

911

God's Last Offer to the Church



Tim Bauer

Visit Tim's website: www.capstone-ministries.com

911 – Tim Bauer

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ISBN: 1500390372

ISBN 13: 9781500390372

Printed in the United States of America

First edition published 2014

Paperback ISBN: Ebook ISBN: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

This book is available from www.amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and your local Christian bookstore.

In Memory

This book is dedicated to my brother-in-law, Dale G. Goorhouse. After a two year fight with cancer, he entered the presence of Jesus Christ on February 25, 1984. On the night of his showing, I was confronted by the Holy Spirit with a deep conviction of my lost condition. Not being able to sleep, I stood outside in the middle of a cold wintery night in Michigan and surrendered my life to the Lord. I look forward to the day when Dale and I will be reunited in the glorious presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To God be the glory!

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This is an emergency!

For the last couple of years I have been writing a set of books regarding the rising of the sons of God at the end of the age. This book is a part of that revelation the Lord has disclosed to me that I felt had to get into the hands, and hearts, of His people as soon as possible.

The “911” message contained within these pages is a very strong, urgent warning to the church to prepare their hearts by faith so as not to be engulfed by the judgments about to occur. The majority of the church in America is presently unprepared for what is about to hit our soil. As such, they will not be protected.

This message is directly from the heart of Almighty God. It is His last offer to the church to fully immerse ourselves in Jesus Christ lest we be given over, like Judas, to the devil. The hand of the betrayer that is sitting at the table of the Lord will soon be exposed and cast out into the outer darkness of sheer terror. On the contrary, His faithful servants will be granted great authority, finishing His work on earth. It is at this point our enemy, the devil, will finally be crushed under our feet.

I need to warn you before you read this that it comes as a sharp, two-edged sword. To read it is to then become accountable to its content. To have the Holy Spirit reveal truth to you and then not respond favorably in obedience is to encounter a greater judgment (2 Peter 2:20-22). Please proceed with prayer and great caution.

This writing is a litmus test for the condition of your heart. If you don't receive this part of the revelation, you won't receive the rest. It should stir us to walk in a greater degree of purity and holiness before the Lord. Knowing the truth concerning the end, which quickly approaches, is essential in the process of preparation before entering the King of kings holy Presence. The wedding garments must be put on before we are allowed to enter in. *Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.* (Rev. 22:14) Without the "911" cleansing revealed within this message we will not be transformed at the end. It's now or never. There will not be another chance.

You must see the urgency of the moment we are now in so as to be made ready for the Lord's return. That is the point of this midnight cry. The Lord would once again remind us, *Yes, I am coming quickly!* (Rev. 22:20) May the Holy Spirit wake us up before it's too late and we miss this last window of opportunity. Jesus is coming, get ready!

Speaking the truth in Christ,
Tim Bauer



Chapter One

911

A recurring number regularly caught my attention for about one year. Every time I saw it, the Holy Spirit would stir my spirit. It was not a casual observation. Sometimes it showed up on sales receipts, and other times it was the time on the clock when I glanced at it. It was even the last three digits of a new account I opened, and it showed up in many other places. Due to the frequent presence of the number 911, I called my wife's attention to be a witness of the unusual phenomenon.

As I thought back, I remembered it was also the address of the house I grew up in at 911 Elira in Waterford, Michigan. This recurrence continues to take place as I write this. I knew the Lord would eventually reveal to me why He was pointing out this number so often.

As Americans we're very aware of the significance of the number. It's not only our national number to dial for emergencies, but a number representing a day in our history when we were attacked (9-11-01). I was careful not to make any assumptions regarding any connection between my noticing the number and any other significance. Instead, I waited for the Lord to show me why this was taking place.

In John chapter 13, while eating the last Passover meal together with His disciples the night before His crucifixion, Jesus revealed that one of His own would betray Him. I see the same betrayal, the same falling away, happening today within the hearts of many of His disciples.

Verse 1 of John 13 tells us Jesus knew His hour had come, that He should leave this world and return to the Father. Having this knowledge, He reached out to His disciples, explaining to them one last time their need to be cleansed in order to have a continuing part with Him. We need to be careful in our response to what the Spirit is saying through this revelation because the time of our end in this world also draws near. We must see the necessity of purity in our Christian walks so as to not fall away in unbelief at the end of this age.

While I was looking at John 13:26 for something unrelated, the Holy Spirit unexpectedly revealed the mystery of 911 to me. As you will see, this 911 message is an emergency call from the Lord God Almighty to wake up His children within the church, exhorting us to repent and draw near while there is still time. As what happened with Judas, our response will determine our destiny.

The majority of the church in America now stands unprepared with a false sense of security. Without repentance, the unprepared will not be allowed access into God's salvation. When the restraining presence of the Holy Spirit is removed, Satan will enter in. Disciples who reject God's final call to fully enter into His Son will allow Satan to enter into them. When they leave the light of God's holy presence found in Jesus Christ, Satan will lead them into a dark night of unfathomable terror.

Enter into Jesus, Lest Satan Enter into You

After telling the disciples they would be blessed if they did what He told them, Jesus warned them that one of them would betray Him. One of the disciples asked who the betrayer was, and He replied, *"That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel*

and give it to him." John 13:26-27 continues, *So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."*

The dipping of the morsel, which we will discuss in more detail later, signals God's final offer to the church to repent. Those who have a heart of betrayal like Judas will be given over to Satan. In this figurative last supper of Jesus with His followers, this last moment of time on earth doing His works, all hearts will be exposed. We will be given over to whichever master our hearts lean toward, whether that be Jesus or the Devil. In this moment, the Holy Spirit will leave those Christians who rebel, leaving nothing to restrain them from self-destruction.

Paul reveals all of this in 2 Thessalonians 2, where he describes the coming of Jesus Christ and the gathering together of His followers. This will be preceded by the great falling away of some Christians. Paul refers to the unfaithful servant who continues to practice lawlessness without repentance as a son of destruction. Regarding the timing of their exposure, he says, *you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming* (vv. 6-8).

The Greek for the word *restrains* is *katecho*. It is defined as "to hold back, to restrain, to hinder the course or progress of, to keep secure."¹ This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit within

¹ Thayer's Greek Dictionary (TGD)

every person who turns to Jesus Christ as Savior. He is the One who gives us the strength and self-control to restrain from sin. He keeps us safe and secure, steering us via our conscience from engaging in what could shipwreck our faith. To have Him taken out of our lives is to steer a ship blindly through iceberg-laden waters. The inevitable result will be like that of the Titanic.

Some false teachers will say this passage doesn't refer to believers, even though the context of this chapter is clearly identified by Paul within the first four verses of 2 Thessalonians 2. They are those who have fallen away in the great apostasy, rebelliously defecting from the truth found only in Jesus Christ. In an act of self-glorification, they have set themselves up on God's seat, His throne within them, declaring themselves as the one in charge. Obviously, you cannot fall away from something of which you do not partake. In the light of Christ, the Truth, all lies found within the doctrines of demons are exposed.

Marriage provides a metaphor to illustrate this concept. The Greek word *echo*, one of the two words used to form the word *katecho*, means "to have, that is, to hold."² Many of our traditional wedding ceremonies use these words, and one definition states that it is "used of those joined to anyone by the bonds of natural blood or marriage or friendship or duty or law, etc."³ Within marriage, God has established boundaries of morality that restrain us from that which is forbidden, in particular, adultery.

Per God's law, adultery is an act that allows for divorce. In a similar way, spiritual adultery, or relationships outside of God's revealed will in His Word, creates a divorce-like separation.

² TGD

³ TGD

Without repentance, it results in separation from God's Spirit. As I stated before, you and I will be fully joined to the one our hearts long for in the end.

In Psalm 51, we see David seeking the Lord in repentance after his affair with Bathsheba. He prays, *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me* (vv. 10-11 NIV). To their own destruction, many have been taught that this does not apply to us today because we are New Testament Christians. Grieving the Holy Spirit, who only Christians can receive (Acts 5:32), occurs when we continue to walk in open rebellion against His leading. Continued disobedience ends in the believer being given over to his sin, like Judas, void of the Holy Spirit's restraining power.

Full Immersion

As I looked deeper into John 13:26 through the definitions of the Greek words per *Strong's Concordance*, I nearly fell off my chair. The Greek for the English word *dip* is *bapto*. Its word number in the Greek Lexicon just happens to be 911.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible is an index of every word in the original biblical texts. It was created by Dr. James Strong, an American biblical scholar, and was first published in 1890. Each Strong's number links the root meaning of the words of the Bible back to the original meanings in the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts from which they were translated. Many scholarly Greek and Hebrew Lexicons such as *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*, *Thayer's Greek Dictionary*, and *Vine's Bible Dictionary* also use Strong's numbers for cross-referencing.

I immediately got a rush from the Holy Spirit through my spirit when I saw the number. I knew in that instant the Lord was now going to reveal what He had been preparing me to understand the last few months. The word *dip* is only used three times in the New Testament – in Luke 16:24, John 13:26, and Revelation 19:13.

The definition for *bapto* is “to overwhelm, to dip in, to immerse, to dye, i.e. cover wholly with a fluid.”⁴ The midnight call of God to His children to immerse themselves in His Son, Jesus Christ, precedes the overwhelming scourge of the Lord's wrath on the earth at the end of this age, known biblically as *the day of the Lord*.

We, the church in America, have immersed ourselves in programs, buildings, showmanship, advertising, and many other foolish gimmicks. Continuing with business as usual, we aren't even aware that Christ is on the outside knocking, asking us to let Him in. Out of mercy, He is about to pull out all our religious manmade props in order to set His people free from the bondage of dead religion. First, He will expose and remove the religious leaders that have ruined the sheep of His pasture. Hallelujah!

In 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, Paul refers to this crucial issue of being wholly covered in Christ at His return. He said, *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely* [perfect, complete to the end⁵]; *and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.* In order to stand firm until the end and be saved, the Lord knows we'll need this promise.

⁴ Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (SEC)/ Thayer's Greek Dictionary

⁵ SEC

As the Holy Spirit has revealed these truths to me, I see what He demands, while at the same time I understand the depth of my own depravity. Like Paul in Romans, at times it has caused a great frustration within me. The light of God's truth always exposes the dark side of our nature.

The good news is He is faithful. The Lord knows the heart of each one of His children and understands what it will take to fulfill His promise of entire sanctification. This is why we must go through, not around, fiery ordeals. The divine purpose of trials is to burn off the impurities of the heart. They reveal our need to abandon our wills to His. This is important to understand as we near the end of this age we live in. Our submission to His revealed way will result in our complete preservation mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 above. It is how the body of Christ will cross over into perfection.

Many think of the rapture as an easy out for Christians. It's not going to be an easy out. As Paul and Barnabas said to the followers of Christ in their day, *we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God* (Acts 14:22). The door of entrance is the same one our Savior walked through, the door of suffering and rejection. Our Savior awaits on the other side for His obedient, believing children.

In Revelation 7:9-14, John saw a vast multitude, too numerous to count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, *“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”* All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, *“Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks*

and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Wow, what a scene.

One of the elders asked John, *"These in white robes, who are they, and where did they come from?"* John answered, *"Sir, you know,"* to which the elder said, *"These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* This global throng of overcomers is the multitude who, having gone through the tribulation, the pressing of the Lord at the end of the age, now stand before His glorious throne, praising His holy name.

This is the result of the *unequaled from the beginning of the world until now* pressure of God on mankind Jesus referred to in Matthew 24:21. Verse 22 says, *If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened* (NIV). The elect of God at the end of this age will go through this, which is why there is such an urgency in this message from God. We must be careful how we listen to the Holy Spirit in these closing moments to be prepared for what is about to occur.



Chapter Two

911 Before 907

*I*n Chapter 1, I said the word *bapto* (911) is found in only three verses in the New Testament. We already looked at it within the context of John 13:26. Now, let's examine the other passages.

Luke 16:24 uses the word in the passage of the rich man in hell who cried out and said, *"Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip [bapto] the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame."* Later I will share what the Lord revealed to me within this passage concerning the torment of the rich man.

First, let's look at the other instance of the word *bapto* in Revelation 19:13, which describes the Lord riding on a white horse, *dressed in a robe dipped [bapto] in blood* (NIV). The armies of heaven that followed were also riding white horses and were dressed in fine linen, which is what Jesus wore about His waist to serve the disciples in John 13:4. Remember that I said in Chapter 1, Revelation 7:14 refers to those who had come out of the great tribulation and washed their robes, making them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:7-8 says the Lord gave the bride fine linen to wear, which represents the righteousness of the saints. The army mentioned in verse 14 is the King's faithful bride who has, through obedience to His commands, put on His holy linen tunic, a required garment of the priesthood to enter the Holy of Holies.

On the great Day of Atonement for the cleansing of all Israel's sin, Aaron the high priest was to *put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen undergarments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash, and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments). Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on* (Leviticus 16:4). Like Jesus when He washed the feet of the disciples, Aaron was to bind himself with the linen belt. First though, he had to bathe his body in water, the 911 *bapto* type of cleansing. Similar to Aaron's priestly preparation, we must go through a figurative cleansing of heart in preparation for putting on the transforming garments of holiness required by God to go behind the curtain and enter His presence. Again, from the place where He dwells, Christ beckons His children, per His instructions, to join Him.

Entering in Behind the Curtain

Leviticus 16 explains the requirements of the Lord for the high priest before entering the Holy of Holies behind the curtain on the Day of Atonement, known in Hebrew as Yom Kippur, which literally means day of covering. This solemn, holy day was held on the tenth day of the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. It was set aside as a day of public fasting and humiliation. On this day, the nation of Israel sought atonement for its sins. The Day of Atonement was a yearly recognition of man's inability to make any atonement (covering) for his sins. By one offering, the Savior, Jesus Christ, would once and for all "cover" this issue for the sins of mankind.

The Day of Atonement was the one time per year that the high priest was allowed access into the Holy of Holies, behind the curtain. In Leviticus 16:2, the Lord said to Moses: *"Tell your brother Aaron not to come whenever he chooses into the Most*

Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover" (NIV).

As Aaron was instructed, we do not choose the time for us to enter in. It is the Lord who reveals when His appointed time has come. On the other hand, we do choose to respond in obedience or disobedience when told it's time to prepare ourselves. This is why it's important that we listen to what the Spirit is now saying to the church. God's order for entrance into His glorious presence is being revealed because the divinely appointed time for His people has arrived. We will soon pass over, behind the curtain so to speak, where we will forever be joined together with the Lord.

Aaron and every high priest after him were required by the Lord to undergo an intense ritual of purification before entering. This was a type and shadow of the cleansing required for all believers before the fulfillment of this final day of judgment on sin. At the prescribed time of the Lord, after first fulfilling the proper rituals for cleansing, the high priest came before the presence of God with the required blood of the sacrifice.

This applies to all Christians who are alive at the end of this age when the Day of Atonement will be fulfilled. To go before the presence of God uncovered and unprepared would mean certain death for the priests. It will be the same for all Christians when Christ returns. The blood of the sacrifice is the blood of Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb of God, applied to a repentant heart. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9).

The body of Christ, who is our High Priest, is being prepared to enter in through the washing of the Word of Truth

(Ephesians 5:26). Those who have ears to hear must respond in faith by cleansing themselves and putting on white garments of purity through their obedience to His will that is now being revealed. Revelation 19:8 states in regards to the preparation of the bride of Christ for the marriage of the Lamb, *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

The bride will then be taken behind the curtain, also referred to as the veil, where the spiritual marriage will be consummated and the two, Christ and His bride, will finally become one. The veil of our fleshly nature will be removed by Jesus, revealing to the world the exact identity of His glorious bride. She will then help rule the nations in the next age referred to as the millennium, the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ on earth, with the authority of her Husband.

The New Testament tells us in Hebrews 6:19-20 that Jesus has entered behind the veil as a forerunner for us. A forerunner is one who runs on ahead of others who shall follow later. Hebrews 9:12 says that Jesus entered in not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. He not only went in, but He never came back out! Therefore, Hebrews 10:19-20 declares *we have confidence to enter the Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh* [which also means “body”¹].

His body, His people, will soon enter in through the new and living way. It is a way that we have never gone before with Jesus leading the way just as Joshua led the children of Israel.

Our Joshua (which is the same Greek New Testament name for Jesus) has crossed over ahead of us saying, “It is time. Come to the other side.” All Christians in the past crossed over through death. In the last days, we will cross over through the new and living way that is now being revealed.

Some say they have already entered in by faith, and yet their hearts are not right before God. In a state of apathy and rebellion, they have stopped moving, being very comfortable where they are. Now dwelling on the wrong side of the Jordan, they claim nothing else is required to cross over. If they refuse to draw near to God at the end of this age, they will find themselves on the outside with all of the other foolish virgins, unable to enter in.

The church now stands right at the door, about to enter into the joy of our Lord, and many are content to stay put where they are. Unbelief will soon destroy many who were invited to the wedding feast, but now refuse to prepare their hearts. In so doing, they have not put on the proper wedding clothes of righteousness (Revelation 19:7-9). The cloak of the Lord has been provided for them, but they refuse to put it on through continued obedience. As depicted by the man in Matthew 22:11-14 who did not have the required wedding clothes on, they will be cast out of the kingdom of God. Like Judas, this improperly dressed man was cast into the outer darkness, a place where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

While in prayer one day, I asked the Lord, “What is the way in behind the veil?” He said to me, “The light of My truth will lead you in.” The truths of God necessary for crossing over from this realm into the one where Jesus dwells are now being revealed to those who want to know. Unfortunately, for the most part this is taking place in America outside the institutional

¹ Thayer's Greek Dictionary (TGD)

church. God will speak to His servants who are truly listening, wherever they may be.

Cleansing Before Transforming

The definition for *bapto* in *Thayer's Greek Dictionary* included a very interesting insight. It says it's "not to be confused with Strong's number 907, *baptizo*. The clearest example that shows the meaning of *baptizo* is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 BC. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words."

Nicander says "in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (*bapto*) into boiling water and then 'baptized' (*baptizo*) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptizing the vegetable, produces a permanent change."

This same explanation is found in the definition for *baptizo* with the addition of the following: "When used in the New Testament, this word more often refers to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism. For example, Mark 16:16. '*He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.*' Christ says that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle!"²

Notice that Jesus used *baptizo* (907) in Mark 16:16. Therefore, without 911, which prepares us for 907, we will not be saved. The one prepares us for the next. That is the divine order of God. False doctrines teach *bapto* and *baptizo* occur simultaneously at the beginning of our Christian walk. The Devil created this false

way of salvation so that God's children will never enter into full union with Christ. Thinking you have all you ever need when first turning to the Lord, you may not understand the necessity of continued obedience in order to be transformed.

Having said all this, what the Lord reveals to us is that 911 represents the total immersion of the remnant (represented by the morsel, the fragment) in Christ, preparing us for what's next. The 911 (*bapto*) is first, before we are permanently changed (907, *baptizo*). Our present 911 season of God is preparation for the final transformation. It is now a state of emergency for the church that we dare not take lightly. We must be careful not to resist the Holy Spirit's work of consecration in our lives. Our response will determine our place in the coming judgment of God. Our place will be either under His wings, in the shelter of the Most High, or in the open field where the Devil prowls about, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).

Like the flood that covered the earth in the days of Noah, God's wrath will immerse the entire world when the judgment comes. There will be no escaping. This is why we must get ready. If we're not immersed in Christ, our Passover Lamb, allowing Him to wash away our sin, the overwhelming scourge of the Lord will overtake us. We must hear these words of warning by the Holy Spirit to His people and prepare our hearts by faith. All who listen to what the Spirit says to the church and then do what He says will be ready for the coming judgment of the Lord. He will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him (Malachi 3:17).

The Vessel of Deliverance

One day while sitting on the Mount of Olives, Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked, "*What will be the sign of Your*

² TGD

coming, and of the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3). Jesus then responded by explaining to them the many perilous events that would precede His return. At one point He compared that time to Noah's day when God cleansed the earth of the great wickedness that had corrupted it. He said, *“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark”* (Matthew 24:37-38). It will be the same at the end of this age when Jesus returns. Most people will be living their lives as if there was nothing to be concerned about, as they were in Noah's day, unaware of the catastrophic events that will engulf them.

The Bible tells us that Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and that he walked with God (Genesis 6:9). Because of this, we are told he found favor, or grace, in the eyes of the Lord. To walk in God's grace is to walk obediently in a blameless manner like Noah. To fall from grace, therefore, is to walk in disobedience. Noah is a type of the faithful servants of God that will be spared in the final judgment of wickedness on the earth at the end of this age.

Because of God's favor on his life, the Lord informed Noah of what He was about to do. Likewise, the Lord is talking with those who find favor in His eyes today. They are being informed of the judgment on wickedness that will soon occur, as well as what to do beforehand to escape unscathed. This very day there is a vessel of deliverance being built for the protection of God's children who will act in obedience to what the Spirit is saying to the church. Only those who respond and enter in at the Lord's command will survive.

Part of the instructions of God for Noah regarding the ark were to cover it, inside and out, with pitch. Without this protective covering, the ark would sink. The pitch is a picture of the Lord's covering within and without His children. It is applied to those who build their lives according to His requirements revealed within His Word. To skip the spiritual cleansing portion of His directions would be disastrous. Without the protective covering on the inside, which is first, and the outside of our lives as the Spirit leads, our faith will be shipwrecked. Negligence to the final offer of the Lord will destroy many current disciples' lives. Arrogant presumption on the goodness of God without continued obedience will send them down into the abyss.

After giving the requirements for the ark, the Lord informed Noah that He would establish the covenant with him, and Noah would then enter the ark with his family. The order is important to notice here. Without the establishing of the covenant in our lives, we will not be allowed to enter into the vessel of deliverance.

To establish means “to found, institute, build, or bring into being on a firm or stable basis; to show to be valid or true; prove; to bring about permanently.”³ While describing the signs of the end to His disciples, Jesus said to them, *“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved”* (Matthew 24:12-13 NIV). In other words, whoever allows the Lord to establish His covenant within them by submitting to His final cleansing, proving themselves to be His disciples, will enter into the appointed place of deliverance for the end and be saved. Those

³ www.dictionary.reference.com

who will not submit to His final cleansing will, like Judas, be cast out of His presence into the darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

After bringing to completion what God had commanded him, the Lord said to Noah, *“Enter the ark, you and all your household; for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.”* And Noah did according to all that the Lord had commanded him (Genesis 7:1, 5). Because of Noah's obedient, upright walk, God preserved Noah and his family during the judgment that cleansed the earth. Mankind rejected God's 911 warning from the preacher of righteousness. The majority will do the same in the end. Only a remnant will be saved. In Matthew 24:38 Jesus warned us that people will be carrying on their lives at the time of His return just as they were in the days of Noah when the flood came and swept them away.

The day Noah and his family entered into the ark, everything changed on the face of the earth. Things would never be the same again. In this last moment of this age, it still remains for some to enter in (Hebrews 4:6). Once God's righteous servants who find favor with Him enter in as commanded, God's wrath will be poured out on all mankind. The final cleansing of the body of Christ will be followed by the fiery cleansing of all wickedness on earth. The church will either allow the Holy Spirit to cleanse it now or face the cleansing wrath of God later. All of us are now choosing our lot.

After Noah and his family entered the established place of protection and deliverance, the Lord closed the doors of the ark. *Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days; and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth* (Genesis 7:17). Those who enter into the ark of God will be untouched by His judgment on the wicked. In fact, the end

result of this final judgment will be the rising of the sons of God. The judgment of the wicked will also be the elevating of the righteous. They will achieve permanent recognition before all as the *good and faithful servants* of their Master.

Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. But My righteous one [like Noah] shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul (Hebrews 10:35-39, author comment). Be encouraged. Stand firm; Jesus is coming.



Our Hour Has Come

We looked at John 13:26 in Chapter 1, but to have a better understanding of it, we need to look at the preceding verses in the context. John 13:1 says, *Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.* The Greek for depart, *metabaino*, means “to change place, to pass over from one place to another.”¹ During the Passover meal, Jesus informed His disciples that it was now time for Him to leave this world and go back to the Father. He was going to “pass over” from this realm to another. He knew it was time.

In like manner, it's crucial that we, His body, discern the time in which we now stand. It is time for us to get ready to cross over, to pass over to the other side into the glorious presence of the Lord. This is why we must allow the Holy Spirit to cleanse us. We must be washed from all that is not of God in order to be prepared for what is next.

Knowing what is about to occur, we should be stirred toward holiness and purity of life. May our hearts become more steadfast to seek Him in preparation of His glorious return. As with the Passover meal, this will require a full consumption of the Lamb. The majority of the church has replaced sincere and

¹ Strong's Exhaustive Concordance/ Thayer's Greek Dictionary (TGD)

pure devotion to Christ with a religious substitute consisting of useless rituals and double-minded devotion.

In Exodus 12, God commanded Israel to partake of Passover when they began their journey out of Egypt and again when they ended their journey in Canaan, the place of their inheritance (Joshua 5). His judgment fell upon Israel's enemy in Egypt in order to release His people, and judgment fell upon their enemies in the Promised Land in order to establish the nation of Israel. The blood of the sacrificial Lamb provided life and protection for the people of Israel. So it is with us who are at the end of this age. God's judgment is about to be unleashed, and it will establish His government on the face of this earth forever.

Only the blood of Christ spares us. Nothing else will do. In the same manner that the doorposts painted with blood at the first Passover signified protection, the blood of Christ applied to a repentant heart is our sign. When God sees the sign, He will pass over us in the time of His judgment, and we will pass over into the Promised Land. No destructive plague on earth will touch us when God judges His enemies (Exodus 12:13).

As with Israel, the Lord says to those who now hold His people in bondage, "Let My people go that they may serve Me." Right now, God's children serve the religious institution within the majority of American churches. The religious bondage established within the hearts of those entrapped within the denominational citadels must be abolished, releasing the bride of Christ to be eternally joined to her Head. As we will discover, there is a final work of the Lord on earth for her to accomplish.

Israel ended the way it started. This nation's journey is a picture of our journey. Jesus, our Passover Lamb, is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end (Revelation 21:6).

We come out, or begin, with Him, and we will finish, entering into our eternal inheritance, with Him. Hebrews 12:2 says that Jesus is the author (beginning) and perfecter (finisher) of faith. It is an all-or-nothing, total consumption of the Lamb.

At the end of this age, the Lord is encouraging His children, reminding them that He will finish what He has begun (Philippians 1:6). Much of Christianity in America now depends upon the works and structures of man. We will not enter the place of our spiritual inheritance without a total and complete partaking of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit reveals this to stir up our hearts, per the proper order from Scripture. This is why a separation must occur from dead religion that has either added to or taken away from truth.

As with the original revelation to His disciples, Jesus, the Way of Truth and Life (John 14:6), is revealed again to His present-day disciples as the only way to enter in. Where the Way has been hidden through the deception of demonic doctrines, veiling the entrance into the Holy of Holies, the Lord will tear this man-made structure down, from top to bottom. The curtain which man has built back up through acceptance of satanic deception is keeping God's people from entering His presence. It will soon be removed in Jesus' name. Praise the Lord!

The New Provision

The day after the Israelites partook of Passover in Canaan, they ate some of the produce of the new land. The Lord's daily provision of manna during their wilderness journey ceased (Joshua 5:10-12). Cutting off their supply of food in the wilderness would ensure their remaining in Canaan, the Promised Land. To remain in the place where the old provision had been would have

meant certain death. It was God's intent for them to keep moving ahead. His destiny for them was not to be found within the extreme conditions of the wilderness. Therefore, the Lord commanded the Israelites to set out from their place and cross over the Jordan River per His instructions (Joshua 3). I now hear the same command of God for the church.

The children of Israel would not have moved forward and partook of the new provision, the new thing, if the old way had continued. In the same manner, Christ is revealing to His children in our day that it is time for us to rise up and go forward. Israel's crossing into the Promised Land is a picture of the final crossing over of the body of Christ. When we fully partake of Him instead of a mixed order that includes useless religious rituals, the new and living way described in Hebrews 10:19-20 will be revealed for us to possess our promised eternal inheritance in Christ.

Our response as the feet of the body of Christ, the part of the body that touches the earth, will determine whether or not the rest of the body crosses over as well. If we do not enter in, neither will they. Without the obedience of the last Christians on earth, the final portion of Christ's body, they cannot inherit the promises (Hebrews 11:39-40).

If Noah hadn't responded to the word of the Lord spoken to him by building the ark, there would not have been a vessel of deliverance for the righteous in the coming judgment of wickedness. If he wouldn't have entered into the finished ark with his family when the Lord commanded him, no one would have been saved. If Moses hadn't lifted up His staff and stretched out his hand over the sea as the Lord commanded him, Israel would not have gone forward and escaped the Egyptians; the Egyptians would have overtaken them. If the

priests hadn't obeyed the word of the Lord spoken through Joshua and stepped into the Jordan River, the waters would not have parted to create a way for Israel to cross over into the Promised Land. Our obedience to the final call is that crucial.

We cannot perceive this new way being revealed by God for us in this appointed moment of history without total dependence upon Jesus and His ways. God commanding the children of Israel to fully consume the Passover lamb is a picture of this. Their way out of Egypt and their possession of Canaan both occurred after their obedience was complete. The completion of our journey in Christ will occur the same way. Every other way is a false way whose end will be destruction. We will not cross over into the Promised Land of our eternal inheritance in Christ unless we obey what He is now revealing to us.

The old mixed provision of God's ways and man's ways that has developed within the church will cease when we do what the Spirit is now commanding us to do. God's partial blessing that existed within the mix of the old provision is fading. He now stands before us, beckoning His children to come to the place of His choosing. It's time to let go of what has been in order to receive what will now be. By God's mercy, the ecclesiastical order corrupted by man's ways is about to disappear.

Because of spiritual pride, man will not let go of his religious order without coercion. The present religious institution in America and the rest of the world where it has become corrupt must be shaken. Like the harvest of grain, the chaff, the corrupt and wicked servants of God within the church, will be blown away. Only the mature grain, those believers in the Lord who allowed the Holy Spirit to bring to completion their faith (James 2:22) will remain.

Out with the Old, In with the New

On December 31, 2009, as the New Year rolled in, I was spending time alone in prayer. As the clock struck midnight, the Lord said to me, "Out with the old, in with the new." As I meditated on this simple statement, the Holy Spirit began to reveal its meaning.

John says in Revelation 21:1-5, *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true"* (NIV).

According to the Scriptures, in the new order of God there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain. This brings great hope and joy for all those who know Christ. Our time of suffering together with Him will have ended.

The writer of Hebrews 9:7-10 also speaks to us concerning the Lord's reign. He states that when the high priest entered with the blood of the sacrifice into the Holy of Holies, he was merely fulfilling *external regulations until the time of the new order* (NIV). The Greek for *new order* is *diorthosis*. In a physical sense, it signifies "a making straight, restoring to its natural and normal condition something which in some way protrudes or has gotten out of line, as broken or misshapen limbs, a

reformation."² This applies to the church in America. Along the way we have gotten out of line and are now in desperate need of restoration. We call church that which is not church according to God, and a Christian that which is not what the Scriptures call a Christian. So as not to offend the unbeliever, the church has replaced the sometimes hard word of God's truth with more user-friendly terms.

The good news is that the period of restoration of all things spoken of in Acts 3:21 has begun. The Lord has begun to restore that which His enemies have altered. He always has the last word.

May we be like the elderly Simeon and Anna in Luke 2:25-38 who were looking for the redemption of Israel. One of the meanings for the Greek word interpreted in English as *looking for* is "to await with confidence or patience, to expect the fulfillment of promises."³ I pray that we have the same heart of expectancy, not missing through spiritual indifference what is about to take place. As the Lord declared, "Out with the old, in with the new." It's time.



² TGD

³ TGD

Chapter Four

Exposing the Heart of the Betrayer

*I*n His last moments with His disciples, Jesus washed their feet, symbolizing their inner need to be cleansed. In Chapter 2, we looked at John 13:1. Now, let's continue in that chapter. *And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God, and was going back to God, rose from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, girded Himself about* (vv. 2-4).

Jesus demonstrated the fullest extent of his love as He washed Judas's feet, the one whom He knew would betray Him. That spirit is within some of those who sit at His table today. Even so, He, and therefore we, must love them to the end, speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), thereby giving them one last chance to repent.

Through his disobedient heart, Judas gave Satan room to operate within him. The Devil put the thought into Judas's mind of betraying Jesus in exchange for what he loved more – money. This is important to see. Like Judas, we give Jesus into the hands of His enemies. We are the ones who give the enemies room to bind Jesus and lead Him away. They receive permission through the unfaithfulness of the Lord's followers. We are the insiders who, through rebellion and disloyalty, hand

the Lord over to enemy control. The definition for betrayal in the Greek is “to surrender, to give into the hands of another, to give over into one’s power or use.”¹

John 13:3 says Jesus knew the Father had given all things into His hands. Likewise, in Matthew 28:18, right before He ascended into heaven, He said, “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*” The Devil understands this very well. Even so, Jesus laid aside His garment of glory and put on a cloak of humility, serving those who followed Him. This is also how we will be victorious over the enemy. We are to do as Jesus did by humbling ourselves and becoming obedient, even to the point of death if necessary (Philippians 2:8).

Jesus overcame the Devil through submission to the Father’s will. It was the key to His authority on earth. Our submission to Jesus releases that same authority. Our disobedience has the opposite effect; it binds Jesus and leads Him away in chains. This is the hidden intent within the doctrines of demons. Acceptance of their lies as truth empowers the Devil.

In Matthew 27:1-2, the Bible tells us that the religious leaders of Israel counseled together against Jesus to put Him to death. The light of His presence exposed the darkness of their hearts. Verse 2 says *they bound Him and led Him away*. To bind is “to fasten with chains, to prohibit.”² The deceived leadership within the majority of the church in America has done the same thing. The lack of Christ’s authority within our society is the evidence of this. Darkness increases daily because of the absence of light.

1 Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance (SEC)/ Thayer’s Greek Dictionary (TGD)

2 TGD

One of the definitions for led away is “to take off.”³ It comes from the Greek word *apo* which is used of separation. It’s “used of any kind of separation of one thing from another by which the union or fellowship of the two is destroyed.” It also refers to origin, meaning “of the place whence anything is, comes, befalls, or is taken.”⁴ Therefore, to have Christ led away from us by the power of the enemy is to have our original fellowship broken with Him through betrayal. When we betray Him, we break His covenant with us, taking off His garments of salvation for another covering of our own immediate choosing. Like Judas, we sell out to Christ’s enemies.

Quoting the prophecy from Zechariah 11, Matthew 27:9 says the thirty pieces of silver Judas received from this evil counsel was the price determined by the sons of Israel. What is the price we are willing to pay to retain our indulgences in exchange for eternal life? Disciples sell the salvation rights of Jesus through acceptance of the Devil’s lies. Jesus paid the price to set us free. We, in an act of self-will, choose to return to bondage. At Calvary He redeemed mankind from the power of sin and Satan. His place of victory over the enemy is our place of victory. There is no other way.

What is the warning in this? We who sit at the table with Christ, having been joined through acceptance of Him as the Messiah, must be careful to allow the Holy Spirit full control of our desires and affections. We are all capable of selling out and walking away from the giver of life if we’re not careful to walk as children of light. Knowing this should keep us where we need to stay. Like Judas, through rejection of Christ’s final offer involving His cleansing of His disciples, we excuse

3 SEC

4 TGD

ourselves from His table and walk out into the night – a deadly place void of God's saving light.

Interestingly, Zechariah 11 describes what the Lord refers to as *the flock doomed to slaughter*. Because they had broken covenant with the Lord, He took His two staffs called Favor and Union and cut them in pieces. Favor refers by definition to His grace and splendor, His beauty and kindness. Through disobedience they had cut off God's grace toward them. The Devil will tell us through his deceived servants in the church this was the Old Testament, and it doesn't apply to us today. Those who agree will forfeit their invitation to the wedding feast.

Zechariah 11: 4-6 says, Thus says the LORD my God, "Pasture the flock doomed to slaughter. Those who buy them slay them and go unpunished, and each of those who sell them says, 'Blessed be the LORD, for I have become rich!' [this sounds like the prosperity gospel preachers of our day!] And their own shepherds have no pity on them. For I shall no longer have pity on the inhabitants of the land," declares the LORD; "but behold, I shall cause the men to fall into another's power and into the power of his king; and they will strike the land, and I shall not deliver them from their power"(emphasis added). We see the fulfillment of this now. Many of God's people buy a pack of lies, resulting in the prosperity of a few overseers who couldn't care less about them. Soon the deceivers and those who adhere to their deceptions will be given over to the Devil, as Judas was. We'll see in Chapter 5 that the offering of the figurative dipped morsel at the end will be the catalyst for the demise of these people.

As Zechariah 11 continues, we see how the people tire of God as their shepherd, prophetically declaring their price of thirty shekels of silver to rid themselves of His Lordship over them. The author ends the chapter with the Lord's declaration

of His judgment over the foolish and worthless shepherds. Thank goodness for His judgment of those who destroy the sheep of His pasture!

We have talked about betrayal, but how does our English impression of the word compare with the Greek? Definitions for *paradidomi*, the Greek for betrayal, include, "to deliver up treacherously, to deliver up one to custody, to be judged, to be condemned, to be punished, to be scourged, to be tormented."⁵ Later we'll see its connection with the torment of the rich man in hell within Luke 16:24.

The End of the Day

John 13:4 says Jesus arose from the evening meal, laid aside His garments, and girded Himself about the waist with a towel. It was a meal taken at the end of the day. Earlier in John 9:4-5, Jesus said, "*We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work.*" We are now at the end of the day, which represents the end of this age. It will soon be "night" when no one can work.

Through numerous verses, the Bible warns us that Jesus' return will transpire during a dark period on earth. This would confirm the picture of Judas who left Jesus at night. Jesus Himself compared His coming again to a thief who breaks into an unprotected home in the night. He warned the disciples, "*Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you be ready too; for the*

5 TGD

Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will” (Matthew 24:42-44).

In this passage, Jesus compares His return to the thief that comes in the night. It will be a dark time like the days of Noah when wickedness will rule within the majority of people's hearts on earth. To be ready, we are to be alert, spiritually speaking. We are to guard our hearts with the help of the Holy Spirit, being diligent to ensure there is no open “doorway” through willful rebellion. Obedience results in a secure heart. An unlocked condition of our heart occurs when we continue to practice sin without repentance. Disobedience removes the protective hedge of the Lord around our lives thereby allowing easy access for the enemy to enter in.

Similar to Israel's exodus from Egypt, the blood of the Lamb of God applied to the doorway of an obedient heart will cause the angel of death to pass over us at the end of this age. Israel's neglect to follow God's instructions would have resulted in their destruction. Christians who neglect His instructions will incur the same consequences. We are no different. Depending upon the condition of our hearts, Jesus will either be our Savior or our executioner. The first time He came to suffer and die for the salvation of man. The second coming will reveal Jesus as the reigning King of glory that every knee will bow to, willingly or not.

In Isaiah's prophecy concerning the glory of God rising upon His people at the end of this age, we are told darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the peoples; but *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 60:1-3). This promise refers to His faithful children's gaining of their Lord's glory. Like Noah, in this dark period God's obedient people will rise up, filled with His glory for all nations to behold.

Garments of Humility

Note the significance of Jesus girding himself with the towel. The Greek for towel, *lention*, is defined as a “linen cloth.”⁶ It refers to the towel or apron that servants put on when about to work.⁷ Again, Christ's example for us is one of humility. We too must lay aside our garments of pride and put on the garments of humility and servanthood for the final work, which He calls His servants to do in His name. He began this great and mighty work and He will finish it. We can do nothing without Him and the strength He provides. Our work in fleshly empowered garments accomplishes nothing.

Paul spoke of this necessary attitude in Philippians 2:3-7. *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself [laid aside His privileges], taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.*

In Luke 12:35-48, Jesus uses another clothing metaphor when He warns His disciples to be prepared, *dressed in readiness* for His return. The King James Version says, *let your loins*

⁶ SEC

⁷ TGD

be girded about, and your lights burning. The New International Version interprets it as *be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning.* To be dressed ready for service is by definition “to fasten garments with a girdle or belt.” Metaphorically, it refers to wrapping yourself “with truth as a girdle; to equip oneself with knowledge of the truth.”⁸ In other words, truth not only prepares us to serve in God’s kingdom, but it also keeps us protected.

Per Jesus, knowledge and application of truth ready us for service. The majority of the church in America now stands spiritually buck-naked with their pants at their ankles. Like the foolish king in *The Emperor’s New Clothes*, they have bought the lie from the Devil’s deceived spokesmen within the church who promise they’re covered in Christ while walking in open rebellion. Through the truth spoken by a “child,” meaning those in the church who are considered unlearned and ignorant by prideful leaders, they’ll be shamefully exposed in front of all.

Foot Washing

In John 13:5-20, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, giving them an example of what He wanted them to do.

Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. And so He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you shall understand hereafter.” Peter said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part [division, share,

lot, destiny]9 with Me.” Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.” Jesus said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.” For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, “Not all of you are clean.” (John 13:5-11)

When Jesus tried to wash Peter’s feet, Peter objected. Jesus answered him, saying, *“If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”* In other words, “Peter, if you don’t allow me to wash your dirty feet, the part that is the closest to the earth and therefore becomes unclean through close contact, you will have no part or share in Me. You will never reach your destiny in Me.”

The present issue of the final cleansing is that serious. This is the last washing by Jesus of His “feet,” the portion of His body on earth. We dare not refuse Him.

Again, in our daily walk we will need to have the Lord cleanse us. We live in an unclean world that entices our fallen nature to sin against God. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our need to repent when He sees the dirt of the world attached to us.

As Christians, we cannot be fully cleansed from our sinful nature unless we admit and confess our sin to the Lord. *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us* (1 John 1:8-10). After turning to Christ, a Christian is still in need of cleansing to be a vessel of honor, prepared for every good work.

⁸ TGD

⁹ SEC/TGD

Due to the extreme circumstances coming, the Holy Spirit emphasizes the need to prepare quickly to those who will be alive at the end of this age. No one on earth has ever had to go through what we are about to witness. That is quite a statement when you consider all the terrible events of history.

This is not a feel-good message. Due to spiritual apathy caused by false teachings, the majority of Christians in America do not see the need to get ready. We have become a nation inundated with unprepared people. The increasing pressure of the Lord on our society will be used to help in this dire matter.

As we near the end of the "day," the Lord says to us the same thing He said to those seated with Him in John 13. He tells us, because we live in this world, we will pick up spiritual dirt that must be cleansed from our souls. The disciples need is our need. Even as His close followers, we must allow Him to cleanse us.

Like Jesus, we too must gird ourselves with linen cloths in preparation of service unto the Lord in order to finish His works on earth. Remember, linen represents acts of righteousness in response to the truth (Rev. 19:8). We will not have any portion in this "last supper," this last outworking of the Lord's will at the closing of this age, if we do not allow Him to cleanse us. Instead, like Judas, our lot will be transferred over to the power and control of the Devil.



Chapter Five

The Dipped Morsel; God's Last Offer to the Church

Jesus giving the dipped morsel to Judas at the Last Supper represents His final offer to His disciples at the end of this age to immerse themselves in Himself. If they listen and repent, they will have a part in the remnant, the morsel, which will be spared and then given out to others. This urgent 911 emergency message isn't to the world but rather to Christians, to those already seated and eating at His table.

There will not be another opportunity. This is it. It's now or never. If you reject this final offer, you will find yourself in the dark night of terror, like Judas, outside the protective Presence of God's light in Christ Jesus. His final judgment on all evil will not pass over you.

When Jesus offered Judas the dipped morsel in John 13:26, it was his last chance to repent from the bondage of sin, i.e. his love of money, and wholly immerse himself in Christ. Rejection of this final plea allowed Satan to enter in and take full possession of Judas. We have now entered the final giving over of those with a similar heart of betrayal. Those who possess this heart will be possessed by the Devil. In the end, we excuse ourselves from the Lord's table.

The Greek for morsel is *psomion*, which means “a fragment, a bit, a crumb or morsel as if rubbed off.”¹ What I began to see through the metaphor of the dipped morsel in Christ's hands was a picture of the broken, immersed remnant (fragment) that will be revealed. They are the ones who have responded favorably when He applied pressure in their lives. Their revealing will, in turn, reveal those with a divided heart of betrayal.

As with the giving of the dipped morsel to Judas, Jesus offers the ones who have betrayed him the opportunity to become part of the “fully-immersed-in-Him remnant” at the end of this age. He will expose their unfaithful hearts, and if they do not repent, they will allow Satan unhindered entrance into them.

In contrast, the disciples with a faithful heart will eat and be satisfied (Matthew 14:20; 15:37). They will be filled. As the definition for *baptizo* (907) implies, this is all based upon the status of our union and identification with Jesus Christ. In that day, the condition of every heart among His children will be revealed for all to see.

The final revealing of Jesus Christ through His servants to the world will be a bright light that will engulf the power of darkness. The faithful servants of Christ will wear the glorious garment of their King, while the unfaithful servants of Christ will be left uncovered in a dark place of extreme terror, the likes of which the world has never seen before.

Jesus' love is the same for us today as it was in John 13:1, which says, *having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end*. He reaches out to His own at the end of this age, showing those members of His body who are still

¹ Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (SEC)/ Thayer's Greek Dictionary

in this world their need to be cleansed. Blessed are those who hear and do what the Spirit says to the church.

This is a day of preparation for the people of God. We must prepare the way of the Lord through submission to the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit. As Joshua told the Israelites right before they crossed over into the Promised Land, “*Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.*”

Psomion, the Greek word for morsel, is from a derivative of the base of *psocho*. It's defined as “to rub to pieces, to triturate.”² According to *Webster's Dictionary*, triturate means “to reduce to fine particles or powder by rubbing, grinding, bruising, or the like; to pulverize and comminute (which means, to reduce to minute particles) thoroughly by rubbing or grinding.”³ The dipped morsel (immersed remnant) is the result of the Lord's refining work. It's the result of the grinding into particles on His threshing floor at the end of the age, separating His faithful servants (wheat) from the unfaithful (chaff).

Let's examine the threshing metaphor further. When John the Baptist baptized in preparation of the coming of the Lord, a group of Pharisees and Sadducees came to him. He said to them in Matthew 3:7, “*You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*” After some further rebukes, he said in verse 12, *And His [Jesus'] winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire*. The separated wheat represents the holy remnant that will be gathered together before the coming of the Lord (2 Thess. 2:1). The chaff

² SEC

³ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/triturate>

are those who fall away from Christ with a Judas heart during the winnowing.

The entire church of the Lord on the earth will soon be sifted, revealing the true condition of our hearts. We will study this sifting and threshing further in Chapter 6.



Chapter Six

The 911 Cleansing

The book of Ruth tells us of a famine that occurred in Israel. A certain man of Bethlehem in Judah decided to move to Moab with his wife, Naomi, and two sons who would later marry Moabite women named Orpah and Ruth. While dwelling in Moab, Naomi's husband and her two sons died. Having heard that God had visited His people in giving them food, she decided to return to her home in Bethlehem.

On the way back to Judah, Naomi urged her two widowed daughters-in-law to return to their homes. At first they both said *"No, but we will surely return with you to your people"* (Ruth 1:10). After further urging, Orpah decided to return to her people and her gods. Ruth, on the other hand, clung to her mother-in-law. The word *clung* means "to adhere, to cleave, to follow closely, to join together with."¹ Her heart was fully committed to following Naomi.

Ruth replied to her mother-in-law: *"Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God"* (Ruth 1:16). She chose to break the union she had with her people for a new relationship, a new fellowship, a new covenant with God and His chosen ones.

Later in her reply to Naomi, Ruth revealed her heart through her vow, the vow of the bride. She said to Naomi, *"Where you*

¹ Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (SEC)/ Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon (BDB)

die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me" (v. 17). In other words, till death do us part.

Ruth and Naomi arrived in Bethlehem during the time of the barley harvest. The bride of Christ, whom Ruth represents in the bigger picture, will do the same during the final harvest of the earth.

After arriving in Israel with Naomi, Ruth arose and went to the fields to glean. Her rising up is another picture of those who hear the command of God to draw near in the last days and receive the favor of Christ. As such, they will be used in the final gleaning of their Lord's fields.

After God led Ruth to glean in the fields of Boaz, Naomi instructed Ruth in the ways of Jewish law regarding the proper order for approaching the kinsman-redeemer. Ruth's preparations and actions to enter the presence of Boaz are a picture of the preparation of the bride of Christ at the end of the age before she enters the presence of her kinsman-redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary describes the kinsman in the following manner: "A male relative; a man sharing the same racial, cultural, or national background as another." In the Old Testament the word *kinsman* is most often used as a translation of a Hebrew word that means, "one who has the right to redeem."²

Since an Israelite could sell himself, his family, or his land in cases of poverty, the kinsman-redeemer was provided to protect the clan. This person, a near relative, had the first

option by law to buy any land being sold, thus allowing it to be kept within the clan (Lev. 25:23-28, 39-43; Jer. 32:6-10).

The outstanding example of the kinsman-redeemer in the Old Testament occurs in the story of Ruth and Boaz. Boaz, a near kinsman of Naomi (Ruth's mother-in-law), acted as a redeemer in accordance with Jewish law and married Ruth.

On another level, God is the "kinsman" who redeems. In the Old Testament the focus of God's redemptive activity is the exodus, the deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt (Deut. 7:8; 2 Samuel 7:23). In the New Testament, Jesus is described as our brother who redeems us from the power of sin (Hebrews 2:11-12, 17).

Because of the pure sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, He is the only one with the legal right before God to buy us back from our slavery to sin. He is our nearest "kin" who is more than willing to redeem us.

The Bible mentions God numerous times as the Redeemer of Israel (Psalm 78:35; Isaiah 41:14). In the New Testament, it's written Jesus gave His life as a *ransom for many* (Mark 10:45). He came to set us free from the prison of sin, offering redemption through His blood (Ephesians 1:7).

In Ruth 3:1-6, Naomi said to Ruth,

"My daughter, shall I not seek security [a resting place, a state or condition of rest]³ for you, that it may be well with you? And now is not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maids you were? Behold, he winnows barley at the threshing floor tonight. Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself and put on your best clothes, and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

² Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary (Copyright (C) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

³ BDB

And it shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies, and you shall go and uncover [to make known, to show, to reveal]⁴ his feet and lie down; then he will tell you what you shall do.” And she said to her, “All that you say I will do.” So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law had commanded her.

Here Boaz is a type of the Lord of the harvest, Jesus Christ. Ruth represents the willing bride of the Lord at the end of the age, the time of the final harvest of the earth when the Lord winnows His threshing floor. She will not be revealed to the world until after this final “meal,” this final work of Christ on earth with His faithful servants.

As we just read, Naomi instructed Ruth to wash herself first, a picture of the present cleansing of the Spirit by the washing of water with the word of truth (Ephesians 5:26). She reveals the heart of those who, by doing what God says in this last hour, will be immersed in Christ.

Next, she was to anoint herself in preparation. This anointing is defined as “to pour in anointing.” Ruth’s preparation is similar to the five wise virgins in Matthew 25 who prepared for the groom by having enough oil for their lamps to keep them burning until his arrival. In contrast, the five virgins who did not bring enough oil missed the groom’s arrival while out searching for more oil, and their lack of preparedness left them outside the wedding feast.

According to Proverbs 1:23, when we turn to the Lord’s reproof He will pour out His Spirit on His who will then make the Lord’s words known to us. A cleansed, repentant heart prepares the way for Him to then pour out His Spirit,

⁴ BDB

His anointing, within us. It is this anointing of the Holy Spirit which allows us to see truth (1 John 2:20-27). This is why a Christian that will not repent is easily led astray. Without the light of God to show them the way they become susceptible to the deception of false teachers.

We cannot be filled with His anointing until we have been emptied of self. The wise virgins represent those in the church who hear the midnight shout, the last call of the Holy Spirit to get ready, and then do what they are hearing (Matthew 25:6). The lamps of their spirits will be filled with His oil. In this manner we, like Ruth, will be ready to stand before the Lord of the harvest, Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 1:24-32 says if we refuse to listen to His emergency call to prepare our hearts by faith in these last days, He will laugh at our calamity, even mocking us when our dread comes. The majority of ministers will not preach this hard word for fear of offending people. If they don’t repent, there will be much blood on many shepherds’ hands.

The final step for the bride is the granting of the Lord for her to be arrayed in His wedding garments, a type of the *best clothes* mentioned by Naomi (Ruth 3:3). These are the fine linen garments of righteousness given to the bride for the wedding of the Lamb. Like Ruth, she is the pure, choice bride who sits in submission at the feet of the Lord of the harvest, waiting for Him to tell her what to do (Ruth 3:4). She is the prepared one, ready for service unto her Lord through obedience to His will.

Unfortunately, within the body of Christ there are those like Orpah, Ruth’s sister-in-law, who will choose to stay amongst their own people, their own kind (denominations). They will not whole-heartedly join themselves to Christ. They’re foolish virgins who have broken their covenant vow to the Lord

by not abiding in Him until the end. When given a choice, their hearts are revealed as being more devoted to their group. As such, they will not be allowed access to the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Naomi's name means "pleasant." It's taken from a word that means "agreeableness, kindness, beauty favor, i.e. splendor or grace."⁵ As the Lord unraveled this mystery to me, I began to see her as a picture of God's grace. Naomi's leading of Ruth in God's ways is a picture of God's grace leading us to Christ. If we listen and obey, it will go well with us also.

Ruth is a picture of those who walk in God's covenant of grace, as she did with Naomi, and receive His favor and loving-kindness. She represents the willing bride of Christ that not only listens to His instructions of grace, but proves herself as a doer of His Word (Titus 2:11-12). When Ruth chose to walk in union with Naomi and joined herself to her and her people, she walked in favor with God and in His grace. Breaking covenant with God, our bride's vow to Him, is breaking our union with Him, thereby breaking His favor or His grace with us.

Paul tells us *it was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery...You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace* (Galatians 5:1, 4). At this time, Judaizers were trying to pull away the new converts of Christ, saying they needed to be circumcised for salvation. Paul warned them not to turn back to these works of law led by the flesh, lest they be severed from Christ.

The word interpreted as *severed* in English comes from two Greek words. One is defined as "inactive; to deprive of force,

⁵ SEC

influence, or power; to be loosed from anyone."⁶ The other word is used for any kind of separation from which the union or fellowship of the two is destroyed.⁷ To be justified by works of law rather than obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading, therefore, is to destroy our union with Jesus Christ.

The other word we need to examine is *fallen*. The Greek word for it is *ekpipto*. It means "to fall out of, to fall down from." Metaphorically, it means, "to fall from a thing, to fall from a position, to lose it, to perish."⁸ As you can see, falling from grace is not a trifle matter. To fall from grace is to lose your way of well-being, your destiny of salvation found within God's grace. As Paul warned the Christians in the city of Galatia, without continued dependence on the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we lose our way. In other words, we fall from our position in Christ.

The Greek for grace in the New Testament is *charis*, which is defined as "graciousness, good will, loving-kindness, favor."⁹ It's taken from *chairō* which means "to be cheerful, to rejoice, to be glad, to be well."¹⁰ This is what Naomi said to Ruth. "*Shall I not seek security* [which means 'a state or condition of rest, quiet']¹¹ *for you, that it may be well with you?*" (Ruth 3:1). When we choose, like Ruth, to draw near to the Lord and join ourselves to Him, His grace leads us to the place of security and rest. Ruth found this secure place of rest in the place where her kinsman-redeemer was resting (Ruth 3:4).

⁶ Thayer's Greek Dictionary (TGD)

⁷ TGD

⁸ TGD

⁹ TGD

¹⁰ SEC/ TGD

¹¹ BDB

Notice that Naomi instructed Ruth not to make herself known until the threshing was completed and Boaz was finished eating and drinking. Jesus said to His disciples in John 4:34, *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.”* Jesus declares in this passage that His food is to do the will of the Father. The Greek for *accomplish* is *teleioo*. It's defined as “to complete, to make perfect, to finish, to bring to an end.” Another definition is, “to add what is yet wanting in order to render a thing full.”¹² The food Jesus referenced is doing what the Father wills. This is all a type of the final work of Christ with His servants, the ones sitting at His table dining with Him (Rev. 3:20).

Naomi told Ruth to “notice,” which means to find out and discern the place where Boaz rested and then go there. We are also to find this place where Christ, the Lord of the harvest, rests (Hebrews 3-4). As with Ruth, it's the place where He will reveal to us what we should do next. If we're not resting in Christ, we won't know what to do at the end of this age.

We are exhorted in Hebrews 3-4 to rest from our works. That doesn't mean we are to do nothing, but that we should do His works. Obviously, when we are doing our thing, we are not looking for His way. To rest in Christ, therefore, is to work His works, His will, rather than ours.

Separating the Wheat from the Chaff

As discussed in Chapter 5, the winnowing of the Lord will separate the wheat from the chaff among His people, revealing His choice grain hidden underneath. Like Ruth, the chosen

morsel is His bride, the wife of the Lamb (Rev. 21:9). As I stated earlier, His revealing is our revealing.

Chaff is the dry, scaly, protective casings of the seeds of grain. It's a waste material that is plowed into the soil or burned. The process of loosening the chaff from the grain is called threshing and was traditionally done by milling or pounding. Separating the loose chaff from the grain is known as winnowing which is accomplished by tossing grain into the wind. The lighter chaff is blown aside and the heavier grain remains. The chaff represents the unfaithful servants of Christ who will be separated from their faithful brethren, like Judas was, and then cast into the fire of God's wrath.

Malachi 4:1 declares, *“For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the LORD of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”* All the arrogant and every evildoer among God's people will be the discarded chaff that will be burned. Like Esau, they sold their right of inheritance for the fulfillment of a fleshly desire (Hebrews 12:15-17). They are the branch that will be gathered and cast into the fire because they did not remain in Christ (John 15:6).

In Jeremiah 5:26 the Lord said, *“wicked men are found among My people.”* Further, in Jeremiah 23:11, 14, He continued His rebuke, saying, *“For both prophet and priest are polluted [profane, corrupt, defiled, polluted]; even in My house I have found their wickedness,” declares the LORD ... “Also among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: the committing of adultery and walking in falsehood; and they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one has turned back from his wickedness. All of them have become to Me like Sodom, and her*

¹² TGD

inhabitants like Gomorrah [who, by the way, were burned with fire].”

The Lord exhorted His people in Isaiah 41:14-16, *“Do not be afraid, O worm Jacob, O little Israel, for I myself will help you,” declares the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. “See, I will make you into a threshing sledge, new and sharp, with many teeth. You will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff. You will winnow them, the wind will pick them up, and a gale will blow them away. But you will rejoice in the LORD and glory in the Holy One of Israel”* (NIV).

The Hebrew for sharp is *charuwts*. It's defined as “sharp, diligent, strict decision.”¹³ It refers to determination. It's a passive participle of *charats*, which means “to point sharply, to cut, i.e. to wound.”¹⁴ Figuratively, it means “to be alert, to decide, to be decisive.”¹⁴ The new thing the Lord is doing in our day is building a sharp, decisive army that will carry out His will in the day of His wrath.

You will never hear Psalm 149:5-9 preached by feel-good preachers. The psalmist joyfully declares, *“Let the godly ones exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishment on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the judgment written; this is an honor for all His godly ones. Praise the LORD!”* According to the Lord, it's going to be an honor to carry out His judgments on the nations. Do you hear the awkward silence from the pulpits of America?

¹³ BDB

¹⁴ SEC

In Psalm 2:8-9 the Lord says, *“Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery”* (NIV). Again, in Revelation 2:25-27, the Lord said to the church in Thyatira, *“But hold fast [to retain, to keep carefully and faithfully] what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations; ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels,’ as I also have received from My Father”* (NKJV, emphasis added). As you can see, the Bible states that Jesus will entrust His authority over the nations only to those who, like Ruth, have proved themselves trustworthy.

In our daily walk as a Christian, we reveal whether or not we can be trusted. There are those currently sitting at the table of the Lord who will not reign because they will not submit to the restrictive training of the Holy Spirit. We will not rule later with Christ's authority if we do not submit to His rule within us now. We will reign in the millennium on this earth with His authority, not ours.



The Stone that Will Crush All Other Kingdoms

*I*n a confrontation with the chief priests and the Pharisees, Jesus called Himself the “stone.” He said to them in Luke 20:17-18, *“Then what is the meaning of that which is written: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed [KJV/NKJV says it will grind him to powder]”* (NIV). By definition, being broken to pieces and crushed both refer to the winnowing of the Lord.

The Greek for crushed is *likmao* which means “to winnow, to cleanse away the chaff from the grain by winnowing, to scatter, to crush to pieces, to grind to powder.”¹ We all have the choice before us to fall in humility on Christ now and allow Him to cleanse and break us in love, or to have Him crush us as an enemy later.

In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream from God showing what would happen in the days to come. The Lord revealed to Daniel the dream first and then the interpretation of it, which he shared with the king to the king’s great surprise. God would use this event to elevate His obedient servant in a pagan empire. In one swift moment, Daniel went from being

¹ Thayer’s Greek Dictionary

a so-called nobody in prison to second in command over the entire kingdom of Babylon.

In his dream, King Nebuchadnezzar saw a statue made of fine gold. Its breast and its arms were made of silver, while its belly and its thighs were of bronze. The legs were iron, and its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As he continued to look, a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors. The wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. However, the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth (Daniel 2:32-35).

After explaining to Nebuchadnezzar that he, the king, was the head of gold, Daniel said an inferior kingdom would arise, and then another third kingdom of bronze, which would rule over all the earth. He said a fourth kingdom would come, crushing and breaking all others in pieces. It would be a divided kingdom, part of it being strong as iron and part of it as brittle as pottery.

Daniel continued, *and in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy* (Daniel 2:44-45).

As the Lord said in Luke 20, He is the stone. His kingdom authority began at the cross through His submission to the

Father's will. It continues the process of establishment on earth through His submissive, faithful servants. His established rule within them allows His rule to be established outside of them as well. His rule over all kingdoms will be manifested once and for all at the final threshing soon coming. All opposition to His lordship will be silenced.

In the last days the nations will come upon Zion to destroy her. They don't understand God has gathered them to be threshed by God's people. Micah 4:11-13 says, *But now many nations are gathered against you. They say, "Let her be defiled, let our eyes gloat over Zion!" But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan, he who gathers them like sheaves to the threshing floor. Rise and thresh, O Daughter of Zion, for I will give you horns of iron; I will give you hoofs of bronze and you will break to pieces [to crush, to pulverize, to thresh, to make dust of]² many nations. You will devote their ill-gotten gains to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of all the earth* (NIV). God's servants through the ages long for this victorious day!

Comfort for the Afflicted

While being dispersed in a foreign land under the government of a pagan nation, Naomi testified she had been afflicted by the Lord (Ruth 1:21). The Hebrew for this word is *ra'a'*. It means, "to spoil, literally, by breaking to pieces."³ Naomi's affliction, her "breaking into pieces," is a historical picture of the Jewish nation. Theirs has been one of constant harassment by their enemies. The good news is a remnant will return, as Naomi did, to the place of their origin in Christ, bringing into

² Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon (BDB)

³ Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

view the final piece of God's redemptive plan. As Paul said, God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew (Romans 11:2).

Without the covenantal commitment of the Gentile portion of the bride of Christ (the figurative Ruth) to the God and people of Israel (the figurative Naomi), the Israel of God would never be saved. Blessed is she, Ruth, who comes in the name of the Lord! Her appearing to Israel precedes the final revealing of Jesus Christ to the remnant of the Jewish people.

The nation of Israel coming back together in 1948 to its physical point of origin is a sign of its soon coming back home to its spiritual point of origin in God. First Corinthians 15:46 says that the natural is first, then the spiritual. The good news is: even now the Gentile bride of Christ is choosing to leave her people and residence and fully join herself with God. Walking together, they will soon come back home.

Ezekiel contains a prophesy for Israel regarding their future vindication. They had become *the possession of the rest of the nations and the object of people's malicious talk and slander*. The Lord declared, "*I speak in my jealous wrath because you have suffered the scorn of the nations. Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I swear with uplifted hand that the nations around you will also suffer scorn. But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home*" (Ezekiel 36:3, 6-8 NIV). The Hebrew words for *come home* actually mean "to approach, to enter into, to draw near."⁴ The extreme pressure of the Lord on earth will be the catalyst for this final drawing.

In Isaiah 4:1-6, Isaiah describes the judgment of God that cleanses the *daughters of Zion*. She is described as being *the*

Branch of the Lord that will be *beautiful and glorious*. He has prepared her for Himself to inhabit, bringing in His government (dominion) on the earth, which will be carried out by His people who have gained His glory. Isaiah 11:10 says *the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious*. This is the place of Boaz for which Naomi instructed Ruth to look.

His people will be cleansed and prepared, made ready as a vessel to contain His glorious authority. This is a time of preparation for what is about to come. Only the cleansed vessels, His cleansed people, will reign with Him (Zechariah 3:6-8).

Isaiah says, *When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning, then the LORD will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy. And there will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain* (Isaiah 4:4-6).

The canopy (tabernacle or tent), or covering of the Lord over the whole area of Mount Zion is described as a place of *refuge and protection*. First though, the judgment of the Lord takes place. While questioning the Lord one day concerning the coming judgment of America that He had revealed to me, I asked Him how it would look or how he would carry it out. He led me to the end of verse 4, which says *by a spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning*.

I think it's interesting that a word taken from the Hebrew for *burning* means "brutishness, stupidity."⁵ Webster's New

4 BDB

5 BDB

World College Dictionary defines *brutish* as “of or like a brute; savage, gross, stupid, sensual, irrational.”⁶ A brute lacks the ability to reason, having no consciousness or feelings, like an animal.

Let's look at another metaphor that demonstrates a similar concept. Scripture uses the word picture of salt to describe God's people. The evidence of increased decadence throughout our land proves the salt (God's people) has become tasteless, devoid of its preserving agent, having been thrown out and now trampled by men.

The Greek for *tasteless* in Matthew 5:13 is *moraino*. It means “to become insipid, to become foolish, to act foolishly.”⁷ According to *Webster's New World College Dictionary*, insipid is “without flavor, tasteless, not exciting or interesting, dull, lifeless.”⁸ That is a perfect description of the church in America. We often claim to be filled with the Spirit when, in actuality, we have been filled with a spirit of stupidity.

When Naomi returned to her people with Ruth, she said to them, “*Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?*” (Ruth 1:20-21).

Mara means “bitterness.”⁹ This has been the storyline for the Jewish people throughout most of their history. Their re-

lationship as the chosen people of God has been one of both sweetness and suffering. As declared by God through Moses, great blessings came to them when they walked in obedience. This is the case for all who, like Ruth, choose to walk in covenant with God and His people. On the other hand, great curses came upon them when they walked in disobedience.

America, more than any other nation in history since Israel, willingly joined themselves to Him as “One nation under God.” Our public proclamation of this relationship puts us in a precarious situation today as we, like Israel, are casting aside the restraints of His covenant. His curses have already begun to manifest in our land and will continue to increase with greater intensity as we wade deeper and deeper into depravity. The stage is being set for the final affliction on earth that will produce the homecoming of Naomi (Jew) and Ruth (Gentile).

While prophetically describing what will occur in the day of the Lord, Joel 2:23-27 holds a future promise for God's people. It says,

So rejoice, O sons of Zion, and be glad in the LORD your God; for He has given you the early rain for your vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, the early and latter rain as before. And the threshing floors will be full of grain, and the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil. Then I will make up to you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the creeping locust, the stripping locust, and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. And you shall have plenty to eat and be satisfied [to be filled], and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you; then My people will never be put to shame. Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is no other; and My people will never be put to shame. [emphasis added]

6 Webster's New World College Dictionary, Third Edition, copyright 1997

7 SEC/TGD

8 Webster's New World College Dictionary, Third Edition, copyright 1997

9 BDB

In Romans 11, Paul refers to the fullness of both Jews and Gentiles. It's defined as that which is brought to completion, that which is filled, lacking nothing.¹⁰ Joel 2:24 described the threshing floors as being full of grain. The Hebrew for full in this verse is *male* (pronounced maw-lay'). It means "to fill, to be accomplished, to be ended, to be satisfied."¹¹ To eat and be satisfied is to immerse ourselves in Christ. It's gorging on the Bread of Life until you are full, filled with His goodness.

Jesus is now eating His second last supper with His disciples before He returns to rule the world. The first time He ate it with them in this realm. This time He eats it with us in another realm, by His Spirit, before coming back to this one. As we work together with Him in this final moment, the body of Christ will become full, satisfied, thereby bringing to completeness His salvation.

Galatians 4:4-5 states that *when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.* The Son of God will come forth one more time, in the fullness of time when His children believe and do what He says in this last hour. Our entering by faith into what the Spirit says to the church in this midnight hour will fill up Christ's work on earth, establishing His kingdom above all others forever. Amen!



¹⁰ Thayer's Greek Dictionary

¹¹ Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon

Chapter Eight

The Touchstone

In Chapters 2 and 3, we briefly discussed Luke 16:24 as one of the three instances where the Greek word *bapto* (911) is used in the New Testament. Now, let's examine that verse a little closer. In this passage, Jesus tells the story of a rich man and a beggar named Lazarus who was covered in sores. Lazarus, whose name means "whom God helps," longed to eat what fell from the rich man's table. It was so bad for this poor man that even the dogs came and licked his sores.

Jesus continued in verses 22-28:

"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip [bapto] the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'" (NIV)

The rich man's request was denied. His luxury was temporal, while his torment was eternal. Conversely, the poor man's torment was temporal, but his luxurious living was for all eternity with the Lord. Luxury, like money, is not evil in and of itself. The issue is what we do with it. Do we use it solely for our own consumption or as directed by the Lord to help those in need? Paul told Timothy, "*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life*" (1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV).

As I looked deeper into the verses in Luke 16, the Lord began to reveal something to me. The Greek for torment in Luke 16:23 and 28 is *basanos*. It's defined as "a touchstone, torture, torment, acute pains." It's even described as "the rack or instrument of torture by which one is forced to divulge the truth."¹ I don't know about you, but I had no idea what a touchstone was and how in the world it was related to pain.

The Concise Encyclopedia describes it as "A black, silica-containing stone used in assaying to determine the purity of gold and silver. The metal to be assayed is rubbed on the touchstone, and then a sample of metal of known purity is rubbed on the stone right next to it. The streaks of metal on the stone are treated with nitric acid, which dissolves impurities, thus increasing the contrast between the two samples when compared."² *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary* described it

1 Thayer's Greek Dictionary (TGD)

2 <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/touchstone>

as "something that is used to make judgments about the quality of other things."³ As I meditated on this, I began to see its relation with the 911 message.

If you remember, one of the definitions for morsel in John 13:26 was "to reduce to fine particles or powder by rubbing, grinding, bruising, or the like." The refining fire of the Lord dissolves the impurities from His sheep so that we are without spot or wrinkle, ready to enter His Presence. Judgment begins with the house of God before it enters the world. In the lives of His children, it's used for purification. In the world it will result in their destruction.

At the end of this age, when true believers in Jesus Christ will not die but be transformed, His "rubbing" will prepare us to withstand the final cleansing of the earth during the day of God's wrath. The final acid-test of extreme circumstances soon coming upon the entire world will reveal the genuineness of His children's faith. The pressure of the Lord that we are now entering will cause us to either fall away like chaff or be saved like wheat.

In 1 Peter 1:6-8 it says, *For a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed* [to make sorrowful, to cause grief, to make one uneasy]⁴ *by various trials, that the proof* [a testing, trustworthiness]⁵ *of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* As the definition for the word *distressed* implies, trials have a way of making us feel uneasy. It really helps me to know that this is not an abnormal occurrence for the Christian.

3 *ibid*

4 TGD

5 Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

Instead, this is an occasion to reveal my love and commitment to my Savior, to strengthen and establish the covenant between us. It reveals to me what He already knows regarding the true condition of my heart toward Him.

Note the words *the revelation of Jesus Christ* in 1 Peter above. These are also the first five words of the book of Revelation. The Greek for the word *revelation* is *apokalupsis* which means “a laying bare, making naked, a disclosure of truth, an instruction, manifestation, appearance.”⁶ Jesus Christ is the touchstone, the benchmark, the gold standard that, when manifested, will measure each one of our lives. He has set the bar high, so high in fact that without His helper, the Holy Spirit, we cannot measure up.

At His revelation, His revealing of Himself to all mankind at His return, He will manifest just how much of Christ's life has been revealed within each one of us. His revealing is our revealing. Like the gold rubbed on the touchstone, all will be laid bare in the final testing of His children. It will disclose the true condition of our hearts.

We must be covered with Jesus' life, the only acceptable life before the Father. This occurs as we submit to the painful trials in the process of sanctification. Our choice is to endure temporal pain now, regulated by the Holy Spirit, or eternal torment later under Satan's control.

James explains the reason of God for the testing of our faith. *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing* [the same Greek word for proof in 1 Peter 1:7] *of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and*

complete, lacking in nothing (James 1:2-4). As they say, “no pain, no gain.” Like all distance runners, without endurance we will not be able to finish.

The Wounds of God

Within the Scriptures there is a difference between the wounds of an enemy and the wounds of a friend. An enemy will wound you to hurt or kill you. A friend, on the other hand, will say or do what is necessary to make you healthy. He or she will not necessarily say what you want to hear, but what you need to hear in that moment for your good.

The wounds the Lord inflicts upon the world at the end of the age will publicly manifest the condition of our hearts toward Him. The result of His end-of-the-age wounds upon every human being will reveal whether we are His friend or His enemy (like Judas). James 4:4 talks of this friendship. *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship* [an associate, a companion]⁷ *with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God* (NIV). The wounds of God inflicted upon His enemies will destroy them. The wounds of God upon His friends will bring complete healing to them.

The Lord disciplines His children in order to deal with the sinful nature. It is His discipline in our lives, surgically performed by His Holy Spirit, which He uses to conform us into His image. This is how we partake of the divine nature. Hebrews 5:8 tells us even Jesus *learned obedience from the things which He suffered*. And again, in Hebrews 2:10, *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are*

⁶ TGD

⁷ TGD

all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. While on earth, the Lord gained understanding concerning compliance and submission to the Father's will through suffering. His difficult route of perfection, which brings His race to completion, is our route to the finish line as well.

The purpose of the Lord's wounding, when necessary, is to divulge the truth that either Jesus is Lord in our life or we are. How many of us turned to Christ when everything was wonderful and easy in our lives? It was only as we experienced some type of pain and suffering, with nowhere else to turn, that we looked to Jesus as our Savior. His mercy cornered us, resulting in our confession. Luke 16:23 said that while in hell, where the rich man was in torment, he looked up. Because of the selfish state of our fallen nature, without pain or some type of suffering there would never be a divulging of the truth that we need a Savior.

Because the One of known purity fills their lives, the faithful servants bring to light the true state of all who get close to them. It isn't so much what they say, but who they are in Christ. The aroma of His presence is stronger through them because of their obedient hearts (2 Corinthians 2:14-16). The fragrance of the knowledge of Christ coming through faithful servants reveals the dead condition of the hearts and lives of the disobedient who do not measure up to His standard. This is not intended to condemn them, but to convict them of their need to repent.

Faithful Christians rub disobedient Christians the wrong way. They irritate those whose lives don't measure up in God's eyes. This causes issues to arise within a wayward church. The light of Christ shining through faithful servants exposes

the hearts of the disobedient when they come in close contact, manifesting the darkness within them.

The majority of leaders in the churches of America are threatened by the mere presence of truth. As Jesus was for the Pharisees, the pure ones become a pain in the self-exalted egos of corrupt leaders. The authority of Christ within the Lord's trusted servants challenges the leaders who rule by their own authority. It reveals the hypocrisy of their deceived hearts.

Rubbing Out the Flesh

Acts 11:26 is the first time the word *Christian* appears in the New Testament. By definition, a Christian is a "follower of Christ." The Greek for Christ is *Christos*. It comes from a Greek word that refers to "the idea of contact; to smear or rub with oil, to anoint."⁸ It's also defined as "consecrating Jesus to the Messianic office, and furnishing him with the necessary powers for its administration; enduing Christians with the gifts of the Holy Spirit."⁹

Due to their close contact with Jesus, He has rubbed off on His followers. Because of their immersion in Him, the anointing oil of the Holy Spirit endows them with power for the administration of the Lord's messianic office in their life. We will know them because they have begun to look and act to one degree or another as their Lord, to whom they have drawn close. They have "put Him on," so to speak.

In order for His life to be rubbed in, our flesh must first be rubbed out. Trials and suffering are the only way for this to occur. We will know a genuine Christian by the fruits of the Holy Spirit that have been developed in their lives (Galatians

⁸ SEC

⁹ TGD

5:16-25). They are like wheat, like the wise virgins, and they are more than conquerors.

Calling yourself a Christian is not enough to make you one. Being a Christian is not in word only, but rather in deed and character as well. Whether it be the world or the Lord Jesus Christ, we become like that which we follow the closest. His life is the only one that measures up before the Father. As the church, we must submit to the Refiner's fire now so as not to be rubbed out as rejected chaff later.



Chapter Nine

Burning Coals

The Lord gives us specific instructions in Scripture regarding how to handle those who wrong us. Paul said in Romans 12:17-21, *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good* (NIV).

Vengeance, which means "vindication, retribution, a revenging, punishment, and the meeting out of justice,"¹ is the Lord's concern. Paul also said in 2 Thessalonians 1:6-7 that *God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well* (NIV).

The Greek for the word *room* in Romans 12:19 is *topos*. It's described as "a place, any portion or space marked off, as it were, from a surrounding space; an inhabited place, as a city, village, or district."² Metaphorically it refers to an occasion for acting. Therefore, by definition, to *leave room for God's wrath* refers to the place and space determined by Him. Abiding by

¹ Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (SEC)/ Thayer's Greek Dictionary (TGD)

² TGD

His commandments opens the way for the Lord to apply His righteous judgment in our behalf. For this occasion to occur, we must return evil with good. This is the manner in which we become an overcomer in every situation.

In showing love and kindness toward our enemy, Scripture says we *heap burning coals on his head*. Interestingly, the Greek for *coals* is *anthrax*. According to the Mayo Clinic, anthrax spores are formed by anthrax bacteria that occur naturally in soil in most parts of the world. These spores can remain dormant for years until they find their way into a host. This deadly bacterium most often finds its way into the body through a wound in the flesh.³ It's the same in the spiritual realm.

Thayer's and Smith's Bible Dictionary defines this heaping of coals as “a proverbial expression signifying to call up, by favors you confer on your enemy, the memory in him of the wrong that he has done you (which shall pain him as if live coals were heaped on his head), that he may the more readily repent. The Arabians call things that cause very acute mental pain ‘burning coals of the heart’ and ‘fire of the liver.’”⁴ The good we do in Jesus' name is to bring conviction in the heart of the one who wronged us. Like that which is measured for quality on the touchstone, it reveals their spiritually sick condition.

The power of God working through His obedient children is the only cure for our fleshly nature, which has been infected through the wounds of life. Only God can heal the infection caused by sin within man's heart. The love of His servants brings to light the inner torment of the wicked. Like burning

coals heaped upon their heads, it reveals their need for His healing power.

Extinguishing the Coal

Spiritually speaking, a hot ember taken from the altar of God continues His fire in other places, in particular those places that are dry. Fire begets fire. We see an example of this in King David's conversation with the wise woman of Tekoa. He asked:

“What is your trouble?” And she answered, “Truly I am a widow, for my husband is dead. And your maidservant had two sons, but the two of them struggled together in the field, and there was no one to separate them, so one struck the other and killed him. Now behold, the whole family has risen against your maidservant, and they say, ‘Hand over the one who struck his brother, that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed, and destroy the heir also.’ Thus they will extinguish my coal which is left, so as to leave my husband neither name nor remnant on the face of the earth.” (2 Samuel 14:5-7)

Within ancient Israel there existed a kind of primitive justice among the various families, clans, and tribes. Being related by blood, each of these groups was responsible for the care and protection of its own members, even to the point of avenging wrongs inflicted upon the clan. This responsibility fell to the victim's closest relative, who would seek to find and kill the murderer. He was referred to as the avenger of blood.⁵

Referring to this vengeful practice, the wise woman sent by Joab to David said that in the death of her son by family, they would extinguish her *coal* (which means “an ember, hot

³ <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/anthrax/basics/definition>

⁴ TGD

⁵ Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary (Copyright (C) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

coals”⁶), leaving her husband neither name nor remnant on the face of the earth.

Joseph provides an example of someone who had every right and authority to destroy his brothers in revenge for their betrayal. However, when they came to him, he forgave them in mercy because it was the will of God to do so, and God preserved the Jewish nation through them. Joseph's heart toward his brothers is a picture of the Lord's heart toward those of His Jewish “brothers.” Trembling in His presence at the end of this age, as Joseph's brothers did when he revealed himself to them in Egypt, they might hear the Lord say, *“God sent Me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive”* (Genesis 45:7, 50:20).

Jesus told a parable of those who believe if they kill the heir they can seize his inheritance (Matthew 21:38). Like those in the parable, the demonic hordes stir up those whom they can against the Jews by the twisting of God's Word. Yes, the majority of the Jewish people rejected and killed Christ as the Messiah the first time He came, but He has not rejected them forever. A chosen remnant will turn in the end, bringing to completion the healing of mankind's deep inner wounds. They too, along with their chosen Gentile brothers and sisters, make up the entire body who are the rightful heirs with Christ, their Head. We need the Jews and they need us; and we both need Jesus.

Satan thought he had killed the heir when Jesus was crucified. As he found out, Christ's death on the cross only served

to guarantee His rightful inheritance. This is why Paul said regarding the wisdom of God: *none of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory* (1 Corinthians 2:8 NIV). Through his false doctrines, the Devil declares the Jewish nation that struck their “brother,” Jesus, must be extinguished in justice. If the Devil was allowed to fulfill his evil intent, he would leave no heir, or remnant, to complete God's purposes on earth, thereby handing the rights of inheritance over to him. The doctrine of demons, called replacement theology, attempts through deception to do this very thing. The teaching claims their rejection of Christ replaces the Jewish people. This is a temporary and partial state, not a permanent state (Romans 11).

Yes, the Jewish people have suffered for this denial of Jesus as the Messiah, but they are not forgotten. They are the final piece that will fulfill God's plan of redemption. This is why the Lord will reach out to the Jewish nation with His mercy at the end of this age before the final judgment. The remnant that falls at His feet in repentance through the time period, known as Jacob's trouble, will be declared not guilty. The rest, along with the rebellious Gentiles, will be handed over to their enemies who will destroy them.

Isaiah 59:20 contains the promise of God's mercy toward the Jews in the last days. *“The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the LORD* (NIV, emphasis added). Through God's final offer of grace, a remnant will return, bringing to completion the redemption of mankind. This is what Satan attempts to thwart. Their fullness means salvation for the world and the end of the Devil's reign of terror over us. Oh, the wisdom of God!

6 SEC

Isaiah saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple (Isaiah 6:1). Seraphim were above Him saying *“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”* Standing in God’s awesome presence, Isaiah saw his unclean state. *Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts* (vv. 3, 5).

One of the seraphim then flew to him with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. Isaiah said, *“And he touched my mouth with it and said, ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven’”* (v. 7). It’s the burning coals taken from the altar of God within us that will cleanse this earth from its iniquity and reveal God’s forgiveness of their sin.

Paul exhorts Christians in 1 Thessalonians 5:19 not to put out the Spirit’s fire, or not to quench the Spirit, as it’s interpreted in other versions. To quench is to extinguish. Metaphorically, it means to suppress or stifle and is used of the divine influence of God.⁷ The Spirit’s fire not only continues to cleanse and purify us by burning away the impurities in our lives, but it’s also used to purify others with whom we come into contact. If there isn’t a fire on the altar of our hearts, the burning coals needed to heap upon others for conviction of sin won’t be there. If the Spirit’s fire doesn’t burn in us, it won’t burn in others.



⁷ TGD

Chapter Ten

The Feast of Epiphany

While wading through various news stories on the Internet, something caught my attention that turned into a revelation from the Lord. I saw a picture of a young man floating in some water, face down. That wasn’t what made me look further. A hole had been cut through ice, the front portion being in the shape of a cross. He was floating with his arms out to the side in what had to be ice cold water.

In Michigan, where I live, we will sometimes see a group try to raise money through what is called a polar bear plunge. During the winter, a hole is cut into the ice and a bunch of crazies who have raised a certain amount of pledges jump into the freezing waters. Usually, they quickly get out yelling something about the water being so cold, as if no one else knew.

In this particular news story, the man immersing himself in the icy waters had a more serious reason. The caption by the picture said this was an Orthodox Christian ceremony for the religious holiday of the Feast of Epiphany. In Russia, where the pictures were taken, it’s celebrated on January 19. This was the very same day, ten years ago, that began a series of providential events that have now led to the revelation of 911.

On January 19, 2004, my wife, Shelley, suffered a major stroke at the age of 44. Right before an emergency craniotomy, the doctor informed our family that in all likelihood, she was going to die. After walking my children in to say goodbye to their mother, we went before the Great Physician in prayer,

asking Him for mercy. Through some miraculous events, He spared her life.

After this experience, the Lord began to reveal His heart to me regarding the current spiritual condition of His bride. In America, she appears as though she is about to die. He made known to me that through some difficult circumstances we are about to enter, just as my bride experienced difficulty, the bride of Christ will be brought back to life. Though directed toward the apostate church within the United States of America, the urgent warning of 911 is for the entire world.

Because Epiphany is primarily observed by Orthodox, Catholic, and Anglican Christians, most Protestant believers don't understand the spiritual significance behind this holiday which is one of the earliest feasts of the Christian church. I was one of those who didn't understand it.

Epiphany comes from the Greek verb *epiphaneia* meaning, "to reveal, a manifestation, an appearing." In an article entitled "The Epiphany Of Our Lord Jesus Christ," Scott P. Richert states that among both Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, the feast is known as Theophany, the revelation of God to man.

According to Richert, "Epiphany originally celebrated four different events in the following order of importance: the Baptism of the Lord; Christ's first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana; the Nativity of Christ; and the visitation of the Wise Men or Magi. Each of these is a revelation of God to man."

Richert went on to say, "Eventually, in the West the celebration of the Nativity was separated out into Christmas. Shortly thereafter, Western Christians adopted the Eastern feast of the Epiphany, still celebrating the Baptism, the first miracle, and

the visit from the Wise Men ... Epiphany came to mark the end of Christmastide; the Twelve Days of Christmas, which began with the revelation of Christ to Israel in His Birth and ended with the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles (represented by the Wise Men) at Epiphany." It's interesting to me that he connects Epiphany with the final revelation.¹

Although the majority of the world celebrates Epiphany on January 6, *Encyclopedia Britannica* states that some Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas Eve on January 6 and Epiphany on January 19. In their words:

"It commemorates the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, and the manifestation of his divinity, as it occurred at his baptism in the Jordan River and at his first miracle at Cana in Galilee."

The festival originated in the Eastern church, which at first included a commemoration of Christ's birth. By 354 Christ's birth in Rome was celebrated on December 25. Later, in the 4th century, the church in Rome began celebrating Epiphany on January 6. In the Western church the festival primarily commemorates the visit by the Magi to the infant Jesus. In the East it primarily commemorates the baptism of Jesus. In the West the evening preceding Epiphany is called Twelfth Night. The time between December 25 and January 6 is known as the Twelve Days of Christmas.²

I began to see in this festival its association with the appearing of Christ at the end of this age, our 911 immersion in Him, and the ensuing unveiling of His resurrected bride. The

1 "The Epiphany Of Our Lord Jesus Christ" by Scott P. Richert (<http://catholicism.about.com>)

2 "Epiphany" by Encyclopedia Britannica; <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/190101/Epiphany>

Lord used the date of January 19 to get my attention, connecting my wife's stroke with the final cleansing and healing of His bride.

Like the Last Supper in John 13, Epiphany represents the last feast of Christ with His faithful disciples. After joining with their Master through obedient submission to His final call, they will be revealed to the world as His *perfect one . . . the pure child of the One who bore her* (Song of Solomon 6:9).

The Blessing of Waters

The festivities performed by the Orthodox churches on Epiphany include the Blessing of Waters. The blessing is normally done twice, once on the eve of the feast, usually at a baptismal font inside the church, and then again on the day of the feast at a body of water outdoors. Following the Divine Liturgy, the clergy and people go in a procession with the cross to the nearest body of water.

At the end of the ceremony the priest blesses the waters, sometimes by casting a cross into it. If swimming is possible at the site, a group of volunteers (normally young people) plunge into the frigid waters trying to retrieve it. The person who gets to the cross first swims back and returns it to the priest who then delivers a special blessing to the swimmer and their household.

In Russia, where the winters are severe, a hole will be cut into the ice, often in the shape of a cross, so that the waters may be blessed. In these harsh conditions, the cross is not cast into the water, but is dipped by the priest three times. The point of all this is to not only have the waters blessed, but

also to receive a personal blessing through immersion in the blessed waters.³

Jesus said in Luke 9:23-24, *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it."* Following a religious ritual will not save you. It's not a means to the end, but a sign pointing us to the One who can save us. The reality is found in Jesus Christ. As we take up our cross daily, joining Christ in a life of suffering and self-denial, He reveals His blessed life in us.

There were Greeks among those who had come to Jerusalem to worship at the Passover feast near the time of Jesus' triumphal entry. They came to Philip, one of Jesus' disciples, and said, *"Sir, we wish to see Jesus."* He and Andrew informed Jesus of their request. Jesus' response seems, on the surface, to have nothing to do with what they had asked. *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him"* (John 12:23-26).

What He appears to be saying is that the world was about to behold His glory as a result of His death on the cross. It would result in many being able to see Him. He would no longer be just one man on earth, but a glorified body of believers through whom He could reveal Himself to all nations. If people cannot

³ "Epiphany (holiday)" [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epiphany_\(holiday\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epiphany_(holiday))

see Jesus today, it's because His people do not embrace the cross in their own lives. Through a lack of obedient self-denial, we are the ones who now block their view.

In 2 Corinthians 4:10-11 Paul said, *We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body* (NIV). There are Christians around the world being martyred for their identification with Jesus Christ. The death Paul speaks of in this passage is different. It's not a literal, physical death, but a death of our wills.

On the night of His arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus wrestled in prayer, knowing what lay ahead at Calvary. The time had arrived to fulfill His purpose on earth. By partaking of man's nature, He experienced the feeling of weakness that comes with it. This could be why He told the disciples who were with Him that night, *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak"* (Matthew 26:41 NIV). It is only when we come to the place of surrender, as did Jesus when He said to the Father, *"Not My will, but yours be done,"* that His life and glory will be revealed in us. The only way to receive the glory of Pentecost is through the suffering of Calvary. His physical cross is our spiritual cross.

As with Jesus, our hour has also come. The appointed time for His body to receive His resurrection glory lies right ahead of us. We must now walk in the same manner as our Head, right before He was glorified. The idea of going to the cross in order to become visible makes very little sense to our fallen nature. Paul said *the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power*

of God (1 Corinthians 1:18 NIV). As we embrace the cross in our lives, the Christian begins to understand that the life of Jesus is manifested through us. As John the Baptist declared, *"He must increase, but I must decrease"* (John 3:30). This is the only way for the world to see Jesus.

The cross used during the festivities of Epiphany is a physical reminder of where the victory over the enemy is found. We are not to worship the shadow, the tangible cross thrown into the water, but the reality which is found in the crucified life that Jesus walked in daily. May we be as diligent in pursuing this way of living as those who seek a blessing when they brave the icy waters.

The Epiphany of Jesus Christ

The Greek word for epiphany, *epiphaneia*, is found six times in the New Testament with the majority referring to the return of Jesus Christ. As I stated, it is defined as, "to reveal, a manifestation, an appearing."⁴ A Greek word it is taken from, *epiphaino*, means "to shine upon, to bring to light, to become clearly known."⁵ When He comes in the light of His glory, all that has been hidden will be clearly seen, whether that be good or evil.

Ephesians 5:13-17 demonstrates a concept similar to an epiphany. *But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the*

⁴ Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (SEC)

⁵ SEC/ Thayer's Greek Dictionary (TGD)

will of the Lord is. The Lord wills that His people would now prepare their hearts by immersing themselves in Him rather than an external religious ritual of any type, in order for the light of His glory to shine upon them. Wise men still seek the Savior, striving to understand and obey His will.

A bright light from heaven is about to be manifested on earth that will engulf the darkness that has afflicted mankind since our original fall. Paul said in 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 that *God will repay with affliction those who have afflicted His children when He is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire* (paraphrased). He will not only deal out retribution to those who do not know Him, but also to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. *And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power* (v. 9).

This is especially good news for the remnant within the nation of Israel. They have been afflicted like no other nation on earth. In this day *when He comes to be glorified in His saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed* (paraphrased), all of the enemies of the Lord and His people will be destroyed.

Romans 8 also refers to the revealing of the sons of God. It says that we will be glorified with Him, gaining His glorious light at His appearing, *if indeed we suffer with Him* (v. 17). Paul says, *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God* (vv. 18-19). In this passage, Paul makes it known that the heirs of Christ are known by their sufferings. Because of their willingness to join Christ in His cross, they will be granted the right to partake of His glory.

Paul states that all of creation anxiously waits for their revealing, or unveiling. The word interpreted as revealing in verse 19 comes from the Greek word *apokalupsis*, meaning “to disclose, to manifest.” It’s also used of events by which things or states or persons hitherto withdrawn from view are made visible to all.⁶ It is taken from the Greek word *apokalupto* which means “to take off the cover, to lay open what has been veiled or covered up.”⁷ The Bible is clear that this undeniable epiphany will occur through an apocalyptic event.

The last book of the Bible is known as The Revelation to John or The Apocalypse. It explains to us what will take place at the end of this age. The revealing of Jesus and His sons, which includes both men and women, will occur through God’s final judgment of this age. It will be used to remove the unfaithful sons of chaff, thereby revealing and glorifying the hidden wheat, sons of God.

It is at this moment the kingdom of God will be exalted on earth forever. The Lord’s reign will be established through the obedience of His trusted servants. Their rising will destroy His enemies, even those enemies of His cross within His own kingdom.

In the removal of the tares, the final resting place of God will have been prepared. Then the wedding of the Lamb will take place as a loud voice from the throne declares, *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*

⁶ TGD

⁷ SEC/TGD

mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away (Rev. 21:3-4). Amen and Amen!

A Shadow Of Things To Come

In Colossians 2, Paul speaks of Christ's victory over the enemy through the cross. Within the church in Colossae, some were overemphasizing the importance of things such as feasts and the Sabbath, as well as abstaining from certain foods. Like those in Romans 1, they had begun to worship the created rather than the Creator.

Paul wrote in verses 15-17, *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ* (NIV, emphasis added).

The feasts are a shadow of something much greater. A shadow is a vague picture, a dim outline of the object it portrays. The shadow has little clarity. We see the clear picture as we observe the object the shadow represents – in this case, Jesus Christ. He is the fulfillment, the object, of all the feasts.

You cannot have a shadow without an object. The last epiphany of the One who casts the shadow is about to occur. He is the One whose shadow is seen throughout the Old Testament and has now been revealed in the New Testament. Some love to worship the form, but will not turn to its source. Often, we find people religiously serving the shadows (the feasts, the Sabbath day, and all other sort of rituals), rather than the shadow maker. They will continue to see things dimly, spiritually

speaking, without full understanding until the day they turn to Jesus as their Savior.

Our hope as Christians is that we will one day see Him. We read in 1 John 3:2-3, *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.* This day is about to happen. A prepared people are a purified people. This is why we must awake from spiritual lethargy and separate ourselves from the sin that so easily entangles us (Hebrews 12:1). The Feast of Epiphany is about to be fulfilled in the appearing of Jesus Christ and His faithful, perfected body.

One final element causes the eyes to observe the main object. We must have light shed upon it. This revelation comes through the Holy Spirit. As He sheds His light upon our hearts, He reveals Christ within us, and we behold His form in all its fullness. In John 8:12 Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."* As long as we continue to follow the Lord, He will guide and protect us in our journey. His light of truth reveals the path of peace and safety that leads to eternal life.

The Greek for reality in Colossians 2:17 is *soma*. It's defined as "the body, the bodies of plants and of stars."⁸ It's also used of a large or small number of men closely united into one society or family.⁹ Other versions interpret it as "substance" and "body." These verses in Colossians 2 show us the revealing of Jesus in His fullness, His completeness in His people at the end of the age when all things will become visible. Earlier,

⁸ TGD

⁹ TGD

in Colossians 2:9, Paul said, *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form*. This *bodily* form is Christ as the Head and His body of servants that have been brought to completion in Him.

In declaring the preeminence of Christ, Paul said in Ephesians 1:22-23, *And He [the Father] put all things in subjection under His [Christ's] feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body [our Greek word soma], the fullness of Him who fills all in all*. Christ is the Head of His body, the fullness or manifested completion of Himself to the world. In reality, His revealing is our revealing.

The fulfillment of the shadow known as the Feast of Epiphany is about to be manifested on earth. It will be the revealing of Jesus Christ to the world in complete union with His perfected body. They are the ones throughout history who not only heard the Lord's call to take up their cross and follow, but became a doer of the word.

This is why the 911 message of the Lord to immerse ourselves in Him is so important. He tells His people if they will immerse themselves in Him, the One to whom the feast points, they will have a part in this last day theophany of Him in His body. This is *the fullness of Him who fills all in all* (Ephesians 1:23).



Chapter Eleven

Receiving What Has Been Reserved

In 1 Samuel 9, Saul and a servant went searching for his father's lost donkeys. When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said, *"Come, let's go back, or my father will stop thinking about the donkeys and start worrying about us"* (v. 5 paraphrased). When searching for the stubborn donkeys of the Father that have strayed from Him, we must be careful how far we go lest we also lose our way. Ecclesiastes 3 says there is an appointed time for everything, and there is a time for every event under heaven. It goes on to give many of these times, including *a time to search, and a time to give up as lost* (v. 6). The Holy Spirit will warn His servants when it's time to back off from pursuing those who have become hard-hearted and stubborn.

Saul's servant knew there was a man of God in the town whom they could question regarding the location of their lost mules. Saul and his servant went to some young women going out to draw water. The servant asked them if the "seer," who was Samuel, was there. A prophet was called a seer at that time. The women responded, *"He is. He's ahead of you. Hurry now; he has just come to our town today, for the people have a sacrifice at the high place. As soon as you enter the town, you will find him before he goes up to the high place to eat. The people will not begin eating until he comes, because he must bless the*

sacrifice; afterward, those who are invited will eat. Go up now; you should find him about this time" (1 Samuel 9:12-13).

The scene in 1 Samuel parallels the final meal of Christ where the invited cannot partake of the Passover Lamb until the sacrifice is blessed. The sacrifice referred to here is the living sacrifice of His chosen servants who were among the first ones to hear and obey the Lord's last call. They are His first-responders, so to speak, that have been trained to help others in the approaching state of emergency. As we discussed in the previous chapter, this is the blessing we need to seek.

James 1:21-22 commands Christians to *get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says* (NIV, emphasis added). Getting rid of all moral filth is not done by immersing ourselves in water, but rather through the cleansing of the soul by the Holy Spirit as we do what Jesus commands. James says when we continue doing what God commands, we will be blessed in what we do (v. 25).

When the servants at the wedding feast did what Jesus said to do, they became witnesses of the water miraculously turning into wine (John 2:1-11). They poured the water into six stone water pots that were used for the Jewish custom of purification. Like these empty water pots, when we allow the Spirit to empty us of self and then cleanse us through the washing of water with the Word, He will fill us with Himself. Then we, in turn, will pour out that which fills us for those who have gathered for the wedding feast of the Lamb. The 911 immersion in Christ will prepare us to receive this glorious blessing from Him.

We could not partake of Christ until the sacrifice of His life was blessed by the Father. He had the witness from the Father beforehand saying this was His beloved Son in whom He was well pleased (Matthew 17:5). One of the meanings for the word *pleased* is "to choose."¹ Jesus is the choice Son of the Father. When we walk like Jesus, joining ourselves to Him through submission to His Spirit, we also become the choice sons and daughters of the Father.

The last part of 1 Samuel 9:13 is crucial. The Lord tells us that now is the time to go up, to ascend the mountain. It is the appointed time of the Lord when we may find Him. There is a time when we will not be able to go. While crying out against Israel's spiritual harlotry, Hosea declared, "*They will go with their flocks and herds to seek the LORD, but they will not find Him; He has withdrawn from them*" (Hosea 5:6).

He now stands at the place of entrance, revealing to His people the way of their full salvation. Many in the church are not listening. Presuming they already have what they need, they will find themselves in the day of God's wrath among those who will curse Him and die.

The people who will soon gather cannot eat unless we *give them something to eat*, as Jesus told the disciples in Luke 9:13. But we cannot give them something to eat until the Lord blesses the sacrifice of our lives. It's through the blessing that we receive what will be given out for others. This is the same thing pictured within the wedding feast in John Chapter 2. The servants who knew from where the new wine had come were the ones who served those gathered together. It will be the same at the end.

¹ Thayer's Greek Dictionary (TGD)

Presently, not all in the church are listening. Those who are listening will be the future *servers* at the Lord's final feast. They're being filled right now with His Living Word, pictured in type by the water that was changed by Jesus into wine. Mary, Jesus' mother, had told the servants *Whatever He says to you, do it*" (John 2:5). The "doers" of God's word will, like the waterpots, be filled *to the brim*. They will in turn pour out of themselves that which will fill those who have been gathered for the wedding feast of the Lord. Remember, according to Jesus the greatest among God's people are those who serve others (Matthew 23:11). Serving in God's eyes is a place of great honor.

This final outpouring of the Spirit will be for those who respond to this final offer of cleansing, qualifying them to come and dine with Jesus and His disciples. Through repentance they will have prepared the wineskin within them, enabling them to receive the transforming, new wine of the Spirit. The difficult times that lie right ahead will be the catalyst to bring them together. The banquet hall of the Lord is being made ready for their anticipated arrival.

The Reserved Piece

Saul, the choice man of God who would become the first king of Israel (1 Samuel 9:2, 17), was given a reserved portion that had been kept for him until the appointed time. *Then Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the hall, and gave them a place at the head of those who were invited, who were about thirty men. And Samuel said to the cook [a butcher, a guardsman, a bodyguard]², "Bring the portion that I gave you,*

² Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (SEC)/ Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon (BDB)

concerning which I said to you, 'Set it aside.'" Then the cook took up the leg with what was on it and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, *"Here is what has been reserved! Set it before you and eat, because it has been kept for you until the appointed time, since I said I have invited [to call out to, to proclaim, to summon, to invite]³ the people."* So Saul ate with Samuel that day (1 Samuel 9:22-24).

The Hebrew for the word *reserved* is *sha'ar*. It means "to remain, to be left over, to be left behind."⁴ This is one more confirmation of the final meal, the final work of Christ on earth for the few that are chosen. Theirs is the gleanings of the select portion, a remnant kept by God. They will be gathered (raised up) at the appointed time of the end.

Isaiah 25:6 speaks of a banquet of aged wine on a mountain. The Hebrew for this wine is *shemer*, which means, "something preserved, i.e. the settlings of wine."⁵ It is taken from a word that means "to hedge about, to guard, to protect, to keep (within bounds), to restrain."⁶ The best wine, the aged wine of the Lord, has been kept for the last days. In the appointed time of the end, it will be poured out for the preserved remnant at the marriage of the Lamb. Adherence to the truths now being revealed in God's final offer will keep us protected from His coming wrath on earth. Partaking of that which the Lord is now setting before His disciples is for our preservation.

Isaiah had just prophesied in the chapter before, *See, the LORD is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants – it will be the same for*

³ BDB

⁴ ibid

⁵ SEC

⁶ BDB

priest as for people, for master as for servant, for mistress as for maid, for seller as for buyer, for borrower as for lender, for debtor as for creditor. The earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The LORD has spoken this word (Isaiah 24:1-3 NIV).

The Lord has declared that in His coming judgment upon the earth *he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation"* (Isaiah 25:8-9 NIV). May we hear and obey the word of the Lord to move to the place of protection through obedience so as to be saved from the consuming storm that will engulf the entire earth. In the end, the survivors who trusted in the Lord and responded in obedience to His warning will rejoice, praising Him for His great salvation.

Saving the Best for Last

The best refers to the vessel and its contents. It's the two together, Christ in complete union with His faithful servants. The Greek for the word *best* in John 2:10 does not only refer to physical taste, but more in regards to personal nature and characteristics. It's defined as being "beautiful by reason of purity of heart and life, and hence praiseworthy, morally good, and noble."⁷ It speaks of an honorable person such as those within 2 Timothy 2:20-21 who are referred to as *vessels of honor*, as well as the *good and faithful servant* in Matthew 25. They are the sanctified, consecrated, prepared vessels represented by the six stone waterpots in John 2:6 that have responded in

obedience to the summons of the Lord. Again, they will pour out of themselves what God has poured into them. They are the *anointed ones* spoken of in Zechariah 4 and Revelation 11 who faithfully stand firm near the Lord.

Let's continue with the account of Saul and Samuel. *And they arose early; and it came about at daybreak that Samuel called to Saul on the roof, saying, "Get up [to arise, to rise up, to stand up⁸], that I may send you away [to send, to let go, to let loose⁹]." So Saul arose, and both he and Samuel went out into the street* (1 Samuel 9:26). Those who respond in faith to the summons of the Lord to rise up at the end of this age will be let loose from that which binds them. They in turn will raise up the final portion of the Lord, bringing to completion this age. Remember, our rising is through obedience to His purifying word, the 911 immersion.

Just as Samuel sent Saul out, the Lord sends us. After receiving His message, His authoritative Word of Life, God sends us out with His blessing. Scripture says, "*Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.*" *How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!"* (Romans 10:13-15, emphasis added). We must be sent by God or we cannot go with His blessing.

In Luke 9:1-2 Jesus called together the twelve disciples and gave them power and authority over all the demons and power to heal diseases. Our English phrase *called together* is a

⁸ BDB

⁹ BDB

⁷ TGD

single word, *sugkaleo*, in the Greek. It comes from two words: *kaleo* which means, “to call, to invite,”¹⁰ and *sun* which refers to “union, with or together, i.e. by association, companionship, process.”¹¹ In this pure union with Himself, God's people who respond to His final call, will rise up together like Saul and Samuel. After being loosed from their bondage, they will be sent out with His authority.

At the dawning of a new day, Saul received the call to rise up in order to be sent out. Interestingly, it was also at daybreak that Jacob received his blessing after wrestling all night with God (Genesis 32:24-30). They both represent the sons of dawn that, having gained His glorious light through striving and wrestling with difficulty, will go forth at the end of this age in the power and authority of Jesus Christ.

After answering the call, Samuel tells Saul to remain standing near him so that he may receive the word of the Lord (1 Samuel 9:27). We must also go through a time of waiting for a word from the Lord. This will call for patience among God's people (Revelation 1:9). We will be sent out with His word, not ours. It is this living word, spoken through His anointed messengers, that will set the captives free from the bondage of evil spirits. Unfortunately for Saul, and like many other disciples in Christ, he drifted from the Lord, leaving the path of righteousness, and was overcome by evil spirits.

Hosea 13:12-13 says *the iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; His sin is stored up* [which means “to hide; figuratively, to deny; to treasure or store up”]¹². *The pains of childbirth come upon him; He is not a wise son, for it is not the time that he should delay at*

the opening of the womb [which means “the place of breaking forth”]¹³. Like those who wait for the birth of a child, the Lord is eagerly waiting for His wise children to be revealed. Feeling the ever-increasing pressure of the Spirit upon their spirits at the end of this age, they will press forward, purifying their hearts by faith in order to lose their earthly image (1 Corinthians 15:47-49). With the help of the Great Physician's skilled hands (His trusted servants in the body), they will come forth. Their spiritual resemblance to their heavenly Father will be obvious to all.

At times I find myself hesitating to “come forth” per the summons of the Lord. The influence of the corrupt world in which we dwell has affected God's family more than we know. Fortunately, the Lord reaches out as He did with righteous Lot and his family right before the judgment of Sodom and leads His obedient ones out to a place of safety. Feeling the birth pains of the Spirit upon my spirit, I do not want to remain in the same place. I want to come forth and enter into His image in its fullness, its completeness. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Let's join ourselves together with Him, encouraging and exhorting one another to move forward, per His will, as we see His day approaching.



¹⁰ TGD

¹¹ SEC

¹² SEC/BDB

¹³ BDB

Gleaning the Jewish Remnant

In John 6 we read the account of Jesus feeding five thousand with five loaves and two fish. Verse 4 says that the feast of Passover was near at the time Jesus served this meal. It's critical to notice this because our time to partake of the final Passover "meal" also draws near. We will soon pass over to the other side to where Jesus now calls us. Through the miracle with the loaves and fish, the Lord is now revealing a mystery to us that is significant to the salvation of His people at the end of this age.

Note how Jesus goes to the other side of the Sea of Galilee where He feeds a multitude of people who were following Him. The Greek for Galilee is *galilaia*. It means "circuit, Galiloea; i.e. the heathen circle, a region of Palestine."¹ According to *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, Galilee was originally a district in the hill country of Naphtali inhabited by a mixed race of Jews and heathen (Gentiles). The Canaanites continued to dominate Galilee for many years after Joshua's invasion. It was historically known among the Jews as Galilee of the Gentiles (Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:15). Because of this, most likely there were both Jews and Gentiles gathered together in this group.

¹ Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (SEC)/ Thayer's Greek Dictionary (TGD)

In John 6:10, Jesus instructed those who had gathered to sit down in the grass. The Greek for the phrase *sit down* is *anapipto*, which means “to lie down, to recline at a table, to sit back.”² I see in this a picture of those who are seated at the Lord's table, much like the disciples in John 13 where they were partaking of a Passover meal. It was at this point the miracle happened.

Verses 11-13 tell us *Jesus therefore took the loaves; and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted. And when they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments that nothing may be lost.” And so they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who had eaten.*

Jesus took the five loaves and broke them into pieces. It miraculously became more than enough to feed the multitude in front of Him. Everyone eating what Jesus supplied was filled (satisfied) with some even left over. Within this is a picture of the final harvest of the earth.

Luke's account of the same event says:

And the day began to decline, and the twelve came and said to Him, “Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place.” But He said to them, “You give them something to eat!” And they said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we go and buy food for all these people.” (For there were about five thousand men.) And He said to His disciples, “Have them recline to eat in groups of about fifty each.” And they did so, and had them all recline. And He took the five loaves and the two fish,

and looking up to heaven, He blessed them, and broke them, and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the multitude. And they all ate and were satisfied; and that which was left over to them of the broken pieces was picked up [to lift up, to raise up, to elevate³], twelve baskets full. (Luke 9:12-17)

Near the end of the day in a desolate place, Jesus commands His disciples, *you give them something to eat*. As I've already stressed numerous times, we are now at the end of the “day.” This age is coming to a close. It will be in the same place, a desolate place, where we will find Jesus feeding His followers through a handful of broken disciples. At the hands of a few chosen servants, many will be fed.

Also, notice the orderly seating arrangement of the Lord in this passage. They were to sit in groups of about fifty per group. The significance of this number will be revealed in the near future, but what needs to be seen now is that His orders are very specific and must be followed. Nothing is to be taken lightly.

As far as feeding others, we cannot give what we do not possess. When Peter healed the lame man in Acts 3:6, he said to him, “*I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene – walk!*” After being broken in the hands of the Holy Spirit, the Bread of Life is placed within the inner storehouse of our soul. This bread is all we need to satisfy our spiritual hunger and that of others. Jesus said in John 6:51, “*the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh*” [which also means “body”⁴]. His people offer His life. However, as pictured at the Last Supper, unless Christ's disciples first immerse themselves in Him, submitting

³ TGD

⁴ SEC

² TGD

to His breaking in their lives, they will never receive the Bread of Life God commands them to distribute to others. Instead, like Judas, they fall away from their place near Christ, empty-handed and lifeless.

Most people who come to churches today to partake of Christ during a time of worship and teaching go home empty and unsatisfied. Many shepherds are starving God's children. They have replaced the bread of the Lord's presence with a counterfeit, manmade substitute. This is why the sheep leave unchanged with their inner emptiness remaining.

We hear many words from the pulpits today, as well as from Christian radio and television, but the majority are not from the Lord. The prophet Amos declared, *"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the LORD. And people will stagger from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, but they will not find it"* (Amos 8:11-12). You have to search far and wide these days to find even a crumb of the Bread of Life.

God's people are the loaf that is to be broken and then given out to this world for life. It's through the breaking that the Spirit is given without measure through us. Notice that the miracle of multiplication in John 6 came after the breaking. As Hebrews 6:14 promises, *"I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply you."* The point is, the blessing of being broken is multiplication.

In John 6, Jesus fed the gathered multitude with broken bread. As we've now seen, it's a picture of His disciples who have been broken at the hands of the Holy Spirit and then filled

with His life. After they were filled (the fullness of Romans 11), the remaining fragments were gathered up into twelve baskets. The Gentiles will be the first to enter into their fullness, their completeness in Christ, followed by the Jewish remnant entering into theirs. At this point, nothing and no one will be lost because all Israel will be saved. This is the Israel of God comprised of both Jews and Gentiles.

The first to reject Christ's offer, the Jewish portion, will now be last in receiving their full immersion which will result in the ushering in of the kingdom of God on the face of this earth. They are the final portion to be raised up. This is why Satan has tried to destroy them throughout history. Without them, the redemption of mankind will never come to completion and destroy his reign of terror.

The Final Work of the Bride

Looking back to Ruth, the second chapter, we see a Gentile woman (Ruth) who joined herself to an afflicted Jewish woman (Naomi) and her people. After hearing that God had visited His people, they returned to Israel where God in his providence leads Ruth to glean, or gather up, in the fields of a Jewish man named Boaz.

Gleaning means "to pick up, to gather." The work of the faithful servants of God in the end will be to gather the broken pieces left over in the fields of the Lord of the harvest. These fragments represent the final Jewish portion, bringing to completion the redemptive work of Christ on earth. The end will not come unless the Jews and Gentiles come together, pictured in type by Naomi and Ruth, and the final fragments are gathered. This is their final work together per the leading of God's Holy Spirit.

Ruth 2:15 says that she rose up and gleaned in Boaz' fields. When the bride of Christ arises at the end of this age by the touch of her Lord, she too will glean under the protective shadow of the Almighty in His fields with her Husband's power and authority over all things. In so doing, she reveals the "feet," the last portion of the body of Christ, in the way Ruth uncovered the feet of Boaz, her kinsman-redeemer (Ruth 3:4). This brings to completion the redemptive work of our kinsman-redeemer, Jesus, on earth.

The Finishing Work of Jesus

"It is finished." Through this proclamation on the cross, Jesus declared His accomplishment concerning all that was necessary for man to be redeemed. His full submission to the plan and will of God for His life on earth came to completion at Calvary. This is why Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:18, *the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved [in the process of sanctification] it is the power of God unto salvation.* We find the power of God's victory over the world, the flesh, and the Devil at the cross.

While on earth, Jesus humbled Himself and took a lesser position. His identification with us in that place of humility and the ensuing agony in His death are what granted Him all authority in heaven and on earth. God has chosen to redeem His creation through those who respond, like Jesus, to the call to enter into this lesser place before man.

When the Lord cannot find someone to stand in the gap, things on earth do not change. He has chosen to work through weak vessels to shame the things that are strong (1 Corinthians 1:27), that no man should boast before Him. It is only as we join

Him in the death of our wills that God's name will be glorified on earth.

In order for this age to end, we must finish the course He lays out before us through daily submission to His Spirit. Our attitude should be that of Paul who said in Acts 20:24, *"I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus"* (NIV). The Lord's work of salvation will be finished on earth as we follow His example and do the good works we were created in Christ Jesus to do (Ephesians 2:10).

In John 17:4, Jesus said in His prayer to the Father, *"I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do."* This age will come to completion when God's people complete His good works, thereby glorifying His name on earth. Satan has created false doctrines that de-emphasize the necessity of walking in good works in order to continue his domination over fallen mankind.

As we near the return of Christ, the Holy Spirit is exposing the lies of Satan that have leavened the church. Obedience to the truth will cleanse and expose the "feet" of Boaz, the lord of the harvest. If the feet of the Lord's body are never revealed, Satan cannot be crushed under them (Romans 16:20). Once everything in creation has been brought in subjection under the feet of Christ, a loud voice will proclaim in heaven, *"Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down"* (Rev. 12:10). O happy day!



It's Time to Draw Near

The story of Ruth and Boaz demonstrates for us what it means to draw near to God. *At mealtime* [like the last supper] *Boaz said to her, “Come here, that you may eat of the bread and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.” So she sat beside the reapers; and he served her roasted grain, and she ate and was satisfied* [filled¹] *and had some left* [left over, to exceed, to preserve²] (Ruth 2:14).

Boaz, who is a figure of Christ, asked Ruth to *come here*, which means “to draw near, to approach,”³ and partake of His food. It can also refer to sexual intimacy⁴. This is a picture of the spiritual intimacy the Lord desires with His bride. Only those who draw near at the Lord’s invitation in the closing moments of this age, engaging in intimate communion with Him through a repentant heart, will be involved with the reapers in the final harvest of the earth.

As previously discussed, the food of the Lord refers to doing the will of the Father on earth. When we do what He says, filling up that which lacks in regards to completing His works on earth, we will finally enter a state of being “full” (satisfied). Again, this is the fullness, the completion of His work on earth referred to by Paul in Romans 11. It’s at this point, having

1 Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon (BDB)

2 Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance (SEC)

3 BDB

4 *ibid*

satisfied the will of the Father, that we will enter into the final rest of Christ's complete redemption of mankind. The finished work of Jesus on the cross will have been fulfilled through His faithful servants on earth.

God's resting on the seventh day from His work of creating the universe is a picture of our rest in Him during the 1,000-year reign of Christ in the coming millennium. Through belief in false teachings, many in the body of Christ are already resting when they should be *doing* the good works in Christ Jesus they were created for. It's not yet time to rest!

By drawing near, Ruth partook of Boaz' bread, dipping her piece in the vinegar. Those who hear the call of God at the end of this age to draw near will be the ones partaking of the Bread of Life, who is Jesus. He promises in John 6:35, "*He who comes to Me will never go hungry.*" (NIV). Instead, we will become "full," bringing faith to completion.

Unlike Judas, Ruth remained with those involved with the harvesting of their master's fields (the reapers), partaking of the meal they ate with the kinsman-redeemer. At this "last supper" of the age, we will make the eternal decision to either forsake all and join with those disciples who are immersing themselves in Christ and His works, or to betray Him. It all boils down to one simple question; "Who will you deny; yourself, or Jesus Christ?" Our eternal destiny will be based upon our response.

To dip, in Ruth 2:14, is "to dip into, to plunge, to immerse."⁵ Ruth immersing her portion from the Lord of the harvest into vinegar represents the bitter portion of our Christian walk that we cannot avoid. His path of Calvary is our path; His destiny is

our destiny. We are *heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God* (Romans 8:17-19).

By definition, an heir is "a sharer by lot"⁶; he has obtained the portion allotted to him. As fellow heirs with Christ, we are also joint participants in experiencing His persecutions. Ruth is a type of the bride of the Redeemer who, in joining herself to Christ, understands she is also joining herself to His sufferings on earth.

Matthew 27:34 says when Christ was crucified they gave him vinegar to drink mingled with the bitterness of gall. Like Ruth, our identification with Him will come with the unpleasant ridicule of the ungodly, even those among God's family, as well as the shame of the cross. Not knowing what lie ahead, Ruth chose to forsake all and join herself to Naomi, the one who claimed *the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me* (Ruth 1:20). Ruth revealed her level of commitment through her willingness to lose her former identity. Like Ruth, by wholly immersing ourselves in Christ, allowing Him to wash us from the filth of this world (John 13:8), we will be granted an eternal portion in Him.

Throughout history, those with a heart similar to Ruth have been distinguished by the suffering they have embraced for the sake of their heavenly bridegroom. Orpah represents those who start to follow Christ, but after learning more in regards to the demanding terms of His covenant, turn back. When

5 SEC/BDB

6 SEC

confronted, they're unwilling to repent and forsake their half-heartedness toward the Lord. Like the disciples who had difficulty accepting Jesus' "hard word" revealed in the truth (John 6:60-70), they withdraw, falling away by choosing not to walk in submission to Him anymore. Few are those who remain in the narrow way of Christ, holding on faithfully to the end.



Chapter Fourteen

Crossing Over

Within the book of Joshua, the Lord has given us a picture of what we are about to experience. He has revealed, through Israel's journey, the preparations necessary for entering into the Promised Land of God, as well as the signal for when it's time to set out and cross over. It was Joshua, a type of Christ, who was raised up to lead the Israelites in their battles and put them in possession of the land. Those of us within the body of Christ who will be here for the end must listen closely to what the Spirit is revealing to us, just as Israel did with the instructions of God through Joshua. Safe passage will be determined by whether or not we are obedient to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Scripture is full of examples supporting the importance of obedience. As we learned earlier, the foolish virgins did not take seriously what they heard. Arrogant presumption on the goodness of God would exclude them from the wedding feast. Many Christians who ignore or minimize God's urging to prepare for His coming will find themselves in the same position.

Joshua understood the significance of obedience. As the time for Israel's crossing drew near, the Lord revealed His specific procedure, His way in. In Joshua 3:1-3 we are told *Joshua rose early in the morning; and he and all the sons of Israel set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan, and they lodged there before they crossed. And it came about at the end of three days that the officers went through the midst of the camp; and they*

commanded the people, saying, "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 and go after it."

Shittim (pronounced "shit-teem"), which means "acacia trees,"¹ has great significance as the last encampment of Israel before entering into Canaan. The acacia tree is known for its scourging thorns. I see within Israel's stop here a hidden reference of God to the final scourging, the final "foot-washing" of His people before we cross over.

Likewise, Joel 3:18 describes the coming effects of the pressure of God applied during the day of His judgment in the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement. It says, afterward a fountain will flow out of the Lord's house that will water *the valley of acacias* (NIV), or, as the King James Version says, *the valley of Shittim*. Although pressure is not typically pleasant, God's pressure always works for our good.

The fountain this verse refers to is the reviving life of the Lord that will be poured out in the last days, represented by the valley of Shittim, the place of His scourging. Figuratively, the Hebrew for fountain, *mayan*, refers to a source of satisfaction.² This source for being satisfied is the fountain of living water that flows from wherever the Lord's throne has been established. It's a place where His ruling authority flows outward from the hearts of those who have submitted to His cleansing and purging. The result will be a clear, pure stream not the least bit contaminated by the fallen nature of man (Rev. 22:1). At the end of the age, what the body of Christ has experienced in part will be entered into in its fullness, its perfection (1 Cor. 13:9-10).

1 Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (SEC)

2 SEC

The Signal For Crossing Over

When the Israelites saw the Levitical priests carrying the ark of the covenant, they were to set out from their place and go after it (Joshua 3:3). This is our signal as well. In this passage, the Lord is revealing His marching orders for His people. It's a hidden picture of what will occur at the end of this age when it's time for the Body of Christ to rise up and cross over into the place of our spiritual inheritance.

A key phrase in this mystery is "When you see..." God's people are now being made aware by the Holy Spirit what is about to take place in order to keep us awake and watchful. To be looking for the return of Christ in a state of spiritual preparedness is to keep our lives pure and undefiled from the wickedness in the world. All Christians are being awakened by the Spirit who is warning us in this midnight hour to shake off all worldly attachments and draw near to the Savior with clean hands and a pure heart.

The Hebrew for "carrying" is *nasa*, which, as most are aware, is the name for the United States space program. The definition for it is, "to lift, to bear up, to carry, to be exalted, to rise up."³ Through this passage, the Holy Spirit is revealing "what is yet to come" (John 16:13). It's about time for our liftoff, our departure from this earthy place of fleshly bondage into the glorious freedom in Christ. This is not a reference to the so-called "rapture," but rather the rising of the sons of God at the end of this age that have gained the glory of God. Because of their persistence in doing good as they seek for glory, honor, and immortality, they will be granted eternal life (Romans 2:7).

3 Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon

The Sons Of Kohath

In Numbers 7, the leaders of Israel brought offerings before the Lord once Moses had set up the tabernacle. The Lord told Moses *Accept these things from them, that they may be used in the service of the tent of meeting, and you shall give them to the Levites, to each man according to his service.* (v.5) Moses then did what the Lord said by distributing the offerings to the Levites as their service required.

Verse 9 tells us that *he did not give any to the sons of Kohath because theirs was the service of the holy objects, which they carried on the shoulder.* The Kohathites were from the tribe of Levi. In this passage Moses defines their service, which means “work of any kind, labor,”⁴ unto the Lord. They were responsible for the holy things, the sacred objects that were set apart for ministering unto the Lord which they carried (*nasa*) on their shoulders. It was the burden of the Lord they were called to carry in their service of God.

In a similar way, those who will be exalted in front of the Body to carry the ark of the covenant (the ark of His glorious presence and authority) will be those who have exalted Christ in their lives. They have willingly obeyed the call to take up a holy, separated life unto the Lord in service unto Him. Because of their sincere and pure devotion, they will be seated in a place of honor, leading the way for the Body of Christ. They will be exalted above their brothers who were not as careful in their walks. Their obedience has qualified them to lead God's people into the Promised Land of our spiritual inheritance in Christ.

Scripturally, to carry on the shoulders represents the authority of God that has been granted because of the willingness

⁴ Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (SEC)/ Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon (BDB)

to do what God has commanded. The Holy Spirit has placed upon them what many other spiritual leaders desire, but do not possess. Because their hearts are not right before God, the present leadership will be filled with jealousy and envy toward those who have been exalted by the Lord.

The Bible says the multitudes that heard Jesus during His public ministry *were amazed at His teaching, for he was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes* (Matthew 7:28-29). The only authority the people had witnessed was that of their corrupt, religious leaders. Unlike Jesus, they had no authority over the demons and unclean spirits because the evil spirits ruled over them. Instead, they ruled over the people with a heavy hand of oppression.

The same thing is occurring today within the majority of the leadership in the church. There is no life of Christ, just dead religion filled with useless rituals. The bulletin defines for God what He is supposed to do in His church on Sunday morning. Because they are not submitting to the rule of Christ over them, the demons rule in their congregations. The spiritual blindness to the truth, calling good evil and evil good is the evidence of their wicked presence. The psalmist's declaration aptly describes our day; *The enemy has damaged everything in the sanctuary. Your enemies roar in the midst of Your meeting place; they set up their banners for signs* (Psalm 74:3-4-NKJ). Like those who crucified Jesus, the envious leaders have bound Him and led Him away from their midst.

This did not happen overnight. Over a period of time, as the church slowly drifted in a sea of apathy, the devil slithered in and set up his doctrines. Lacking discernment, men accepted his teachings as truth and the authority of Christ was removed. Through the unbelief and disobedient hearts of God's people,

an open door was established allowing demons to freely roam about.

Because of Calvary, the wicked host must submit to the authority of Jesus. This is why demons work very hard to teach, without actually saying it, that you do not have to submit to God and take up your cross daily in order to still walk as a victorious Christian over the devil. The only way for Christ's authority to occur in our life over the enemy is when we walk in submission to the will of the Father. This was the key to Jesus' authority while on earth. It is, therefore, ours too.

God declared to Jeremiah, *An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule on their own authority; and My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?* (Jeremiah 5:30-31) As I already stated, the same thing applies today in regards to many spiritual leaders within the church in America. They rule by their own authority, instead of God's, and the church likes it!

I believe they like it because it allows for less commitment on their part. In their opinion, it's the hired clergy's responsibility to take care of the majority of the religious duties. We have become a very self-indulgent people that want a good coffee with interesting entertainment on Sunday mornings or we're going somewhere else. It's now all about us. Church, what will you do in the end?

Fully Allied To Christ

It's interesting that *Qeath*, the Hebrew for Kohath, means "to ally oneself, allied, assembly."⁵ I see in the Kohathites a picture of the priests in Joshua who are the signal for the crossing

to begin. They represent those who walk in perfect unity with one another because they have completely allied themselves to Christ, rather than a group or personality. They are presently being prepared by the Holy Spirit for their assembling together as one.

Because they listened and obeyed the final call of the Lord to consecrate themselves in preparation of what was about to transpire, they will be exalted above the rest of the Body. For those with eyes to see, their prominent position in front of all will be impossible to miss.

In 2 Thessalonians 2, when Paul defined what will happen at the return of Christ, he started by saying, *Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him...* (v. 1) The Greek for *gathering together* is *episunagoge*. It is described as "a complete collection, a gathering together in one place."⁶ Paul makes it clear this will not occur until the great apostasy come first, revealing the sons of destruction who have fallen away in rebellion from following Christ (v. 3-4).

The Greek word *episunagoge* is taken from another word, *episunago*, which means "to collect upon the same place, to bring together to others who are already assembled."⁷ Those who heard the last call to draw near, and responded in obedience, will rise up first. They will be a signal for others who will be gathered to them. Their exaltation will reveal the way in which others are to cross over. As some humbly join the appointed place of the Lord, they too will cross in safety. The extremely difficult times encountered in the last days will be the

⁶ SEC/ Thayer's Greek Dictionary (TGD)

⁷ SEC/ TGD

⁵ SEC/ BDB

motivation that will cause them to look toward Jesus Christ and seek the way of escape.

The majority (if not all) of those who are about to be exalted are not currently in a place of leadership within the church. Walking in a state of self-exaltation, most of the leadership in American churches suffers from a divided heart that is not fully sanctified unto the Lord. A part of their allegiance is still tied to man's structure exalted within their denominational groups. Like the chief priests and the Pharisees, they are threatened by the authority of those sent by God, afraid they will lose their "place" (John 11:48).

Jesus said, *everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted* (Luke 4:11). And again in James 4:10, *Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you*. Our deceived leaders are about to be humbled by the presence of the exalted ones. Currently, they are unknown. This will soon change.

Jesus is lifted up, exalted in front of mankind, when His people exalt Him through their obedience. Like the priests that carried the ark of the covenant over them, they have willingly placed themselves under His rule. They are truth-seekers who are *doers* of the word, not merely hearers who delude themselves (James 1:22).

The final gathering of God's people is about to occur. The signal for our rising up and setting out from our place will soon be manifested. Tragically, because of spiritual blindness caused by rebellion, most in the church will miss it.

Talking of the judgment of this world and the ruler of it being cast out, Jesus said, *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will*

draw all men to Myself (John 12:32). He was specifically speaking of His crucifixion. As we join Him in the crucified life, no longer living for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose again on our behalf, He will be exalted on earth (2 Corinthians 5:15). This is why Peter exhorts us, saying, *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time* (1 Peter 5:6). The proper time of the Lord is upon us.

Isaiah prophesied, *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government [rule, dominion]⁸ will rest on His shoulders [the place of burdens]⁹; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this* (Isaiah 9:6-7).

This is what the 1,000 year reign of the Lord will be based upon. It will be established and upheld with justice and righteousness through those who have had his government established within them. You cannot rule without, among man, until you have been ruled within, by God. The dominion of the Lord within us will determine the degree of dominion we will have outwardly in the millennium.

Those who will rule with the authority of Jesus Christ are soon going to be manifested before mankind. Their appearing will open the way for God's people to cross over to the other side. In order to recognize the signal from the Lord to set out from our place and follow those who have been raised up per

⁸ BDB

⁹ SEC

God's order, we must have a watchful heart. May we be doers of the word, preparing our hearts by faith so as not to miss the final crossing into the glorious presence of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!



Chapter Fifteen

The Providential Gap

*I*n Joshua 3:4-6, the Lord reveals the providential gap required for God's people to enter in. After commanding the Israelites to go after the ark when they saw the priests carrying it, Joshua said, *"However, there shall be between you and it a distance of about 2,000 cubits by measure. Do not come near [to approach, to draw near, to enter into]¹ it, that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed [to cross over, to pass over]² this way before."* Then Joshua said to the people, *"Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."* And Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, *"Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over ahead of the people."* So they took up the ark of the covenant and went ahead of the people.

It has been about 2,000 years since Christ was crucified and crossed over ahead of His people. This ordained measurement is how we know it's time for the body of Christ to cross over as well. We could not draw near to where He now is, passing over to the glorified place He stands, until this appointed time had passed. This is why He now declares to us with great urgency to get ready through consecration, which is the 911 cleansing.

It's time for our departure and the majority of God's people are neither looking nor listening. Due to the lethargic affect

¹ Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon (BDB)

² *ibid*

false teachings have unknowingly induced upon them, they see no need to do either. If they do not repent from their apathetic state, they will not cross over with the wise virgins who responded favorably to the Lord's final offer to the church.

We could not cross over into our inheritance in Christ until the new way was revealed. If it had been revealed to our faithful brothers and sisters in Christ any earlier, they would have entered in, bringing to completion the plan before the fullness of time had come. This is why, I believe, Jesus held back this knowledge. It is now time for us to set out from our place and go after it!

Joshua made the statement the Lord would do "wonders" among the children of Israel. The Hebrew for wonders is *pala'* which means "to be marvelous, to be wonderful, to be surpassing, to be extraordinary, to separate by distinguishing action."³ As with Israel, today is the day to act upon the word of the Lord so that when He does "wonders" among us "tomorrow," you will be distinguished before all as a sheep of the Lord rather than a foolish goat who did not prepare their heart.

A separation is occurring amongst those in the church. Those who are separating themselves unto the Lord through consecration will be separated from those who will receive His judgment. By cleansing themselves from the wickedness that has leavened the church, they will be protected in the coming storm that will engulf those who have fallen away in apostasy. The distinguishing mark of the Holy Spirit will be upon their spirits, protecting them from God's wrath.

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance

³ *ibid*

was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name. "And they will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him." So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him. (Malachi 3:16-18)

The priests of the Lord, referring to Christians (Rev. 1:6, 5:10, 20:6), are to consecrate themselves by faith in preparation of the final crossing. Their obedience to the command of the Lord to prepare themselves by faith, and then step into the place of His choosing, pictured in type by the Jordan River, will open the way for others in the body to cross over. They are the chosen ones of the Lord called to go out in front of His people. They are the choice ones because they have chosen to do what they have heard their Lord say. Not all will hear and do what the Spirit is saying to the church in the final moments of this age.

Their rising up before God's people will be our signal that it's time to cross over. You will be able to recognize them by the authority of Christ that rests upon them. They bear the weightiness of the glory of God, represented by the ark of the covenant that they carry on their shoulders. Theirs is a plural ministry in which they have complete unity by the Spirit of God that rests on them.

The New And Living Way In

The procedure of the Lord is now being revealed so that we may know the new way in. It's a way through which we have never passed over before. For Christians in the past, it was by death. In the end, it will be alive through acceptance of the *new*

and living way (Hebrews 10:20). Christ's life-giving power will transform those who have heard and obeyed His final offer.

Joshua 3:14-17 describes the actual crossing over for us:

So it came about when the people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant before the people, and when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped [to dip, to immerse]⁴ in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest), that the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan [which means "their distress"]⁵; and those which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea [Dead Sea], were completely cut off. So the people crossed opposite Jericho. And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan (NIV). This is the manner in which all Israel will be saved (Romans 11:26).

When the priests feet were dipped, immersed, in the edge of the Jordan, the waters that flowed to the Dead Sea stopped, creating the way for Israel to cross over. There are two key words in these verses. The Hebrew for *edge* is *qatseh*, which means "an extremity, a border, at the end of (a certain time)."⁶

Male, the Hebrew for *overflows*, is defined as "to be full, to be accomplished, to be ended, to complete, to be satisfied."⁷ From these two words you can see that we are now in a time of

⁴ SEC

⁵ BDB

⁶ *ibid*

⁷ *ibid*

great transition. As represented by the edge of the Jordan River that was overflowing in the days of harvest, the end of this age has come. As we step by faith into the place of cleansing, the old way will end, making way for the new order in Christ.

Joshua had said to the sons of Israel, "*And it shall come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest [to rest, to settle down and remain]⁸ in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, and the waters which are flowing down from above shall stand in one heap*" (Joshua 3:13).

The feet of the priests who carry the ark of the Lord resting in the waters is a picture of those who have immersed themselves in Christ and are resting in the flow of His will. They have rested from doing their own works in the power of the flesh. Because of their single-minded devotion to Christ, they are able to hear His present command to rise up and cross over ahead of the people. Their obedience and resting in the waters of the Jordan caused the waters that lead to death to be cut off, revealing the way (in Christ) for our crossing over. Without their obedience it would not have happened. God has chosen to work together with His people who live in submission to His will. His works are carried out on earth through human vessels.

Consider these examples of obedient servants from Scripture: If Noah hadn't responded to the word of the Lord spoken to him and built the ark of protection, no one would have been saved. If Moses did not lift up His staff and stretch out his hand over the sea as the Lord commanded him, Israel would have never escaped the Egyptians. If the priests hadn't

⁸ SEC/BDB

responded by faith to the word of the Lord spoken through Joshua by stepping into the Jordan River, the waters would have never parted for Israel to cross over into the Promised Land.

Throughout the Bible the Jordan River was used as a place of cleansing. Naaman, the captain of the army of the king of Aram, was healed of leprosy after dipping himself seven times in the Jordan River per the instruction of Elisha the prophet. Later, it was used to baptize those who repented of their sin by John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord within them. It symbolizes the appointed place of cleansing by the Holy Spirit before our literal crossing over to the promised eternal inheritance in Christ. There is no alternate bridge; we must step by faith into the transforming waters of God's choosing.

As you can see, Joshua 3 contains a mystery the Lord is now revealing for the safe passage of His children. The image of the priests dipping their feet in the edge is a confirmation of our need as the feet of the body of Christ for the final cleansing at the time of our crossing over. We are at the edge, the end of this age, about to enter into the next.

A river flows between us and our Promised Land in Christ that begins at Adam's fall and runs to where it empties into a sea of eternal death, which is represented by the Dead Sea. Without the protection and direction of *Yeshua*, Jesus Christ, it's impossible for mankind to cross over safely. We will be swept away, like the rich man, into a place of eternal torment. Jesus is the only one with the power to cut off the river that leads to death. He is the way of life for all who turn to Him in repentance.

Notice that it was at harvest time the river overflowed. By definition, this is another confirmation that at the time of the

harvest of the earth, those immersed in the river will be the ones entering into the fullness of God. In this place they will eat and be satisfied.

If we, the church, do not allow the Holy Spirit to wash us in this midnight hour, we will not have any part in Christ and His final ministry at the end of this age. This is our "last supper" with Jesus and His disciples. It's the last call for the church to draw near and be cleansed. Those who respond in obedience will be His vessels for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master for every good work (2 Timothy 2:21). Those who refuse this offer will be cast out into a dark night of sheer terror.

It is imperative that we quickly respond to the Lord's last call. There will be dire consequences for those who hesitate. A man I know who damaged his shoulder provides us with a timely illustration of urgency. After the injury, he went to the doctor, who informed him that he had about a one-month window of opportunity to treat and heal the shoulder properly. After this time, the tissue would be in a state where it could not be restored.

An issue with insurance ended up taking six months to straighten out. Sure enough, when he called the doctor to let him know that treatment could proceed, he was informed, as he had been warned, it was simply too late.

We are now in a window of opportunity per the warning of the Great Physician. To miss this moment of spiritual cleansing and healing is to miss God's final offer of peace and safety in the terrifying times about to take place. There will not be another chance, ever. I pray that you and I would respond to His last offer, lest we become the useless chaff that will be burned in the fiery judgments that will cleanse the earth. Praise the

name of the Lord who alone will be praised at the end of this “day.”

The end of the age draws near. While there is still time, *let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us* (Hebrews 12:1 NIV). Blessed are those who hear and do what the Spirit says to the church... one last time. This truly is “the end.” Amen.



About The Author

Tim has been entrusted with an urgent message from the Lord for His people. On January 19, 2004, Shelley, his wife, experienced a major stroke at the age of 44 that almost claimed her life. Soon afterward, the Lord began to share His heart with Tim concerning the present condition of His Bride in America. It was revealed to him that, though she appears to be almost dead, like his bride was, she too will be resurrected through the difficult circumstances we are about to experience.

Tim and Shelley have been called to what he refers to as a “finishing” ministry for the Body of Christ. Tim believes the truths the Lord is now revealing to His people as we near the end of this age are to prepare us for His imminent return. The Body of Christ has been leavened with many false teachings from our enemy, the devil, to keep us from growing up in Christ. According to Tim, there is only one true church that will be united in Spirit, and in truth. The Lord revealed to him that He will cleanse His Bride, preparing her to enter His presence, by applying extreme pressure at the end of this age.

A couple of months after his wife's stroke, the Lord called Tim to leave his job as a tool designer and come work full time for Him. The need for revival among the church has been a burden the Lord has laid upon his heart since giving his life to Christ in February, 1984. Their non-traditional call led Tim and Shelley to a home fellowship and discipleship ministry years ago.

Tim and Shelley Bauer now reside in west Michigan. They have been blessed with five children, as well as grandchildren. Through many difficult experiences, the Lord has molded them for the fulfillment of His call in their lives. For more information regarding their ministry, go to their website at www.capstone-ministries.com. Contact Tim and Shelley at 911lastoffer@gmail.com. Also, visit their Facebook page at "911 Tim Bauer" for further revelations, updates on upcoming books, and future events.

Additional Books

Tim has published other books as well that are available through his website (www.capstone-ministries.com).

Walking In The Light includes many revelations from the Lord regarding the vital importance of small groups and discipleship. Through numerous insights, he makes known God's way of creating a healthy spiritual family where all members are involved, actively engaged in the care and nurture of one another.

The Plague Of Abortion proves, biblically, that the sin in the church affects the wombs within a society. Having undergone an abortion before they were married, Tim and Shelley speak from personal experience. The innocent blood of millions of babies cries out from our polluted soil.

Comfort For The Suffering is a part of Shelley's devotional she wrote in right after her stroke. It is from the very popular *Streams In The Desert* daily devotional written years ago by Mrs. Charles Cowman. Contained within this book are some of her personal struggles with all of the physical and emotional highs and lows. It is a very personal part of her story that will bless anyone who takes the time to read and meditate on the priceless nuggets, especially those who are going through a similar state of suffering. Tim and Shelley have personally experienced the removal of the dark clouds of hopelessness through the light and love of Jesus Christ's embrace.