that took care of most of these concerns. I don't believe our forefathers saw the federal government as the ones who were to be exclusively handling this. Through neglect, the church has placed much of this burden on their shoulders, one which they will not be able to sustain in the days ahead. The weight of this growing problem will eventually be too great for them.

Another observation is the pervasive attitude of entitlement some have in this situation. What was once a privilege of help for one generation can easily become an entitlement for the next. Many of our Christian citizens have come to expect the



government to save us from our needs instead of God. Yes, they can assist, but ultimately it's the Lord who provides.

The problem is He cannot bless those who have turned away from Him. Our government was designed to be a reflection of the will of the people. It will be as righteous and just as our citizens.

The same thing applies to the Body of Christ. Our leadership is a reflection of the people's hearts. In declaring His judgments against His rebellious children, the Lord declared in Jeremiah 5:30-31, *A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?"* Many of God's people in the church love the same thing in our day. The same question applies to us as well; what will WE do at the end of this age?

The enabling of the foolish virgins who remain content as immature tadpoles in today's church through the easily received Sunday morning handouts will result in the annihilation of many people. They're not being forcibly warned in love, where necessary, to be doers of the Word in order to get out of the pond of judgment before they're destroyed.

We cannot continue as we have, spoon-feeding people every Sunday morning, and expect our nation to change. Our apathy in regards to the keeping of God's commands to be salt and light in the world enables them, and the rest of America, to wade deeper and deeper into depravity. Instead of coming out they're sinking further down into the abyss of eternal agony.

We must teach them the necessity of gaining their own oil, even confronting them as Jesus did in John 6, compelling them to commit themselves to Christ. There are times as a parent when out of love you must force your children to do that which they need to do in order to mature. Otherwise, they will continue to look to you as their sole provider. The church has created a whole generation of codependent tadpoles with no pressure to move out in maturity in Christ. Many live in a false sense of eternal security, having been fed lie after lie by deceived shepherds.

Matthew 25:10 tells us while the foolish virgins were off making the purchase they were now forced to go make, *the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.* Those who were prepared entered into the joyful feast with their Lord. Those who were not were kept from entering in. We must get ready, preparing our hearts in this midnight hour for the return of our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. Our decision to move out in Christ or to remain in the murky waters of indecisiveness and unbelief will determine our fate.

In regards to the care of nursing babies, they cannot survive on their own. If left unattended to in their present, helpless state, they will most certainly die. They are not mature enough to survive alone. Many within the church in America are presently in this perilous state. At the first sign of danger their hireling shepherds will run, leaving them to fend for themselves. These misguided ewes continue to live on milk (elementary teachings), codependent on their spiritual leaders who are more than happy to continue spoon feeding them. It keeps them in control, above the rest.

The present religious system encourages this type of behavior. Our Sunday morning services are, in most instances, nothing more than a nursery filled with milk-moustache tadpoles. The prevailing systems of religion do not allow for people to grow up as they should. The lifeless, religious rituals that have become well entrenched within the majority of churches in this nation keep God's children in a state of spiritual infancy. They rarely confront sin in their midst, exercising church discipline. Due to a lack of real intimacy with the sheep they are, for the most part, unaware of what is really going on in their lives. Most of the sheep like it this way, enjoying their so called "privacy."

Satan keeps his kingdom going by keeping us from becoming mature in Christ. His goal is to keep us from what Paul defined in Ephesians 4:13 as *the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.* The church has become an unclean cesspool filled with helpless tadpoles that

will be unable to escape the refiners purifying fire about to be poured out across the world.

Concerning the coming of the Lord, Malachi 3:2-3 says, *But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.* Submission to this purification process of sanctification by the Spirit is what gives us the legs we need to get out of the pool before the cleansing judgment of the Lord is poured out.

Remember, judgment begins in the house of God for the sake of those in the church who need to repent. This occurs so that we do not partake of the judgment that comes to the rest of the world. God mercifully reaches out to His rebellious children, giving them time to turn away from their sin first.

Paul referred to this in 1 Corinthians 11:31-32. He said, *But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.* God wisely scourges every son whom He receives (Hebrews 12:6) so as to drive foolishness out of our hearts. Proverbs 22:15 says, *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.*

Those in the church who will not submit to the Holy Spirit's maturing process of inner cleansing and purifying will, like the foolish virgins, find themselves on the outside in a horrific place of judgment. Speaking about the harvest of the earth at the end of this age, Jesus said in Matthew 13:41-42, *The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Don't miss that He said out of "**His**" kingdom. Those who continue to commit lawlessness (walking in sin), after having ignored the conviction of the Holy Spirit to turn away in repentance, will find themselves in a fiery judgment in the day

of God's great wrath at the end of this age. (See Matthew 22:1-14; 24:44-51; 25:14-30; and Luke 13:22-30.)

In Isaiah 47:8-9 the Lord says to Babylon, *Now, then, hear this, you sensual one, who dwells securely* [KJV- "that dwellest carelessly"], *who says in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me. I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know loss of children."* *But these two things shall come on you suddenly in one day: loss of children and widowhood. They shall come on you in full measure in spite of your many sorceries, in spite of the great power of your spells.*" Babylon, the great religious harlot, will find herself without a "Husband," who is the Lord, as well as the loss of their nursing babes (the tadpoles).

Physical Babylon in the Old Testament is a picture of spiritual Babylon in the New Testament. The word Babylon means "confusion," or "confusion by mixing." In the book of Revelation, she represents the portion of the Body of Christ that mixes error with truth for her own glorification, making herself out to be God. This is why she says "I am," which is God's name. I have written much about this subject in my book *The Plague Of Abortion; Babylon's Guilt Of Bloodshed*.

They are guilty of spiritual prostitution with the world while being betrothed to Christ. The Lord calls her the "sensual one." The Hebrew for sensual is defined as "voluptuous" which according to Webster's Dictionary means "full of, producing, or characterized by sensual delights and pleasures; sensual." It also means "fond of or directed toward luxury, elegance, and the pleasures of the senses." Through the seduction of idolatry, they lull their spiritual children into a false sense of security. Their doctrines will not conform you to godliness, but will instead allow you to walk in the stubbornness of your heart saying you have "peace and safety." Like the tadpoles, you will suddenly be destroyed in the final cleansing of the earth if you do not come out from her midst.

In regards to the fall of Babylon, John says in Revelation 18:4-5, *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in*

*her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues [remember the plagues in Revelation 15-16]; for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, "I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning [the very words spoken over Babylon in Isaiah 47:8]." For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.*

The tribulation that is coming is the great pressure of the Lord. Known biblically as "Jacob's trouble," it will be used to purify through force those who would not turn beforehand. The Lord knows we will need some coercion because of our stubborn hearts and attachment to this world. Even then, as we discussed earlier in Revelation 16, some will still not repent. As in John 6 when Jesus confronted His disciples with an all-or-nothing choice, they will simply quit following Him because "it's too hard." To their demise, they will not seek the Lord with all of their heart, striving to enter by the narrow gate, but will instead curse God and die.

May we be joined with those who have denied themselves, picked up their cross, and are now following the Lord in obedient submission to a place of safety in the coming judgment. The mercy of God will bring forth His true shepherds who will gently lead His nursing ewes out to a safe place in Christ where they can be spared in a great end time deliverance.

## *Chapter Seven*

# **Back To Jerusalem**

**I**n Matthew 24 Jesus describes for His disciples the sign of His coming and of the end of the age. He says in verse 27 *For just as the lightning [“bright shining”] comes [“to arise from, to be born of”] from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.* The Greek word for “east” is the same word used in Revelation 16:12 describing the kings from the “east.” It’s defined as a rising of light, such as the dawn.

One day while reading this verse, I had an unexpected revelation from the Lord. I simply read it and instantly saw it as the glory of God coming on the Chinese people and them taking the Gospel across to Jerusalem. I asked the Lord to show me what this meant and to confirm what had just entered my mind. It seemed so strange at the time.

A short time later my wife and I were in a Christian book store. She called me over to the bargain table to show me a book she thought I might be interested in. It was titled *The Heavenly Man*. I picked up the book with no idea what was about to happen. The book was the story of Brother Yun, a Chinese underground house church leader. The Lord had placed an interest within my heart towards the Chinese church years before.

I flipped open the book to the table of contents and quickly glanced through the chapter titles. One in particular about took my breath away. It was titled *Back To Jerusalem*. The Holy Spirit stirred within me as I began to read the chapter. He was confirming, as well as giving me understanding of the unexpected revelation in Matthew 24:27.

The Back to Jerusalem vision was first given to a Chinese church called the Jesus Family in the late 1920s, and later to several different church groups in the 1930's and 40's. It's a vision of evangelism in the major unreached nations of the world. The early pioneers attempted to take the gospel, on foot, through the Islamic world back to Jerusalem. Their goal was to evangelize the millions of Hindu, Muslim, and Buddhist people that stand between them and Israel.

The gospel started in Jerusalem and then spread in a generally westward direction into North Africa and Europe. Throughout history it has continued to spread westward around the globe, with China as its farthest advance. The Chinese see in the fulfillment of the Great Commission the encirclement of the entire globe with the gospel, until it goes back to where it began. As I said, their aim is not Jerusalem or Israel, but all the countries and unreached people groups between China and Jerusalem. Along the old Silk Road, which once brought trade from the Middle East to China, you find approximately 5,200 unreached people groups and tribes.

Their goal is to raise up 100,000 missionaries to finish the race. Like an army of termites they have already begun what the devil fears; a fearless march by those that are willing to die for the sake of those without Jesus. They need our support in this final assault on the major strongholds of the enemy in the Middle East. Retreat and withdrawal are not an option.

In the book *Back To Jerusalem* by Paul Hattaway, three Chinese house church leaders share their vision to complete the great commission. They share the story of Mark Ma who in 1942 had a discussion with the Lord that changed his life, and many others, forever.

The Lord said He wanted the Chinese church "to bring to completion the commission to preach the gospel to all the

world... preaching the gospel all the way back to Jerusalem, causing the light of the gospel to complete the circle around this dark world.”

Ma asked the Lord, *“Why is it that missionaries from Europe and America have established so many churches in China but are still unable to open the door to Western Asia?”* The Lord answered, *“It is not that their hearts are especially hard, but I have kept for the Chinese church a portion of inheritance, otherwise, when I return will you not be so poor?”* This irrevocable call of God was fanned back into flame in the 1970’s within the house churches of China. Brother Yun says their suffering for years under the heavy hand of communism prepared them to carry the heavy load of the Lord He was now asking them to carry.

The glory of God is already beginning to arise from the east within a group of “living creatures” that are filled with His light. Wise men still come from the east. One day soon Israel will declare, *Blessed are they that come in the name of the Lord!*

The glory of God that is rising up from the womb of the dawn is bringing the light of a new day. It will be manifest from one end of the earth to the other. Malachi 1:11 says, *“For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations,”* says the LORD of hosts. Finally, as with the early morning dew, the glory of the Lord will cover the earth.

### The Dawning Of A New Day

The darkness of the crucifixion was followed with the brightest light ever to appear on earth among men. Matthew 28:1-3 says, *Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon*



*it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow; and the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.*

At the dawning of a new day, when the light begins to come forth and dispel the darkness, an angel whose appearance was like lightning descended from heaven and rolled away the stone, declaring the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So will the army of God at the end of this age. Clothed with the glory of God, they too will roll away the stone over mankind's heart that they may behold with their own eyes that He is not there, He is risen!

Exodus 14:26-27 reveals the authority of Christ being revealed at *daybreak* over the enemies of His people through the hand of His deliverer. The Lord said to Moses, "*Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen.*" *So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.*

At the Lord's command, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and divided the waters, creating dry land for the sons of Israel to cross over safely ahead of their enemies, the Egyptians, who were pursuing them. In these verses the Lord commands him to again stretch out his hand, causing the waters to go back to their "normal state" of flow, killing their enemies. The restoration of the powerful stream of the Lord's presence flowing through His people will again destroy those who desire to do away with them. The path of our escape will be the path of their destruction.

Moses' outstretched hand represented the power and authority of God that flowed through him in the dawning of a new day. The sons of dawn who have been raised up to a place of ruling authority in Christ will perform the same type of great exploits in the breaking of a new day in the Lord at the end of this age

This authority over the enemy was first revealed to Moses by God in Exodus 4 when, after throwing his staff to the

ground and seeing it turn into a serpent, he was commanded to grasp it by the tail. As previously discussed, this is a picture of the power of God over the devil through the last day deliverers that He is presently preparing in the seclusion of the wilderness. At the appointed time, they will be thrust into public view. Their revealing draws near.

*Chapter Eight*

## **The Restoration Of The Withered Hand**

**I**n Mark 3:1-5 we see the full restoration of God's spiritual authority to His people at the end of this age. It says, *And He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there with a withered ["dried up, without moisture"] hand. And they were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, in order that they might accuse Him. And He said to the man with the withered hand, "Rise and come forward!" And He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent. And after looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.*

In the beginning of this passage, Jesus demonstrates His authority by healing this man's withered hand. While in this fellowship he could not get healed. When Jesus released him from his bonds, the religious hypocrites accused Him of performing the miracle on the wrong day!

As we'll see further on through a similar incident within a synagogue, unless the Lord comes to us in our present state, the church in America will never be able to arise. The citadels of religious bondage will soon come crashing down as the

Lord sets His people free. There will be gaping holes in their walls, allowing the Lord's people to escape. They will eagerly rush upon the spoils of hope and freedom that are found only in Him.

In Mark 3, Jesus commands the man to rise and come forward. I believe this is what's happening within the church today. Jesus is restoring His *withered hand* of authority within His Body. This *restored* group of believers will then be used to wake up the dead in spirit church who will, in turn, be used to cast Satan down. Hallelujah!

In 1 Kings 13:1-6, Israel had just been split per the word of the Lord. Jeroboam, whose name means "the people will contend," became king of the ten northern tribes. In order to keep the people from returning to the house of David, he made two golden calves for the people to worship. It's interesting to note that the idols were made in order to keep the Israelites separated. The various idols produced by the *kings* in leadership within the church today have had the same affect.

An unknown man of God is sent to cry out against the desecrated altar by the word of the Lord. When the king heard him he stretched out his hand, saying, "Seize him." When he did, his hand was instantly dried up so that he could not draw it back to himself.

In this helpless position he said to the man of God, *Please entreat the Lord your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me* (1 Kings 13:6). So the man of God entreated the Lord, and the king's hand was restored to him, as it was before.

Jeroboam was shamefully humbled before the people when he tried to stretch out his hand and use his authority against the man of God who had prophesied against him. The hand represents power and authority. In the last days there will be a similar encounter with the no-names of the Lord and the religious kings that rule over God's people.

Within this confrontation I see a picture of the all-powerful, life-giving flow of God being restored to His people at the end of this age as it was in the beginning. It's the period of restoration of *all* things spoken of in Acts 3:21. The full

restoration of God's authority on earth will, as I have said, result in Satan's fall from his temporary rule over mankind.

### Foolish And Worthless Shepherds

The withering of God's authority through His "hands" within His Body has occurred through those who have enthroned themselves above others. In Jeremiah 12:10-13, the Lord blamed the shepherds of Israel as the cause of the ruin within His vineyard (see Matthew 21:28-41). This has now happened within the church in America. Many spiritual leaders have corrupted their congregations, causing them to be dry, desolate, and withered. The overwhelming evidence of increased decadence within the church cries out against us.

In Zechariah 11:15-17 the Lord said, *Take again the equipment of a foolish* ["silly, foolish, morally impious"] *shepherd. For I am going to raise up a shepherd over the land who will not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their hoofs. Woe to the worthless* ["of nought, good for nothing, worthless"] *shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!*

This foolish shepherd whom God raised up, is said to have, like Jeroboam, a withered arm of authority. He is also described as one whose "right eye" will be totally blind. Figuratively, the right hand always represents a place of power and authority in the Scriptures. Void of the light of Christ, he will be unable to see the guarded way of truth where the Holy Spirit leads. In this vulnerable state, he won't be able to warn or protect the flock under his care of impending destruction. With little resistance, the enemy will quickly come in and destroy the sheep that were doomed to slaughter (Zechariah 11:4).

One day some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus, questioning the actions of His disciples who were breaking *the tradition of the elders* by not washing their hands before they ate (Matthew 15:2). Jesus replied, *And why do you*

*break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?*  
(NIV)

After rebuking them publicly by revealing the hypocrisy of their actions, He declared, *You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."* (Matthew 15:7-9/NIV) How many of our present day denominations do the same?

The Bible says the disciples then came to him and asked, *Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?* He replied, *Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.*

In judgment, God has filled America with these same foolish shepherds. The devil runs free in most congregations, devouring the unprotected sheep of God's pasture who are very content seated in their pews of apathy. In the future, when our enemies pour over our unprotected borders, these same spiritual shepherds will quickly flee. Their only concern will be for themselves. In mercy God is preparing His unknown shepherds to replace them, leading those who would follow to places of peace and safety in Christ.

The majority of the church in America has become the Church of the Lukewarm that will be vomited out of the mouth of God. Thinking all is well, they have no idea how blind they have become (Revelation 3:17).

Jesus said to the spiritual leaders of His day who claimed to see, *For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.* (John 9:39) The same type of judgment is occurring today. If they do not repent, the arrogant of heart within the leadership of the church will face severe consequences.

For God's glory, the withered hand of authority will soon be restored to His humble servants that are being prepared for the final conquest. We must allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts. Our window of opportunity is quickly closing.

## *Section 2*

### *Chapter Nine*

## **The Bent Double Woman**

**L**uke 13:10-17 describes when Jesus loosed a woman whom Satan had bound for quite a long time. Verses 11-13 say, *And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all. And when Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness." And He laid His hands upon her; and immediately she was made erect again, and began glorifying God.*

Through the bondage caused by an evil spirit, this woman in a synagogue could not "straighten up," which means "to raise or lift oneself up." One meaning for *sugkupto* [soong-koop'-to], the Greek word interpreted into English as "bent double," is "to be completely overcome by." It is taken from the Greek word *sun* [soon] which is defined as "denoting union; with or together, i.e. by association, companionship, process, resemblance, possession." Possession by an evil spirit kept her from rising up. Jesus' power broke the union with wickedness that had overcome her, keeping her bound for years. All those who answer His call to draw near at the end of this age, cleansing their hearts by faith, will experience the same touch.

Verses 14-17 proceed to explain what occurred within this assembly after Jesus miraculously heals this woman. It continues, *And the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the multitude in response, "There are six days in which work should be done; therefore come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall, and lead him away to water him? And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?" And as He said this, all His opponents were being humiliated; and the entire multitude was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.*

Jesus removed the chains of Satan from a woman who could not stand upright and the "synagogue official" (i.e. pastor) had a fit because it wasn't done on the right day. Envy and jealousy usually show their ugly face from those who are threatened by the authority of Christ in others they deem "less qualified." Wanting to be first, they cannot stand it when someone else gains the people's praise. Like Saul, an evil spirit has gained a stronghold within their self-exalting hearts.

When a person walks in agreement with the devil, stubbornly denying the Lordship of Jesus Christ over them, they become like an unreasonable beast. They cannot see the obvious. Their irrational minds lack the power to reason logically.

Bondage through fellowship with demons keeps us from rising up in Christ. This is why the Lord must reach out and touch those who have been bound in the religious systems of man that have been overcome with evil, deceptive, lying spirits. They have become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit (Revelation 18:2), holding His children in bondage. While fellowshiping with *hypocrites*, this woman could never get set free. Neither can we. That mixed union must be dissolved in order for the *eagle saints* to gain their wings and fly.

In Revelation 18:4-5 God is calling His people, CHRISTIANS, out of Babylon, the harlot filled with a confusing mixture of truth and falsehood. John says, *And I heard another voice from heaven,*



saying, “Come out [literally, “escape”!] of her, **my people**, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues; for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”

To “come out” implies getting out of the place you presently reside in. Like the bent-double woman, Jesus is calling His people to Himself, out of the fellowship of *hypocrites*. Metaphorically speaking, it means “to go out of an assembly; to go forth from one’s power, to escape from it.”

To participate with someone is, by definition, “to be in fellowship with them, to join oneself to an associate, to be made a partner.” The New Testament Greek word for this is *koinania* [koy-nohn-ee'-ah]. This joint participation can be in the church within leavened groups, or in the world partaking of its ungodliness. Both keep us in bondage, unable to stand upright, walking in righteousness. It’s now harvest time, a time to separate the wheat from the tares. That which we’re bound to by association will determine the bundle we’ll be in.

There are times when I write that I have to stop and cry out for God’s mercy, and strength. This is one of them. Apart from Christ, I am a man of great weakness, in need of the power of God to overcome. Much of what the Lord shows me is about things to come. I write by faith, being made aware by the revelation of the Holy Spirit of my own need. It’s reassuring to read what Paul wrote regarding his own issue of weakness, as well as the writer of Hebrews who wrote of those who *from weakness were made strong*. (Hebrews 11:34) Thank-you Lord!

The Greek for sins back in Revelation 18:4 means “to be without a share in, to miss the mark, to err, to be mistaken.” It also means “to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honor, to do or go wrong.” Hearing the summons of the Lord to arise, we’ll never be able to stand upright as long as we continue to ignore His call and participate in the way of sinners (Psalm 1:1). If we do not get out now, escaping before the judgment of the Lord occurs, there will be no protection from the extreme calamities that will ravage our land.

Paul warns Christians in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 not to be bound together, or unequally yoked, with “unbelievers.” The Greek for

unbelievers is *apistos* [ap'-is-tos]. This doesn't just refer to those outside the church, but also those within. Two of the definitions are "untrustworthy," and "unfaithful." Unbelieving believers, unfaithful followers of Christ, abound in our churches. Having once been given salvation knowledge, they have turned away in pride, choosing instead to walk in their own "way," their own course of conduct. False doctrines in regards to salvation taught by deceived leaders in the church have encouraged this great falling away from the faith. It has produced disciples who walk with no fear of God.

Paul also reminds the followers of Christ in this passage to not touch what is unclean, separating from it in order to be welcomed (which means "to receive kindly, to treat with favor"). To touch means "to attach oneself to, to adhere to." This is similar to his warning in 1 Timothy 4:1-2 in regards to the Holy Spirit's clear warning that in later times some who will abandon the faith, *paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons*. Paying attention also means "to hold the mind towards, to apply oneself to, to adhere to, to bring near."

These false teachings will come through *hypocritical liars*, which is exactly what Jesus called the religious leaders in the synagogues. Paul says their conscience has been "seared" which in the Greek is defined as, "to render insensitive, to mark by branding, in a medical sense to cauterize." These teachers/preachers bear the mark of the beast, the blemish of sin within. They are Satan's deceived spokesmen. Accepting and adhering to their lies will keep you out of heaven. If we do not come out from their midst and be separate, we will be shut out from God's salvation.

Jesus rebuked the religious teachers in His day that were misleading the people. Their outward portrayal of piety was merely a mask covering their inner hypocrisy and wickedness. Like the synagogue official presiding over the gatherings the bent double woman participated in, these leaders hold their followers in a continuous state of bondage.

Jesus rebuked the church leaders in Matthew 23:25-28, saying, *Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full*

*of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.*

In 1 Corinthians 15:33 Paul said, *Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals.* The Greek for “company” is *homilia* [hom-il-ee'-ah]. It means “companionship, intercourse, and communion.” *Homilos* [hom'-il-os], another word taken from it, is described as “association together, a multitude of men gathered together, a crowd.” Paul is again warning Christians that evil associations will destroy good character, which is *upright* living.

### The Sabbath Day Release In Christ

There's a promise revealed through this account in Luke 13 of a “Sabbath day” release for God's people. Hebrews 4 describes it as the seventh day rest of God. The seventh day represents the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth, completing the redemption of mankind. There is a partial rest now for all who rest from their works in this lifetime, doing instead the works of God as the Spirit leads. But there is also a rest in fullest measure for the Body of Christ that we will soon enter at the appointed time in the end. Through adherence and application of the truth that is being revealed by the Spirit, we will finally be set free from all evil spirits, rising up together for a great and mighty deliverance. Rejection of these truths will prove to be catastrophic.

Like the woman who had been completely overcome, many within the church are *bent double* by wicked spirits. We are weak and feeble, bound by the Devil's chains which make it impossible to lead “upright,” righteous lives. The good news is Jesus' power, working through His “hands” in the Body, will set us free. Unfortunately, many remain bound in the church who should be

loosed, while others remain loosed who should be bound. Through the Lord's touch, this will soon change.

As in Jesus' day, this has occurred through the abuse of power within the majority of the leadership of our present religious system. There are Christian brothers who have not entered into their authority in Christ because their leaders will not let them. We are to equip, not hinder the saints *for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ* (Ephesians 4:12-13). This hindrance is the outworking of Satan through deceived people for the express purpose of not allowing the Body of Christ to mature, entering what Paul referred to as the "fullness." If we never grow up, the devil's dominion will never be challenged. Like a child, we are then easily manipulated and controlled.

An older couple in our area was ministering in a local nursing home. They wanted to have a communion service with the elderly but were prohibited from doing so without their pastor's say so. Since when do you need another man's approval to do what God commanded for His Body? Hired clergy are not the only ones "qualified" to minister to others. This all reeks of a controlling spirit that wants to keep God's people in a state of oppression, never reaching their full potential in Christ.

Speaking in regards to the desperate need for the church in America to change its structure (i.e. wineskin), Chinese Brother Yun in his book "Living Water" declares;

*"Unless the Western church returns to biblical roots, it will continue its downward slide to irrelevance and oblivion... Millions of sheep are told to sit in pews each Sunday and listen to speeches made by professional clergy. As each week passes, the listeners become more and more entrenched in their pews... If you are serious about God and desire to be free to know Him more than ever before, then you may need to give serious thought to the wineskin you are part of. I don't tell you this to condemn you or anyone else. Rather, I share these things because God's heart is*

*broken by the way so many of His children are bound by oppressive spiritual conditions.”*

Due to obstinate rebellion against the will of God, the church has walked about “bent over” for many years in this nation. The Spirit of God wants to loose us from this bondage so that we may go and loose others. 1 John 3:8 says *The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.* The Greek for destroy means “to loosen, to unbind, to set free.” The present condition of religious bonds in the church in America is the direct result of the enemies’ infiltration within our midst.

The spiritual despots controlling the churches are about to be overthrown by the Spirit of God. The fortified walls of the spiritual citadels will implode. They, like Saul, will be replaced by the David’s who will act according to God’s heart and will. Our enemies have become those within our own household! (Matthew 10:36)

While speaking to the disciples about His return, Jesus said in Luke 21:28, *But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.* To “straighten up” is “to raise or lift oneself up, to be elated or exalted, *to unbend.*” It’s time for God’s people to lift up our heads in righteousness and focus our attention on Christ. With eyes fixed on the world we have been *bent double* under the oppression of the enemy long enough. We must refocus our attention on the One who is presently summoning His Body to Himself. His touch can set us free, enabling us to rise up in righteousness.

He promises to draw near to those who draw near to Him (James 4:8). To draw near means “to join one thing to another.” Quickly get out of any unhealthy relationship you are presently participating in, whether it be a church or in the world, and fully join yourself to Jesus. We are approaching the final stage in the redemption of mankind. Those who eagerly await His appearing, cleansing their hearts by faith, will rejoice and enter into the eternal joy of their Master.

## *Chapter Ten*

# **The New Thing**

**T**he Greek for “erect” in Luke 13:13 is *anorthoo* [an-orth-o'-o]. It's defined as “to straighten up, to set up, to rear again, to build anew.” I see another reference within this passage of the *new thing* referred to in various passages of Scripture within both Old and New Testaments.

In Isaiah 48 the Lord is rebuking His people for their stubbornness and unwillingness to listen and obey Him. He says in verses 6-7, *From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you. They are created now, and not long ago; you have not heard of them before today. So you cannot say, “Yes, I knew of them.”* This is the word of the Lord I'm giving you right now.

He is doing a new thing in our day. We have not known these things before. To keep us dependent upon the Lord, they have never been revealed. The Holy Spirit is revealing hidden things unknown to the Body of Christ simply because it wasn't the appointed time.

The pride of most in the church will say they already know what will happen in the end. Their doctrines spell out what will occur. The problem is we didn't yet have that information from God. It wasn't time for us to know. While we were sleeping, Satan crept into our assemblies with his own doctrines that we readily accepted as truth.

1 Peter 1:5 clearly states that God has a *salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time*. To those with eyes to see and ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church, that time is now.

The word “revealed” comes from the Greek word *apokalupto* [ap-ok-al-ooop'-to]. It is defined as “to uncover, to lay open what has been veiled or covered up, to make known, *to disclose what before was unknown.*” The Lord is making known in this “last day” His way of escape for the final deliverance of His people. It will test all of our hearts. We have never gone this way before.

If you arrogantly turn away from this truth in spiritual pride and are unwilling to listen and repent if necessary, believing you have peace and safety even though you have neither, you will perish. The Lord said to apostate Israel in Isaiah 48:9, *For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to cut you off.* This may be the ONLY reason He has not already poured out His wrath on our nation. He will not hold back forever though. I see a large black cloud quickly approaching our land. It will bring down things we never thought possible on our soil.

### A New Tent On Mount Zion

In 1 Chronicles 13 David was attempting to bring the ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem. He conferred with the whole assembly of Israel and it seemed like the right thing to do. They had a good desire, but had not sought the Lord for His way. Not doing it per the prescribed order of the Lord would cost the lives of two men.

1 Chronicles 13:7 says they moved the ark of God on a “new cart,” which seemed completely logical, and probably respectful, in their minds. Tragically, the new thing was not done God’s way. He had a new thing in mind also, but it would be revealed to David and the rest of Israel just how serious of a matter it is to seek and then follow HIS way.

This same matter is happening within the church today. Much of what we do is unacceptable before God. We do things our way, according to our denominational ways taught by the elders, and

then ask God to bless it. It will cost the lives of many in the days ahead.

Later, David would try again, but not in the same manner as before. 1 Chronicles 16:1 states that when everything was made ready, *per the instructions of the Lord*, the ark of His presence was finally brought to rest in the place David had prepared for Him on Mount Zion. The fear of the Lord had been strongly instilled in their hearts first, resulting in a reverential search for His ways. Eventually, with great joy, they brought the ark of God to the place David had prepared for it.

It's interesting to note that about six miles away, at Mount Gibeon, the tabernacle of Moses was still in operation (1 Chronicles 21:29), void of the presence of God which resided within His ark. 1 Chronicles 16:39-40 says, *And he [David] left Zadok the priest and his relatives the priests before the tabernacle of the LORD in the high place which was at Gibeon, to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering continually morning and evening, even according to all that is written in the law of the LORD, which He commanded Israel.* It would continue functioning for awhile longer, but the ark would never be restored within the holy of holies in the old structure. The new, acceptable way of the Lord had begun.

In his book "From Tent To Temple," George Warnock says;

*"If we are going to be spared the frustration of trying to restore something that has served its purpose and belongs to a dying order, we must recognize that God has new things in mind. And that He moves onward and forward and upward, enlightening the path of the just with the Light of a new day... **He is not in the least interested in renewing some old religious structure that He may have seen fit to use in days gone by. God has an entirely new order for His people.**"*

God's plan is always moving forward. His presence would never again return to the temporary tabernacle of Moses in Mount Gibeon. It had served its purpose, being a temporary means unto the end, but not the end itself.



This is where some within the church have a difficult time today. They have become complacent and comfortable within their denominations and are not willing to set out at the Holy Spirit's call to *come out* and meet the Lord at the end of this age (Matthew 25:6).

They have become spiritually hard of hearing, preferring to stop and dwell on the wrong side of the Jordan River. They have no desire to cross over and possess the "Promised Land," or should I say the "Promised Place" in Christ. We will have no excuse one day when we stand before Him and are required to give an account as to why we would not answer the call to enter into the final resting place of His glorious inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God (Ephesians 5:5).

As with the moving of the ark of the covenant in David's day, God is moving toward His final dwelling in Zion, the divinely designated place of His throne within us. It is nearing the time of His coming again to His people. We are to rebuild and restore this desired place that now lies in ruin within the hearts of many. The place within His people, the temple of His Body that fell in the Garden of Eden, will once and forever, at the end of this age, be restored to an even greater glory than at the beginning.

The Holy Spirit is presently stirring His people from our spiritual lethargy to prepare His way within us through repentance and consecration so that together we will carry His presence per the prescribed order revealed to us within the Scriptures. The seat of His government will be established within the hearts of His people who respond by consecrating themselves in preparation of His appearing. They are the wise virgins who took oil with them to keep their lamps lit. The oil was "poured" into them because they turned to the Lord's reproof (Proverbs 1:23).

Because the Lord's bride has made herself ready (Revelation 19:7-8), she will enter into the wedding feast with the Bridegroom and the door will be shut. Those on the outside will find themselves in a place of darkness, outside the light of His presence, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. We, His children, must humble ourselves and take heed lest we fall through arrogance and presumption.

We are not above Israel, the natural branches. If they were broken off for unbelief we must not become conceited, but fear. If God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare those of us in the church, the spiritual Israel, who are grafted-in Gentiles that turn away in unbelief AFTER believing either (Romans 11).

Some would say that the people Paul is speaking of are not true Christians. You cannot be grafted into the Tree of Life, Jesus Christ, unless you have become a believer, a disciple, a follower of Him. This will occur en masse during the great falling away from Jesus that occurs before His return (2 Thessalonians 2). It is crucial that we listen to what the Spirit is saying in this midnight hour, and then prepare accordingly.

*Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) (Revelation 19:7-8/NIV)* Church, get your hearts ready, per the divine order of the Lord. We must seek out His ways in order to be made ready, before it's too late.

## Chapter Eleven

# Preparing The Levites

**N**umbers 8:5-19 deals with God's detailed order for the preparation of the Levites to serve in the temple. The Levites were those whom God had chosen amongst the 12 tribes of Israel to minister unto Him. Levi means "attached," or "joined to." This Divine order applies to all whom the Lord is calling to come fully join themselves to Himself. It describes the distinguishing qualities of those that serve God with a pure heart.

Their separation unto the Lord was a result of adherence to His revealed order. It distinguished them from among their brothers unto Christ. Afterwards, they were allowed to go in and serve.

First, they had to be cleansed per the law of God given to Moses. There is an order today as well that we must adhere to in order for God's people to serve Him. The present issue within the church is that man has developed many different options, per his own ways.

Besides service unto the Lord, this also placed the Levites in a position to make atonement for the sons of Israel so there would be *no plague among the sons of Israel by their coming near to the sanctuary* (Numbers 8:19). Service came *after* cleansing. This is God's way for us today also.

Leviticus 10:1-3 warns us concerning how we are to serve the Lord. It says that Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, *took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. So*

*fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: 'Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.'" Aaron remained silent.*

Other versions of the Bible interpret "unauthorized" as "strange." In Hebrew it's defined as "to turn aside (especially for lodging); hence to be a foreigner, strange, profane; specifically to commit adultery." To offer strange fire before the Lord is to treat His required sacrifice with disrespect. It's an unacceptable offering of man's choosing, associated, by definition, with an adulterous heart.

This is not just an Old Testament concept. James 4:4-5 warns Christians, *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the Spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?*

Obviously, you cannot have the Spirit of God living in you without being a child of His. To be a friend of someone or something refers to close, intimate association. Again, continued adulterous associations outside the boundaries of God's will destroys our association with Christ. Biblically, it's referred to as spiritual adultery.

### Association With Christ

Paul speaks in 2 Corinthians 1:21 of being established with others in Christ. He says, *Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God.* The word "with" is our word *sun* [soon] in Luke 13:11. Also, "anointed" comes from the Greek word *chrio* [khree'-o] which is defined as "through the idea of contact, to smear or rub with oil." You will often hear those in modern Christianity advertising with phrases such as "anointed preaching," and "anointed singing," as if that qualifies the speaker or singer. It's not the title, but rather the Christ-likeness that qualifies us.

Acts 11:26 is the first time the word “Christian” appears in the New Testament. It says *the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch*. The word for Christian is derived from a couple of Greek words, one being *chrio*. By definition, a Christian is “a follower of Christ.” Because of close contact, intimate association with Jesus (*chrio*), He has “rubbed off,” so to speak, on them. The anointing oil of the Holy Spirit has endued them with power for the administration of the Lord’s Messianic office in their life. This is the power that raised up the bent-double woman. Remember, one of the definitions for sickness in Luke 13:11 was “lack of strength and capacity requisite to understand a thing, to do things great and glorious, to restrain corrupt desires, and to bear trials and troubles.”

You will know who is a Christian because they have begun to look and act to one degree or another as their Lord, with whom they have become close by choice. Through willful obedience, the fruit of the Holy Spirit is being developed in their life.

Saying you’re a Christian is not enough to make you one. Being a Christian is not in word only, but rather in deed and character which occurs through close association with Christ. We become like that which we follow, or are the closest to, whether that be the world or the Lord.

When we willingly draw near to Him, He endues us with His power to overcome our area of weakness. In fact, while describing the great faith of some of God’s choice servants, Hebrews 11:34 speaks of those “whose weakness was turned to strength.” Close companionship with Christ is the way of victory and glory.

Isaiah 40:29-31 says, *He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up [“to go up, to ascend, to climb”] with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.*

According to Strong’s Concordance, the Hebrew for “wait” means “to bind together, perhaps by twisting; i.e. collect.” In Luke 13:16 the bent-double woman was said to be “released” from the bondage that held her captive. If you recall, one of the definitions is “to dissolve anything bound, tied, or compacted together.” The

strongholds of the enemy within our hearts that keep us bound to “bad company” (1 Corinthians 15:33) must be dissolved first so that God’s children can be collected and joined together with other brothers and sisters who desire to stand up in righteousness, ascending the place where their Lord is summoning them.

Presently, most Christians in America are being held captive in a religious prison ruled by “hypocrites.” This is why the Lord is in the process of cleansing His house from all that is not of Him. *For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?* (1 Peter 4:17)

This is what’s here. If I believe this revelation, I will prepare my heart by faith, repenting and separating where necessary. Seeing these truths, but not being where you and I desire to be like Paul in Romans 7, can be very frustrating. As Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 26:41, *Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.* Watching and praying are essential disciplines for all who desire to overcome their fallen nature.

We need the Holy Spirit to lead us up the mountain of God’s choosing, like Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22. It’s the place where God desires our living sacrifice to be willingly placed on His altar. This is the sacrifice that pleases the Lord and receives His blessing. If we are willing, He is able.

*Chapter Twelve*

## **Breaking The Bonds Of Our Brothers**

**I**n Judges 15 Samson burned the crops of the Philistines because his father-in-law had given his wife to another man while he was away. The Philistines then burned to death his wife and father-in-law, blaming them for their bad fortune.

After ruthlessly striking the Philistines, Samson went down and lived in the cleft of the rock of Etam. Etam means “lair of wild beasts.” It’s also defined as “hawk ground,” coming from a word that means “a hawk or other bird of prey.” From this high place where he was dwelling, Samson is about to be bound and led away.

A similar scenario is revealed in Revelation 18 regarding the fall of Babylon the harlot. Described as a dwelling place, or “lair” of wild beasts, she sounds very similar to the place Samson was dwelling. This is a perfect depiction of the present state of the church in America.

Through the “unclean,” unsanctified spirits of God’s children, demons now inhabit the dwelling of God within the temple of His Body, the cleft of the Rock. Like the bent-double woman, many are kept in this unrighteous prison ruled by hypocrites. If you remain in a similar place of fellowship, not coming out from their midst to the “higher” place where the Lord is summoning us, you

will never be set free to walk an upright life and escape the judgment to come.

While in Etam, 3,000 men of Judah came to him asking him why he burned the Philistine's fields. They told Samson they came to bind ("to yoke or hitch, to imprison") him and give him into the hands of the Philistines who, at that time, ruled over them and had come to kill him.

Judges 15:13 says he was bound with "two new ropes" by his fellow countrymen and led away to Israel's enemies. As with Esther and Mordecai, right when it looked like the enemy would get the upper hand, God turns it to the contrary. It was a set-up by Him to deliver His people from those who were oppressing them. I believe a similar scenario will occur on our soil.

In the presence of his enemies, the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon Samson, releasing him from his bonds. Verse 14 says they were "dropped" which means "to dissolve, to melt, to waste away." The bonds his brothers put on him would quickly be dissolved when the Spirit of God touched him. Like the bent-double woman in Luke 13:16, he was instantly released (which means "to loosen; to dissolve anything bound, tied, or compacted together") from the bondage of the yoke of his brothers for a great deliverance of Israel from their enemy. The bond of his brothers represents the bondage that occurs when we adhere to their false doctrines, continuing with them in their hypocritical fellowship. Their yoke is not the Lord's.

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30, *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.* Jesus' invitation in this Scripture is very similar to the bent-double woman's when He called her over to Himself.

The Greek for weary means "to feel fatigue; to grow weary, tired exhausted (with toils or burdens or grief)." The heavy burdens from wicked spirits that have attached themselves to us through *bad company* (1 Corinthians 15:33) cause us to walk bent over, in an unrighteous manner.

They cause us to grow weary, and even stumble badly. It is only as we come to Jesus Christ and receive His touch that the ungodly



unions that bound us are dissolved and we are set free, gaining new strength to walk upright lives. Many of God's people in this nation need help to detach from bad fellowships and reattach to the Lord.

The word yoke is taken from the Greek *zugos* [dzoo-gos']. It is defined as "to join, a coupling; figuratively, servitude." Metaphorically it's used of any burden or bondage, such as that of slavery. Again, the union with hypocrites must be broken first. We must then be rejoined to Christ alone before you and I can truly learn from, or *know* Him. If we do not know Him in this manner, we will not be allowed entrance into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21-23). We must be joined to Christ alone, not an individual minister, ministry, or denomination.

In Leviticus 26 the Lord lists for Israel the blessings of obedience and the curses for disobedience. In regards to obedience He promises in verses 11-13, *Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that you should not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect* ["upright"].

Within the Bible, Egypt is referred to as "the house of bondage." It is the place where God's people were in slavery, building bricks for the wrong master. Today, that house is the house of Babylon, the house of religious hypocrites where many of God's people are enslaved. The controlling yoke of the stubborn pharaohs ruling over God's children must be broken off before they can arise at the end of this age. Having been shown the way in private communion with their Savior, His deliverer's will then come forth, publicly, to lead His people into the promised place in Himself.

Back in Judges 15, Samson stretched out his newly released hand per the empowering of the Spirit of God, much like Moses with the serpent, and seized a fresh jawbone of a donkey. With it he killed a thousand Philistines, making donkeys of them.

As revealed in an earlier chapter, to seize the serpent by the tail, as Moses did, is to take authority over the false prophets. I see the exact same thing occurring with Samson when he seized the fresh, new jawbone of an ass (KJV).

There appears to be a correlation between the two *new* ropes that Samson's brothers bound him with, and the *new* (a definition for "fresh") jawbone of a donkey. Christians seem to be always seeking after the latest, the newest thing. Like a drug addict they frantically search out their next spiritual fix. In a greedy exchange, the false prophets are more than willing to deal out their false revelations that keep the deceived coming back for more.

2 Peter 2:14-16 warns us of these false teachers who *with eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed, an accursed brood! **They have left the straight ["upright"] way and wandered off** to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey, a beast without speech, who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.*

While on their reckless way to curse God's people with arrogant words of foolishness, the Balaam's of our day continue to beat those who try to steer them away from God's judgment. They believe they're above the burden bearer's that are carrying them.

The Lord is once again reaching out to restrain the insanity of those who have wandered off the path of uprightness to fulfill a wicked desire. Having lost all spiritual eyesight, they cannot see the extreme danger that lies right ahead for them, and all who follow. There is a time when God, in His mercy, opens the mouth of those who appear to the Balaam's as an ignorant beast. They declare His word to those who are cursing His children with their words. That time is happening right now.

### *Chapter Thirteen*

## **The Bond Of The Covenant**

**T**he Lord declares in Ezekiel 20:34-38, “*And I shall bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm [like Moses] and with wrath poured out; and I shall bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I shall enter into judgment with you face to face. As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you,*” declares the Lord GOD. “*And I shall make you pass under the rod, and I shall bring you into the bond of the covenant; and I shall purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I shall bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.*”

Through powerful judgments, the Lord speaks of bringing His people out from the places where they were scattered, in order to gather them. He would then enter into judgment with them, causing them to *pass under the rod*, separating the rebels who transgress against Him. Moses declared in Leviticus 27:32 that *every tenth part of herd or flock, whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD*. The shepherd would cause his sheep to walk past him single file. He would then place a mark on every tenth one, marking it out as the Lord’s. This is what

the Lord seems to be referring to concerning His plan for His sheep in the last days.

In Ezekiel 9, the vision of slaughter, a “certain man” clothed in linen with a writing case at his loins placed a mark on the foreheads of those in Jerusalem who groaned over all the sin being committed in its midst. It was a mark of protection for the judgment that was about to take place.

The Lord then commanded those with this man to “*go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity, and do not spare. Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but do not touch any man on whom is the mark; and you shall start from My sanctuary.*” So they started with the elders who were before the temple. In other words, they started at the top, with those in leadership positions. This is a side of God you rarely hear preached from today’s pulpits. We must remember that He is also righteous and just and will not let the guilty go unpunished.

This seemingly ruthless killing, per the command of God, was preceded by the marking out of the faithful sheep. There are those in America today who also groan over all the abominations being committed in our midst. The Shepherd’s mark will be placed upon His doers of the word. They will be fully joined together with their brothers and sisters into the bond of the covenant.

The Hebrew for “bond” in Ezekiel 20:3 is *macoreth* [maw-so'-reth]. It’s taken from a word that means “to yoke or hitch, to fasten in any sense, to join battle.” Within this passage I see a picture of what the Lord is accomplishing at the end of this age.

It’s interesting that they were told to start at God’s sanctuary. 1 Peter 4:16-18 says, *If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God. For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?* Most of today’s preachers have removed the difficult portion of salvation. It’s now quite easy for the righteous to be saved.

In the Old Testament Israel is a picture of what Paul refers to as “the Israel of God” in the New Testament (Galatians 6:16)

composed of both Jews and Gentiles who have received Christ as their Savior. As with the exodus from Egypt, through great judgments the Lord will bring out His people. Our association with the “houses of bondage” must be broken first in order for the one and only true church to be gathered together. Unfortunately, this gathering will not all be good.

In Matthew 13:24-43 Jesus told His disciples a parable in regards to the gathering of the wheat and the tares out of His kingdom at the end of the age. Through the deception of demonic doctrines, many Christians miss the key statement of Christ that this event occurred within HIS kingdom, not the world.

Verses 40-43 clearly state, *just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of **His kingdom** all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.* As with physical Israel, there are rebels in the camp today as well that will be purged from our midst. Afterwards, the glory of God will be revealed in those who are left behind.

Paul referred to this event in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3. He said, *Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our **gathering together** to Him, that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.*

Notice that the coming of the Lord is associated with God’s people being gathered together. It will be preceded by a great falling away from Christ. This separation has been happening within our nation for some time now. Those who ignore the Lord’s final call in this day will find themselves being cast out into a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. Like the stiff-necked children of Israel in the wilderness, they will curse God and die.

The Greek word interpreted in this passage as “gathering together” means “a complete collection, a gathering together in

one place.” This is the place in Christ that He now summons His people to come to. We have never walked together in the Spirit at this level. It’s our coming together in complete unity, as one, that is spoken of in John 17:23.

Jesus prayed in this passage to the Father concerning His children, saying, *May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.* Before there can be unity such as this, there needs to be the removal of those in His kingdom who will not humble themselves and cry out in repentance when necessary. They’re the ones Paul describes in Romans 1:18 who *suppress the truth in unrighteousness.* They hold back the transforming power of truth through continual practicing of sin.

### The Disaster Of Esau

There is a prophecy against Edom, the descendants of Esau, in Jeremiah 49:13-22. It speaks of nations being gathered together, and rising up for battle. The Hebrew for “rise up” is *quwm* [koom] which means “to stand up,” much like the woman who was healed from being bent-double.

In this passage, the Lord also rebukes those who live in the cleft of the rocks. This is a term used in type for those of us who dwell in The Rock, Jesus Christ. He says their arrogance has deceived them, and even though they build their nests, their dwellings, as high as the eagles (much like Samson in Judges 15:11-15), he will bring them down.

Spiritual pride is the catalyst for the falling away of God’s disciples. Many live within the church in a false sense of security, convinced through acceptance of false teachings they will be unharmed when the wrath of God is poured out on earth. In the end, while living in continued rebellion toward God after turning to Him, they will simply curse Him, and die.

In Jeremiah 49:8 the Lord refers to “the disaster of Esau.” Referring to this tragedy, the writer of Hebrews under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit declared, *Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of*

*bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.* (Hebrews 12:14-17)

How many Christians have sold their birthright in Christ for a fleshly desire? This is a New Testament warning that the doctrines of demons say doesn't apply to us today. As Esau tragically discovered, God means what He says. There is a time when repentance is too late. The fear of the Lord and his judgments is a Divine boundary whose purpose is to keep us from continuing in sin. *If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.* (Hebrews 10:26-27/NIV)

It is time to whole heartedly fasten ourselves to Christ, before the final judgment of God is poured out on earth. Today is the day to repent. We must allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and reveal to us any wicked ways that need to be forsaken. The door of the ark is already closing. This is mankind's last call to repent. Mercy will soon give way to wrath.

## Chapter Fourteen

# “Come Up Here”

**I**n Revelation 4:1 John describes a portion of his incredible revelation that pertains to what we’ve been discussing. He says, *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”*

Jesus called John, and us, to “come up here,” to arise to the place where He is where there is an open door. When the Lord says “here,” He, by definition, is saying “in this same spot; here, to this place.” Man wants God to come down to him, where he dwells. To “come up” is to arise, to ascend, to climb up, to mount up, to leave the things of this earth behind and to draw near to the Lord. It’s the heart that responds in obedience, turning by faith toward Him, that He responds to.

One day Jesus took Peter, James, and John, his brother, up to a high mountain. Matthew 17:1-2 says He was transfigured before them, *and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light*. This higher place He desires to lead us by His Spirit is the place where He reveals His glory to His disciples, granting them knowledge and understanding, instruction and authority.

In Joshua 3:3, when Israel crossed over the Jordan River to the place of their inheritance, they were instructed; *When you see the*



*ark of the covenant of the LORD your God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then you shall set out from your place [which means “a standing, a spot; figuratively, a condition of body or mind”] and go after it.* Please listen carefully to what the Spirit is saying to us.

To “set out” is “to pull out, to journey, to depart.” “To go” means “to walk, to proceed; figuratively, a manner of life.” The church is being called to leave the lower place we presently stand in within this world, and to come to the “higher” place of completeness that Christ stands in.

Jesus called the bent-double woman in Luke 13:12 to come over to the place where He stood. If, while wandering in the wilderness, the children of Israel didn’t get up and follow the cloud of God’s Presence when He moved, they would perish. If we do not set out in the direction of His Presence today, we won’t be delivered as well. If we’re never delivered, there will be no deliverer to come in Christ’s name and authority to deliver others from the dominion of Satan. It’s time to break camp and move forward, leaving all earthly baggage, religious or otherwise, behind.

The Israelites were told in Joshua 3:4 that they had not “passed this way before.” The Hebrew for “passed” is *abar* [aw-bar] which is defined as “to cross over, to pass over or by or through.” The word “way” is taken from the word *derek* [deh'-rek] which means “a path, a journey, a direction, a course of life or mode of action.” Our final direction for crossing over to our inheritance in Christ, which Peter referred to as the “salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:5), is now being revealed.

We, His Body, have never been this way before. The way to cross over has never been shown to us because it was not yet time. If it had been shown to our brothers and sisters in Christ at any time in the past, they would have crossed over. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

In Exodus 24 the Lord called Moses, His deliverer, to come near to Him up on Mount Sinai. He declared in verse 12, *Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction.* Like John, Moses heard the call to come up higher where he would receive God’s word of instruction

for His people. It's the same call for the deliverers at the end of this age. They must rise up and ascend the mountain of the Lord, remaining near Him. Abiding in His presence, they will receive His word of deliverance for His people.

After Jesus was resurrected, Matthew 28:16-20 tells us the eleven remaining disciples proceeded to Galilee, *to the mountain which Jesus had designated*. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him, but some were doubtful. Jesus said to them, *All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

The Greek for "designated" is *tasso* [tas'-so]. It's defined as "to arrange in an orderly manner, to assign a place, to appoint, to ordain." What if the disciples hadn't listened and, instead, carelessly gone their own way, to the place they chose to be? Jesus gave them specific instructions that required specific obedience. If they hadn't gone up to the appointed place, they, and therefore we, would have never received our great commission as His people.

Psalm 50:23 says, *Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to him who orders his conduct* ["a way, a manner of life, a habit"] *aright I will show the salvation of God.* Putting our lives "straight" per God's orderly manner gives us eyes to see His way of salvation. Having once been given eyes to see and ears to hear, some, through rebellion, will no longer be able to discern the way of His salvation. Remember, Jesus said in John 14:6 *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father but through Me.* We must arise and go to where He is calling us.

As with Matthew 28:16-20 above, following God's way revealed by the Holy Spirit gives us ears to hear His directions, and eyes to see His saving way in the end. Those who put their life in God's revealed way of living, rather than ours, following His course of conduct, instead of ours, will find the doorway that opens up unto salvation. This is the way up the mountain where the Lord reveals His pathway for salvation to us.

Due to half-hearted devotion, most of the church in America is not listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying in these last days.

Because of neglect and carelessness in their spiritual walk, they do not take seriously the call to “come up higher.” Believing they have already arrived at the final destination of truth concerning God’s final salvation of mankind, they see no need for further instructions.

In the end, they will not be in the place where they need to be. Having been lulled to sleep through false teaching, they’re not looking for Him with expectant, purified hearts. They are fellowship partners within the Laodicean church who think they are rich and in need of nothing (Revelation 3:14-22).

A few years ago, in an article entitled “Last Time Salvation” I wrote;

*“The problem is not the Scriptures lack of information, but rather the lack of discernment amongst God's people who are sleeping in apathy when we should be watching. Our redemption is drawing near and we have our eyes on the things of this world when we should be looking up to Jesus for His guidance and direction... The Lord has designed this great end time salvation so that we HAVE TO keep our eyes fixed on Him or we will not recognize the way of escape from the coming judgment in the day of His wrath. While we were sleeping, the enemy moved in and set up his doctrines of demons that are designed to keep us in a state of deadly lukewarmness.”*

The Lord is summoning the earth, commanding His servants to consecrate themselves BEFORE we come up His “holy” mountain lest we die in His presence (Exodus 19). This is a new thing. We have never been this way before. If we will “do” what He commands in this midnight hour, we will be saved. Otherwise, like the foolish virgins we will find ourselves on the outside where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

## Chapter Fifteen

# The Straight Way

**A**s discussed earlier in Luke 13:11, through the bondage caused by an evil spirit, the bent-double woman who was in a synagogue could not straighten up, which means “to raise or lift oneself up.” She is a picture, in type, of those who rise up and walk in righteousness, in particular at the end of this age, per the power of Christ. In her sick condition, she could not physically rise up. Neither can we.

Isaiah 60:1-3 says, *Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you. And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Like the bent-double woman, I hear the Lord summoning His people to rise up at the end of this age. Unfortunately, most lack the strength and capacity required to straighten up. Evil spirits have overcome many of God’s children within the church in America.

The good news is the Lord is about to reach out His hand of deliverance for His chosen ones. This will occur through His deliverers who have ascended Mount Zion and been endued with power from on high (Obadiah 1:21). Like Moses, they will grasp the serpent by the tail, taking authority over him through Jesus

Christ, causing him to be hurled down from his position as “the prince of the power of the air.” When we rise up, he will fall!

Regarding and our need to pay attention, Peter declared, *For when He [Jesus] received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased,” and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.* (2 Peter 1:17-19)

First of all, did you notice that Peter speaks of being with Jesus on the holy mountain? This is a reference to what we refer to as “the transfiguration” in Matthew 17 when Jesus took Peter, James, and John, leading them to a high mountain.

To lead us is to bear us, to carry us. In other words, Jesus desires to bear that which keeps us from rising up with Him in righteousness. He desires to take all of His disciples to this higher place, but the journey is not an easy one. Because of the difficulties encountered along the way, many turn back, choosing to dwell in the lower heights of temporal comfort.

Not allowing the Lord to take that which keeps us spiritually deformed, we continue bent over from the weight of demonic oppression. Only the submissive, obedient eagle saints will be released to soar, mounting up (which means “to ascend, to climb”) with wings like eagles (Isaiah 40:29-31).

The word “took” in Matthew 17 is from the Greek word *paralambano* [par-al-am-ban'-o]. It means “to take with oneself, to join to oneself, an associate, a companion.” Remember, the word “bent double” comes from a word that also refers to “association” and “companionship.” It is in this union with Christ at the “higher” place of His choosing, separated from the lower things of this world, that He calls us to in Himself. It’s where darkness flees and we are set free in His glorious light. Our bondage is broken as we answer His call, drawing near by faith. Like the prodigal son’s father, He looks for those who come back looking for Him.

The phrase “do well” and “pay attention” in 2 Peter 1:19 are also very important. The Greek for “do well” is *poieo* [poy-eh'-o]. This

word, and another it is taken from, are used in James when he speaks of being “doers” of the word. Hearing the way of escape the Lord is revealing to us at the end of this age is not enough. We must apply it, doing what the Spirit is saying to the church. This is where we need to encourage one another, and all the more as we “see the Day [of the Lord] approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

The Greek for “pay attention” is *prosecho* [pros-ekh'-o]. It means “to hold the mind towards, i.e. pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to, adhere to.” Interestingly enough, it also is defined as “to hold or to cleave to a person or a thing.” Fulfilling the vow of “to have and to hold” will be the distinguishing mark of the faithful Bride of Christ.

Those who give heed to God’s present summon to draw near, by faith, in anticipation of His light and glory rising upon us, will be those who receive His touch and stand upright. Beholding and then entering into the revealed “straight way,” they will arise and shine with the glory of their Lord and Savior, fulfilling Isaiah 60:1-3 in the deep darkness that will soon engulf the world. The Morning Star will arise in their hearts causing those joined to Him to arise as well. Hallelujah!

Proverbs 11:11 says, *By the blessing of the upright [the “straight”] a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down.* The blessing of God that falls on His obedient servants will also fall on their cities and towns. It will go well with others to the degree that it goes well with God’s children. If allowed to rule, the wicked cause a city to be thrown down and destroyed, much like Satan and all who adhere to him. This is what’s currently taking place in America.

### Repairing The Altar

The same Hebrew word for “torn down” in Proverbs 11 is used in 1 Kings 18 to describe the condition of the altar of God. Israel had listened to the false prophets of Baal, resulting in a divided heart among the people. Through acceptance of the deceptive lies spewing out from the mouth of the serpent’s spokesmen, the altar of God was left unattended to. The same condition has occurred today within the church in America, as well as Europe. Adherence

to false teachings has caused the altar within the hearts of Christians to be neglectfully broken down.

After declaring to King Ahab that there would be neither dew nor rain in the days ahead except by his word, Elijah the prophet was ordered by the Lord to go in hiding by the brook Cherith, east of the Jordan. Like the woman in Revelation 12, he was led to a place of provision and protection.

Many days later, in the third year since his proclamation, the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, *Go show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the face of the earth.* The revealing of this son of God would bring healing rains to the children of Israel. It would also result in the death of the men of lawlessness, the sons of destruction that led God's people into idolatry.

In 1 Kings 18:30, during Elijah's showdown on Mount Carmel with the prophets of Baal, he said to all the people, *Come near to me.* This is exactly what God said to the bent-double woman, and is saying to His children today. His promise is that if we will draw near to him, He will draw near to us.

The verse goes on to say that all the people came near to Elijah and he *repaired the altar of the Lord which had been torn down.* The Hebrew word for "repaired" means "to heal, to make healthful." It's even used to describe the healing of national defects or hurts. At the end of this age when the sons of God arise in the anointing of Elijah, and are used to "restore all things" (Matthew 17:11), all nations will be healed in the name of Jesus. The restoring of the altars within the hearts of God's people will result in the restoration of the authority of God on earth.

In the New Testament, "restore" is taken from the Greek word *apokathistemi* [ap-ok-ath-is'-tay-mee] which means "to reconstitute in health, home or organization; to restore to its former state." It's taken from two words, one being *apo* [apo'] which is used of separation. One of the definitions described in Thayer's speaks of "any kind of separation of one thing from another by which the union or fellowship of the two is destroyed." Like the bent-double woman, restoration involves separation from that which is destroying our union with God. Separation will then lead to our healing.

After the fire fell on the repaired altar of God, Elijah had the people seize the false prophets. He then brought them down to the brook Kishon and executed them. A showdown is approaching in our day as well between the Elijah's and the false prophets that speak with the tongue of the serpent. They too will be destroyed.

As discussed in Book 1: "*Satan's Fall*," false prophets who guide God's people astray into a place of destruction are described as the tail in Isaiah 9:15. Like Moses, those who have answered the call of the Lord at the end of this age will be endued with His authority. Together, they will stretch out their "hand" in Jesus' name and seize the serpent by the tail. His mouth, the false prophets, will be shut, and the name of the Lord will be glorified. Amen!



## Chapter Sixteen

# Paths Of Righteousness

**P**roverbs 4:10-11 says, *Hear, my son, and accept my sayings, and the years of your life will be many. I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright [“straight”] paths.* Our Heavenly Father’s word of direction, when listened to and accepted, will lead us along “straight” paths, paths of upright living (righteousness) that will bring us many years of life.

Further on in Proverbs 4, verse 18 declares that, *the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that shines brighter and brighter until the full day.* Other versions refer to the full day as the “perfect day.” The Hebrew for “perfect” is *kuwn* [koon] which is defined as “to be erect, firm, stable, established.” In this I see a picture of the upright sons of dawn who have faithfully followed the Spirit’s leading on straight paths of righteousness. Like the dawning of a new day, the light of God has risen upon them, causing them to arise and shine.

This is a reference to the day when the Body of Christ will be perfected as we gain His glory in what Paul refers to in Romans 11:25 as “the fullness.” It is our completion, the finishing of what the Scriptures refer to as God’s “building.” His finishing touch will soon bring to completion the final level.

Proverbs 4:19 contrasts the path of the righteous with the way of the wicked, which is like darkness. It says, *they do not know over what they stumble.* Without the light of God to illumine your path,

you will be unable to see what lies right in front of you, causing you to stumble and fall. This is the inevitable result of all who take pleasure in wickedness without repentance.

Referring to the wicked amongst God's people who consult other gods, Isaiah 8:20-22 says *To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse **their** king and **their** God. Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.*

So it will be at the end of this age. Instead of paying attention to the word of *their* Lord for salvation, they will curse *their* God as they partake of the extreme misery occurring in the world they have been associating with. As they fearfully observe its great gloom and distress, they will find themselves being thrust into its utter darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

As with 2 Peter 1:19, the writer of Proverbs 4 continues in verses 20-22, *My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their whole body.* Again, this is the way of health and deliverance of the Body of Christ represented by the bent-double woman.

Verses 25-26 exhort us, saying, *Let your eyes look directly ahead, and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established.* This is why the writer of Hebrews 12:2 exhorts us to *fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.* Setting our minds on things above, He will make us stand firm in all our ways.

Proverbs 3:5-8 says, *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge ["to know, to find out and discern"] Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body, and refreshment to your bones.* The only way for the church, the woman, to "straighten up" and walk in a righteous, upright manner is through acknowledgment of God in all our ways.

Right now we have too much of our ways, our own understanding, that we must repent of (see 2 Chronicles 7:13-14, Matthew 22:5, and Proverbs 1:31 for the Lord's rebuke of our ways). It has led many in the church into all sorts of compromising, destructive behavior.

Notice in verses 7-8 that IF you and I "turn away from evil," not participating together with it in any way, it will be "healing" to our body, even the Body of Christ. It also says it will be "refreshment" to our bones, which by definition means "moisture."

I am reminded of Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37. The Hebrew for dry is taken from a word that means "to be ashamed, confused or disappointed, to be dry, *to be withered.*" As Ezekiel prophesied, the Spirit of God entered the dry bones and they came to life. Verse 10 says, *So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet; a vast army.*

The Hebrew for "life" is defined as "to live, to be quickened, to revive, to be restored to life or health." As the word of the Lord is declared through those whom He sends out, the bent-double woman in the church will stand up, released from the bondage of the devil that has held her for so long. She will be revived, restored to an upright, righteous state, becoming the army of the Lord used to destroy the enemy of God in the day of the Lord (Joel 2:11).

Pertaining to the day of the Lord, Joel 3:9-10 says, *Proclaim this among the nations: prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up!* [this is the same Hebrew word interpreted "mount up" in Isaiah 40:31] *Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, "I am a mighty man."*

There is a call from the Lord right now to His deliverer's to stand up(right) and come up His mountain. Obadiah 1:21 declares, *Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the LORD's.* This is the mountain, Mount Zion, that the Lord's deliverer's are being called to ascend. Zion represents the place of His rule, His government.

As a forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist's message was to prepare people's hearts for the first coming of the Lord. He was

*the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight!*" In anticipation of His second coming, we too must make the necessary preparations. Straight paths are upright paths; the result of true repentance.

### Getting Knocked Off Your High Horse

In Acts 9 we are told of the moment when Paul, then called Saul, was literally knocked off his horse. As he approached Damascus, intent on doing harm to the followers of Jesus, a light from heaven flashed around him and he fell to the ground blinded.

Verses 10-12 say, *Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Behold, here am I, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight."* Ananias went in obedience, doing what the Lord commanded him. After laying his hands on Saul, the Bible says there fell from his eyes something like scales and he began to see again.

It's interesting that he was lying helpless in a house on a street called "Straight." Like the woman who was bent-double, the Lord, through His servant Ananias, laid hands on him and he was healed. Afterwards Paul stood upright physically and spiritually. With renewed vision, He clearly saw the One whom he had been wrongly persecuting.

There are times when God needs to humble religious zealots, refocusing their spiritual eyesight in truth. Paul would write later in Romans 10:1-2, *Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.*

Psalm 119:66-67 says, *Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments. Before I was afflicted ["to be humbled"] I went astray, but now I keep Your word. Zeal based on*

the true knowledge of God will keep us from straying and committing prideful sins of ignorance.

Peter, in describing false prophets who have lost their way, says in 2 Peter 2:15, *They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.* Wicked men leave the straight paths, the way of upright living before God, to walk in the dark, pursuing wickedness.

Proverbs 2:12-15 says, *Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways, who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.*

### The Righteous Rut

Proverbs 1:7 declares, *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.* Discipline refers to “chastisement, reproof, warning or instruction, also restraint.” The discipline of the Lord surrounding His children is there to help in restraining us from pursuing wickedness.

Hebrews 12:11-14 says, *All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint [which means “to turn off or aside, to turn away from”], but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification [“holiness”] without which no one will see the Lord.*

Submitting to the discipline of the Lord is an essential part of our training to keep us from falling away from Him. May the fear of the Lord enter all His disciples’ hearts in the final moments of this age, keeping us in hot pursuit of that which is required to see Him.

Discipline is never pleasant at the time, but when submitted to it yields the “peaceful fruit” of righteousness within us. The Greek for “strengthen” refers to the healing of a deformed person, such

as the bent-double woman. It is in the doing of the word, the upright course of conduct walked out by faith, that we are healed.

The Greek for paths is *trochia* [trokh-ee-ah']. It's defined as "a course of conduct, a track of a wheel, a rut." The righteous rut of the Lord is what we need to continue abiding in. It will keep us from straying, ultimately bringing healing to our spirit, soul, and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

As John the Baptist declared before the first coming of the Lord, *Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight*. Deeds of true repentance prepare the way for the Lord to pour out His saving Spirit upon us (Luke 3:1-14). Otherwise, our crippled natures will continue to "twist out," turning away from Christ our healer.

The writer of Hebrews exhorted us to "pursue" ("to run after, to press on, to seek after eagerly") peace with all men, and the sanctification without which we cannot see the Lord. The way of purity in life and conduct which the Holy Spirit leads all the followers of Christ on is the preparation necessary for beholding and entering the means of deliverance in Christ.

As we near the end of this age the Spirit of God once again cries out through those preaching in the wilderness, outside the religious institutions that reject their message; "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

### A Final Exhortation

As stated earlier, when describing the sign of His coming and of the end of the age, Jesus said in Luke 21:28, *But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near*. Church, lets *straighten up* and *look up* per the summoning of the Lord, separating ourselves from any and all associations that keep us in bondage. Our liberating redemption draws near because... it is time!



Throughout this series titled “The Rising Of The Sons Of Dawn,” we are revealing truths from the Lord that will move His children to prepare themselves in preparation of His return. The Holy Spirit is exposing the lies of the devil that, when accepted, keep us from rising up in total victory at the end of this age. As we rise up, moving as commanded, Satan will lose his place and be cast down, forever. His final demise draws near.

The devil immediately began his assault on mankind in the Garden of Eden, suggesting to Adam and Eve what God really meant when He spoke to them. Building upon his evil deception, he has systematically established his “doctrines of demons” in the hearts and minds of many. Adherence to falsehood, not receiving “the love of the truth so as to be saved” (2 Thessalonians 2:10), is the basis for the great falling away from the faith of many Christians at the end of this age.

The Lord is declaring that it is time for us to rise up in victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil as we hear and respond to the truth. In the final struggle, Jesus will powerfully reach out and set free all who draw near to Him. A new day will dawn as the Sons of Dawn rise up with the glory and authority of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To God be the glory!

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