

“Thy Kingdom Come”
In
EARTH

By: Segundina T. Valenzona

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“Thy Kingdom Come” In EARTH

Written by the Same Author

Visions: More Witness For Christ
Beyond The Glorious Voice
The Promise of Eternal
The Covenant of Peace
The Wisdom of God
Textbook In Biblical Studies

Tracts:

The Trumpet of A Watchman
The Lord’s Invitation: “Come Unto Me”
The Gift of Love & Eternal Life

Preface

Apparently, the title of the book which is quoted from the Messiah's Model Prayer is expressive of the fact that the establishment of the heavenly Kingdom in earth has been the foremost and the center of our Father's concerns since the world began. In fact, research and records say that the phrase "Kingdom of Heaven" is used over thirty times in the scriptures and the phrase "Kingdom of God" over fifty times.

Obviously, aside from the Messiah's constant use of the phrases "**Kingdom of Heaven**" and **Kingdom of God**" which generally bear the same meaning, the Old Testament also reveals that the Father has made known His Ways and Will to man through the prophets for the same purpose. The Father has been in search for people whose hearts are after His own Heart; people who are faithful and responsible enough to rule the earth according to His perfect Will so that the earth will become His Kingdom together with His children.

Impressively, the Apostle Paul declares:

God's anger is revealed from heaven against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known. God punishes them, because what can be known about God is plain to them, for God Himself made it plain. Ever since God created the world, His invisible qualities, both His eternal power and His divine nature, have been clearly seen; they are perceived in the things that God has made. So those people have no excuse at all!

They know God, but they do not give Him the honor that belongs to Him, nor do they thank Him. Instead, their thoughts have become complete nonsense, and their empty minds are filled with darkness. They say they are wise, but they are fools;

instead of worshiping the immortal God, they worship images made to look like mortal man or birds or animals or reptiles. And so God has given those people over to do the filthy things their hearts desire, and they do shameful things with each other. They exchange the truth about God for a lie; they worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator Himself who is to be praised forever! (Romans 1: 18-25).

Thus, “Thy Kingdom Come” In Earth is written not by a well trained writer or one who had chosen writing as her career but by the Heavenly Father’s Call, Anointing and Will. It is therefore gladly written with much prayer and hope that through this book the Father will be able to intimately share to the people His concern and desire to establish His Kingdom in earth. It is also hoped that through this book every reader will find help, enlightenment, guidance, and inspiration to worship the Father in spirit and in truth and to do their best **to be counted worthy in the Father’s Kingdom**, remembering that the scripture says, “We must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of heaven.” Remembering also that Yahshua the Messiah Himself boldly said, “Many are called but few are chosen.” In another occasion He also declared:

Not everyone who calls me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do. When the judgment Day comes, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord! In Your Name we spoke God’s message, by your Name we drove out many demons and **performed many miracles!** Then I will say to them, **I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!** (Matthew 7: 21-23).

Above all, it is the author's earnest prayer that through this book, "the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached through all the world for a witness to all mankind; and then the end will come, " HalleluYah!

Note: *In this book, "Thy Kingdom Come" In Earth, the author opted to use the Hebrew Name of the Father, YHWH or Yahweh instead of God, and for the Son, Yahshua the Messiah instead of Jesus Christ except in the quotations and perhaps also in some other pages.*

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Lovingly Dedicated

to

Andrew & Sophia

and

All My Descendants

CHAPTER ONE

What Is A Kingdom?

The Kingdom we will be talking about is not an ordinary or anybody's kingdom, but the Kingdom of our Father in heaven. This Kingdom is the place where our Father and His Son our Savior and King reign supreme.

It is also the place where righteousness dwells. "But we wait for what God has promised: new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will be at home"(II Peter 3: 13). The place where good, pure, and perfect things are found such as: perfect goodness, peace, and love. Perfect health, beauty, and joy. The place where perfect human beings dwell and enjoy life to the fullest together with the whole creation or other created beings.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8: 18-23

Romans chapter eight verses eighteen to twenty three explicitly tell us that even those who have received salvation through faith in the Messiah still suffer together with the whole creation. Our bodies together with the whole world still groan, meaning, our freedom from bondage which is the result of faith in the Messiah is not yet complete or perfect in spite of the redemptive works of the Messiah. The works of the Messiah were perfect and complete; He had done what He was supposed to do for us. But, it is our task and responsibility to use the authority and power He has given to us in order to defeat the enemy and to

build the Father's Kingdom in earth in His Name – Yahshua the Messiah. For, only when the whole earth has become the Kingdom of our Father can we truly say that our salvation and freedom is perfect and complete. One famous writer wrote and I quote, "It is clear that at the end of the age there will be an army of believers raised up who will not settle for occasional advances—they have committed themselves to fight and will not stop until there is the complete victory over the enemy. Until the earth has been completely recovered from the domain of Satan, our fight is not yet over." Rick Joyner

The Father gave to Yahshua the Messiah all authority and power over all the creation but we (mankind) are the ones to rule the earth in the name of Yahshua the Messiah (Matthew 28: 18-20). In fact, Yahshua the Messiah Himself said: Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto the Father (John 14: 12). While Paul in Philippians chapter two verses twelve to fourteen also encourages the believers saying:

So then, dear friends, as you always obeyed me when I was with you, it is even more important that you obey me now while I am away from you. Keep on working with fear and trembling to complete your salvation, because God is always at work in you to make you willing and able to obey His own purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may be innocent and pure as God's perfect children, who live in a world of corrupt and sinful people.

Philippians 2

Right now, as the scripture says, we are living in a world filled with corrupt and sinful people. The believers, no matter how good their faith may be are still affected by the corruptibility of this world and the ways of sinful people around. Indeed, our bodies still groan and suffer. Suffer from hardship for the sake of truth and righteousness. Suffer from hunger or starvation, from

sickness, from all forms of oppression and for many other reasons. Suffer for the sake of the Gospel and the Kingdom. But, rejoice! For our redemption is at hand. Our Father is holy; it is impossible for Him to lie. He promised: "Whosoever endures unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24: 13). "And he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations" (Revelation 2:26).

I reiterate therefore that the salvation we received when we first believed and accepted the Messiah is personal, and it is salvation from our former condition. A condition where we lived in darkness, bound by satan, filthy, bruised, and ugly. After we believed and accepted the Messiah we became new creatures; free from the bondage of the enemy, washed and cleansed by the blood of the Lamb but that is not all it takes to be in the Kingdom of righteousness and peace. Rather, we have now the responsibility to make use of the redemptive works of the Messiah. Use the authority and power which Adam and Eve lost to satan yet redeemed by the Messiah and given back to man. Use them to overcome the enemy with the one hand, and to establish the Father's Kingdom in earth with the other hand.

CHAPTER TWO

Yahweh's Plan and Purpose For Our Lives

There is nothing in the world which Yahweh created that has no value and purpose at all. Even the most commonly perceived as useless dust has its unique and incomparable purpose and value in the history of mankind.

But how many of us are aware of this or are eager to know Yahweh's purpose of our lives? What is Yahweh's purpose for mankind? How many of the people are moving towards the fulfillment of that purpose?

Let us review what Yahweh said in the beginning. He said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So Yahweh created man in His own image, in the image of Yahweh created He him; male and female created He them. And God said to them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: And have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth (Genesis 1: 26-28).

When Yahweh said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: I am sure He primarily wanted man to be holy as He is Holy (Leviticus 20: 7; I Peter 1:16). Specially, He wanted man to possess His virtue known as fruit of the Holy Spirit, such as: love, peace, joy, patience, gentleness, goodness, meekness, temperance or self-control. And the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as: faith, wisdom, knowledge, prophecy, discerning, healing, miracles, etc. and use them for the Father's glory.

When we are clothed with the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit, we become the image of the Creator. We manifest His

character and nature. However, this does not happen automatically. We need to grow in our knowledge of the Father. Grow in the knowledge of the truth day by day just as our physical body grows day by day. We should grow from glory to glory until we become perfectly mature physically and spiritually in order to fulfill Yahweh's mandate to multiply, replenish the earth, subdue it, and have dominion over the earth.

Yahweh has specific and general purposes of each of His creature. For example, His specific purpose of the life of one man maybe different from that of another man. Yahweh's purpose of one man maybe to become a minister, to another man to become a ruler, to another to become a dedicated physician. To another to be a good and effective teacher, still to another to be a good and honest businessman or brave and responsible soldier, and etc. But Yahweh's general and ultimate purpose for all mankind is to be holy. And to worship Him in the beauty of holiness, to glorify Him forever and ever!

In other words, whatever is man's career or profession, whether he is a farmer, a fisherman, a lawyer, a teacher, he ought to do his job with all sincerity, humility, honesty, and devotion to glorify the Father. Men should totally submit to the Almighty Father and allow Him to have dominion over their lives so that they in turn will have dominion over the fish, the fowls, the animals, and over the whole earth. And, just as man has reverence for Yahweh Almighty and the Messiah, these other created beings such as animals will also have reverence for man. They will recognize man as their good and true master, and never dare to harm their master.

Those who read the Holy Bible must be familiar with the story of Daniel who as a young man became captive to Babylon. Because Daniel was faithful to Yahweh in all circumstances, Yahweh blessed him with wisdom, good health and strength. So from being an ordinary captive he was promoted to a very

honorable position. The King put Daniel in charge of the whole empire.

But Daniel's co-officials got jealous of him. They plotted against Daniel and they succeeded in convincing the King, King Darius to issue a decree or a law, the Law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be changed. The law states that for the next thirty days anyone who requested anything from any god or from any man except from the King himself, would be thrown into a pit filled with lions (Daniel 6).

The decree did not hinder Daniel from praying to Yahweh. So to make the long story short, against the will of the King, Daniel was thrown into the pit filled with lions.

At dawn, the following day, the King got up and hurried to the pit. There, he called out anxiously, "Daniel, was the Elohim you serve so loyally able to save you from the lions?"

Daniel answered, "Your Majesty! Yahweh my Elohim sent His angel to shut the mouths of lions so that they would not hurt me. He did this because He knew that I have not wronged you."

Truly, "All things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." Daniel's painful and terrible condition was turned into blessings not only for Daniel and for the courage it gave to the Israelites but even for us now. This incident clearly reminds us that when man has not wronged anyone, neither his Creator and Savior nor man; when he is innocent of any sin; when man does what is good and right through faith; when man is holy, all other creatures would certainly recognize man as their master. Even the wildest and fiercest of them like serpents and lions will obey him. Prophet Isaiah also made this known to us saying, "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lions shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountains." HalleluYah!

CHAPTER THREE

The Holy Spirit: Its Fruit & Gifts

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth whom the Messiah promised to send to His disciples to lead the disciples into all the truth while He is away (John 16). There are several gifts and a bunch of fruit of the Holy Spirit. Galatians chapter five has records of all the fruit and I Corinthians chapter twelve has listed all the gifts.

The Subject Holy Spirit: It's Fruit and Gifts is very broad and interesting but let us focus our attention only to topics which are really important and of great interest to everybody.

In this chapter also are reprinted the beautiful and meaningful poems which Apostle Paul, King Solomon, and the author made for Love and Wisdom, a fruit and a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Who Can Have The Holy Spirit?

The Holy Scripture says that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost (I Corinthians 3: 16). Does this mean or does it follow that every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit? Consider that there are believers who do not do the will of God, I would say, No! For the Holy Spirit is a gift to the believer who obeys the will of the Father. The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey God (Acts 5: 32, KJV; Romans 5: 5, TEV).

However, Hebrews 1: 14 says that angels are sent to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation. I suppose these angels are to help the believers obey the Will of the Father so that eventually they will become temples of the Holy Spirit, and heirs of Salvation. "For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified" (Romans 2: 13). "Be ye

doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1: 22).

Functions of the Holy Spirit

1. He will guide you into all truth.
2. He gives revelation; He will tell you what is yet to come (John 16: 12).
3. He gives instruction what to do (Acts 8: 29).
4. He comforts and helps the believers for He is the Comforter and Helper (John 16: 7).
5. He chooses and reveals truth (Acts 1: 24).
6. He strengthens and encourages the believers (Acts 9: 31).
7. He gives power to do mighty things such as miracles (Acts 2).

Now let us turn to hear what the Apostle, and King say about love and wisdom.

The Greatest Is Love

By: Apostle Paul

If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them, and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise. If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love. If I gave everything I have to poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching

the gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever.

Love is very patient and kind, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will always be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.

All the special gifts and power from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever. Someday prophecy and speaking in unknown languages, and special knowledge-these gifts will disappear. Now we know so little, even with our special gifts, and the preaching of those most gifted is still so poor. But when we have been made perfect and complete, then the need for these inadequate special gifts will come to an end, and they will disappear.

It's like this: when I was a child I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I became a man my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away childish things. In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we are peering at his reflection in a poor mirror but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face to face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now.

There are three things that remain – faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love.

The Nature Of Wisdom

By: King Solomon

The spirit of wisdom is intelligent and holy. It is of one nature but reveals itself in many ways. It is not made of any material substance, and it moves about freely. It is clear, clean, and confident; It cannot be harmed. It loves what is good. It is sharp and unconquerable, kind, and a friend of humanity. It is dependable and sure, and has no worries. It has power over everything. It penetrates every spirit that is intelligent and pure, no matter how delicate its substance may be.

Wisdom moves more easily than motion itself; she is so pure that she penetrates everything. She is a breath of God's power – a pure and radiant stream of glory from the Almighty. Nothing that is defiled can ever steal its way into Wisdom. She is a reflection of eternal light, a perfect mirror of God's activity and goodness. Even though Wisdom acts alone, she can do anything. She makes everything new, although she herself never changes. From generation to generation she enters the souls of holy people, and makes them God's friends and prophets. There is nothing that God loves more than people who are at home with Wisdom. Wisdom is more beautiful than the sun and all the constellations. She is better than light itself, because night always follows day, but evil never overcomes Wisdom. Her great power reaches into every part of the world, and she sets everything in useful order.

The Value Of Wisdom

By: King Solomon

Wisdom shines bright and never grows dim; those who love her and look for her can easily find her. For she is quick to make herself known to anyone who desires her...If you look for her, you will soon find peace of mind, because she will be looking for those who are worthy of her, and she will find you wherever you are. She is kind and will be with you in your every thought.

Wisdom begins when you sincerely want to learn. To desire Wisdom is to love her; to love her is to keep her laws; to keep her laws is to be certain of immortality; immortality will bring you close to God.

This desire for wisdom can prepare you to rule a Kingdom. So then, you that rule the nations, if you value your thrones and symbols of authority, honor wisdom so that you may rule forever.

Love – Who Art Thou?*

*Thou art with me, yet
I have not seen Thee,
Thou are sweet and lovable
Yet I have not touched Thee.
Thou art so good and wonderful!
But how can mortal man fully
Know Thee?*

*When I look up the sky with its
Bright Sunlight,
When I behold the beauty of the
Stars and the moonlight in the night,*

*I can only imagine how beautiful
 Thou art!
 When I hear the waves roll,
 Feel the warmth of the sea breeze
 And the coolness of the mountain air,
 I know Thou art not far but near.
 Yes I know Thou art here
 And Thou art so very near,
 For great and tender is Thy care!*

*But Love – Who art Thou?
 How can man truly know Thee?
 And who can fully comprehend
 Thy Mystery?
 Love – Thy Greatness is unsearchable!*

* *This poem was composed by the author sometime in 1980 at the beach during a summer camp, and first published in the book Beyond The Glorious Voice.*

Love And Wisdom Compared With Lovers

Love (Woman): I am sweet; full of splendor, and beauty. Every male around me envies my sweetness, and desires to own what belongs to me. I am of great price for without me, there could be no life, and if ever there is, it would be meaningless.

Wisdom (Man): Like every other male, I desire your beauty and envy your sweetness. I tried over and over; I've gone here and there to search for, that I may be blessed with the

things you possess. But now I realize I can't; I really can't unless I own the holder of the beauty and sweetness!

Love: I pause, meditate, and wonder why? My splendor, beauty, and sweetness do not seem to satisfy?

Wisdom: I am very gentle yet powerful. By me, the waves roll, the wind blows, the sun shines, and the flowers bloom. With me you will be fruitful and your splendor, sweetness, and beauty will become meaningful and useful!

Love: You are right! Come, let us unite, so that what you have can be mine, and what is mine can be yours. And all that is beautiful and precious shall be ours. Then we will fill the world with wonderful fruits!

Wisdom: So then, you are no longer alone; for I am yours and you are mine. Come, let us be one, so that together we will completely subdue the earth. Let us multiply, and replenish it; let us take dominion over the whole earth!

CHAPTER FOUR

Be Fruitful, Multiply, Replenish, Subdue, And Have Dominion Over The Earth

You must have noticed the sequence of Yahweh's words to Adam and Eve at the time of creation Yahweh first said.

Be Fruitful

Many times in the Holy Scriptures man is compared to a tree. For example, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1: 1-3). "...That they might be called trees of righteousness; the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified" (Isaiah 61:3 KJV). Blessed is that man that trusteth in the Lord... For he shall be as trees planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruits" (Jeremiah 17: 7-8, KJV).

Everybody knows that before someone can make use of a tree, enjoy its shade and fruit, a seed has to be planted. This planting must receive the necessary elements like water, air, sunshine, the care of the gardener, and etc. in order to grow into a mature tree, give shade and bear fruits.

The Holy Scripture also tells us that a tree is known by its fruits, and a good tree bears good fruits (Matthew 12: 33). Evidently, this principle of planting, growth, development, and the bearing of fruits of a tree applies also to the growth and development of man. The only difference is that man has both

body and spirit. That is why aside from the food we eat for the development of our physical body, we should “eat” the words of our Father and Savior because His words are the food for our spirit. “Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh” (Matthew 4: 4). In another instance, the Messiah also said: Be ye perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5: 48). To be perfect is to grow both in body and spirit; to grow into the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Messiah (Ephesians 4: 13).

In other words, every human being-man and woman should grow into perfect maturity both in body and spirit in order to have perfect understanding of the Father’s Will, and perfect relationship with Him before he thinks or decide to multiply his species or his own kind. Then, in such case their offsprings will be good and perfect because they are fruits of the perfect trees or fruits of the perfected human beings; a couple and a family that is truly fruitful because it was nourished, nurtured, and very well cared for physically and spiritually. “The planting of the Lord for His own glory!”

Multiply

With advance technology, the world has no more problems with multiplication. In fact, it is easier to multiply than to divide just as it is easier to receive than to give; to spend than to earn, to enjoy than to sacrifice.

Generally, it is good to multiply something. But good and sensible people should know what they are multiplying and for what purpose. If we multiply our resources: money, talents, skills, and other assets for good, thanks be to the Father! If we multiply ourselves after we have become perfectly mature in body and spirit or after having a life of perfect oneness with the Father through faith, praise be to Him, for we will be establishing families of perfect goodness and harmony.

When Almighty Yahweh said, “Be fruitful and multiply”, surely, that is what He meant; to multiply after we have equipped ourselves spiritually and physically so that the family that we establish will be fruitful or productive and useful citizens of the country. But sad to say that the world has been actively multiplying many undesirable things. “Bad nature”, bad character and conduct, bad attitude; bad plans and actions are rapidly increasing. However, this is not surprising because that is really the nature of sin. It is contagious; it rapidly contaminates others. Almighty Yahweh said to Prophet Haggai, Ask now the priest concerning the law, saying, If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priest answered and said, No. Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean...touch any of these things, shall it be unclean? And the priest answered and said, it shall be unclean. Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the Lord; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean (Haggai 2: 11-14 KJV).

Replenish The Earth

What do we mean by replenish the earth? Replenish means to fill again.

Let us consider this: Before Almighty Yahweh created man, the Creator filled the earth first with all good things. The book of Genesis has a complete record of this account but for the purpose of refreshing ourselves on certain things concerning the creation, let us review them. First, the earth was formless. The raging ocean covered everything and there was total darkness. Then Yahweh said, let there be light and there was light. Yahweh separated the light from darkness and He called it Day and Night. He made a dome and He named the dome “Sky” and Yahweh said, Let the water below the sky come together so that land will appear. He named the land Earth and the water Sea. Yahweh was very pleased with what He saw. He commanded, Let the earth

produce all kinds of plants – those that bear grain and those that bear fruits. He made the sun, the moon, the stars, and commanded the water to be filled with living beings, the air to be filled with birds. He commanded the earth to be filled with animals and He told them to increase in number. And Yahweh said, now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. I have provided all kinds of fruits for you to eat...., the whole universe was completed, that was the sixth day. By the seventh day Yahweh finished what He had been doing and stopped working. He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day (Genesis 1,2: 1-3).

Take note that before Yahweh made human beings, everything that man needed had been provided. But Yahweh also said to the first human beings, replenish the earth. Yahweh knew that in the long run human beings would increase and these foods which He had provided for them would be depleted. Therefore, man has to replenish what he had used or consumed so that every human being especially the coming generations will be provided with food even before they are born.

Sadly, the earth's resources have been seriously depleted due to greed and other forms of wickedness. In fact, a prophet has lamented: "Our land had dried and the grass in every field has withered. Animals and birds are dying because of wickedness, the land mourns and the people languish; animals, birds, and even the fish of the sea are perishing." Consequently, thousands become victims; thousand live in extreme hardship and painfully dying for lack of food because the strong devours everything within his reach leaving nothing to the weak.

When shall men learn to love, not to grab? When shall men learn to do the Will of the Father? To give and build instead of destroy, even as the Father has given to us His Son for our salvation? Remember, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" and Yahshua the Messiah also said: "I came not to be served but to serve."

Subdue The Earth And Have Dominion Over It

Why the command to subdue the earth? Does the earth have power and the tendency to subdue man? Observation and common sense will tell us that every created thing in the universe has a natural force or power. Therefore these created things have the tendency to conquer man.

Look at the ocean, and the rivers for examples. They have mighty force. Man cannot just plunge himself carelessly into the ocean or else he will be torn into pieces or drowned. We can also recall that one of the most striking things Yahshua the Messiah said to His disciples was: "Be wise as serpents and be harmless as doves" (Matthew 10: 16). Indeed, the serpent is wise, he has the ability to deceive and subdue man. In fact, thousands of years ago he had done it seriously to Adam and Eve. The Serpent has also the ability to make use of the creation for the furtherance of his purpose and kingdom through the people who love darkness rather than light. Therefore, the children of light must be wise even wiser than the serpent through reverence, obedience, and faithfulness to the Father, and by developing the gifts, skills and abilities which the Father bestowed upon them in order to subdue the earth and make use of the creation for the establishment of His Kingdom.

We used the ocean and the rivers as our examples. What about small creatures? It maybe strange but it is true that small creatures have conquered man to a certain degree. For instance the locusts and the rats. History reveals that locusts and rats have destroyed plants such as rice and corn and cause many men to suffer. Another good examples are the mosquitos and other harmful germs that cause epidemic and death. What else? Certainly, there can be many more for our realization of the fact that if man will continue to be careless and disobedient, time will come when small creatures will completely subdue and destroy human beings.

Understandably, by ourselves we can do nothing for Yahshua the Messiah said: "Without me, you can do nothing." But through our faith in Him we can do all things for He is our power, our wisdom, our victory and success through His death and resurrection in calvary!

CHAPTER FIVE

Sin As A Master

When we speak of a master, what immediately comes into our minds is a being who is superior and one who rules over another. Little did people realize that this three-letter-word, sin, can be a terrible master. The truth is, for centuries or thousands of years now sin has taken dominion over millions of individuals in the world. Therefore, sin has been the master of many people, the master of the world. "The world is under the rule of the Evil One" (I John 5: 19).

Surely you know that when you surrender yourselves as slaves to obey someone, you are in fact the slaves of the master you obey-either of sin, which results in death, or of obedience, which results in being put right with God (Romans 6: 16).

At the time you followed the world's evil way; you obeyed the ruler of the spiritual power in space, the spirit who now controls the people who disobey God (Ephesians 2: 2).

Whoever commits sin is the servant of sin (John 8: 34).

Man is to be the ruler and good steward of the world as explained earlier. But the scriptures declare that he who surrenders himself to sin becomes a slave of sin. Sin is a terrible and powerful master. It has power to destroy and bring its slaves to eternal death. When sin is in control over man, it manifests in the flesh; it is also called the works of the flesh such as: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, wrath, strife, sedition, heresies, envying, murder, drunkenness, revellings; cowards, traitors, perverts, immorals, liars, those who practice magic, those who worship idols. These persons shall not inherit the Kingdom of God (I Corinthians 6: 9; Revelation 21: 7-8).

It is because of sin that the mandate of Yahweh Almighty to man to become "Fruitful, Replenish the Earth, Subdue, Have Dominion over the Earth," have not been fulfilled yet. Until now the fulfillment of this mandate is still a dream to many of us, but a great responsibility to them who are eager to do the Will of the Father.

When the Messiah taught His disciples to pray, He said:
Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth
As it is in heaven (Matthew 6).

Clearly the said prayer is an expression of the Father's greatest desire to establish His Kingdom in earth. But, what made it remain a desire for thousands of years now? Until now the establishment of the Father's Kingdom is still an aspiration because the Father cannot do it alone, I mean, He cannot do it without our wholehearted cooperation because there is no King without men or a kingdom to rule. The Father has to rule over our lives through His Anointed King in earth so that He can establish His Kingdom, for in fact, He establishes it through us.

When Yahshua the Messiah said, "Repent, for the Kingdom is at hand." He was appealing to the people to turn from their sin because the King the Father long wanted to rule the earth was with them already. In other words, He was saying, believe that I am sent by the Father or believe that I am the Anointed King of the Father. Follow me; be under my rule so that the earth will become the Father's Kingdom with me as your Leader. "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake (John 14: 11).

John chapter eight also tells us that the Messiah said to the people: If God really were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God, and now I am here. I did not come on my own authority, but He sent me. Why do you not understand what I say?

CHAPTER SIX

The Consequence of Sin

Sin Can Lead To Disorder And Suffering

One who faithfully studies the Holy Bible cannot escape from the conclusion that sin is the cause of all the problems in the world. What is worse, sin has painful consequences. Sometimes, the effect is immediate and it involves only the person concerned but in most cases, the effect takes a longer term and process, and it also involves not only the person concerned but the whole family, whole nation, and the whole world.

The very sin that first affected the whole world was the sin committed by the first human beings. The sin of disobedience or rebellion against the Will of the Father (Genesis 2: 15-17; 3:1-6). This sin has greatly affected the whole world and human race. It is by this sin that mankind had lost his sovereignty over the creation. Since then the beautiful world which Yahweh created; the very peaceful and orderly world which He had in mind has become a filthy, ugly, and chaotic one. As a result, the whole world or human race suffer. Almost everything has been misused, misplaced, some are mistreated or victims of abuse.

To elaborate the matter about the sin that caused man to lose his sovereignty, take note that the commandment says, "You must not eat of the fruit of the tree...; if you do, you will die the same day" (Genesis 2:17). Spiritually, man died immediately after "eating". Death here means they have lost spiritual contact with their Creator; Yahweh and man's fellowship was broken. Worst of all, Adam and Eve were not yet capable of governing the world away from the Creator.

Another example was the sin committed by King David when he took to himself Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, the soldier and had Uriah killed in battle. As a consequence, Yahweh said to King David through Prophet Nathan, "Now, in every generation some of your descendants will die a violent death because you

have disobeyed me and have taken Uriah's wife. I swear to you that I will cause someone from your own family to bring trouble on you. You will see it when I take your wives from you and give them to another man; and he will have intercourse with them in broad daylight for all Israel to see" (II Samuel 12).

David repented of his sin and Yahweh forgave him. Yahweh loved David so much but David need to suffer the consequences of his actions for Yahweh has to remain just and righteous. He surely never lets the guilty go unpunished.

Sin Can Lead To Judgment

Yahweh is holy, gracious, loving, merciful, and just. He loves everyone but He terribly abhors sin. Although He forgives repentant sinner, He is also just in all His ways. He rewards everyone according to what he has done.

In the case of Adam and Eve, they received their painful rewards for Yahweh had His judgment pronounced on them: to the woman He said, "I will increase your trouble in pregnancy and your pain in giving birth. In spite of this, you will still have desire for your husband, yet you will be subject to him." To the man, He said, "You listened to your wife and ate the fruit which I told you not to eat. Because of what you have done, the ground will be under a curse. You will have to work hard all your life to make it produce enough food for you... You will have to work hard and sweat to make the soil produce anything, until you go back to the soil from which you were formed."

I wonder how many of those who study the Holy Bible have thought about these judgments. Perhaps, it is easier to understand the relation between Adam's "Eating" of the fruit and the hard work he had to do to make the land produce enough food to eat. But the relationship between what Eve did and the increasing pregnancy and pain in giving birth is something too serious to ponder upon.

Sin Can Lead To Defeat, Sickness, and Death

Defeat

Every reader of the Old Testament can bear witness that the Book is a series of records of the defeats and victories of the Israelites.

For our example, let us find out what happened in the life and ministry of Prophet Jeremiah. Prophet Jeremiah was called by Yahweh into the ministry when he was very young. Jeremiah was hesitant and said: "Sovereign God, I don't know how to speak; I am too young." But Almighty Yahweh assured him that He would be with him to protect him.

To make the very long story short, Jeremiah preached to the rebellious Israelites. He strongly spoke against idolatry and desecration of the Sabbath. Jeremiah said, "Listen to me my people, Yahweh has this to say to you, 'You put your trust in deceitful words, you steal, murder, commit adultery, tell lies under oath, offer sacrifices to Baal, and worship gods that you had not known before. You do these things I hate, and then you come and stand in my presence, in my temple, and say, we are safe! Do you think that my Temple is a hiding place for robbers?... You have committed all these sins, and even though I spoke to you over and over again, you refused to listen. You would not answer when I called.'"

Then Yahweh spoke again to Jeremiah saying, "Do not pray for these people. Do not cry or pray on their behalf; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you" (Jeremiah 7 -8). Yahweh continued to speak: Even storks know when it is time to return; doves, swallows, and thrushes know when it is time to migrate. But, my people, you do not know the laws by which I govern you. So I will give your fields to new owners and your wives to other men (Jeremiah 8).

Jeremiah was deeply sorrowed by the sins of the people. He often cried and he was known as the "weeping prophet". In

anguish Jeremiah cried out: “Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night... Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging of wayfaring men, that I might leave my people, and go from them! For they are all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men” (Jeremiah 9: 1-2).

Finally, Jeremiah said to the people: “For many years now I have been faithful in declaring to you the message which Yahweh has spoken to me but you would not listen or pay attention even though Yahweh has continued to send His servants, the prophets. So, Yahweh said, ‘I am going to send King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia. I am going to bring them to fight against Judah and its inhabitants. I am going to destroy this nation. I will leave them in ruins-a terrible and shocking sight” (Jeremiah 25).

Indeed, according to the word of Yahweh through Prophet Jeremiah, King Nebuchadnezzar besieged Judah. He destroyed the nation and left it in ruins. The Israelites were taken as captives.

What happened to the Israelites long time ago can serve as a warning to us now. II Chronicles 20:20 declares: “Believe in God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. “Therefore, if Yahweh’s people today would not listen and obey in spite of the prophets He sent to them; if the people would remain lukewarm “neither hot nor cold”, then Yahweh will certainly not hesitate to destroy the nation and cause the people to be taken as captives because He who Created the heavens and the earth and cause the Israelites to be defeated because of sin, is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Sickness

Both the Old and New Testaments have records of sicknesses which are the results of sin. The following scriptures can be our reference: Exodus 15: 26; Deuteronomy 7: 12 - 16; Deut. 28: 15, 21 - 22; Numbers 12: 9 - 12; Mark 2; John 5: 14; James 5: 16. Notice that Exodus 15: 26; Deuteronomy 7: 12-16;

Deut. 28: 15, 21 - 22 always start with "If". "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of Yahweh, thy Elohim, and wilt do that which is right in His sight will give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians for I am the Elohim that healeth thee."

Sin has been in the world long before the Israelites were established. Therefore, sickness or the possibility of it has been present long before they existed. But Yahweh promised the Israelites that if they hear and obey His commandments, if they keep His statutes and do what is right, Yahweh's protection and blessings would be upon them and in case they would be sick, He would quickly heal them.

Numbers chapter twelve verses one to ten is a story of Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron who became leprous when she opposed Moses and treated him irreverently. This particular case can also be our example of sin which has immediate result and which involved only the person concerned. More scriptures will be quoted as we go on, but it is highly suggested that the readers should read the whole chapter or even the chapters before and after from the Holy Bible to get the full view of the situation and gain better understanding.

Mark chapter two verses one to five, and John chapter five verse fourteen are accounts concerning a paralyzed man who was let down on his mat through a hole in the roof of a house where Yahshua the Messiah was preaching, and the healing of a lame man at the pool. To each of them Yahshua the Messiah said: "My son, your sins are forgiven. Listen, you are well now; so stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

"Confess your faults one to another; and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (James 5: 16)."

Death

Read Acts chapters five and twelve from the Holy Bible and discover for yourself people who tragically died because of what they did.

The case is terrifying and quite unbelievable but true. A couple by the name Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit about the proceeds of the property they sold and which was to be given to the Apostle for a common use of the whole Assembly. On the other hand, when King Herod delivered a speech, he did not give the glory to the Father for his beautiful speech. All three died miserably.

Sin Can Lead To Natural Calamity and Poverty

Natural calamity is an act of nature like storms, flood, earthquakes, volcano eruption, which are beyond human control and believe to be an act of the Almighty as punishment for sin if not as a reminder to repent.

Few accounts are taken from the Holy Scriptures as examples. One is the flood during Noah's time. The record says that Noah lived in fellowship with Yahweh Almighty but the rest of the people were wicked; so wicked that Yahweh said: "I regretted that I made man; I have decided to wipe them out." Indeed, Yahweh released His judgment by causing the land to be flooded with water. All the people were drowned except for Noah and his family together with the animals in the Ark which Noah built before the rain and flood came.

In the book of Prophet Amos we can also find Yahweh's judgment on Judah and Jerusalem through natural calamity. Yahweh said, the people of Israel have sinned again and again, and for this I will certainly punish them. They sell into slavery honest men who cannot pay their debts... They trample down the weak and helpless and push the poor out of the way (Amos 2: 45).

Another very well noted event was the case of Sodom and Gomorrha during the time of Lot the nephew of Abraham. Because of sin Yahweh sent His fire which consumed the city saving only Lot and his family by the angels who visited them

and inspected the city just before the consuming fire of Yahweh Almighty devoured the land (Genesis 19).

On the other hand, we cannot also discount the fact that someone may suffer great loss due to natural calamity but not because of his own sin like for example the case of Job. Job was upright and the calamity that struck him did not really come from Almighty Yahweh as judgment but from the enemy. Yahweh, however, allowed it for some reasons and purpose.

Sadly, Job lost all his children and wealth such as sheep, camels, cattles, and other properties. He was also struck with terrible sickness and suffered much. But after the enemy has been defeated by the faith and patience of Job, Yahweh healed and blessed Job again and this time Job became wealthier than before. He also bore more children – sons and daughters; his new daughters according to the scripture, were the fairest girls in the land.

Obviously, whether a calamity comes as a judgment from the Almighty because of sin or not, the fact remains that it can lead to famine and poverty. But certainly, there is much difference when one suffers poverty as a result of sin from someone who suffers for a noble reason like Job's.

Poverty

What is it? It is like an incurable disease that has plagued so many people all around the world. It has brought aches or pains everywhere and thousands of lives have been lost because of it. But why? Let us find out what the Holy Scriptures have to tell us more about it. "You rich people, listen to me! Weep and wail over the miseries that are coming upon you!... Your gold and silver are covered with rust, and this rust will be a witness against you and will eat up your flesh like fire. You have piled up riches... You have not paid the wages of the men who worked in your fields nor listen to their complaints! The cries of those who gather in your crops have reached the ears of Yahweh. Your life

here on earth has been full of luxury and pleasure. You have made yourselves fat for the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent people, and they do not resist you (James 5:1-6).

Obviously, what James is telling us is an all-time problem of this world. There are people who take advantage of the poor and uneducated. People who get rich through deceit, manipulation, and oppression. Consequently, there are victims; people who are living in poverty because of manipulation, deception, and other forms of injustice and oppression. But remember, "Those who trample the poor and weak, the widows and fatherless are making themselves fat for the day of slaughter."

Sin Can Lead To Demonization

A body who has been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb through faith and is obedient to the commandments or will of the Father becomes the temple of the Holy Ghost (I Corinthians 6: 19; Acts 5: 32).

But Matthew chapter twelve verses forty three to forty five also tell us of a body who is the house of the evil spirit. This evil spirit was driven out and traveled looking for a place to rest. When the evil spirit could not find one, it visited its former house and alas it was still available! The evil spirit housed again in the same with seven other evil spirits.

What do we mean by these? If a person is not the temple of the Holy Ghost then whose temple is he? Truly, the Holy Ghost and the evil spirit cannot dwell together in one body. According to Rev. Roger Barrier, a pastor and a writer, even Christians are vulnerable. He said, "Believers should be taught that the areas of our lives that are not under submission to the Holy Spirit are open to attack and harassment by demonic spirits. Or, areas held back from submission to God are open to demonic influence." Another writer, Cindy Jacobs says, "when we have wrong heart motives such as pride and selfish actions, these are holes in our armor and leave us open to enemy attacks."

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Adversary

We have just talked about the consequences of sin. If there is an effect or consequence then there must be a cause. Undoubtedly, the cause of sin is the tempter who tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden. This tempter is also called satan, the serpent, the devil, the evil one, the dragon.

Satan means the adversary of Yahweh. He is a spiritual being who is wise and powerful but of course much less wise and powerful than our Creator and Savior. He is a thief, a robber, a murderer, or destroyer. Yahshua the Messiah said, the thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

How does satan steal? He steals through lying for he is a liar, in fact, he is the father of lies (John 8: 44). Through lying, he stole the authority which belonged to Adam and Eve. Through his lies he tempted Adam and Eve and killed them. Through his schemes he destroyed the harmonious relationship of the Creator and creatures. He destroyed the once good and beautiful world.

The Evil One is a deceiver and false accuser. Through deception, he robs life's wonderful treasures which are Yahweh's gifts to man such as: health, peace and joy. He lures people into doing something destructive like drug addiction, eating and taking foods and drink which are highly detrimental to the body or body systems especially to the youth and growing children. Naturally, when a person has failing health, he will not be truly productive and he will also miss the joy of living.

The devil is very good at accusing the worshipers of the Father. This particular attitude is usually manifested in the lives of people who are quick in finding faults and blaming others for the wrong they did. The devil is also a grabber. Given the chance, he will grab everything that is rightfully yours. He takes advantage

of man's ignorance of the truth. For example, he performs "false miracles" or satanic-demonic signs and wonders. Another is when a person is depressed and desperate, he entices him to commit suicide, to rob, and to kill.

The devil is like a roaring lion always seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5: 8). He is not alone; he has armies under his command. These armies are called demons, evil or unclean spirits. Some of them are: spirit of immorality, spirit of pride and arrogance, lust, witchcrafts, sorcery, greed, etc. these armies constantly wage war against the worshipers of the Father. Basically, the battleground is the hearts and minds of the people. The reason why Paul admonished the Corinthian believers saying, "Cast down every imagination, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10: 5).

Their strategies are varied and deceiving. Sometimes through greed and materialism. Often, they come in a very subtle way so that even the elect sometimes become unaware preys and victims. They also come as angels of light, as the scriptures say. They attack all that is good in our lives like marriages, children, family, relations, ministries, jobs, health, etc.

Finally, satan wants to exalt himself above the Almighty Father. Hence, he is very persistent and diligent in his job of stealing the glory which belongs to the Father. Thousands of years ago, he persistently tried to tempt the Messiah. He even offered to the Messiah the right to rule the world on a condition that the Messiah would bow down to him.

At this juncture, I would like to give a personal testimony of an incident that is very close to Yahshua the Messiah's temptation.

One night few years back, satan appeared to me in a dream and placed before me a very well-dressed image; an image that is very common everywhere. Then satan said to me: "I will give you all the gold in the world if you bow down to this image."

With all the strength and faith I could muster, then, I rebuked satan in my dream, and said: "Why do you offer to me what is mine? Don't you know that the children are the heirs of the Father's wealth or possessions?" Then I continued on rebuking satan until I was awakened.

Once, similar offer was made again but praise and glory be to the Father, I had managed to pierce satan with the two-edged sword of our Father and Savior. HalleluYah!

Let us also remember that the Messiah has said: "If the master was persecuted, how much more the servants?" And I say, if the leader was tempted, how much more the follower? But, satan has been a defeated foe. Yahshua the Messiah has completely defeated him, and the Messiah is in us. "Greater is he who is in us than he (satan) that is in the world." HalleluYah!

CHAPTER EIGHT

The “Ministering Spirits”

Angels are ministering spirits (Hebrew 1: 14). They have different titles and functions, and they are highly organized. They have titles such as: Archangel, Cherubims, Seraphims, Living Creatures. Their organizational structures are thrones, dominions, principalities and powers.

Lucifer was one of the created angels. His position was of high honor. He was the guardian of Yahweh’s Throne. He also led the angels in praising the Almighty. He was full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty (Ezekiel 28: 12). He reflected the Almighty’s radiance and glory.

Pride, arrogance, and lust caused him to oppose the Will of the Almighty. First, he just wanted to occupy the Throne of the Most High, but, the degree of his lust became progressive. Later, he already wanted to be above the Holy One in heaven, Yahweh. From the time he opposed Yahweh’s will the battle began and his name was changed to satan. One third of the stars (angels) followed satan but Michael, Gabriel, and the other angels remained faithful to Almighty Yahweh (Revelation 12: 4).

“Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, who fought back with his angels; but the Dragon was defeated, and he and his angels were not allowed to stay in heaven any longer. The huge Dragon was thrown out—that Ancient Serpent, named the Devil, or Satan, that deceived the whole world. He was thrown down to earth, and all his angels with him (Revelation 12: 7-9).

Satan and his demons still follow their original organizational structure, but their nature and names have been changed.

*Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty
spirit before a fall.* Proverbs 16: 18

CHAPTER NINE

Freedom From Bondage

Some people say, "Freedom is what we long for", others say, "Freedom is what we are fighting for." But what does the Holy Bible say? Know the truth and the truth shall set you free (John 8: 32).

Truth about what? Truth about many things like, who is keeping us in bondage and why? Who can free us from bondage and how? Apostle Paul said:

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge"

Romans 10: 1-2

Sadly, most people in the world "have a zeal of God", they are religious but their religiosity is not according to knowledge of the truth. People whose minds have been paralyzed by traditional views which are not according to Biblical truth. In like manner, the world has been fighting for freedom but their fight is not based on true knowledge. Nations have been fighting against nations for freedom but are the victorious nations really free? No individual person, no family or nation is truly free unless he is free from the bondage of sin and the power of sin.

It is not the author's intention to popularize satan and sin but the truth must be known that it is satan who is keeping people, families, cities, nations in bondage using sin as a deadly cord.

Since the fall of Adam and Eve the world has been in bondage and it is groaning in pain, waiting to be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of Yahweh. It is therefore interesting to note that long before the

nations of the world came into existence and long before the emergence of wars among nations in the name of freedom, the world has been in bondage and spiritual battles have been going on.

Ephesians chapter six informs us that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand in the evil day.

Yes, we wrestle against principalities, against spiritual wickedness in high places but we need not be discouraged or despair because the battle is not ours alone; it is Yahweh's battle against satan with mankind as captives who need to be rescued. Though captives each should be a good warrior in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah, who seriously cooperate with the rescuer and must be ready for every battle whether physical or spiritual. Everyone must put on the whole armor of God and know when, where, and how to use them. These spiritual armor are as follows: 1. Truth 2. Breastplate of Righteousness 3. The Gospel of Peace 4. Faith 5. Helmet of Salvation 6. The Sword of the spirit which is the Word of God 7. Prayer and Supplication with Fasting 8. Vigilance 9. Perseverance.

Each spiritual weapon or armor will be thoroughly dealt with but since no unrepentant sinner can possess and effectively use them, let us first talk about repentance.

Repentance: What is it?

Yahshua the Messiah said, "Truly, I say unto you except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."

The wages of sin is death therefore unrepentant sinner will die or perish. In contrast, repentance is the first step or the key to freedom and life. The sinner must know from the word of truth that he has sinned, acknowledge it, and change his mind from doing what is wrong to what is right through faith. Dr. A. Pezzota

writes: Repentance and faith are activities of the mind and will in response to truth. HalleluYah!

Romans chapter twelve verses one and two has this message for us. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

Through repentance, sinners' minds are renewed. With their renewed minds they can already start a new and good relationship with the Father. In other words, repentance is the decision to turn from sin and the determination to follow the Messiah who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; abhorring and leaving sin far behind.

Repentance, however, does not make us totally free from the effect of sin that has been committed. In cases where the effects of sin had caused serious damage to the body, repentance and forgiveness do not guarantee fast and full recovery. Although the Psalmist said, "God's mercies upon His children are overflowing and He does not punish us as we deserved", God is holy and just in every way.

Are All Repentant Sinners Forgiven?

It is very comforting to know that the "Lord is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all his works." And, "Where sin abounded grace did much more abound." Indeed, the Father is good to all: He is a loving and forgiving Father yet His love, mercy, and forgiveness have limitations. Though I John 1:9 says, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, we should not forget that another scripture also warns us: "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30). The Holy Spirit grieves if we repeatedly sin in

spite of our knowledge of the truth; if we refuse to obey the truth. Finally, Yahshua the Messiah said, "Whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven" (Luke 12: 10).

But how does one blaspheme against the Holy Ghost? Read Luke chapter eleven verses fourteen to twenty three and you will find out that while the Messiah was casting out demons from a dumb man his opponents came and said, "He casteth out demons through Beelzebul, the chief of the demons."

The account recorded in Luke chapter eleven was the very case preceding immediately Yahshua the Messiah's statement, "Whoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven."

CHAPTER TEN

Spiritual Weapons

In Battle, weapons such as: guns, bombs, and missiles are indispensable. And soldiers must know when, where, and how to use their weapons in order to win the battle.

For spiritual battle, the Father has given us spiritual weapons to use against the enemies. Each weapon is fully described in the following pages to show to the readers and warriors how to use them.

Truth

The word of our Father and Savior is the word of truth (John 17: 17). The word of truth when spoken out from our mouth in faith becomes a mighty weapon against which satan has no defense. Proverbs 2: 6 says, Yahweh gives wisdom: out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. A person who wants to be wise and victorious cannot be neglectful of the word of truth because wisdom and understanding come through it. Our knowledge of the truth with the help of the Holy Spirit when applied in our lives and daily encounter are powerful and effective. In fact, wise decisions which are indispensable in winning victory greatly depend on it.

Since Yahshua the Messiah is the word of the Father made into flesh, we need to have faith in Him and follow Him. But because most of us are still growing into spiritual maturity, often we fail to perceive the Holy Spirit's direct guidance and even if we hear the message, generally, man has the tendency to ignore the message especially because the desires and works of the Holy Spirit are contrary to the desires and works of the flesh. For this reason, we need to constantly study the written words of our Father and Savior which is the revealed Will of the Father, for how

else then would one be able to follow Him except to know His Will and obey?

Breastplate of Righteousness

I had been privilege to rub elbows with military officials since I had lived with the family of a certain BGeneral in the Philippine Army in my college days. But thanks be to the Father I had never been with them in actual battle. Nevertheless, I have seen in shows soldier wearing breastplate during their fight and I think it is very easy to conclude that the breastplate is for protection.

Like the fighting soldier, believers do need protection because they are in constant war against satan. But the breastplate that they should wear as protection must be the righteousness of our Father and Savior. Why breastplate? Why placed on the breast? It is because the word of truth must be received and kept in the heart not in the head. The heart must be protected, for, according to prophet Jeremiah the heart is deceitful above all things. But when our hearts are pure, the Holy Spirit dwells in us and the righteousness of our Father and Savior is upon us. "By our purity, then, by our message of truth, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we have righteousness as our weapon, both to attack and to defend ourselves" (II Corinthians 6: 7). The righteousness of our Father destroys the works of darkness like for example: temptations, witchcraft, sorcery, and other forms of destruction. In Matthew 5:8 the Messiah also said: "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. While the Apostle Paul declared: "If God be for us who can be against us?" And Prophet Isaiah wrote: "No weapon formed against you shall prosper; every tongue that shall rise against you shall be condemned for this is the heritage of them whose righteousness is of me." But to the wicked Yahweh says, "Behold, my hand is not shortened that it cannot save. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear."

The Gospel of Peace

The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.

Isaiah 32: 17

Every sensible individual understands that peace is indispensable for a meaningful life. Everybody needs peace but let us not forget that prophet Isaiah made it clear that righteousness and peace are interrelated; apart from righteousness there can be no peace. In other words, peace is possible only when we have within us the righteousness of our Father and Savior. This is the gospel: to obtain peace and righteousness through faith not by our own good deeds. Apart from faith, our deeds no matter how good, is not sufficient whereby we may obtain righteousness and peace. Prophet Isaiah made this known to us by saying, "we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

Faith

"Without faith it is impossible to please God."

Hebrews 11: 6

Faith is not blind obedience to the Almighty but a trust or assurance that what He does and say are true and therefore, it is dependable. As Abraham did, "Faith is to believe and hope even when there is no reason for hoping." To cast no ray of doubt but to be absolutely sure that He who spoke would be able to do what He had promised.

Faith dwells in the heart and mind, therefore, it is invisible and intangible. However, it shows its presence in many wonderful ways. It can be seen and heard through actions and words. It requires obedience to the instruction of Him in whom we have faith. For how will one know that we have faith if we do not obey? St. James wrote: What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man

say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled, not withstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devil also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our Father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also (James 2: 14-17; 19-22;26).

Take note that it was the works of Abraham that made his faith perfect. Faith that works in love to please and glorify the Father. We do not do good works to get the love and attention of our Father because He loves us even when we were yet sinners. Remember that the Father gave His Son to us and the Son died for us while we were yet sinners. Neither should we do things to get the attention and praises of people around. Such work is not an act of faith but hypocrisy. When we do things by faith, we do it because we love our Father and we want to please and glorify Him. Also, because we believe that He will supply all our needs, thus, we do not worry when we share what we have with the poor and needy.

Helmet of Salvation

Salvation is one of the best gifts the Father has given to us. It is one of our most precious possessions. It is given to us by the Father through our faith in His Son. "For by grace are ye saved through faith." Since it is a gift we should be thankful for it, take good care of it, and protect it.

Perhaps, many would wonder why helmet was used as the symbol for protection of our salvation. It is because some people

boast of their salvation and grow proud. In our Filipino language, we commonly hear people say, “Gidaku na ang ulo” or “lumaki ang ulo” which is a statement meaning, he has grown proud. So, the head and ears must be protected from any lure of the enemy to keep the believer from boasting and becoming proud. With the helmet as protection, therefore, may every believer be mindful of their responsibility to others. Making every blessing such as: personal salvation and religious affiliation, experience, wealth, intelligence, training and education as instruments through which the weak and weary, poor and needy, widows and orphans, oppressed and helpless be able to feel the love and mercy of our Father in heaven. Always mindful of the fact that we are saved to serve others for the glory of our Father.

The Sword of the Spirit

The sword of the Spirit is the word of our Father and Savior. But what does the word do to us especially in actual battle? Words are mighty weapon against the enemy in actual battle. Do we still remember how Yahshua the Messiah handled the situation when He was fasting and satan tempted Him saying, “If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread.” The Messiah answered, “It is written man shall not live by bread alone.” The written word was the Messiah’s mighty weapon against the enemy. Study also the following and may these be helpful to you as it has been to me and to my family.

1. The Word of our Father is life. John 1:1 declares: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John also added saying, “It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”
2. It is the food that sustains our spiritual life. Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh (Matthew 4: 4; I Peter 2: 2).

3. It cleanses us from sin. "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15: 3).
4. It gives us light. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119: 105).
5. It warns and protects us. "Is not my word like as a fire? Like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged-sword (Jeremiah 23: 29; Hebrews 4:12).
6. It gives us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (Proverbs 2: 6)
7. It gives strong foundation and lengthens life (Matthew 7: 24-27). "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: for length of days and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee (Proverbs 3: 1-2).
8. It gives comfort, assurance, and peace. "I will never fail thee nor forsake thee (Hebrews 13:5).
9. It heals our body, soul, and spirit, "...But say in a word, and my servant shall be healed" (Luke 7: 7).
10. It leads us to success. "...And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1: 1-3).
11. It enlightens our minds, guides, and corrects us. "For whom the Lord loveth He correcteth" (Proverbs 3: 12).
12. By the Word the world and everything in it was created, therefore, the Word is powerful. With the Word abiding in us, our lives will certainly become truly fruitful.

Testimony: Glorious Victory

The following account is our victorious experience through the Words of our Father and Savior. This account was not included in the books I have written earlier.

It was summer 1990 when our family had a terrible encounter with the enemy. Except for myself, every member of

my family got sick. First Gibson Jun, then followed by Ruth Love, Daddy, January Gay, and Vernie Joy. It was not long before I realized that all of them were in bed. Praise and glory to God, the enemy did not know how hurt I was; how much pain I had in my heart but I think he knew I was very exhausted.

By the Father's grace I had each of them seen by a doctor and they were given medication but the medicine did not do much to improve their condition. I perceived that medicine was not what they really needed. I had the impression that the enemy had challenge our Savior over our faith in Him like what he did to Job.

One afternoon while all the sick were resting, I also enjoyed a sound sleep. But I was frightfully awoken by my dream, at the same time by the slight cry of Ruth Love. I dreamed that one on my children would die but I did not have time to reflect. I immediately rose up to check Love. Love told me that she was awoken by her dream that she would die. In other words, we both had the same dream. Right after she had told me her dream, she was struggling to breathe and her body hardened. I prayed over her; rebuked satan and order him to leave.

HalleluYah! After the prayer Love has recovered. I thought that was all, completely unaware the enemy would come back in the evening and bombard us with a much severe attack. Love first complained of chest pain, she was very cold and started to perspire, struggling to breathe then her body began to harden.

To bring Love to the hospital at that very moment was not possible. Besides, I knew the travel would distract and lessen my attention and care for her. At the same time, I was fully convinced that the case was more of spiritual battle than a physical problem. So, I concentrated on praying over Ruth Love, rebuked satan and the demon of death. I also kept on whispering to the ears of Ruth Love the words of Truth. I said, "You will live a very long life; you are safe. Our Father loves you and cares for you. He is the source of life, and He is giving you abundant and eternal life. He is all-

powerful; with Him nothing is impossible. He is answering our prayers. He is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." I also recited Psalms 23, 27, 91 to her ears and asked her to repeat after me if possible. While Daddy was very busy giving Love a warm bath Gibson, Gay and Joy were just around continually praising our Father and Savior.

HalleluYah! Before dawn I knew Love was already safe. The battle continued but much less intense this time. At around 3:30 A. M. we brought Love to the hospital and praise God! the doctor said, "She is well; there is no cause for worry." So we went back home. Three days later the Intercessors for the Philippines met for prayer and we attended. We also had Love prayed for in the meeting. Eventually Love was completely healed. Daddy, Gibson, Gay and Joy also recovered in time. HalleluYah!

Finally, I would like to say that during this time, we were as what Apostle Paul said of himself when he was in great distress. "As unknown, and yet well known; dying, and behold, we live;... as sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

Prayer and Supplication

Prayer is communication with the Father in heaven. It is a two-way process. We talk to Him and He listens to us; He talks to us and we should listen and obey. Supplication is to ask humbly and earnestly. Anointed prayer is a sharp weapon against the enemy and against the works of darkness. It is a weapon available to every believer anytime, anywhere.

Knowing that spiritually we can do nothing by ourselves to win the battle, it is imperative that we pray to the Father and make supplication since He alone is the source of all things. Who are qualified to pray? Everybody can pray but not all prayers are heard and answered by the Father. For the scripture says, "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry. But the face of the Lord is against them that do

evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth” (Psalms 34: 15-16).

For an effective prayer, therefore, let us find out what the Messiah said about it to His disciples. He said to them: When you pray, Do not be like the hypocrites... Use not vain repetitions as the pagan or heathen do. This then is how you should pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy Kingdom Come.

Thy Will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Matthew 6:2-13

Obviously, the contents and sequence of this prayer are as follows:

1. The prayer should be addressed to the Father in heaven not to anybody or any saint. “Do not pray to other gods, do not even mention their names” (Exodus 23:13).
2. The Father’s Name be honored.
3. Pray that the Father’s Kingdom come in earth.
4. Pray that the Father’s Will be done.
5. Pray for daily supply of food.
6. Pray for the forgiveness of sins.
7. Pray that we will be kept from hard trials, and that He will lead us to the path of righteousness.

“Pray without Ceasing.”

To the believers, the Apostle Paul also wrote:

My beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15: 58). Indeed, when we, believers make supplications for others, for our city, for our nation, and for the world; we labor, we groan, we weep before the Almighty. In other words, to make supplication is not a light thing to do. It takes our whole being-heart, mind, and will to plead with the Almighty. But let us not be weary, for surely, "none of our labor shall be in vain." HalleluYah!

Fasting

I wrestled over the idea of whether I should write about fasting or not. But I was compelled by the thought that one day, two thousand years ago, a man came to the Messiah bringing his son with an evil spirit in him. The boy was deaf and dumb. The Father of the boy pleaded with the Messiah to cast out the spirit and he went on to say, "I asked your disciples to drive the spirit out, but they could not."

The Messiah then commanded the spirit to come out and the boy was delivered. When the people were gone the disciples asked the Messiah, "Why couldn't we cast the devil out? He said to them, "This kind can come forth by nothing but by prayer and fasting" (Mark 9: 29, KJV).

Fasting is a very broad and interesting topic. It is with regret that I cannot give you all the details but only those which I considered most important. Also, aside from the Holy Scriptures, my reflection, personal observation and experience, thoughts and ideas on the subject are taken from the book, *God's Chosen Fast* by Arthur Wallis. The ideas quoted and restated are only those which I have personally experienced and confirmed to be true and helpful.

What is fasting? Literally, "to fast" means not to eat. It also means to abstain not only from food but anything that hinders our communion or intimacy with our Father and Savior. In I

Corinthians 7: 3-5, fasting includes abstaining from marital relations, but this must be by mutual consent. For convenience, Bro. Authur Wallis categorized fasting as follows:

1. Normal - it means abstaining from food, solid or liquid, but not water (Luke 4:2). He ate nothing but it does not say, He drank nothing.
2. Partial - it means abstaining from delicacies like meat and wine but not with simple food (Daniel 10: 3).
3. Absolute - it means abstaining from drinking as well as eating. Usually, this is done for no more than three days. Otherwise, supernatural intervention must be at work like the case of Moses (Exodus 34: 28; Deuteronomy 9:9,18). Elijah, when he ran away from Jezebel (I Kings 19:8). This is so because exceptional situation needs exceptional measure. A very good example to exceptional measure or desperate situation which needs desperate measures is the case of Queen Esther and Mordecai against Haman (Esther 4: 16).

Normally, fasting is undertaken as the need arises, and that is personal matter between the individual and the Father in heaven. But there are also exceptions to this. In the past for example, they had regular and public fasting (Luke 18: 11-12). Sometimes the regular and public fasting was national in scope (II Chronicles 20: 1-4; Ezra 8: 21-23). Another example for national fasting was Nineveh after Jonah preached repentance to Nineveh. II Chronicles 7: 14 can also serve as our guide especially when dealing with national and international crises. "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Fasting is a means to discipline the body and to humble the soul and spirit before the Father in heaven. It can bring healing to one's body, soul, and spirit; healing of relationship and healing

of the land. When it is done with a pure motive, fasting can be a means through which Yahweh's grace and power flows. "When fasting is exercised with a pure heart and right motives, it may provide us with a key to unlock doors where other keys have failed; a window opening up a new horizon in the unseen world." Fasting is of vital necessity. As a matter of fact, when the issue about fasting was raised, the Messiah said: "When you fast just like "When you pray", "When you give." The Lord did not say, if you fast, if you give, if you pray. Meaning, it is not optional, rather, it is a necessity. But while fasting is necessary and important, the motive is much more important. Yahweh declares: "Do you think the kind of fasting I want is doing penance, bowing down like reeds, putting ashes on your heads, and wearing sackcloth? No! the kind of fasting I want is this: Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, let the oppressed go free. Share your food with the hungry, give clothes to the naked, help the poor and destitute, give due wages to your workers, and never hide away from relatives who need help. Then when you pray, I will answer you. When you call me, I will respond."

While in fasting, the Father may give unusual manifestations of His presence. But we are not to seek after these as though they were the most essential ingredients. The value of fasting then is not measured by how much there is of the spectacular but how much there is of solid lasting gain for the Kingdom of our Father.

When breaking the fast guard yourself:

1. Watch the quantity of food you eat.
2. Eat slowly and masticate well.
3. Stop at the first warning.
4. Rest as much as possible.
5. Avoid doing too much too soon.

Lastly, Yahshua the Messiah fasted and prayed. He is our example!

Vigilance

Vigilance is a must in every battle. If warriors slumber when the enemies attack them, they would end up overran or defeated. Warriors, therefore, should be alert and ready for every move. In case of captivity, each should be as watchman who watches not only the enemy but also for the arrival of the rescuer and quickly follow him.

It was mentioned earlier that generally men are captives who need to be rescued. Captives must be always watchful of all movements especially of an opportunity for immediate and safe release. To illustrate, let us recall how Yahweh rescued the slave Israelites through Moses.

When Yahweh released the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, on the way to the Promised Land, Moses the anointed rescuer and leader watched the movements of the clouds and fire. The Pillars of clouds was to protect them from the heat of the day and to guide them. The Pillar of fire was to give them light and to guide them during the night. When the clouds would move, they had to go forward but when the clouds stopped, they had to stop and rest. Moses with the very large number of people both young and old, could not possibly know the details of their condition. But Yahweh knew everything so He guided Moses in a very special way. The people's part was simply to listen to Moses and to cooperate with him and for as long as they would faithfully follow Moses they would be safe through the Promised Land (Exodus 13, Numbers 9).

In the New Testament, we have also these following accounts: One day the Pharisees and Sadducees came to Yahshua the Messiah and asked Him to give them a sign from heaven. But the Messiah answered, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather because the sky is red.' And in the morning, you say,

‘it will be foul weather because the sky is red and lowring.’ You hypocrites, you are good at reading the face of the sky; but can you not discern the signs of the times?” (Matthew 16: 1-4).

The parable of the ten virgins is another fitting example of vigilance. The ten virgins all waited for the coming of the groom. The five were wise but the other five were foolish. While waiting, the wise virgins were vigilant and prepared, but the foolish were sleeping and were not ready. So when the awaited groom arrived, they were left behind. Later the five foolish virgins cried out “Sir, Sir! open the door and let us in!” But the groom answered, “Certainly not! I do not know you.” (Matthew 25). “To be wise is to have reverence for Yahweh.”

Perseverance

Perseverance, endurance, patience are synonyms and interchangeable. The words suggest that there are troubles, hardships, and sacrifices along the way so that we need to persevere.

The military soldiers who have been in battle know better about the hardships in battle but I believe the hardest battle is the battle against spirit beings, against the powers of darkness in high places because we do not actually see them with our eyes. That is why I suppose many are unaware of the presence of the enemy. Nevertheless, no matter how hard the battle may be, no matter what sacrifices it may take, if we constantly put on our spiritual armor and refresh ourselves of the holy words which are the food for our spirit, we will be able to persevere or endure and by the grace of our Father and Savior obtain the victory.

The anointed writer of Ecclesiastes declared and wrote: “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which was planted; a time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time of war, and a time of peace (Ecclesiastes 3).

Indeed, everything in the universe has its own time and purpose. Each one therefore should learn to persevere, to be patient, and to wait for the right time.

Wait on Yahweh:

Be of good courage,

And He shall strengthen thine heart,

Wait, I say, on Yahweh.

Psalm 27: 14

They that wait upon Yahweh

Shall renew their strength;

They shall mount up with wings as eagles;

They shall run, and not be weary;

They shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40: 31

He that believeth shall not make haste.

Isaiah 28:16

He that shall endure unto the end

The same shall be saved.

Matthew 24: 13

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Unity Of The Warriors

Unity among the disciples and those who would believe in the Messiah through their message was the prayer of the Messiah before He finally left them. This was so because He knew that they would be in great battle. They would go through much tribulation and persecution because of their faith in Him. And in time like this, it is through their bond of love and peace that the world would know they are indeed the Messiah's disciples.

In time of war or in times of great persecution, brethren need to "Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" more than any other time. They need to help, to build, strengthen, and support each other in every way, be it spiritual like prayers, moral, financial or material. For, in being united they would be able to courageously face every challenge and manage to rise above their situation. In fact, the Messiah Himself said:

"If they shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them by the Father in heaven."

Unity does not mean being in one place at the same time and doing the same thing always. Rather, it is unity of hearts and minds among the brethren and with the Father and Savior above all. Being united in desire, purpose, and goal; each contributes according to the Father's grace towards the attainment of the goal. Everyone therefore must know his responsibility and properly exercise his authority for the success and victory of all!

One good example of courage and unity I would like to cite is the rebuilding of the Walls of Jerusalem under the leadership of Nehemiah. When Nehemiah led the Israelites to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem many were opposed. Even their fellow Israelites who had gained favor with the enemies were against them. The enemies ridiculed them: "What do these

miserable people think they're doing? Do they intend to rebuild the city? Do they think that by offering sacrifices they can finish the work in one day? Can they make building stones out of heaps of burnt rubbles? What kind of walls could they ever build? Even fox could knock it down!"

Nehemiah's people grew weak but Nehemiah knew he was doing the will of Yahweh. He prayed to Yahweh, confessed everything and asked for His help and guidance. Then Nehemiah proceeded to talk to the people saying, "Don't be afraid of our enemies. Remember how great and terrifying our Elohim is, and fight for your fellow countrymen, your children, your wives, and your homes. Yahweh our Elohim will fight for us."

The people were encouraged and they cooperated with Nehemiah. Those who were living within the enemies' place served as watchmen and spies. The others were armed with swords, spears, and bows. While half of them were working, the other half stood guard. Even those who carried building materials worked with one hand and kept a weapon in the other. Everyone kept a sword strapped to his waist. One man was in charge to sound the alarm.

When the enemies heard about the progress of the work they planned to attack Jerusalem and create confusion. They thought nobody knew their plans not realizing that Nehemiah and his men were well informed. So all the enemies' plans failed.

The enemies made another scheme. They bribed some men so that they could kill Nehemiah. But Yahweh was well pleased with the faithfulness of Nehemiah and the sincerity of the people to unite together under him for a good cause so Yahweh Himself fought for them. Amazingly, they successfully completed the works of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

Another very good illustration of unity is the example Apostle Paul gave us - the human body. The body has many parts, each placed in different location and with different functions. But the head for example, cannot say to the feet, "I do not need you."

Neither the hands to the eyes or ears; and ect. Every part of the body no matter how small or perceived insignificant is very important and each needs one another. And only when each part functions well will the body as a whole be in good condition and be able to do well.

In unity, the pain of one is the pain of all; the success and victory of one is the success and victory of all!

Another unique and meaningful picture of unity I cannot afford to miss here is Ruth's unity with her mother-in-law, Naomi.

Elimelech and Naomi had two sons Mahlon and Chilion. At that time, there was famine in the land so Elimelech and his family left their hometown Bethlehem, Judah. They migrated to the land of the Moabites the descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew. Unfortunately, there in the foreign land Elimelech died but Mahlon got Ruth for a wife and Chilion had Orpha; both girls were Moabites. Sadly, both Mahlon and Chilion did not have children until they died ten years after the death of their father. Naomi on the other hand, had heard that the harvest of crops in Judah was good. So Naomi decided to go back home with no husband, no sons nor grandchildren, only daughters-in-law.

While on the way to Bethlehem, Judah Naomi thought of the life and future of her daughters-in-law. She said to them, "Go back home my daughters and stay with your mothers. May Yahweh be good to you as you have been to me and to those who have died. May Yahweh make it possible for you to marry again and have a home." Then she kissed them goodbye. But they started crying and said, "No, we will go with you." Naomi must have been a very wonderful mother-in-law to Ruth and Orpha! But Naomi answered, "You must go back home my daughters. Why do you want to come with me? Yahweh has turned against me, and I feel sorry for you." Orpha agreed and kissed her mother-in-law goodbye. But Ruth said, "Please don't ask me to leave you. Wherever you go I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your Elohim will be my

Elohim...May the Elohim's worst punishment come upon me if I let anything but death separate me from you."

Ruth must have understood that her mother-in-law was in great crises for she had lost all her loved ones. She knew that Naomi needed somebody more than any other times in her life. Out of love and compassion, Ruth was more than willing to unite and sacrifice with her mother-in-law.

When they arrived in Judah, Ruth asked permission from Naomi to go and glean in the field of someone she did not know and to be with people she had not seen before just so they could have something to eat. But truly, nothing is kept from the Almighty; He knew Ruth's heart and deeds for her mother-in-law and so He guided her closely. Yahweh was so pleased with Ruth's humility and faithfulness that He blessed her much more than she could ever think of. The rich owner of the field where she gleaned was so kind to her and later she discovered through Naomi that the rich man was a relative of her deceased husband. Since the Israelites have a custom of choosing a wife from among the members of their clan or tribe, the rich owner of the field took Ruth for a wife. Eventually, Ruth became the great-grandmother of the greatest King in Israel, King David. Above all, Ruth also became a beloved ancestor of Yahshua the Messiah Himself in spite of her being a gentile.

Truly, our Father is able to do much more than we can ever ask for or think of when we do our part of the job and know whom to follow and unite. Are we inclined to follow and unite with the true worshippers of the Father so that even if we are "gentiles" we will be sanctified through that unity and like Ruth become also the grandmother or mother of great Kings?

CHAPTER TWELVE

Practical And Revelational “Spiritual Mapping”

To guide, help, and inspire our youth today who maybe experiencing the same spiritual experience I had, I would like to share my spiritual journey with our Father and Savior.

I was born to a family who believe in the Almighty but was not diligent enough in studying His words. Also, our family seldom talked about spirits, heaven, and hell. As a result, I grew up with an assumption that spirits and heaven are matters beyond human understanding so there is no point talking about them seriously. I had also imagined that bad spirits like witchcrafts lived only in remote places such as mountain forest and caves.

Fortunately, while I was in High School, I had good friends who belonged to religious denominations other than mine. Through them I had the opportunity of smelling the sweet savor of the holy words. However, the knowledge I had gained was certainly not sufficient and few years later I was already in college. While in college, I tried to seek for spiritual advancement but perhaps the effort and opportunities were not good enough. Few months after my graduation in college, I met my dear husband. We became friends and he used to share with me his letter from his mother. One letter I could not forget was the letter which had this admonition: “Jun, don’t forget to give your tithe, son. Remember everything is of the LORD, we are merely stewards of the things we have.” Truly, I did not understand what his mother meant but I just kept quiet to hide my ignorance. When I got the chance I looked at the dictionary and praise God! I discovered that tithe is ten percent of one’s income.

I was deeply convinced that giving our tithe was good and right so I began to practice it myself without letting Jun know about it. Thinking that my church was not an advocate of such teaching, I secretly attended a mid-week prayer meeting in Jun’s

church, anyway, he always traveled and I was sure he was out of town. Praise and glory be to the Father none in the meeting knew me personally except the Almighty. When it was time to give the tithe and offering, I gave the twenty pesos I prepared which was more than ten percent of my half-month salary. After the prayer I left for home (a boarding house) with an unexpected joy and indescribable feeling. Instead of taking a motorela ride, I forgot about it. I just walked and walked, and truly, I felt as if I was floating or walking in the air until I arrived home. HalleluYah!

Jun used to visit me every weekend in spite of his travels, but I decided to keep the secret. Soon, I realized Jun was a fine man. So, few months later by the grace of the Father our simple wedding was made. I then began to study his Holy Bible and later he gave me a new one. One afternoon while reading the book of Job, I experienced a very unusual warmth and joy in my inner being, coupled with a very strong desire to go out and tell others what I have read. Really, I was so touched by the sufferings and the strength of Job's faith in Yahweh Almighty. At the moment I could only wish I had the strength of Job's faith and character. For my desire to tell the message to others, I made it a point to tell Jun what I have read and share with him my insights on certain scriptures whenever he was around. Later, the Holy Spirit led me to open a free of charge Bible Class for children whose parents were in their offices everyday, and who always gathered at home to play with my small children. I knew such opportunity was truly a blessing! In due time, both Jun and I became our Father's workers through the United Church of Christ in the Philippines where I taught in Sunday School Classes, led in Bible Studies while Jun was privileged to work as the Administrative Assistant for few years. Our Children were all dedicated (baptized) to the Father through the UCCP but right now, we worship and serve our Father through the Truth Seekers Assemblies & Ministries, the Ministries I and my family have founded.

I continue studying the Holy Scriptures. In my study, I found the answers to many of my questions before and my

knowledge and understanding of the truth increased; I was growing spiritually. I discovered also that evil spirits do not only live in mountain forest and caves but their favorite dwellings are human beings, households, communities, villages, towns, and cities. Where there are people, there are also spirits, some of these evil spirits are in control over human beings. Even in church or assembly while worshipping the Father there can be evil spirit in the assembly. I know this because the Holy Spirit revealed this to me and the Spirit says, **“The Father needs a holy Assembly.”**

“Spiritual Mapping” is a coined term created by somebody and used by many ministers, intercessors, and writers. They say, “spiritual mapping involves superimposing our understanding of forces and events in the spiritual domain into places and circumstances in the material world. It is a means whereby we can see what is beneath the surface of the material world.” “It is a tool to allow us to be more specific, and hopefully more powerful, in praying for our community.”

In my understanding and experience, “spiritual mapping is identifying spirits or principalities over individuals, households, and places like cities and it is not limited to the spirit and works of darkness but also of the Holy Spirit and holy angels. I like their coined term and for purposes of sharing my experiences clearly, I chose to use it myself. Why practical “Spiritual mapping”? Practical in the sense that I had never been to formal study or training on “spiritual mapping” but I believe that one who is faithful to the Almighty is given the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the teacher of truth and He gives gifts of knowledge and discerning. These gifts will enable us to know and understand spiritual activities and strongholds when we are alert and sensitive. Hence, it is also called revelational.

This is how I experientially began to realize the existence of principalities over individuals, households, and places. In the past I used to have inner pressure or spiritual struggle when I was with certain people but I did not understand why. Why with all

the efforts we could not be in harmony. I called it a “silent battle.” Later, this awareness grew; I noticed that there were also houses, places where I felt the same. As the awareness grew the trouble seemed to increase. Not only that I experienced inner pressure while I and my husband were in other people’s house but our own relationship would also be affected after the visits. There were even times when I said to myself, why is this? We went to help these people to counsel and to pray for them and here we are, we are confronted with similar problems. I felt as if their problems were following us. It was really disgusting! I did not know it was already a counter attack of the enemy.

In my prayer and fasting, I presented this matter to the Father and He graciously blessed me with understanding. He confirmed that principalities do establish their strongholds in individuals, households, towns, cities, and other places, always ready to victimize somebody and to attack their opponents. “These incorporeal beings are perceived to rule over homes, cities, provinces, nations and they exercise extraordinary power over the behavior of local peoples.” Therefore, when we get into the house, villages, city, nation of people whose behavior is greatly influenced by certain evil spirits, we become affected. “We are encountering the prevailing atmosphere of another Kingdom; we have crossed a spiritual boundary.” The spirits either attack us or influence us to do the things they want people to do. I am not suggesting that we would stop going to certain places because of this trouble but we should be aware of this and above all, we should always put on our spiritual armor for safety and victory. When we know who our enemies are and where they establish their strongholds, how they operate, we can better protect ourselves and effectively fight against them to win the victory.

“Spiritual mapping” takes a lot of listening and observing. Listen to what the Holy Spirit says to us for guidance. Listen to people; we can get a lot of information through casual conversation. Observe their behavior, attitudes, and expressions. Observe their religious symbols and activities. Take note of their

family, tribal, and cultural background. Do not presume that when they say “Lord or God” what they mean is the Almighty Father Yahweh and Savior. The devil might be their god or lord either consciously or unconsciously. Remember that Yahweh says, “A prophet or interpreter of dreams may promise a miracle or a wonder, in order to lead you to worship and serve gods. Even if what he promises comes true, do not pay attention to him. The Almighty is using him to test you, to see if you love Yahweh with all your heart. Follow Yahweh and have reverence for Him; obey Him and keep His commands; worship Him and be faithful to Him” (Deuteronomy 13: 1-4).

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

The Father’s Heart

Yahweh, our Creator and Father in heaven is a Spirit. Man is the substantial being in the image of the Creator. Therefore, man is the highest form of Yahweh’s creation and man should lead all other creatures to worship the Creator alone in the name of His Son our Savior. Perhaps, some people will disagree with me saying, “How can little creatures like birds and animals worship the Creator?” They may disagree, but I am deeply convinced that in the creation, the Creator had put within His creatures a degree of knowledge and understanding that creatures owe their lives to the Creator and that they should all bow down in reverence to Him. I believe that is the core of the message when Yahshua the Messiah said: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16: 15, KJV). The preaching of the gospel is not limited to human beings but to every creature. Meaning, the gospel should be preached to all creatures so that all will know, recognize, obey and honor the Creator.

At home we have three cats; Abbu, Allih, and Pepper. We discipline them the best way we can. Every time we gather for evening praise and prayer, as much as possible we require them to be with us at a certain place. The family noticed that their understanding and participation of our activity grew better. When the family prostrate for worship, we feel that they also do it their own way. When I or Dad gives exhortation they would listen attentively; their eyes fixed on us. At blessing time, when Daddy and I would bless the children, they would also move expressing their desire to be blessed later. When we fast and tell them that we are fasting, they understand and they would go to sleep; they fast together with us.

One night we were surprised. At eleven o'clock in the evening the children and I decided to lie down and sleep. We could not sleep because Pepper kept on roaming around our bedrooms shouting. It seemed he wanted to keep us awake. We did not understand why, but at one o'clock dawn Daddy who was away from home for few days, arrived. We realized then that Pepper wanted to keep us awake because Daddy was arriving. In another incident, we were surprised most when the children asked Pepper to wake them up at three o'clock dawn. At three o'clock dawn he persistently shouted trying to wake them up. He is doing this every time the children would ask him to do so whether it is three o'clock or four o'clock, he does. We could not understand how he knew the time but I believe little creatures like cats and birds have special gifts from the Creator. They were created to serve man; to be instruments of the Creator's goodness for the benefit of man.

When Nineveh was due for destruction because of excessive wickedness, Yahweh commanded Prophet Jonah to preach repentance to Nineveh before the judgment day. Jonah knew how cruel the Assyrians were and how they made Israel suffer. So Jonah wanted to see Nineveh destroyed rather than repent and be pardoned. But because Nineveh repented, fasted and prayed, Yahweh withheld His judgment and the Assyrians

were spared. Jonah was very angry with Yahweh; “angry enough to die”, he said. Yahweh answered Jonah saying, “Should I not have compassion on Nineveh? Should I not have compassion on thousands of innocent children as well as many animals?” Certainly, Yahweh our Father cares so much for man especially for innocent children and for animals too.

I think it is also good to be reminded that when Prophet Elijah ran away from Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab who wanted to kill him because he prayed that Israel would experience no rain for three years which resulted to famine, Yahweh used a raven to give food to the prophet.

If Yahweh loves and cares for little creatures, gave them gifts and use them according to His own pleasure, how much more do you think for man whom He created in His own image? Really, our Father loves us so much that He gave to us His begotten Son for our salvation (John 3: 16). He is not willing that any would perish but that all men should come to repentance (II Peter 3: 9). Repent, therefore, and begin to worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Meaning, our worship of the Father must come from our innermost being (spirit) and it must be in accordance to truth. In other words, man should not invent ways out of his own thinking or imagination how to worship the Father. But our worship of Him must be according to His Word; His Word is truth. It is in this way alone that we can really touch the heart of the Father and truly feel His love and know His Will. It is in this way alone that we can freely and meaningfully talk to the Father as Abraham did and hope to be with the Father for eternity!

One of the most touching relationships I know was Abraham’s relationship with the Father and the Father’s love and concern for the innocent people in Sodom. Yahweh said, “I will not hide from Abraham what I am going to do.” So Abraham knew that the Almighty would soon destroy Sodom and Gomorrha. He was worried about his nephew, Lot and Lot’s

family who lived in Sodom. Abraham approached the Almighty and asked, "Are You really going to destroy the innocent with the guilty? Surely you won't kill the innocent with the guilty. That's impossible. The Judge of all the earth has to act justly."

Abraham pleaded with Yahweh: "If there are fifty innocent people in the city, will You destroy the city?"

Yahweh answered: "If I find fifty innocent people in Sodom I will spare the whole city for their sake."

"Please, forgive my boldness to speak to You, perhaps there are only forty five innocent people in the city."

"I will not destroy the city if I find forty five innocent people."

"Perhaps there are only forty."

"I will not destroy it if there are forty innocent people."

"Please don't be angry, what if there are only thirty innocent people?"

"I will not do it if I find thirty innocent people."

"Suppose that only twenty are found."

"I will not destroy the city if I find twenty."

"What if only ten are found?"

"I will not destroy it if there are ten."

Unfortunately, the innocent people in Sodom and Gomorrha were less than ten. Therefore, Sodom and Gomorrha were consumed by Yahweh's fire but He sent two angels to save Lot and his family by causing them to leave Sodom. Nevertheless, Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. Truly, Yahweh is not willing that any would perish but He also has to act justly at all times.

The painful event of Sodom and Gomorrha is already a history. But we have great responsibility over the present and of the future. How many do you suppose are righteous or innocent people in our city today? Are believers today able to talk and touch the Heart of the Father the way Abraham did? Could Yahweh also say to us, "I will not hide from you what I am going to do." Let us recall that through prophet Ezekiel Yahweh said, I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads (Ezekiel 22: 30-31). Once Yahweh also said: this is Jerusalem; I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries all around her. But she rebelled against my statutes and my ordinances... Therefore, I myself, am coming against you; I will do to you what I have never yet done. Parents shall eat their children in your midst, and children shall eat their parents; and I will have no pity. One third of you shall fall by the sword, and one third I will scatter to every wind (Ezekiel 5: 5-12).

The question is, today, will Yahweh be able to find people who faithfully stand in the gap between Him and the nation and for the whole world? Will Yahweh be able to find people whom He could share His secrets as He did to Abraham? People who can intercede for the land so that "parents will not eat their children and children will not eat their parents" and so that Yahweh will not destroy the land with the fire of His wrath? Remember, "The froward is abomination to Yahweh but His secret is with the righteous. The curse of Yahweh is in the house of the wicked but He blesses the habitation of the just (Proverbs 3:32-33).

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

The Father's Love Letters

Romans chapter four verse fifteen declares: Where there is no law, there is no transgression or disobedience. However, with or without law, sin is sin and what is filthy is filthy before the eyes of our Father in heaven. And because the Father knew very well our frailties, He gave us the law so that by the law we would be guided and live accordingly.

When Yahweh created Adam and Eve, they were perfect human beings. They were holy yet immature in knowledge, understanding, and judgments. Hence, he gave to Adam the first decree or law which Adam and Eve were to carry out successfully until they would become perfectly mature. The first law Yahweh gave to Adam to guide him was this: "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2: 16-17). Sadly, Adam and Eve failed to successfully obey the first guideline.

You will notice that even before sin had its place in the human race, Yahweh had already pronounced a law for man's good. After sin had found its place and power in the human race it became necessary for the Father to give more and more laws or commandments out of the Father's love, concern and compassion for His children. Unfortunately, when we think of law or commandments we start to become weary. We cannot help feeling heavy and burdened because common sense tells us that the law requires knowledge, obedience, and responsibility. But we should understand that these laws were not given to make things hard for us but because of the Father's love for us. A loving Father cannot afford to let His children go astray, rather, nurture and discipline them until they become perfectly one in heart with Him, in which case the laws or precepts would no longer be necessary. "Whoever obeys God's commands live in union with God and

God lives in union with him" (I John 3: 24). "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected" (I John 2: 3-5).

While it is true that we are not under the law but by grace, in fact, we have been under grace since the very beginning because we have not done anything to deserve our Father's love, His grace and our faith in His Son do not in any way give us the permission or privilege to disobey the law. Rather, by "Faith we should uphold the law" (Romans 3: 31). In other words, by our own effort we could not perfectly comply what the law requires according to the standard of our Father. But by our faith in His Son, the Messiah we can already meet the righteous demands of the law because it is now the grace of the Father through His Son and the power of the Holy Spirit who works through us that enable us to do so. In such case, no man could boast that his good works are the result of his ability and goodness but by the grace of the Father through His Son our Savior and King. I stress that a person is not put right with the Father by obeying the law but by faith. However, it is the law that makes us know what sin is or it is the law that makes man know that he has sinned" (Romans 3: 20; 7: 7).

Contrary to what some people say, I reiterate that there is no scripture in the Holy Bible which encourages the believers to disobey or disregard the law because of grace and faith. In fact, Paul in his defense before Governor Felix in Caesarea, said: "I do admit this to you; I worship the God of our ancestors by following that Way which they said is false. But I also believe in everything written in the Law of Moses and the books of the prophets" (Acts 24; 14).

Before the time of Moses who wrote the Pentateuch, the laws pronounced by the Father were not written except for the Ten Commandments which were written on two tablets of stone

by the Father Himself. Since then the words of our Father through the prophets have been recorded, hence, the title of this chapter, The Father's Love Letters.

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5

I

1. I am Yahweh your Elohim. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation...
3. Thou shalt not take the Name of (God) the Elohim in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

II

5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
10. Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's.

You must have noticed that under the subject: Ten Commandments there is a Roman number I then follows the first four of the Ten Commandments. Roman number II and the other six commandments. This is so to make a clear distinction of the vertical and horizontal dimensions of the said commandments. The first four are directly towards the Father in heaven and the last six are directed towards one's fellow human beings. In fact, in the New Testament, Yahshua the Messiah summarized the Ten

commandments into two: “Love Yahweh with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength. Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” But either way, whether in the Ten Commandments or in the summary of Yahshua the Messiah, the commandments are still broad in scope and therefore need to be simplified so that our love for the Father will be put into practical actions for His joy and glory.

The First Commandment

“I am Yahweh your Elohim. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”

I'll say it again, Yahweh is a Spirit and he that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. Our worship of the Father must sincerely come from our heart, mind, and it must be based on His words or truth. Worship is not limited in the Assembly time while praising and praying but in every way of our life. To worship the Father is to give to Him our total devotion; to bow down to Him alone in worship, “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.” To worship our Father also means to submit to His Will under all circumstances.

Yahshua the Messiah said: “Love the Father with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. To do so, of course, includes many things and some of these are through the following:

A. Tithe and Offering:

Giving our tithe and offering to the Father is first of all an expression of our gratitude to the Father and acknowledgement that He is the source, the giver, and the sustainer of life. He is the source of all good things including the knowledge, skills, abilities, good opportunities and jobs we have. In fact, He owns every good thing in the universe like the air that we breathe, and apart from

Him we are nothing. Secondly, giving our tithe and offering shows our concern for the building of God's Kingdom in earth through His ministers. Apostle Paul gave these words to us as examples for our guidance: "What soldier ever has to pay his own expense in the army?... What farmer does not eat the fruits from his vineyard? What shepherd does not use the milk from his own sheep? The Law of Moses also says, 'Do not muzzle an ox when you are using it to thresh grain.' Is God really concern about oxen? Didn't he really mean us when he said that?"

One day, I attended an Assembly and the preacher said something like this: "Jesus Christ said, 'If you love your Father, your mother, your brothers and sisters, your wife and children more than me, you cannot be my disciples', but today I say to you, if you cannot give your tithe and offering, truly, you cannot love the Lord more than your father and mother, your brothers and sisters, your wife and children."

Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans: I beseech you brethren...present your bodies a living sacrifice to Yahweh which is your reasonable service. How do you think one can be able to present his body a living sacrifice if he is not even willing to give his tithe and offering? To give our tithe and offering holds true and beneficial to all ever since. This commandment had never been changed or amended by Him who has the authority to do so. In fact, Yahshua the Messiah strongly confirmed its validity and effectivity by saying, "...You ought to give your tithe and offering without neglecting justice, mercy, and honesty" (Matthew 23: 23).

Some people think and believe that tithe-giving is no longer necessary because according to them what is stressed in the New Testament is "Love Offering", not anymore the tithe. If that is really the case then I would also say that the "Love Offering" must be more than the tithe or ten percent of ones income because love is immeasurable. But, the law sets only the things that man ought to do, not the best thing that man could do. Let us take for example the commandment: Do not kill. It is certainly good not to

kill but it is better if man does not kill and at the same time give medical assistance to a needy patient and give food to the hungry.

Giving our tithe and offering is not optional or voluntary decision and action. It is a commandment of the Almighty Father therefore it is mandatory. Tithe and offering are two different things. Meaning, of the one hundred percent we have, ten percent of that automatically belongs to the Father. Then out of the ninety percent we own, generally, we have now the choice how much to give to the Father as our freewill and thanksgiving offering.

Yahweh said to Moses, "I have given to the Levites (the ministers) every tithe that the people of Israel present to me. This is in payment for their service in taking care of the Tent (Tabernacle or Temple) of my presence. From now only the Levites will take care of the Tent and bear the full responsibility for it. This is a permanent rule that applies also to your descendants." Then Yahweh commanded Moses to say to the Levites: "When you receive from the Israelites the tithe that the Elohim gives you as your possession, you must present a tenth of it as a special contribution to Yahweh, your Elohim. You are to give this special contribution to Aaron (and his descendants) the priest. Give it from the best that you receive. When you have presented the best part, you may keep the rest...because it is your wages for your service in the Tent. Be sure not to profane the sacred offerings (tithe and offering) by eating (using) the offerings before the best part is offered," in other words, all those who profess to be Yahweh's people must give their tithe and offering to the ministers. The ministers should also give a tenth of all the tithe and offering they have received to the priest. Take note that Yahweh through Moses anointed Aaron (and his descendants) the priest, the tribe of Levi, the ministers to help the priest (Numbers 3: 5-15). Considering the difference between the religious set up before and today, I understand that taking this literally may create controversy. But, I am also confident that you would understand that the message I am conveying here is not only literal but best of all, understanding the principles.

In addition, Yahweh said: "All tithe, all offerings, all firstlings of animals, all first ripe fruits, and special gifts shall be holy to the Lord." For reference read Numbers 18; Leviticus 27: 26-34; Deuteronomy 12 & 14.

For more enlightenment, allow me to recall with you that one day, long time ago, the teachers of the law and the Chief Priest bribed some men to trap the Messiah. The men said, "Teacher, tell us, is it against our law for us to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor, or not?"

The Messiah answered, "Show me a silver coin. Whose face and name are these on it?" "The Emperor's", they answered. The Messiah replied: "Well, then, pay to the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor and pay to God what belongs to God" (Luke 20).

Clearly, the Messiah was telling the people, the government deserves your taxes but the tithe belongs to Yahweh our Father in heaven. Therefore, it is good and right to do both, to give our tithe and to pay our taxes.

To refuse to give our tithe is against the heavenly law of our Father, in fact, He equate those who do not give their tithe and offering with the robbers and cheaters. To refuse to pay our taxes is against the law of the land or government. And any disobedience to the law is, of course, punishable. Those who do not give their tithe are cursed, according to the scripture, (Malachi 3) and those who refused to pay their taxes must be dealt with according to what the law says.

Let us also reflect on this: During the time of Abraham there was no commandment yet concerning tithe and offering and there was no priest except for Melchizedek who, according to the Holy Bible was the King of Salem (peace) and Priest of the Most High, and whose family line could not be traced. Records say that Abraham gave to Melchizedek a tenth of all the loot he had out of his victory over Chedorlaomer and other Kings. Isn't this challenging and wonderful? To do what is good and right without

being told or commanded? To give our tithe gladly and willingly pay our taxes.

Finally, let us be refreshed that when the Israelites ignored the commandment and refused to give their tithe and offering, Yahweh had this message to them through Prophet Malachi: "Turn back to me and I will turn to you. But you ask, 'what must we do to turn back to you? I ask you, is it right for a person to cheat or rob God? Of course not, yet you are cheating me, 'How? You ask. In the matter of tithes and offerings. A curse is on all of you because the whole nation is cheating me. Bring the full amount of your tithe to the Temple, so that there will be plenty of food there. Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things."

Don't you think that one of the causes why our people and nation does not enjoy abundant life is because they do not gladly give their tithe and pay their taxes?

B. Covenant:

Yahweh is a covenant keeping Elohim and He wants us to be as He is. "Be ye holy; for I am holy." When Yahweh made a covenant with Abraham and to Abraham's generations, he was faithful in keeping His covenant. Although many things had happened after the death of Abraham, things which prompted Yahweh to give the Law or the Ten Commandments to guide the Israelites yet, even the Law which Yahweh gave four hundred and thirty years later cannot break that covenant and cancel Yahweh's promise to Abraham (Galatians 3).

The first covenant Yahweh made was with Noah and the world. The sign of this covenant is the rainbow in the sky. The second was with Abram or Abraham. Abram had a vision and heard Yahweh say to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I will shield you from danger and give you great reward." Abram answered, "Sovereign Master, what good will Your reward do to me since I

have no children?" Almighty Yahweh answered: "Look at the sky and try to count the stars; you will have as many descendants as that." Abram put his trust in Yahweh and so the Elohim was pleased and He said again to Abram, "I am Yahweh the Elohim who led you out of Ur, Babylonia, to give you this land as your own... I promise to give to your descendants all this land from the borders of Egypt to the Euphrates River, including the lands of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hettites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amonites, the Canaanites, the Gergashites, and the Jebusites."

"I will keep my promise to you and to your descendants in future generations as an everlasting covenant. You must agree to keep the covenant with Me both you and your descendants. From now on you and your descendants must circumcise every male or baby boy when he is eight days old, including slaves born in your homes and slaves bought from foreigners as the sign of the covenant between you and Me."

"Your name will no longer be Abram but Abraham for you will be the father of many nations. As for your wife, you must no longer call her Sarai but Sarah for I will bless her, and she will become the mother of many nations and of kings."

The next covenant Yahweh made was with the Israelites through Moses and that is the Ten Commandments which was later put in a very special Covenant Box. Moses read aloud to the people the commandments, and the people answered, "We will obey the Elohim and do everything that He has commanded."

Do we consider ourselves descendants of Abraham by faith? What is our covenant with the Father? The Israelites have not been really faithful in keeping their covenant. Are we faithful in keeping our covenant? Has the Father also spoken to us as He did to Abraham and Sarah saying, "I bless you and you will be the father of many nations, you will be the mother of many nations and of kings." HalleluYah!

C. Teaching Our Children:

*Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea,
he shall give delight unto thy soul.*

Proverbs 29: 17

Parents and children relationship is very unique and special. What parents could not do to other children, for example, to teach and discipline them, they could do it with their own children anytime and nothing could hinder them. Obviously, that must be the reason why Yahweh commanded the Israelites saying, "Remember that Yahweh and Yahweh alone is your Elohim. Love Yahweh with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. Never forget these commands that I am giving you today. Teach them to your children. Repeat them when you are at home and when you are away, when you are resting and when you are working. Tie them on your arms and wear them on your foreheads as a reminder. Write them on the doorpost of your houses and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6: 4-9).

Take note that the Father does not allow or accept a single reason why parents could not teach and discipline their children. Wherever parents may be whether they are near or far, and whatever their job or profession may be, their responsibility towards their children is always their responsibility. Parents are to teach their children the ways and will of the Almighty Father. Otherwise, they will be greatly accountable to the Father for the conduct and spiritual beliefs of their children. However, in case a son insists on being stubborn and rebellious in spite of the teaching, guidance, and discipline of the parents, the parents are to take him before the leaders of the town where they live and make him stand trial, Almighty Yahweh said (Deuteronomy 21: 18-20).

Sadly, rebellion of all forms are now very rampant all over the world. In fact, our society is already plagued with juvenile delinquents such as drug addicts, thieves and robbers, some

others have gone too far – they have become rapists and murderers. Where are the parents? Where does the fault lie? Are these children really stubborn in spite of the teaching, guidance, and discipline of parents? Whatever is the case may be, remember nothing is kept secret from Almighty Yahweh. Both parents and children will have to stand before the Judge on Judgment Day.

D. Humility:

*“...What does God require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”
Micah 6: 8 “Wise men should not boast of their wisdom, nor strong men of their strength, nor rich men of their wealth. If anyone wants to boast, he should boast that he knows and understands me, because my love is constant, and I do what is just right. These are the things that please me.”
Jeremiah 9: 23- 24*

Humility is something that is greatly desired by many and yet it is rarely practiced. Why? It is because to be truly humble, one must first of all be willing to submit to the will of the Father and to discipline oneself. St. Peter says, “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God” (I Peter 5:5). Apparently, Peter’s statement indicates that humility is a personal choice. If we want to be humble, we should discipline ourselves: our attitudes, our mouths and conversation, our ways and actions. We should choose the kind of character we want and work hard for it so that our way of life will conform to the standards of our Father and not of this world’s. First John chapter two verse sixteen declares: “For the lust of the flesh... and the pride of life is not of the Father but of the world. The world passeth away and the lust thereof but he that doeth the Will of God abideth forever.”

Pride and arrogance are the opposite of humility. Like lust and hypocrisy, pride and arrogance are traits which belong to the world and they are satan’s effective means in destroying relationships both with the Father in heaven and with the

brethren. Hence, the Father gave to Israel a regulation which should be observed for all times to keep them from growing proud and arrogant when He would have blessed them with success. This is the regulation:

“All the people of Israel shall live in shelters for seven days, so that your descendants may know that Yahweh made the people of Israel live in simple shelters when He led them out of Egypt.” This is the Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Shelters.
Leviticus 23: 42-43

In Deuteronomy 31: 9-13 Yahweh also commanded Moses: At the end of every year that debts are cancelled comes around, read the Law aloud at the Festival of Shelters... read it so that everyone may hear it and learn to have reverence for Yahweh and obey His teaching faithfully.

The instruction is very clear. The reason why the Israelites have to live in simple shelters for seven days a year is to remind them that they were slaves in Egypt and that they should always have a good and humble attitude. To remind them that they had lived in tents for many years and that they have no reason to become proud and arrogant but to have reverence for Yahweh Almighty and obey His teachings faithfully. To remind especially the younger generations who have not experienced such hardships and possibly think that life is easy and therefore they can just do whatever they want to do. “In times to come your children will ask you, “Why did the LORD our GOD command us to obey all these Laws? Then tell them, ‘We are slaves of the King of Egypt and the LORD rescued us by His great power’” (Deuteronomy 6:20).

Were we not slaves and poor in one way or another? Surely, we were! Though some of us have been rich materially, we were all slaves and poor spiritually. Don't you think it is also good for us to live in tents for seven days a year to show our solidarity with the poor in sincere humility, and to keep ourselves from

growing proud and arrogant? We may think and say that we are humble, but remember things are easier said than done! We need to constantly remind and discipline ourselves through diligent practice.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity by quoting Prophet Zechariah's statement concerning the Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Shelters. "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem (Survivors) shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of host, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zechariah 14: 16-18).

E. Vows:

"By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matthew 12: 37, KJV). Proverbs 10: 21 also says, a good man's words will benefit many people, but you can kill yourself with stupidity. Words are indeed sharp and powerful! Therefore, knowing what to say, when, and how to say them are very important because words either justify or condemn a man. Above all, being careful what to say is very important because the Father demands that vows must be fulfilled.

For guidance, Yahweh gave this guideline to the Israelites: When a man makes a vow to give something to Yahweh, or take an oath to abstain something, he must not break his promise, but must do everything that he said he would. However, when an unmarried woman makes a vow and her father forbids her to fulfill her vow, she is forgiven. But a widow or divorced woman must keep every vow she makes and every promise to abstain from something" (Numbers 30).

A Vow That Costs The Life Of An Only Child

Jephtha was forced by his half-brothers to leave home. Later, the Amonites came to make war against Israel. Jephthah's brothers entreated him to come back home and lead them to fight against the Amonites since Jephtha was a brave man. Jephtha said, "If Yahweh gives me victory, I will be your ruler." The brothers agreed.

Jephtha led the Israelites to battle and at the same time promised to Yahweh saying, "If you will give me victory over the Amonites, I will burn as an offering the first person that comes out of my house to meet me, when I come back home from victory, I will offer that person to You as a sacrifice."

Jephtha won the battle but unfortunately, when he came back home the first person who came out of his house to meet him, dancing and playing tambourine was his only daughter. Jephtha shouted in anguish, "Oh my daughter! You are breaking my heart! Why must it be you that causes me pain? I have made a solemn promise to Yahweh, and I cannot take it back!" The loving and obedient daughter answered, "If you have made a promise to Yahweh, do what you said you would do to me, but do this one thing for me. Leave me alone for two months, so that I can go with my friends to wander in the mountains and grieve that I must die a virgin." Mournfully, upon her return she was made an offering.

The Israelite women made it a custom to go out for four days every year to grieve for the daughter of Jephtha (Judges 11).

King David Upholds The Keeping Of Vows

Some of King David's statements for our guidance and inspiration are as follows:

"My praise shall be of Thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear Him." Psalm 22:25

"I will pay Thee my vows, which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble." Psalm 66: 13-14

"I will offer Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, I will pay my vows unto Thee in the presence of Your people." Psalm 116: 17-18

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the Most High." Psalm 50: 14

The Second Commandment

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image."

This is the commandment where Yahweh continued saying, "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy GOD am a jealous GOD, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

Pondering upon this commandment, I earnestly pray no parent would ever want any of their children, grand-children, great-grandchildren to be visited by the Almighty Father with punishments. And I hope that the prevailing problems we have such as: drug addiction, murder, sex slavery, exploitation, etc. are not the results of the older generation's disobedience of the Father's commandment.

The accounts recorded in I Corinthians chapter ten is a very good reminder to us of the plight of our ancestor Israelites who were freed from slavery in Egypt by the leadership of Moses. All of them ate the same spiritual food, they drank the same spiritual drink, and they were all under the protection of the clouds but Yahweh was not pleased with most of them. Because of idolatry and sexual immorality the wrath of Yahweh was upon them and in one day twenty three thousand (23,000) of them died.

As a matter of fact, of the six hundred thousand men who left Egypt, not counting the women and children, only two of them, Joshua and Caleb together with the younger generations born along the way, had reached the Promised Land. Now, Apostle Paul says, “all of this is an example for us, and to warn us...”

Deuteronomy chapter four also declares: “When Yahweh spoke to you from the fire on Mt. Sinai, you did not see any form. For your good, then, make certain that you do not sin by making for yourselves an idol in any form at all-whether man or woman, animal or bird, reptile or fish. Do not be tempted to worship and serve what you see in the sky-the sun, the moon, the stars” (Deuteronomy 4: 15-18).

How does one look at our situation today? Do similar things happen today? Some of the people who always go to church to attend Mass or Worship Service are the same people who indulge in idolatry and some in sexual immorality. The people eat the same spiritual food and drink the same spiritual drink (the same teaching) all claim that they are believers and followers of the Messiah, all claim to have read and studied the Holy Bible, but is the Messiah please with all of them? In anguish the Messiah once said to the people, “God says ‘They worship me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.’”

I hope everybody understands that this message is not to condemn anyone but a loving reminder that apart from the saving grace of our Father through His Son our Savior and King, we are nothing and we will be certainly destroyed by the enemy. We need to humbly submit our lives to the Father, and renew our commitment to follow His Son our Savior day by day so that the Holy Spirit will empower and enable us to overcome and destroy the works of the enemy. Do not be deceived, degree and titles no matter how good and great, do not give us spiritual power to overcome the works of darkness. It is only the Holy Spirit who can do so and the Holy Spirit is a gift to them who are humble and obedient to the Will of the Father.

The Third Commandment: The Holy Name

"Thou shalt not take the Name of the Elohim or the Lord thy God in vain."

Name is very necessary and important. I supposed the first job Adam had was to name all the creatures around just as the father and mother inevitably choose a name for their new born baby. Otherwise, they would have the difficulty of calling and distinguishing him from the others. Name gives identity and distinctiveness of one person from the rest of his fellows. It also relates to one's prestige and dignity.

R. Arthur Matthews wrote: "It is the name of a person that separates him from the rest of his fellows into a category of distinctiveness that he creates for himself by his character and activity. Throughout the Bible God is very careful to point out the distinctive that are associated with His name and that separates Him from everyone else. Because God is exceedingly jealous for His name, He insists that nothing be allowed to dim its glory or cheapen its distinctiveness. Each time God speaks His name in Leviticus, He adds a reminder that His name is to be hallowed. It is the value of God's name that Satan is out to cheapen. Therefore to pray, "Hallowed be Thy Name" is right in line with the will of God and a blow to the ambition of Satan."

Indeed, our Father's Name is glorious. He is not willing to share the glory of His Name to any other. The Father's Name is also holy and mighty, so that when Yahshua the Messiah prayed for His disciples, he said: "Holy Father! Keep them safe by the power of Your Name, the Name you have given me, so that they may be one just as You and I are one."

According to research and discoveries, the Name of our Father in heaven is the Tetragrammaton YHWH which is read or pronounced as YAHWEH. This Name is too holy for the Israelites to utter. Probably, they were also afraid they would unintentionally misuse the name of the Father especially that the

penalty for misusing the name of the Father was death. Subsequently, they substituted the name of the Father with El or Elohim, meaning the Almighty. Many others chose the Hebrew word Adonai which means LORD.

Sometimes later, these substitute names were translated in English as LORD or GOD as it is in most of our Holy Bibles. But LORD or GOD is not a name, it is a title like the title: King, etc. LORD or GOD is a title which the believers ascribe to the Father and Savior. But it is also a fact that these titles are commonly associated with other beings so that we have to be spiritually sensitive and careful. The only difference in the use of these titles is in writing because it is written in small letters when it is referred to beings other than our Father and Savior.

The Tetragrammaton YHWH was transliterated to JHVH from which the name Jehovah derived. Nevertheless, let us consider that the Hebrew Alphabet does not include letter J and that our Father in heaven revealed Himself first to Abraham and to his descendants the Hebrews or Israelites. It is therefore inconceivable that the original name of the Father begins with letter J. On the other hand, Yahshua the Messiah is the Hebrew Name of our Savior and King, the begotten Son of the Father. Yahshua means Yahweh is my/our Salvation. Messiah means the Anointed. Therefore, the name of our Savior and King means: the Anointed of Yahweh for our salvation.

For more about the name, Revelation 13: 16-18 says, "The beast forced all people, small and great, rich and poor, slaves and free, except those whose names are written in the book of the living which belongs to the Lamb, to have a mark placed on their right hands and foreheads. No one could buy or sell unless he had this mark, that is the beast's name or the number that stands for the name... the number stands for man's name. Its number is 666." But Revelation 22: 3-5 declares: "Nothing that is under God's curse will be found in the city. The Throne of God and the Lamb will be in the city, and his Name will be written on their

foreheads... and they shall rule as Kings forever and ever." HalleluYah!

Finally, the Holy Bible also reveals that Yahweh commanded Moses to tell the Priests: Aaron and his sons saying, "If they pronounce my name as a blessing upon the people of Israel I will bless them" (Numbers 6: 27).

The Fourth Commandment: The Sabbath

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

The book of Genesis tells us that in six days the Father completed His works of creation and on the seventh day He rested. Whether these six days is the literal twenty four hours a day that we have or its equivalent since II Peter 3: 8 says, "Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the LORD as a thousand years, and thousand years as one day", only the Father really knows.

The Sabbath day like the holy Name of our Father is not to be taken lightly. For, the Father Himself made a special mention and treatment of the seventh day after His works of creation. "By the seventh day God finished what He had been doing and stopped working. He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day (Genesis 2: 2-3).

I am sorry that many of our people today even believers are confused about the Sabbath day. Sabbath means rest therefore, Sabbath day is a day of rest. In the Holy Bible there is no mention of the names of days like what we have now such as: Sunday, Monday, and on to Saturday. Instead, the days are identified by its number such as: the first day, the second day and the third day until the seventh day.

Some people say that there is no difference if we keep Sunday or Monday or Saturday or any day as our Sabbath since all days were created by the Father and all days are good. Indeed,

all days were created by the Father for He alone is the creator, and all days are good, but I am sure that does not change the fact that “By the seventh day the Father stopped working, He blessed the seventh day, and set it apart as a special day.” The coming of our Savior and King Yahshua the Messiah did not alter this as some people think and believe. In fact, Yahshua the Messiah Himself said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the Kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the Kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5: 17-19).

When the Messiah and His disciples went through the corn fields on the Sabbath day, the disciples plucked up the ears of corn. The Pharisees who kept watching the move of the Messiah so that they could accuse Him, came near and questioned the Messiah. “Why is it that your disciples do those things which are not lawful to do on the Sabbath day? The Messiah reminded them of what David did when he and his men were hungry during the time of the High Priest Abiathar. Then Yahshua the Messiah concluded: “The Sabbath was made for the good of man; man was not made for the Sabbath.” Some people think that by this statement the Messiah was encouraging the people to desecrate the Sabbath day or that people could already do whatever they desire on the Sabbath day. But there is no such thing in His statement, in fact, He affirms the importance of the Sabbath day. Rather, He and His disciples used the day for the good of everyone and for the glory of the Father. Apparently, when this happened they were on their way to preach the “Good News” about the Kingdom. So what they did was for the salvation of men and the establishment of the Father’s Kingdom (Mark 2: 23-28).

When Yahshua the Messiah also healed the sick on the Sabbath day, it was because He wanted to give rest to the sick people who had been carrying such burden and had not rested for many years. He did not use the Sabbath day for personal enrichment, enjoyment or self-gratification; He did not use the Sabbath day to satisfy the desires of His flesh because in truth He did not have such desires. Instead, He made the people free to celebrate the Sabbath day meaningfully.

In the Book of Acts you will also find that the Apostle Paul prayed, taught, and preached in synagogues and elsewhere on Sabbath days (Acts 13, 16, 17, 18). While Hebrews 4: 9-11 emphasizes the seventh day Sabbath saying, "As it is, however, there still remains for God's people a rest like God's resting on the seventh day. For whoever receives that rest which God promised will rest from his own work, just as God rested from His. Let us, then do our best to receive that rest, so that no one of us will fail as they did because of their lack of faith." How was the Israelites' lack of faith shown? Was it not through disobedience?

When the Father called Moses saying, "Come up the mountain to me..." Moses went up Mt. Senai, and a cloud covered it. The dazzling light of the Lord's presence came down on the mountain. To the Israelites the light looked like a fire burning on top of the mountain. The clouds covered the mountain for six days, and on the seventh day the LORD called Moses from the clouds. Moses went on up the mountain into the cloud. There he stayed for forty days and nights (Exodus 24).

The Father has also this instruction to Israel:

"At the end of every seventh year you are to cancel the debts of your brothers who owe you money... You may collect what a foreigner owes you, but you must not collect what any of your own people owe you. Not one of your people will be poor if you obey and carefully observe everything that I commanded you today. For, I Yahweh will bless you" (Deuteronomy 15).

For six years plant your land and gather in what it produces. But in the seventh year let it rest, and do not harvest anything that grow on it. The poor may eat what grows there... But someone may ask what there will be to eat during the seventh year, when no fields are planted and no crops gathered. Yahweh will bless the land in the sixth year so that it will produce enough food for two years" (Exodus 23 & Leviticus 25).

Going back to the Father's call to Moses, why do you think the Father decided to cover the mountain with clouds for six days only and on the seventh day He called to Moses? Why the cancellation of debts of brothers (worshippers) on the seventh year and not on the sixth or eighth year? Why the planting and harvesting of the fields for six years and to let it rest on the seventh year? Don't you ever think that it is because the seventh is very significant? The Father Himself worked for six days and rested on the seventh day and sanctified it. Isn't it that when the nation Israel rebelled against the laws of the Father in spite of the prophets He sent to remind and warn them, He caused other nations to attack, defeat and carried them away captives so that "The land (Israel) will lie desolate for seventy years, to make up for the Sabbath rest that has not been observed"? (Jeremiah 17 & II Chronicles 36).

On another occasion, the Father strongly stressed this saying, "**Keep the Sabbath, My day of rest**, because it is a sign between you and Me for all time to come, to show that I, the Lord have made you my own people. You must keep the day of rest because it is sacred" (Exodus 31:13, 17; Ezekiel 20: 12 & 20: 20).

"If you treat the Sabbath as sacred and do not pursue your own interest on that day; if you value **my holy day** and honor it by not traveling, working, or talking idly on that day, then you will find the joy that comes from serving me. I will make you honored all over the world, and you will enjoy the land I gave to your ancestors. I, the Lord have spoken" (Isaiah 58: 13-14).

“I will bless those who always observe the Sabbath and do not misuse it. I will bless those who do nothing evil.”

Isaiah 56:2

To observe the Sabbath is to submit to the will of the Father and to unite with Him. The seventh day, seventh month (Feast of Shelters), seventh year Sabbaths foreshadow the Sabbath that we are going to enjoy in the Kingdom of our Father. Therefore to observe it is to show our desire and eagerness to rest from the rule of Satan in this world, and to enjoy abundant and eternal life in the Kingdom of our Father.

Worship Services, Fellowship, and other spiritual or religious gatherings on the first day, or any day, if done in spirit and in truth are certainly good and acceptable to our Father but to desecrate the seventh day, as the holy scripture says, by traveling, working to satisfy the desire of the flesh, and talking idly are absolutely displeasing and unpleasant in the sight of our Father in heaven.

What is your Sabbath day?

II

“Thou Shalt Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself.”

Matthew 22: 39

The commandment: “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”, is the comprehensive form of the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth commandments. For clearer and better understanding, the commandments are herein expounded under the following topics: **A. Justice and Fairness B. Unsolved Murder C. Kindness**

Justice And Fairness:

Justice and fairness are matters which are commonly known to all because they are matters which involve everyone. And surely, if each person would only take heed the words of our Savior, “Do for others what you want them to do for you”, no one

would become a victim of injustice and unfairness. But since injustice sprouts like weeds in the open field, I am hereby compelled to remind our people and urge everyone to seek the Father, His righteousness and His Kingdom.

To seek the righteousness of our Father is to know and obey His Will. Therefore, for our guidance Biblical instructions that will help each one of us uphold justice and fairness are enumerated below:

1. "Do not follow the majority when they do wrong or when they give testimony that perverts justice."
2. "Do not show partiality to a poor man at his trial."
3. "Do not deny justice to a poor man when he appears in court."
4. "Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe makes people blind to what is right and ruins the cause of those who are innocent."
5. Remember, "Favor is deceitful."
6. "Do not take advantage of anyone."
7. "Do not hold back the wages of someone you have hired, not even for one night."

Finally, let us be reminded that unless the people especially the leaders learn to sincerely exercise justice and fairness to everyone, the Father in heaven cannot freely and abundantly bless our land.

B. Handling Unsolved Murder:

For an unsolved murder, Yahweh our Father has these words for our guidance:

"Suppose a man is found murdered in a field that Yahweh your Elohim gives you, and you do not know who killed him, your leaders and judges are to go out and measure the distance from the place where the body was found to each of the nearby towns. Then all the leaders from the town nearest the place where

the murdered man was found are to wash their hands... and say, "we did not murder the man, and we did not know who did it. Father, forgive us, forgive your people. Do not hold us responsible of the murder of an innocent man. By doing what Yahweh, your Elohim requires, you will not be held responsible for the murder" (Deuteronomy 21: 1-9).

The instruction is very clear and though the condition of society thousands of years ago has greatly changed, certainly, the intention of the law remains the same and applicable at all times.

The Father requires that the leaders of the town or city nearest to the place where the murdered man was found should lead the people in confessing to the Father the truth of the matter and to ask for forgiveness in behalf of the people so that the innocent will not be held responsible together with the guilty.

While the concerned authorities such as: the PNP (Philippine National Police) and NBI (National Bureau of Investigation) do their best to identify and arrest the murderer, the concerned leaders should make a formal declaration of statements or confession and petition for forgiveness in behalf of the people as soon as possible.

I am convinced that this problem of unsolved murders is one of the many causes or reasons why our people, our nation is in distress. It is because in many cases, the innocent are declared guilty and the guilty are declared innocent because of influence or "Palakasan" and bribery. Where is justice and righteousness in our land? Whose kingdom are we promoting?

One incident recorded in the Holy Bible which I would like each one of us to recall and ponder is this:

During the reign of King David, there was a severe famine which lasted for three years. David consulted the Lord about it and the Lord said, "Saul and his family are guilty of murder; he put the people of Gibeon to death." So David went to the Gibeonites and said, "What can I do for you? I want to make up

for the wrong that was done to you, so that you will bless the Lord's people."

The Gibeonites answered, "Our quarrel with King Saul and his family cannot be settled with gold and silver." King David asked: "What then do you think I should do for you?" They answered, "King Saul wanted to destroy us and leave none of us alive anywhere in Israel. So hand over to us seven of his male descendants and we will hang them before the Lord at Gibeah.

"I will hand them over to you." The King answered.

Indeed, King David handed over seven male descendants of King Saul except for Mephiboshet, Jonathan's son and the grandson of King Saul because of David's sacred promise with Jonathan.

The Gibeonites hang the seven male descendants of Saul. "After that, God answered their (David's and Israel's) prayers for the country" (II Samuel 21).

C. Kindness

Truth is sometimes very painful but when it is spoken with understanding and kindness, the pain that the truth brings can become a medicine that heals the sick hearts and minds of many people. I suppose that must be the reason why Proverbs 3: 3-4 says, Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Undoubtedly, truth and kindness are indispensable for every good and lasting relationship. To have a good and lasting relationship is everybody's need but the problem is, not everyone knows what to do, how to build and strengthen it.

Kindness for others especially to the poor brethren is one of the basic things we need to exercise if we want to build and strengthen a relationship especially with our Father in heaven.

For enrichment, let us consider the following:

“If you lend money to any of my people (worshipers) who are poor, do not act like a money lender and require him to pay interest... When he cries out to me for help, I will answer him because I am merciful.”

“If a fellow Israelite living near you becomes poor and cannot support himself, you must provide for him as you would for a hired man, so that he can continue to live near you” (Leviticus 25).

In the New Testament, Yahshua the Messiah also emphasized the virtue of kindness: Let us meditate on His words: “...Then shall the King say to the righteous, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you...For I was hungered, and ye gave me meat. I was thirsty and ye gave me drink. I was a stranger, and ye took me in. Naked and ye clothed me. I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison and ye came unto me. Then the righteous shall answer Him saying, ‘Lord, when saw we thee hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee naked, and clothed thee? When saw we thee sick and came unto thee?’ and the King shall answer and say unto them, verily I say to you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matthew 25: 34-40). “Whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward” (Mark 9:41).

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

The Birth, The Kingship, The Suffering of The Messiah

“The Sovereign Elohim never does anything without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.”

Amos 3: 7

When the Father saw how wicked were the people during the time of Noah, He regretted that he had made man and He shared His anguish and thoughts with Noah, the only righteous man together with his family, at that time. Before the Father decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrha, He said, “I will not hide from Abraham what I am going to do.” When the Father thought of releasing His judgment on Nineveh He sent Prophet Jonah to warn the Assyrians before doing so. Indeed, the Father never does anything important good or bad, in the earth without revealing His plan with His servants, the prophets.

At a very unsettled time, the time when the Israelites needed comfort, assurance, and hope, the Father called two men to speak to the Israelites for Him. These two men were Prophets Isaiah and Micah or Michaiiah. Both prophesied about the birth and Kingship of the Messiah. Isaiah, the prophet had a family; he had two sons whose names were very significant to the prevailing condition and future of Israel. One son was named Maher-Shal-al-Hash-Bash which means “the prey hastens.” The other son was named Shear-Jashub which means “a remnant shall return.” Later, Prophet Isaiah added in his prophecy the suffering of the Messiah. He prophesied to the Southern Kingdom of Judah during the eight century B.C. approximately, 750-698 B.C.

While Micah was a prophet from Moresheth-Gath, a village about twenty miles southwest of Jerusalem. He prophesied at about the same time as Prophet Isaiah.

The following are the prophecies concerning the birth, the Kingship, the suffering of the Messiah as well as the angel's revelation to mother Mary:

"...The Lord Himself will give you a sign: a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him 'Immanuel' or Immanu El (which means the Elohim is with man). By the time he is old enough to make his own decisions, people will be drinking milk and eating honey" (Isaiah 7: 14-15).

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his Kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-9, KJV).

"But thou Bethlehem Ephratha, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose going forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5: 2, KJV).

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: Nations shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Micah 4: 3, KJV).

“The Spirit of the Lord will give him wisdom and the knowledge and skill to rule his people. He will know the Lord’s will and have reverence for him, and find pleasure in obeying him. He will not judge by appearance or hearsay; he will judge the poor fairly and defend the rights of the helpless. At his command the people will be punished, and evil persons will die. He will rule his people with justice and integrity. Wolves and sheep will lie together in peace, and leopards will lie down with young goats. Calves and lion cubs will feed together, and little children will take care of them. Cows and bears will eat together, and their calves and cubs will lie down in peace. Lions will eat straw as cattle do. Even a baby will not be harmed if it plays near a poisonous snake. On Zion, God’s holy hill, there will be nothing harmful or evil. The land will be as full of knowledge of the Lord as the seas are full of water” (Isaiah 11: 2-6, TEV).

Angel’s Revelation

“...And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his Kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, how shall this be, seeing I know not a man? The angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which

shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elizabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her" (Luke 1: 28-38, KJV).

"...The angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophets saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matthew 1; 20-23, KJV).

Prophecy About The Suffering Of The Messiah

"...He had no dignity or beauty... There was nothing attractive about him, nothing that would draw us to him. We despised him and rejected him... we ignored him as if he were nothing... Because of our sins he was wounded and beaten... He was arrested and sentenced to die... The Lord says, 'It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness... And through him my purpose will succeed'" (Isaiah 53, TEV).

Laying aside the prophecy recorded in Isaiah 53, everything that was spoken about the Messiah was wonderful and beautiful! The Son that is to be born of a virgin will be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, and the government shall be upon His

shoulders and of the increase of His peaceful government there shall be no end. "Nations shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." HalleluYah!

However, you will notice that suddenly there was a shift in Isaiah's prophecy. Why the shift of thoughts and events? From being a King who would sit in the throne of David, ruling Israel with a very peaceful government; to the crucifixion, to the grave, and then later the resurrection? Have we ever asked ourselves why? Was it really the intention or the plan of the Father that the spoken Kingship and the peaceful government of His Son would be in the spiritual realm only for thousands of years and not in the material world that we live in? That the people really had to wait for His Second Coming before the spoken Kingdom by prophets Micah and Isaiah and the revelation of the angels to mother Mary be realized? Apostle Paul said: "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, that come to nought: but we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the Princes of this world knew: **for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory** (I Corinthian 2: 6-8).

I am sorry that we always have to recall and study the past in order to learn and be able to meet the needs of the present and prepare for the future. Let us refresh ourselves with what happened in the beginning. Yahweh gave a commandment for man to obey but man chose not to obey. Instead, man listened to satan's lure and obeyed satan's will which was contrary to the Father's will and commandment. In other words, man did not have faith in Yahweh. Consequently, man became a sinner. The penalty for sin is death but because the Father is not willing that man would perish, He made a regulation that man should shed blood of animals so that man or the sinner would be forgiven. "For the life of every living thing is in the blood." That is why the Israelites had to offer blood of doves, sheep, bulls, etc. (Leviticus 17). They were to shed blood of animals for atonement until they

would be ready to receive by faith the Messiah whom the Father would send both for personal salvation and for the redemption of the world through His Kingship. Let us be reminded that when man fell into sin, his understanding of the truth and of the Father's will was not only obscured but blackened and his restoration takes a very long process. In fact, Yahshua the Messiah said to His disciples: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."

Take note that the original problem was man's lack of faith in the Father, Yahweh. So, the solution of the problem is faith; faith in His Son whom He sent for our salvation. Man fell because of lack of faith, man must be saved and restored by faith in the Messiah who is the Living Word of the Father. Faith that works in love. This principle had not changed and will never be changed. On Judgment Day man's faith in the Living Word of the Father will still be the basis of judgment; the basis in separating the righteous from the unrighteous when the Father's Kingdom comes in earth. "I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18: 8).

Did Israel receive in faith the Anointed of the Father? No! "He came into his own and his own received him not" (John 1: 11). He was ignored, despised, rejected, beaten, and crucified. They did not believe in Him whom the Father sent. So what do you think would have happened? The people's sin remained. And since there is no other way for sinners to obtain forgiveness of sin from the Father but by offering blood sacrifice, the Messiah willingly offered Himself as the sacrificed Lamb for the salvation and restoration of those who believe in Him, for the glory and pleasure of the Father. In the "Transfiguration", while the Messiah prayed on the hill, "His countenance changed and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly two men were there talking with him. They were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in heavenly glory and talked with Jesus about the way in which he would soon fulfill God's purpose by dying in Jerusalem" (Luke 9: 29-31).

Because of the people's unbelief and resistance, Moses and Elijah appeared in heavenly glory and talked with the Messiah about the way in which he would fulfill God's purpose by dying in Jerusalem.

In Matthew 23 we can also see that the Messiah cried out saying, "Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone the messengers God has sent you! How many times I wanted to put my arms around all your people, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me! And so your Temple will be abandoned and empty. From now on, I tell you, you will never see me again until you say, 'God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord'" (Matthew 23: 37-39). What does this mean to us? Have we ever thought why the Messiah wept?

Have we ever considered why the Messiah went through the hardship of gathering few disciples who were not well educated to help Him preach the message of repentance and the Kingdom? Let us recall that as the Messiah walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw Peter and Andrew catching fish with a net. The Messiah said unto them: "Come with me, and I will teach you to catch men." The Messiah went a little farther and there He met James and John who were getting their net ready, the Messiah also called them to follow Him and they did together with Peter and Andrew (Mark 1). Peter, Andrew, James and John were uneducated, Acts chapter four verse thirteen confirms this: "The members of the Council were amazed to see how bold Peter and John were and to learn that they were ordinary men of no education. They realized then that they had been companions of Jesus."

Clearly, the Messiah took pains in gathering few disciples who were uneducated in order to help Him, for the salvation of the people and for the cause of building the Father's Kingdom in earth. These disciples were indeed with the Messiah in teaching and preaching to the people: "Repent for the Kingdom is at hand."

But, why the uneducated? Where were the great and famous men of Israel?

The Kingdom was indeed at hand because the one speaking was the Anointed King of the Father who was to rule the people and to lead them to live in righteousness so that they could start a peaceful government in the world. With Yahshua the Messiah then as the King, Israel would have been the Kingdom of our Father and of His Son together with all those who were united with Him. Israel would have been truly the "Chosen race, the King's Priests, the holy nation. Yahweh's own people chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of the Elohim, who called them out of darkness into His own marvelous light" (I Peter 2: 9).

Let us also recall that when the Messiah was about to be betrayed, at the table He said to His disciples: "One of you will betray me... How terrible for that man who will betray the Son of man! It would have been better for that man if he had never been born! (Matthew 26).

Everybody knows that the word "betray" indicates something evil. Now, if the "traitor" was simply fulfilling the best original plan of the Father, why do you think did the Messiah use the word betray? Why did He not simply say, "One of you will be led by the Father to hand me over to the authorities."

I maintain therefore that at that very moment, the moment when the Messiah was betrayed and crucified, the forces of evil prevailed, and the Father allowed it because the people were not willing to repent of their sin and to accept Yahshua the Messiah as their King. Satan on the other hand thought that he was already victorious, not realizing that he would be finally defeated in the resurrection of the Messiah.

In John chapter 18 we can also see that when the Messiah was brought before Governor Pilate, Pilate asked Him: "Are you the King of the Jews?" The Messiah answered: "My Kingdom is not of this world: if my Kingdom were of this world, then would

my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my Kingdom not from hence.

Later Pilate asked Him again: "Are you a King, then? "The Messiah answered: "Thou sayest that I am a King. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I unto the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."

How do you think should we reconcile these two different answers of the Messiah to the same questions twice asked by Pilate? Take note that the Messiah first said: "...but now is my Kingdom not from hence." Second, the Messiah said: "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born..."

Truly, the Messiah was to be the Ruler, the King of Israel and eventually of the world, as the angel revealed to mother Mary and through the prophets. But, the Messiah could not claim that Israel was His Kingdom because Israel was, generally, filled with unrepentant and unbelieving people.

The people were not of the truth and for the truth but against the truth. That is why Yahshua the Messiah said, "But now is my Kingdom not from hence." Or "My Kingdom does not belong here."

St. Luke on the other hand has carefully recorded the account when Yahshua the Messiah triumphantly entered Jerusalem. Luke's records tell us that when Yahshua the Messiah came closer to Jerusalem and saw it, He wept over it saying, "If you only knew today what is needed for peace! But now you cannot see it! The time will come when your enemies will surround you with barricades, blockade you, and close in on you from every side. They will completely destroy you and the people within your walls; not a single stone will they leave in its place, because you did not recognize the time when God came to save you!" In another version, "They shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children with thee; and they shall not leave in

thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation" (Luke 19: 41-44).

One of Yahshua the Messiah's favorite approaches in catching the attention of the people and teaching them lessons is by telling them parables. Some of these parables give us insights about the Kingdom. One is the parable of the tenants in the vineyard which I will quote to refresh ourselves and thereby gain insight.

"There was once a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a hole for the wine press, and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to tenants and left home on a trip. When the time came to gather the grapes, he sent his slaves to the tenants to receive his share of the harvest. The tenants grabbed his slaves, beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again the man sent other slaves, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all he sent his son to them. Surely they will respect my son he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the owner's son. Come on, let's kill him, and we will get his property! So they grabbed him, now, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenant? The Messiah asked. 'He will certainly kill those evil men, and rent the vineyard out to other tenants who will give him the share of the harvest at the right time'. Then Yahshua the Messiah added, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce the proper fruits" (Luke 20).

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

“Prepare The Way Of The King”

But before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes, I will send you the Prophet Elijah. He will bring fathers and children together again; otherwise I would have to come and destroy your country (Malachi 4: 5).

God sent His messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the Light, so that all should hear the message and believe (John 1: 6-7).

It was mentioned earlier that the Father has a unique and special purpose for each one of us. Evidently, the Father’s purpose for the life of His Son in the earth was to be the Savior and King of the world. But to rule over the whole world is not an easy task. It is such a tremendous task that it cannot be done by just one man. Therefore, the King needs faithful people to work with him. On the other hand, the Father did everything He could do, He even sent ahead a messenger to prepare the Way of the King. This messenger was to “preach repentance and reconciliation especially among family members or parents and children. To make disobedient people turn back to the way of thinking of the righteous. To make winding roads straight; rough paths smooth. To tell people about the Light so that all should hear the message and believe in Him and all mankind will see God’s salvation” (John 1).

The messenger the Father sent was the Messiah’s own relative John the Baptist, the son of Zechariah the priest and Elizabeth the cousin of mother Mary. The account concerning John the Baptist’s miraculous birth is carefully recorded in Luke chapter one. John was only a few months older than the Messiah.

When he grew up his clothes were made of Camel's hair and he wore a leather belt around his waist, and his food were locusts and wild honey. Being a son of a priest, I believe it is reasonable to assume that John had a good standing and influence in the society because priests were highly respected. As a matter of fact, many Pharisees and Sadducees came to John desiring to be baptized (Matthew 3:7).

John started his preaching in the desert of Judea saying, "Turn away from your sins because the Kingdom of heaven is near!" People from the capital city, from the province, and from all over the country near the Jordan River came to hear him. It was also at the Jordan River that he said to the people, "I baptized you with water to show that you have repented but the one who will come after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry His sandals."

A little while later, the Messiah arrived and showed His intention to be baptized by John. John hesitated and said, "I ought to be baptized by you." But the Messiah answered, "Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires." As soon as the Messiah was baptized and came out of the water, the heaven was opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on Him. Then a voice was heard from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3).

Why did Yahshua the Messiah have to be baptized if baptism is to show that we have repented of our sins? Baptism is not only to show that we have repented of our sins but it is also a public testimony or declaration of our faith in the Messiah and the decision to follow Him. Understandably, Yahshua the Messiah was showing an example to the sinners what to do. He was teaching the people by example. This is the process that you have to go through in order to fulfill all righteousness. Now, let us go back to John the Baptist's mission such as: "To tell people about

the Light so that all should hear the message and believe in Yahshua the Messiah and all mankind will see God's salvation. John's mission consistently and clearly tells us that the Father really wanted mankind to be saved, and the world to become His kingdom with Yahshua the Messiah as the King, two thousand years ago.

John the Baptist, on the other hand, did his best in urging the people to repent of their sins and preached to them the Good News about the Kingdom. But his preaching lasted only a little while because he was imprisoned and later beheaded. As far as I could remember, there were only two occasions when John the Baptist boldly declared that Yahshua was the Son of Yahweh. One was during the baptism in the Jordan River, and another was when Yahshua the Messiah was walking by, John the Baptist saw Him and said, "There is the Lamb of God" (John 1: 36). John's two disciples who heard him went with Yahshua the Messiah.

While John the Baptist was in prison doubts must have crept into his heart and thought. Let us find out what happened:

"When John the Baptist hears in prison about the things that Christ was doing, he sent some of his disciples to him. 'Tell us, they asked Jesus, are you the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?' 'Go back and tell John what you are hearing and seeing: the blind can see, the lame can walk... and the Good News is preached to the poor. Happy are those who have no doubts about me.' When John's disciples left, Jesus spoke about John to the crowd. 'Tell me, what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, indeed, but you saw much more than a prophet. For John is the one of whom the scripture says: God said, I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you. I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than any man who has ever lived. But he who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John... And

if you are willing to receive their message, John is Elijah whose coming was predicted” (Matthew 11).

Notice the statement of Yahshua the Messiah, “I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than any man who has ever lived. But he who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John.” If John was greater than any man who had ever lived, why is it that he who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John? If he who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John, then what is John’s status or standing? What is our understanding of the Messiah’s statement, “If you are willing to receive their message, John is Elijah whose coming was predicted?”

If John’s mission was to prepare the people and to “open the way” for the Messiah and King, what is our mission? Each one of us has a role in the building of our Father’s Kingdom in earth. For, though our Father is able to do everything by His own might and wisdom, He has given to man the earth as man’s territory and responsibility. The Father has done His part of restoring the authority to man through the death and resurrection of His Son; it is man’s responsibility to subdue the earth and establish the Father’s Kingdom.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Prophet Elijah

Until the time of John all the prophets and the Law of Moses spoke about the Kingdom; and if you are willing to believe their message, John is Elijah, whose coming was predicted. Listen, then, if you have ears!

Matthew 11: 13-15

Prophet Elijah was from Tishbe, Gilead. He prophesied during the time of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of Israel. Elijah prophesied that Israel would have no rain for three years as punishment for their wickedness and sin. Because of his prophecy, he was hunted by Queen Jezebel. But Yahweh said to

Elijah, "Leave this place and go east and hide yourself near Cherith Brook, east of Jordan. The brook will supply you with water to drink, and I have commanded ravens to bring you food there."

Later, Elijah went to Zarephath near Sidon. There he met a widow. He said to her, "Please bring me a drink of water and bread too." The widow answered, "All I have is a handful of flour in a bowl and a bit of olive oil in a jar... That will be our last meal, and then we will starve to death." Again, Elijah prophesied: "Don't worry, go on and prepare your meal. But first make a small loaf from what you have and bring it to me, and then prepare the rest for you and for your son. For this is what Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, says: "The bowl will not run out of flour or the jar run out of oil before the day that I, Yahweh your Elohim send rain." The widow obeyed Elijah's words and truly they never run out of flour and oil.

Prophet Elijah also performed miracles. One miracle he had done by the power of the Almighty was when the son of a widow died. Elijah prayed aloud to Yahweh for the boy. Yahweh answered and Elijah took the boy by his hands and presented him alive to his mother.

Another miracle he did was when Elijah appeared to King Ahab. When the King saw Elijah, Ahab said, "So there you are the worst trouble maker in Israel!" "I'm not the troublemaker", Elijah answered. "You and your father are! You are disobeying Yahweh's commands and worshiping the idols of Baal. Now order all the people of Israel to meet me at Mount Carmel. Bring along the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of the goddess Asherah who are supported by Queen Jezebel."

King Ahab summoned all the Israelites and the prophets of Baal to meet at Mount Carmel. There Elijah challenged the Israelites by saying, "How much longer will it take you to make up your minds? If Yahweh is Elohim, worship Him; but if Baal is

Elohim, worship him!" then Elijah said, "I am the only prophet of Yahweh still left, but there are four hundred fifty prophets of Baal. Bring two bulls; let the prophets of Baal take one, kill it, cut it in pieces, and put it on the wood-but don't light the fire. I will do the same with the other bull. Then let the prophets of Baal pray to their god, and I will pray to Yahweh, and the Elohim who answers by sending fire-he is the true Elohim."

The prophets of Baal prepared their bull first and prayed to Baal until noon. They kept dancing around the altar they had built and shouted, "Answer us, Baal." But no answer came. When it was Elijah's turn to present the "bull offering", he said to the people, "Come closer to me," and they all gathered around him. Elijah took twelve stones each representing the twelve sons of Jacob. He built an altar of stone and dug a trench around it, large enough to hold four gallons of water. He placed the wood on the altar, cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he asked the people to pour gallons of water on the offering. Then Elijah approached the altar and prayed to Yahweh: "Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob prove now that you are the Elohim of Israel and that I am your servant and have done all this at your command. Answer me, so that this people will know that You are the Elohim of Israel and that You are bringing them back to Yourself." Yahweh immediately answered and sent fire down. The fire burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, scorched the earth and dried up the water in the trench.

When the people saw what happened, they exclaimed, "Yahweh is Elohim and He alone." Elijah ordered the people: "Seize the prophets of Baal; don't let any of them get away." The people obeyed and Elijah led them to Kishon Brook and killed them.

When King Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done, she sent a message to Elijah: "May the gods strike me dead if by this time tomorrow I don't do the same thing that you did to the prophets of Baal."

Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He walked through the wilderness hungry, tired, depressed, and wished he would die. Later, along the way before reaching Mount Sinai, he found a tree, he lay down under it and fell asleep. While he was sleeping an angel touched him and said, "Wake up and eat." When he woke up, he saw a loaf of bread and a jar of water near his head.

On Mount Sinai Elijah lived in a cave. There Yahweh spoke to Elijah: "What are you doing here?" "Go out and stand before me on top of the mountain." Elijah did as Yahweh commanded. A furious wind that split the hills and shattered the rocks passed by but Yahweh was not in the wind. There was an earthquake but Yahweh was not in the earthquake. There was a fire but Yahweh was not in the fire. After the fire, there was the soft whisper of a voice: "Elijah, what are you doing here?" Elijah answered, "I have always served You – You alone. But the people of Israel killed Your prophets and I am the only one left – and they are trying to kill me." Yahweh answered: "Return to the wilderness near Damascus... I will leave seven thousand people alive in Israel – all those who are loyal to me and have not bowed to Baal or kissed his idol." Elijah was inspired and did as Yahweh commanded.

As a prophet, Elijah had a student and faithful follower named Elisha. Sometime while Elijah and Elisha were walking on the road, "suddenly a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire came between them, and Elijah was taken up to heaven by a whirlwind."

The coming back of Prophet Elijah was prophesied by prophet Malachi four hundred years before the birth of Yahshua the Messiah. The said four hundred year-period was silent; there was no revelation. And that must be the reason why the Father strongly reminded the Israelites through Prophet Malachi: "Remember the teachings of my servant Moses, the laws and commands which I gave him at Mount Senai for all the people of Israel to obey."

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

New Light On The Old Truth

The said chapter, New Light On The Old Truth contains the message printed and sent to our country's religious and government leaders dated August, 1988 during the term of President Corazon C. Aquino, the President of the Philippines. The title of the printed message (mimeographed) is Letters To Churches with the following subjects:

- I. Appeal for Understanding, Support, and Unity
- II. Visions and Revelations
- III. A Bible Study
- IV. Holy Reminder: Affirmation of Faith

Letters to Churches are reprinted in this book because the author believes that it is the will of the Father for the benefit of those who did not have the chance to receive and read the message, and for future reference. The letters are generally the same, however, the subject: Bible Study, Visions and Revelations are deleted in this printing. The Visions and Revelations from the beginning to the present are in the books, Visions: More Witness For Christ, The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord and the Good News About the Kingdom.

Included also in this chapter are the following:

1. Lecture guide I prepared and sent to professionals and students when the LORD instructed me to give lecture on salvation.
2. Excerpt from the lecture on Prophesying by Rev. Rolly Blas given to the people of Cagayan de Oro City on June 27, 1994. According to Rev. R. Blas he had attended the same lecture abroad and he was glad to re-echo the message to us.

August, 1998

To: THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,
AND ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE

FROM: MRS. SEGUNDINA T. VALENZONA & FAMILY

Salud A. Ramos Lane
Sunshine Village, Tibasak
9000 Cagayan de Oro City
Philippines

Dear Brethren:

Greetings in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

I am SEGUNDINA T. VALENZONA. My husband is Supernico Y. Valenzona, Jr. and we have four children namely: Ruth Love, Gibson Jun, January Gay, and Vernie Joy with ages fourteen, thirteen, eleven, and ten years respectively at this time of writing. At present: Ruth Love Valenzona – Russell, D.M. (Doctor in Management); Gibson Jun T. Valenzona, DTE (Doctor in Technology Education); January Gay T. Valenzona, Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy); Vernie Joy T. Valenzona, B. M. (Bachelor of Music Major in Music Education with Piano Principal).

Beloved brethren, on the eve of May 20, 1988 the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Dina, write letters as St. Paul had done." I then prayed about it, meditated, and said to myself "What should I write? How?" "As St. Paul had done", the LORD said. Immediately, I reviewed St. Paul's Letters to the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians; to Timothy, Titus, Philemon as well as the general epistles Hebrews through Jude.

After examining St. Paul's epistle, I discovered that his letters cover all of man's problems and needs both individual needs and collective. Man's problems and needs such as: Salvation

through Faith in Jesus Christ; True Worship and Family Life; Christian Conduct and Responsibilities; Instruction about the problems of church division and immorality; Exhortation concerning the coming of Christ; and Warning against enemies who try to deceive and destroy GOD'S people. St. Paul also explained his authority to give guidance by narrating his visions and revelations of Christ (II Corinthians 12 & Acts 9).

I praise GOD for His call to me and on July 28, 1988 I began to sit down in order to write.

I. A – Salvation Through Faith In Jesus Christ

Brethren, the world is now in deep turmoil. I would not go into the details of the situation because that is not the main theme of this letter. Besides, I do not have the statistics to prove it, but sensible person can generally perceive the condition of our time and above all, I know it because our dear LORD showed it to me in visions. For our country, geographically and economically speaking, our Father has given us a beautiful and rich country. It is beautiful and rich in natural resources but sad to say that most Filipinos are living in poverty. Politically, although Filipinos are quite well known for intellectual excellence, in many ways we failed to handle properly the affairs of our nation. What is our condition or circumstance telling us then?

Our condition simply tells us that we cannot solve the problems of life by purely human intellect and efforts. Much more the problems of our country and of the whole world. We need the wisdom and power of GOD; we need salvation through our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Salvation is twofold, namely: Spiritual and Physical. Spiritually, we need to be born again individually through faith in JESUS CHRIST so that we will become members of the family of our heavenly Father. Spiritual rebirth requires repentance and turning about to receive Jesus Christ and follow Him. This rebirth is what our LORD JESUS also told to a well known and well respected Jewish leader Nicodemus (John 3).

Physically, we need collective salvation. We need to be saved together as people of GOD (Exodus). Both salvations are very important, for mankind should be perfectly whole. But the spiritual must first take place then the physical for how can GOD establish His Kingdom in earth without godly people to live or dwell in it?

My fellow countrymen, in this letter also I bring to you good news! We are our Father's hope; we are His chosen people. He had chosen us to build with Him His Kingdom in earth. Today, our Father is chastening us for good. He is cleansing and healing us and consequently, He will abundantly bless us so that we will become His mighty instruments in healing His whole creation. Therefore, the words which our Father spoke to the Israelites through Prophet Isaiah saying, "I will give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 49: 6), must be fulfilled in us and through us for we are the New Israel of God, the generations of Abraham through faith in Jesus Christ.

Religious and Government Leaders, Professionals, I am particularly addressing you because you are very important. Our LORD says, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more" (Luke 12: 48).

Our time now is a time of reckoning. I beg everyone therefore to repent and be steadfast in their faith in GOD and encourage others to do the same. We will soon be in greater and deeper troubles but don't be afraid! GOD is with us and He will fight on our behalf. He will crown us with victory, everlasting freedom and joy as long as we remain faithful to Him, we, being the people who are called according to His own purpose.

Our time is like also the time of a pregnant woman who is about to give birth. It is the time when she has to prepare many things such as: diapers, clothing, crib, and money to pay the hospital bills. Then comes the time of great inconvenience, intense

pain and struggle before the rejoicing. Brethren, like that pregnant woman, it is our time now to prepare for a new life in our Father's Kingdom. For as concerning the Kingdom, the scripture says, "...And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21: 27). Let us therefore repent and endeavor to have our names (as Filipino people) be written in the Lamb's book of life so that at last we can give to our Father the joy He long wanted and rejoice with Him forever!

In the meantime, I hope no one will ever make the mistake of thinking that because I am writing you this letter and giving you so much hope, I or my family is already an exception to any struggle. In truth, if there are other families who are really in need of support, then, perhaps we are the most.

B. – True Worship And Family Life

Philippines has been known as the only Christian nation in the Orient. It is therefore fitting to say that Philippines is the only country in the Orient that bears the name of Christ. In effect we can also proudly say that we are indeed very religious. However, have we tried to ponder and ask ourselves – Is our religiosity based on our knowledge of GOD and of His Will? Are we really worshipping Him who alone is worthy to be worshiped?

Worship does not only mean going to the Temple to attend Worship Service or Mass, keeping of church doctrines and sacraments, faithful obedience to church government and rites. Worship is the deepest, greatest, and highest reverence and undivided devotion to the one who is worthy. Who then is worthy to be worshiped? Only GOD (Revelation 19: 10 & Revelation 22: 9). Why worship GOD? Because He is holy, so good, so loving and merciful, just and faithful, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and because there is none like Him – the Creator and the Source of all good things. How? To worship GOD is to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4: 24), that is to love Him with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength. This also means

knowing His instruction and obeying them – not forgetting to be kind always to the poor and needy. Remember that GOD’S second great commandment is, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself”, and First Peter 4: 8 also says, “Fervent charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”

Worship also means having intimate fellowship or communion with GOD by acknowledging Him as our Father, our Savior through His Son, our Guide and our Teacher through the Holy Spirit. Treating Him as our all – our Refuge, our Hope, our Joy, our Shepherd who provides everything, our Light and Life. Trusting and entrusting to Him all our concerns and giving to Him all the glory and honor. Therefore, in the final analysis to worship GOD is to offer ourselves to Him a living sacrifice; living with Him and for Him at all times.

Don’t be confused! Loving GOD does not automatically give us a comfortable life. Often, it is the opposite. If it does give you automatic comfort, beware! That might be a snare. There is no short cut to genuine success and true happiness. Remember that Jesus Christ is the Way and what was Jesus’ way of life? That should be our life too, not seeking for automatic personal comfort but always willing to suffer for the redemption of all.

I am sorry that some of us go and attend Worship Services because we think that by doing so, GOD will give us favor, bless us abundantly and consequently, our position in heaven will be secured. Indeed our Father does not hesitate to bless His children but in that case, we are not really worshipping Him. The reverse maybe true because our motives are associated with greediness. When we come together to worship our Father, our motives should be: Because we love Him and we want to praise Him together and give Him the glory and honor He deserves. Collectively give to Him our praises and thanksgiving for every victory or success, to rejoice together as one big family, to fellowship with one another in order to learn of each other’s specific condition and bear each other’s burdens.

Although we are religious people, our religiosity did not mean true worship of our heavenly Father. Even the saints that most of us worship are grieving over us because never in the books of the saints that we can find a record where they taught us to worship them, instead, they taught us to worship GOD. The saints had suffered so much, were persecuted, were killed in order to share with us their knowledge of GOD and to teach us to worship the Father not them. Yes, we should give due honor to all the saints especially to mother Mary, the physical mother of Jesus Christ, by using their life and works as our model or examples, and thanking GOD for them. But in worship – only GOD is worthy to be worshiped.

Our Father says, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy GOD am a jealous GOD, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me” (Exodus 20: 4-5). “I am Yahweh: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images” (Isaiah 42: 8). In Matthew 6:7 Jesus Christ also said, “When ye pray, use not vain repetitions...” But often, in our prayer we have treated our Father as if He is deaf, as if He does not understand. Prophet Isaiah was so bold in declaring this: “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your GOD, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59: 1-2). On another occasion in the New Testament Jesus Christ said, “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips: but their heart is far from me. In vain they do worship me” (Matthew 15: 8-9).

We have grossly disobeyed our Father and have greatly defiled ourselves. We have defiled our hearts, minds, mouths, and hands by worshiping other gods and by doing things our own

way. Hence, although we are Christians, most of us do not have the wisdom and power of Christ. Some of the effects of our disobedience and sins are made manifest in disunity, rebellion, and sexual immorality. Like what most of us do in our worship, there are also husbands and wives who are very busy trying to know every detail of their own office works and business transactions but do not bother to know GOD'S Will for their families. There are even husbands who do not know their own wives and children and vice versa. Thus, we have broken families, misguided youths, drug addicts, and homosexuals plus the sickness they brought about like AIDS and others. Then the lust for power, arrogance, lust for material possessions or greediness which resulted in graft and corruption, unfair labor practice on the one hand; strike and picketing, and other forms of rebellion on the other which generally resulted in economic and political crises of our country.

In the book of Prophet Hosea GOD also said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." With humble hearts and sincerity my brethren, let us study the Holy Bible, learn and obey. Learning is twofold: It is learning to discard the old, incorrect, and undesirable ways and practices, and at the same time learning to take or absorb something that is new, good and correct.

C. Christian Conduct And Responsibilities

Regarding Christian Conduct, let me remind you of what St. Peter wrote to the Christians long time ago. "GOD'S divine power had given us everything we need to live a truly religious life through our knowledge of the one who called us to share in his own glory and goodness. In this way he has given us the very great and precious gifts he promised, so that by means of these gifts you may escape from the destructive lust that is in the world, and may come to share his divine nature. For this very reason do your best to add goodness to your faith; to your goodness add knowledge; to your knowledge add self-control; to your self-control add endurance; to your endurance add godliness; to your

godliness add brotherly affection; to your brotherly affection add love. These are the qualities that you need, and if you have them in abundance, they will make you active and effective in your knowledge of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. But whoever does not have them is so shortsighted that he cannot see and has forgotten that he has been purified from his past sins" (II Peter 1: 3-9).

St. Peter's writing is very clear. Our religiosity must be based on our knowledge of GOD and of His Will, and we must also possess His divine power. I believe having GOD'S divine power is the same as being filled with the Holy Spirit or to be born again because if the Holy Spirit is not in us we are not in the position to completely destroy or conquer satan, the fact that satan has already knowledge of GOD and His Will for man, and also because satan has power. St. Peter enumerated the qualities that Christians should have then he concluded by saying that if we lack these things, we are blind and we have forgotten that we have been purged from our old sins. Brethren, I can only say the truth – most of us are still religious blinds. Our religious practices and conduct have not shown that we really know Him who called and chose us, and that we have been gifted with His divine power that would enable us to overcome the destructive lust that is in the world. Let us therefore humbly turn to the LORD and make a new start in our religious life by abiding in His Word and let His Word abide in us.

Concerning responsibilities, the scripture says, "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the LORD, and not unto men" (Colossians 3: 23). Our responsibilities are sacred. No matter how lowly or humble or small it may seem, it is a responsibility our Father has entrusted to us therefore sooner or later, we will be required to give an accounting of it before Him who promised to reward every man according to what he has done. Our experiences and condition could tell us that as GOD'S people, we are far below our Father's expectation of us, but take courage, and repent! Our Father can cleanse, heal, and restore us and He will do it for His Holy Name's sake.

Honestly, we have not been good stewards of our Father's wealth even in the way we handle our families especially our children. Instead of building our families, our people, our nation, the rich are too occupied making themselves richer, forgetting to be kind and neglecting their responsibilities toward their children so that our youths have become dilinquents, drug addicts, and homosexuals. While the poor on the other hand, become poorer because of unhealthy living condition, under nutrition, poor working condition which results in sickness and deaths, lack of education, and lack of employment opportunities for those who survived. Are we not "loveless and irresponsible Christians" in this case? I hope we have not forgotten that "GOD IS LOVE" and CHRIST is the visible expression of the invisible love.

Sadly, some of our people do not understand their responsibilities in building our nation. Instead of building their families, our people, our nation, they are building castles and monuments for their own names trying to satisfy or fill their indescribable longing and emptiness. Longing and emptiness which for certain will never be satisfied with anything but by the Word or Spirit of GOD. As a reminder the scripture says, "Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth" (Luke 12: 33). Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life" (John 6: 27).

Others just grow weary because the promise of a very beautiful life in Christian teaching has not come true. That is why some church workers after serving the LORD for so many years go and serve the enemy of the LORD without really knowing it. In this case, I am sorry that Christianity has not been fully understood, much more the Will of GOD for man and the whole creation. More sorry that most of us have not possess the divine power as St. Peter said.

Some are simply lazy, hopeless, and discouraged so that satan takes control of their lives and they become thieves, robbers, rapists, pickpocketers, and murderers instead of becoming responsible citizens. I hope our authorities in this particular area are always eager to do the best of their responsibilities.

In general, often we fail to align our priorities and activities with GOD'S Will so that we are like a weighing scale that is out of balance. Even our judgment, often, it is adversely affected with little things like flattery, favors, bribe or personal gain and advantage. We justify the wicked and our own sinful acts for rewards. Much more, some of us have become despisers of those who are good especially when they try to correct or discipline us.

Brethren, I can see the need for individual and collective repentance. I encourage the leaders therefore to declare a National **"Day OF Repentance"** so that our Father and Savior will be magnified, pleased, and entreated. I suggest that on this day two flags will be raised. One for the LORD, that is a white Flag with a Gold Lettering on it, **"Holiness To The LORD"** and, one for our country. The White flag should be raised first and while raising it the **"LORD'S PRAYER"** should be sang solemnly and the **"HOLY REMINDER"** be recited. Then a bishop (I again suggest bishop Marciano Quiocho and or La Verne Mercado) should say the Prayer of Thanksgiving. The raising of the National Flag will follow with the singing of the National Anthem in Filipino. Then the President and or the Vice President should give words to the people. After the President's speech, the Bishop should give the Benediction. For the details, I leave them to you.

Religious and Government Leaders, our LORD JESUS said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12: 32). Why don't we do then our responsibility of exalting the Name of our LORD so that men shall be drawn to Him? GOD bless us all!

D. Instruction About Church Division And Unity

In the beginning, our Father intended mankind to be one under Him. But when satan intruded into man's life, division then began. We know this even in ourselves – within us there are two kinds of forces, each trying to take control of our decision and action. Externally, division was first manifested in the two children of Adam and Eve – Cain and Abel. Cain on the side of satan and Abel on the side of GOD. That is how division started and certainly that is not what our Father really intended in the beginning.

As for the Christian Church in the past, I believe division was much less troublesome than today because they were yet few in numbers. Today, we have grown so large with almost countless denominations not to mention the disunity in hearts and minds. In tackling our problems therefore, I urge you brethren in the Name of Christ to concentrate working for the Unity of Thoughts and Decision in overcoming every evil while keeping also in mind the greatest commandments, "Love GOD... and Love your neighbor...", and take courage for in due time we will be one in our Father's Kingdom and the many denominations shall be one under Christ.

In connection with this, let me share with you what our LORD and Savior revealed to me in a night vision:

One evening in April 1987, I dreamed and in my dream I met a group of foreigners. By and by, I had a clash with one of them. The argument became hot and great trouble emerged. I then kept on rebuking them in the Name of Jesus Christ, but there was one of them who was so fierce. That fierce man was the Anti-Christ. With the Anti-Christ was a multitude of followers who had high powered weapons. They fired at me and I was surrounded with great fire but Praise GOD! I was not hurt even a bit. While my hands were in motion trying to throw the fire away from my body, I also prayed: "Spirit of Christ be in me" and at the same time continued to rebuke them in the Name of Jesus Christ.

After the fight, I heard the LORD said to me: “Dina, I am glad that you are here, otherwise, there will still be more and more denominations coming up, but because of you, the world will now realize that there is only one Church: **THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.**” HalleluYah!

E. Warning Against Enemies Who Try To Deceive And Destroy God’s People

Take care! My brethren, our enemy is roaring and roaming around seeking whom he may devour for he knows his time is so short. Bear in mind that our number one enemy is satan – a spiritual being but he has so many physical or substantial representatives. They come to us in many ways, some as “open enemies”, some as sheep – in sheep’s clothing. The latter is more dangerous because they are subtle and they are among us eagerly working for our destruction.

In particular, some come in our church as wonderfully tamed sheep – accommodating, understanding, and very helpful but in truth, when they get the chance they will seduce our youths to indulge in drug addiction, and immorality of all forms. In a night vision the LORD has shown to me that our students are now seriously plagued with drug addiction and homosexuality. Not only that, but they also seduce the adults and even ministers in order to blaspheme the Name of our Father and Savior. Some of them may come to accuse GOD’S elect falsely. Some come to distort our genuine faith, making us believe that there are better alternatives to solve our economic and political problems than trusting Jesus Christ and allowing the Holy Spirit to move through us and solve the world’s problems through us. Don’t be deceived! Jesus Christ is still the Healer; the Great Physician for every illness, not the loans which we certainly cannot pay unless we change our attitudes and values. Attitudes towards GOD, towards men, towards money or riches. And the way to change our attitudes and values is only one: JESUS CHRIST, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. But, if the rich countries will voluntarily,

honestly, and sincerely give their support in the Name of Christ, receive it that our prayer of thanksgiving may also redound to their blessings. For the scripture says, "Whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my Name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward" (Mark 9: 41).

The LORD has shown to me also that the "Red" which was yet infant in our country years ago, now, it is already full grown and ready to fly at maximum speed. But fear not! Rather, let us be one in praising and thanking our Father because the Kingdom is at hand. Let us be one in our decision and effort to conquer our enemies through Perfect Love. I mean, genuine love for GOD and for our brethren. In this case, we also need to forgive one another for GOD'S sake and for the coming Kingdom.

When time of great difficulties comes, let us show to the world that we are really Christians. Let us be as one family, loving and helping one another. Sharing with every member of the family whatever we have no matter how little or small it may be, until satan will have no more reason to accuse us of greediness before our Father. Above all, pray for the spirit of discernment so we won't be deceived. Remember also that the Holy Bible tells us that just before the tribulation that characterizes the end of the age, there will be an escalation in the worship of devils or demons. "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts (Revelation 9: 20-21). Finally, may every one seek the Father, His righteousness, and His Kingdom before it is late, and worship Him in spirit and in truth. Amen.

The Holy Reminder

I believe in Yahweh, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Yahshua the Messiah His begotten Son our Savior and King, and the Holy Spirit, our Teacher, Our Guide, Our Helper, and Comforter. I also believe that Yahweh is Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent. Holy, just and faithful, loving and merciful...

I believe that all men have sinned, and come short of the glory of the Father, and the wages of sin is death, but the gift of the Father is eternal life through Yahshua the Messiah, our Savior and our King. I also believe that except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of Yahweh. Therefore, it is imperative that men repent, believe and receive Yahshua the Messiah in order to be born of the Spirit.

I believe that salvation is Yahweh's gift to man through Yahshua the Messiah our Savior and our King. For Yahweh so loved the world that He gave His begotten Son, so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have abundant and everlasting life. I also believe that salvation is twofold, namely, spiritual and physical, for mankind must be perfectly whole. Therefore, in gratitude to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit who gave us salvation, I offer my life to Him a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable. Amen

October, 1988

God's Plan For Salvation

Greeting:

Prayer:

I – Introduction:

Supposing there's fire and the whole city is burning, Do you want to be saved? Suppose there's epidemic or an insane man runs after you, Do you want to be saved? Suppose your child is in danger, Do you want him to be saved? (Yes). That is why, now, we are going to talk about salvation.

But some of you may say, "Ate" or Ma'am, we already have firemen, soldiers, policemen, physicians and nurses to help us. So, why talk about salvation? Praise God! We have firemen, soldiers, policemen, physicians and nurses to help, but, can they give us eternal life? No. Neither we nor any man can give ourselves eternal life.

On the other hand, we will be talking about salvation because our heavenly Father loves us so much. I repeat, our heavenly Father loves us so much and He is not willing that anyone of us would perish, but that all should come to repentance and live with Him forever (II Peter 3: 9). He confirmed this to me personally just recently when He awakened me from sleep and said to me, "Dina, give lectures about salvation." (Read I Samuel 3). He did this to me three times and in each occasion, I answered, "Yes, LORD! Yes LORD!" Hence, this lecture guide was made and distributed so that those who may not have the chance to listen to me can also benefit from this guide through self-study.

1. HalleluYah! Our Father is interested of us; He desires to give the best to us because He loves us. He wants to give us eternal life. But in order for us to understand why and how we can obtain eternal life with GOD, Let's open our Bible to Genesis 1: 26-27. It says, "And GOD said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and

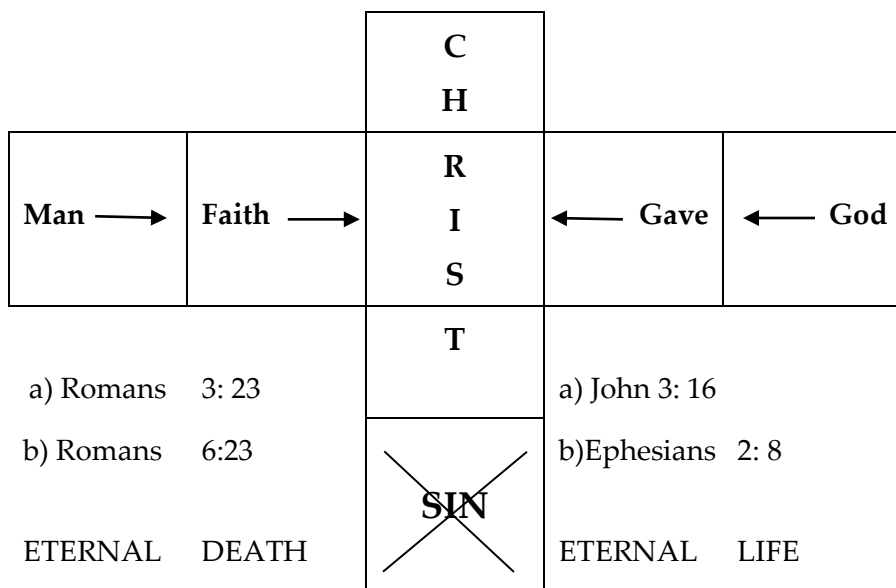
over all the earth... So God created man in His image,... male and female created He them." What does this mean? The term image could also mean picture or mirror through which GOD'S personality can be seen or reflected. Therefore, if we are to look at the men and women around the world, then it can be said that they are the image of GOD, but a broken or crumpled image; no longer the perfect image of GOD. Why broken or crumpled? Broken because of sin.

2. What is sin? Read: I John 3: 4. Sin is the transgression of the law or a thought or act that violates heavenly law. Sin can be classified into: original, hereditary, collective, and personal sin. Original sin is the sin that Adam and Eve committed, which resulted in spiritual and physical fall. Hereditary sin is the sin inherited through the blood lineage (Exodus 20: 5). Collective sin is neither ones own sin nor hereditary, but it is a sin for which everyone is responsible as member of mankind, e.g., the faithlessness of the Israelites in JESUS CHRIST. Personal sin is the sin committed by each individual.

3. Romans chapter three verse twenty three says, For all have sinned and come short of the glory of GOD. And the wages of sin is death (Romans 3: 23; 6: 23). In other words, we all have sinned and so we have died spiritually. To understand how we have died, let's turn our Bibles again to Genesis 2: 16-17. God said to Adam and Eve, "Of every Tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." But did Adam and Eve die immediately? We know it from the Bible that Adam and Eve lived a very long life and bore children. So, why did it say that in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die? In Matthew 8: 22, JESUS CHRIST said, "Follow me; and let the dead burry their own dead." What does it mean? It simply means that there are people who are moving, talking, eating but are dead in the sight of GOD.

Meaning, they have no use for GOD unless they repent and learn to offer themselves to Him.

4. From the Scriptures, it is clear that it is not physical death that God was referring to when He said to Adam and Eve, in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. It was spiritual death, meaning, Adam and Eve have lost their connection with God immediately after they have disobeyed Him. Their spiritual senses became dead so that they could not receive God's direction, guidance, or see things that belong to God. I am sure Adam and Eve must have tried to do their best to restore their relationship with God but they could not. In other words, this situation is proof that man by himself cannot obtain eternal life. But praise God! In His loving kindness, He provided us the Way. Jesus Christ: The Way, The Truth, and The Life (John 14: 6). God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, our participation is to have faith in Him and follow Him.



The illustration shows that the Messiah bridges the gap between God and man by paying the penalty for our sins. That is why Jesus Christ said, "No man cometh to the Father but by me."

- Open Forum -

How About Those People Who Lived And Died Before Christ Came To The World?

II. Saved Through Faith In Jesus Christ

1. What is faith? Let's examine some verses in our Bibles. Read John 3: 16 & James 2: 14-22 & 26. Study also Hebrews 11. From these scriptures, we can draw a conclusion that faith requires action or obedience, for, the scripture says, faith without works is dead, but, by works faith is made perfect." Now, in the Bible Jesus Christ is also called the Word of God (John 1: 14). Therefore, faith in Jesus Christ could also mean faith in the Word of God. Read also (John 6: 63) and you will learn that it is our obedience to God's Words that gives life to our spirit. In other words, every time we obey God's Word, to a certain degree we are expressing our faith and unity with Him and at the same time, reflect His image to a certain extent. So, since the words of God are perfected in Jesus Christ, we should have faith in Him. But for those who lived and died before Christ came to the world, God deals with them according to the words He has given to them during their Time or Age. Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans: "As many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law" (Romans 2: 12).

2. Let's go back to Genesis 2: 16-17. What was the problem? God gave Adam and Eve His Word or instruction not to eat of the Tree

of the knowledge of good and evil. But what happened? When satan lured Eve, Eve ate or believed and obeyed, and tempted also Adam so they both have disobeyed God and consequently they died. Since then, God has been trying to save His people. I believe God wanted immediately to restore Adam's family through Abel but Cain, the older son of Adam killed Abel (Genesis 4: 8 & Galatians 4: 29). As a result, God's dispensation for restoration has been prolonged.

3. From the family of Adam, let's jump on to the family of Abraham. How did Abraham maintain his relationship with God? By obeying God's Word or instruction. What was the instruction? Abraham was to make offering (gifts & sacrifices) to God, and Abraham was obedient until God tried Abraham's faith by asking him to offer his only son, Isaac at Mt. Moriah. Through Abraham, true faith in God was established and that is why Abraham has been known as the father of Faith.

4. From Abraham's family, let's go on to the time of Exodus with Moses. At the time of Exodus God gave the Law or the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. The Israelites were to strictly obey the Law or Ten Commandments. Their obedience was the key to life or death. If they would strictly obey, God Himself would fight their enemy (e.g., the fall of Jericho) so that they could reach Canaan, "the land of milk and honey" the Promise Land, enjoy life with God, and teach other nations to do the same until Christ's coming. But, if they would disobey, epidemic would surely struck them, they would also lose in battles and die before reaching Canaan.

5. Unfortunately, the Israelites failed to strictly obey the Law. There were times when they obeyed but most of the time, they rebelled against Moses and against God. As a consequence, their journey was prolonged. It took them forty years and most of them died in the wilderness (Exodus 32: 26-29 & Hebrews 3: 17-19).

6. Now, let's go to the time of Jesus Christ. What was the issue that the Israelites held against Jesus Christ? According to them Christ's claim as the SON OF GOD (John 10: 36 & John 4: 25-26), was false because Christ did not obey the Law. Remember that Jesus healed the sick on a Sabbath day (Luke 6: 6-11) and, Jesus also refused to have the woman who was caught in the act of adultery (John 8: 1-11), stoned to death. The Israelites had to solve a very difficult puzzle. If Jesus' claim as the Son of God is correct, then the Law would be wrong, they thought. Unfortunately, they settled the issue with the decision that the Law was correct and therefore Jesus was wrong. Hence, Jesus was crucified. I Corinthians 2: 7 & 8 confirms this. It says, "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom... which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the LORD of glory."

7. Was the Law wrong? Or was Christ wrong? Neither the Law nor Christ was wrong. But the Israelites were wrong in that they have crucified the LORD of glory. They failed to understand that the Time or Age when the Law (Written Word) have to be strictly and literally observed has passed (Hebrews 7: 18-19), and the time has come when they have to live according to the direction of the Living Word or through faith in Jesus Christ or by believing and following Him. Christ's direction was for people to live and move by the force of Perfect Love which will result in Perfect Unity under His leadership. Read Galatians 3: 19, 24-26; Matthew 22: 37 & 39; John 13: 35.

8. In other words, what Jesus wanted to say to the Israelites was: After you have learned to live a life with God by obeying the Law, now, it is time to do more and do it by following Me until you and every one else becomes perfect (Matthew 19: 16-21; Matthew 5: 48). But what happened? Their minds were already closed with the Law; they thought that the Law was already the end of God's Plan For Salvation. Man's perfect redemption, then, would have

taken place during that time by acknowledging Jesus Christ as the True Leader or the Savior. But, because of their faithlessness in Jesus Christ, God's work of Salvation was again prolonged and will continue until He comes again and, when Christ would be able to present the whole creation (Physical & Spiritual) holy, blameless, and acceptable to the Father (Ephesians 1: 9-10 & I Corinthians 15: 24).

9. *Man has physical body as well as spiritual body (I Corinthians 15: 44). Therefore, salvation is twofold, namely: Spiritual & Physical, for, mankind must be perfectly whole. Spiritually, we need to be born again individually through faith in Jesus Christ so that we will become members of the family of our heavenly Father. Spiritual rebirth requires repentance and turning about to receive Jesus Christ and follow Him. This rebirth is what Jesus Christ also told to a well known and well respected Jewish leader, Nicodemus (John 3). Physically, we need collective salvation. We need to be saved together as people of God. That is why Christ said, the righteous shall be gathered together and separated from the unrighteous as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats (Exodus; Matthew 25: 31-34).

* Reprinted from Letters to the Church, p. 2, August, 1988.

- Open Forum -

Why Is Jesus Called The Word Of God?

III. Jesus Christ: The Word Of God

In order to answer the question, why Jesus Christ is called the Word of God, let's again open our Bibles and study some scriptures. Read John 1: 1 & 1: 14; I John 2: 3-5; Matthew 26: 42; Hebrews 5: 8 & 9; and John 10: 30.

1. Notice the emphasis in I John 2: 3-5; Matthew 26: 42; Hebrews 5: 8-9. The key is Obedience. Jesus perfectly obeyed the Father; He obeyed even to his death on the cross. He 'ate' the words of God, that is why He also demanded that we should eat His flesh and drink His blood (John 6: 53-56). Therefore, aside from the fact that God Himself declared that Jesus is His Son (Luke 3: 22; Matthew 17: 5), and that He sanctified Him, the love of God was perfected in Jesus Christ because He perfectly obeyed the Father. That is why Jesus could boldly say, "I and My Father are one." They are one in that Jesus' heart and mind have the same quality with that of the Father's. The Father's desires are His desires; the Father's joy, pain, and sorrows are His joy, pain and sorrow; the Father's works are His works. In short, Jesus' only and ultimate desire was to do the Father's Will. As such, JESUS CHRIST IS THE VERY WORD OF GOD. Since the word of God represents God's own personality or God's Heart and Mind, the Word has authority and power. Thus, Christ said, "All things are delivered to me of my Father" (Matthew 11: 27). And, because Jesus is the Son, He is the heir of all that the Father has and therefore, He can take rightful dominion over them. This is also the fulfillment of Genesis 1: 28.

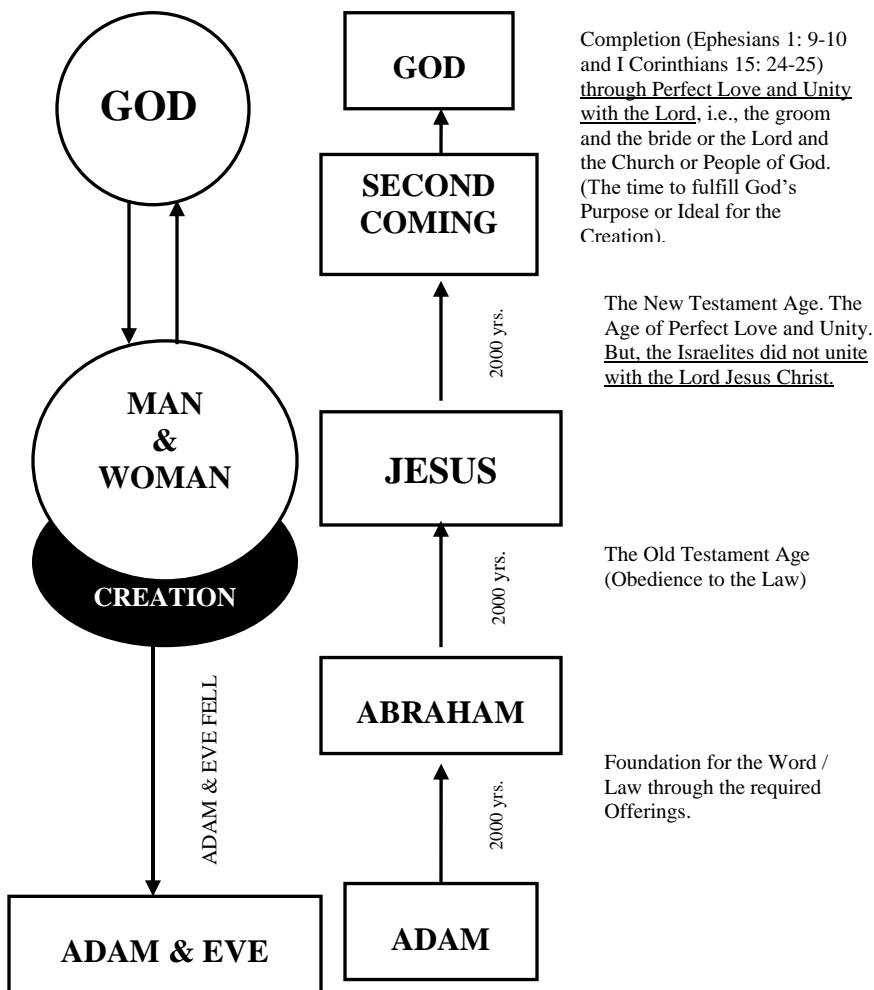
2. To summarize it all, mankind is growing from glory to glory individually and collectively or growing towards God until the whole creation (Physical & Spiritual Worlds) is perfectly restored to the Father (Ephesians 1: 9 -10 & I Corinthians 15: 24-25).

Please see the following illustration.

October, 1988

Lecture or Study Guide

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION



Excerpt From The Lecture On Prophecy

By: Rev. Rolly Blas

Cagayan de Oro City

June 27, 1994

“...Impart the gift to one another” (Romans 1: 11).

1. Gift Of Prophecy: the gift of prophecy is given by the Holy Spirit.
2. Need For Prophets: Why the need for prophets?
 - a – There is a need for prophets because God wants to communicate.
 - b – In prophecy, the Holy Bible is the standard. The Holy Bible which is the written word of God is enlightened by the prophets.
 - c – Prophets do not eliminate the Holy Bible but vocalize the written words for a specific people, specific place, specific purpose.
3. Distinguishing True Prophets From False Prophets:

“...You can tell when a prophet’s message does not come from the Lord. If a prophet speaks in the Name of the Lord and what he says does not come true, then it is not the Lord’s message” (Deuteronomy 18: 21-22).

There is a great problem if we use Deuteronomy 18: 21-22 as the only basis in distinguishing true prophets from the false because as we can see it in the history of God’s people, the prophecies of prophets Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, etc. were fulfilled hundreds of years later. Most of the people at the time of the prophecy did not live to see the prophecies fulfilled.

True prophecy does not only refer to accuracy. True prophecy refers to the Word of God. Right people, right attitude. While the false prophets, you will know them because they live a sinful life and they worship idols. So, even if their prophecies come true do not believe them. Remember

Deuteronomy 13: 1-3 says, “A prophet may promise a miracle or a wonder, in order to lead you to worship and serve gods... Even if what he promises comes true, do not pay attention to them. The Lord your God is using him to test you, to see if you love the Lord with all your heart.”

Prophecies Are Classified Into:

1. Messianic Prophecy – A prophecy about the Messiah.
2. Biblical Prophecy – A prophecy about the end – time.
3. Personal Prophecy – All personal prophecies are partial and progressive.
4. Qualities Of Mature and Immature Prophets:
 - a – Mature Prophets – Humble, faithful, loving, and promoting Yahweh’s Kingdom, respectful, cooperative, teachable, submits to authority.
 - b – Immature Prophets – Harsh, condemning, rash, independent, unteachable, undescending, uncooperative, or difficult to work with.

Five Channels Of Prophecies

1. Office Of The Prophets = Headship Ministry
 - a – It provides direction.
 - b – It corrects.
 - c – It pronounces judgment.
 - d – It moves in revelation knowledge.
 - e – It lays a foundation in Church.
 - f – Anoints Ministers (e.g., Anoints king).
 - g – Partakers of the secrets of God.
2. Prophetic Teaching:
 - a – Revelation
 - b – Ordination of the five – fold ministry.
 - c – Activation of the gifts.

- d – Progress in Christian maturity.
3. Spirit Of Prophecy And Prophetic Songs.
 4. Prophetic Terminology and Time Table:
 - a – Immediately = One to three years (1-3yrs.).
 - b – Very soon = Three to ten years (3-10 yrs.)
 - c – Now or This Day = Ten to forty years (10-40 yrs.)
 - d – I will = Sometimes in your life if you are faithful and obedient.
 - e – Soon = For example, Yahshua the Messiah's Coming.
 - 5a. Unconditional Prophecy – Usually, it is general, not personal. It may be postponed but not cancelled (e.g., Nahum, Hezekiah the King).
 - 5b. Conditional – Usually, this is to individuals. This can be altered, cancelled, diminish, reverse. This requires faith and cooperation of the person concerned.

Hindrances To The Fulfillment Of Prophecies

1. Unbelief – due to “mindset”, established attitudes or doctrine. Read Hebrews 3: 17-19.
2. Looking at the problems rather than to the promise.
3. Fear of shame or Self-Preservation or Self-Image.
4. People's unbelief in the Prophets.
5. Dislike in the prophecy (e.g., Jeremiah's scrolls were burned).
6. Fear Of Men rather than God.
7. Soul Blockage – emotion, mind.
8. Impatience – For Example, Sarah and Hagar.
9. Misapplication and Misinterpretation.
10. Pride – For example, Aaron and Miriam against Moses.
11. Disappointment and Disillusionment or Failure Syndrome.
12. Blame-shifting; Self-deception; People-pleasing (e.g., King Saul).
13. Disobedience – begets curse.

Obedience – begets blessing.

14. Result – For example, Priest Zechariah and John the Baptist.

Prophecy is “part” of the mind of God – not the total picture (For we know in part and we prophesy in part, I Corinthians 13: 9).

Seven Tests Of Prophecies

1. Does it agree with scripture?
2. What are the Fruits in the deliverer’s life?
3. Does it glorify Christ?
4. Is it fulfilled?
5. Does it lead toward, or away from God?
6. Does it bring liberty, or bondage?
7. What is the inner witness of the Spirit to us?

From the book: Supernatural Living

The Prophecies Of The Ancients

The following chapters, The Great Tribulation, and In The Father’s Kingdom consist of the prophecies and messages of the prophets, apostles, and of Yahshua the Messiah Himself.

Their prophecies are diligently arranged or grouped by the author according to contents or message for convenience, coherence, and hopefully for the reader’s clearer insight or understanding as he studies the Ancient Prophecies about the coming tribulation, and the heavenly Kingdom in earth.

In between some of the prophecies you will find statements in parenthesis. Such statements are the author’s own words for enlightenment.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

The Great Tribulation

1. Upon The Messiah's Coming

For you yourself know very well that the Day of the LORD will come as a thief in the night. When people say, "Everything is quiet and safe", then suddenly destruction will hit them! It will come as suddenly as the pains that come upon a woman in labor, and people will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in the darkness, and the Day should not take you by surprise like a thief. All of you are people who belong to the light, who belong to the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, we should not be sleeping like the others; we should be awake and sober (I Thessalonians 5: 2-6).

(I am sorry that often we hear people quote the verse, "the Day of the LORD will come like a thief at night", period. The said verse or statement is transmitted from one person to another not realizing that the quotation is half only of what the message really tells us. Indeed, for people who are in the darkness, the Day will come like a thief in the night. The Day will take them by surprise and they will not be able to escape. But for us who belong to the Light, the Day should not take us by surprise).

Soon after the trouble of those days, the sun will grow dark, the moon no longer shines, the stars will fall from heaven, and the power in space will be driven from their courses. Then the signs of the Son of Man will appear in the sky; and all the peoples of the earth will weep as they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. The great trumpet will sound, and he will send out his angels to the four corners of the earth, and they will gather his chosen people from one end of the world to the other (Matthew 24: 29-31).

(The rule is, first of all, to interpret the words literally if possible, or if it does make sense. Then take into consideration the historical background and context. But in Matthew 24: 29-31 I would like to remind ourselves three things: 1. The sun will grow dark, the moon will no longer shine, the stars will fall from heaven. 2. To imagine how the world looks like in such condition. 3. When Joseph was yet a young man, he had a dream. He dreamed that the sun, the moon, the stars, bowed down to him. In his dream the sun, moon, stars, symbolized his father, mother, and brothers. Indeed, they all bowed down to Joseph when he became the governor in Egypt after Joseph had overcome all temptations and trials. Now, whether the sun, the moon, the stars, in Matthew 24 literally means the same or otherwise, what is important is that we know and believe that we belong to our Father and Savior because we have faith in Him and because we gladly do His Will).

No one knows, however, when that day and hour will come neither the angels in heaven nor the Son; the Father alone knows. The coming of the Son of Man will be like what happened in the time of Noah. In the days before the flood people ate and drank, men and women married, up to the very day Noah went into the boat; yet they did not realize what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes... Watch out, then, because you do not know what day your LORD will come (Matthew 24: 36-39, 42).

(Truly, only the Father knows all His plans unless He shares them with someone. Take note also that the coming of the Messiah was compared with the coming of the flood in Noah's time. You will notice that before the flood came Noah knew it already, in fact, he built an Ark for his family where they could spend the days during the flood. Only the wicked who did not believe what Noah said were ignorant of the day of the said tribulation. Therefore, the Day took them by surprise).

But the Day of the LORD will come like a thief. On that Day the heavens will disappear with a shrill noise, the heavenly bodies will burn up and be destroyed, and the earth with everything in it will vanish. Since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be? Your lives should be holy and dedicated to God, as you wait for the Day of God and do your best to make it come soon – the Day when the heavens will burn up and be destroyed, and the heavenly bodies will be melted by the heat. But we wait for what God has promised: **new heavens and new earth, where righteousness will be at home (II Peter 3: 10-13).**

(“Since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be? Your lives should be holy and dedicated to God, as you wait for the Day of God and do your best to make it come soon”. God needs our active participation in His plan and work so that the Day would come soon. As we wait for that Day our lives should be holy because everything will be tried by fire. I Corinthians 3: 13-14 says, “Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss. Every man and every man’s work shall be tried by fire. Those who are holy and those things which belong to the Father will abide but the unholy and those things which are filthy will be consumed by fire).

It was Enoch, the sixth direct descendant from Adam, who long ago prophesied this about them: “The LORD will come with many thousands of His holy angels to bring judgment on all, to condemn them all for the godless deeds they have performed and for all the terrible words that godless sinners have spoken against Him! (Jude 1: 14).

“Listen says Jesus, “I am coming soon! Happy are those who obey the prophetic words in this book!” ...And he said to me, “Do not keep the prophetic words of this book a secret, because the time is near when all this will happen. Whoever is evil must go on doing evil, and whoever is filthy must go on being filthy; whoever is good must go on doing good, and whoever is holy must go on being holy.” “Listen!” says Jesus, “I am coming soon! I will bring my rewards with me, to give to each one according to what he has done. I am the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (Revelation 22: 7; 10-12).

(“Whoever is evil must go on doing evil, and whoever is filthy must go on being filthy; whoever is good must go on doing good and whoever is holy must go on being holy”. This does not mean that the Father does not want the sinners to turn from their wicked ways but the Father gives this as a warning and encouragement to the faithful. It is inevitable that in the “Last Days” the worse will become worst because their “master or god” will cause them to do things as he wishes. Therefore, the good and faithful are encourage to do better or do their best, and the holy to remain being holy lest they be also tempted).

2. Troubles And Persecution

The angel wearing linen clothes said, “At that time the great angel Michael, who guards your people, will appear. Then there will be a time of troubles, the worst since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, all the people of your nation whose names are written in God’s Book will be saved. Many of those who have already died will live again: some will enjoy eternal life, and some will suffer eternal disgrace. The wise leaders will shine with all the brightness of the sky. And those who have taught many people to do what is right will shine like the stars forever.” He said to me, “And now Daniel, close the book and put a seal on it

until the end of the world. Meanwhile, many people will waste their efforts trying to understand what is happening.”

Then I saw two men standing by a river, one on each bank. One of them asked the angel who was standing further upstream, “How long will it be until these amazing events come to an end?” The angel raised both hands towards the sky and made a solemn promise in the name of Eternal God. I heard him say, **“It will be three and a half years.** When the persecution of God’s people ends, all these things will have happened.” I heard what he said, but I did not understand it. So I asked, “But, Sir, how will it all end?” He answered, “You must go now Daniel, because these words are to be kept secret and hidden until the end comes. Many people will be purified. Those who are wicked will not understand but will go on being wicked: only those who are wise will understand. From the time the daily sacrifices are stopped, that is, **from the time of The Awful Horror, 1,290 days will pass. Happy are those who remain faithful until 1, 335 days are over.** And you, Daniel, be faithful to the end. Then you will die, but you will rise to receive your reward at the end of time” (Daniel 12).

Do not let anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will not come until the final Rebellion takes place and the Wicked One appears, who is destined to hell. He will oppose every so-called god or object of worship and will put himself above them all. He will even go in and sit down in God’s Temple and claim to be God. Don’t you remember? I told you all this while I was with you. Yet there is something that keeps this from happening now, and you will know what it is. At the proper time, then, the Wicked One will appear. The Mysterious Wickedness is already at work, but what is going to happen will not happen until the one who holds it back is taken out of the way. Then the Wicked One will be revealed, but when the Lord Jesus comes, he will kill him with the breath from his mouth and destroy him with his dazzling presence. The Wicked One will come with the power of satan and

perform all kinds of false miracles and wonders, and use every kind of wicked deceit on those who will perish. **They will perish because they did not welcome and love the truth as to be saved.** And so God sends the power of error to work in them so that they believe what is false. The result is that all who have not believed the truth, but have taken pleasure in sin, will be condemned (II Thessalonians 2: 3-12).

As Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him in private. "Tell us when all this will be", they asked, "and what will happen to show that it is the time for your coming and the end of the age." Jesus answered, "Watch out, and do not let anyone fool you. Many men, claiming to speak for me, will come and say, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will fool many people. You are going to hear the noise of battles close by and the news of battles far away; but do not be troubled. Such things must happen, but they do not mean that the end has come. Countries will fight each other; Kingdoms will attack one another. There will be famines and earthquakes everywhere. All these things are like the first pains of childbirth. Then you will be arrested and handed over to be punished and be put to death. All mankind will hate you because of me. Many will give up their faith at that time; they will betray one another and hate one another. Then many false prophets will appear and fool many people. Such will be the spread of evil that many people's love will grow cold. But whoever holds out to the end will be saved. And these Good News about the Kingdom will be preached through all the world for a witness to all mankind; and then the end will come. You will see 'The Awful Horror' of which the Prophet Daniel spoke. It will be standing in the holy place. Then those who are in Judea must run away to the hills. A man who is on the roof of his house must not take the time to go down and get his belongings from the house... How terrible it will be in those days for women who are pregnant and for mothers with little babies! For the trouble at that time will be far more terrible than any there has ever been, from the beginning of the world to this day. Nor will there ever be anything like it again.

But God has already reduced the number of days; had he not done so, nobody would survive. For the sake of His chosen people, however, God will reduce the days. Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or 'There he is!' – do not believe him. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear; they will perform miracles and wonders in order to deceive even the elect or God's chosen people, if possible" (Matthew 24: 3-25).

(Few years ago, the issue about "Rapture" was very hot. There were posters around the city even on vehicles, announcing "Prepare for the Rapture". In October 1992, it became a world-wide issue but even those who originally announced it were disappointed.

It is good to be prepared always for any forthcoming event but to confine our thoughts and preparation for the "rapture" as a way of escape is to be prepared also for disillusionment. For the scripture says, "God has reduced the number of days; had he not done so, nobody would survive. For the sake of the elect or chosen He will reduce the days." In other words, even the elect or chosen will have to go through the said tribulation period.)

The Six Seals

Then I saw the Lamb break open the first of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice that sounded like thunder, "Come!" I looked, and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown. He rode out as a conqueror to conquer.

Then the Lamb broke open the second seal; and I heard the second living creature say "Come!" Another horse came out, a red one. Its rider was given the power to bring war on the earth, so that men should kill each other. He was given a large sword.

Then the Lamb broke open the third seal; and I heard the third living creature say "Come!" I looked and there was a black horse. Its rider held a pair of scales in his hand. I heard what sounded

like a voice coming from among the four living creatures, which said, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages. But do not damage the olive trees and vineyards!"

The Lamb broke open the fourth seal; and I heard the fourth living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there was a pale-colored horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades followed close behind. **They were given authority over one fourth of the earth, to kill by means of war, famine, disease, and wild animals.**

Then the Lamb broke open the fifth seal. I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been killed because they had proclaimed God's word and had been faithful in their witnessing. They shouted in a loud voice. "Almighty Lord, holy and true! How long will it be until You judge the people on earth and punish them for killing us? Each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to rest a little while longer, until the complete number of their fellow servants and brothers were killed, as they had been.

I saw the Lamb break open the sixth seal. There was a violent earthquake, and the sun became black like coarse black cloth, and the moon turned completely red like blood.

The stars fell down to the earth, like unripe figs from the tree when a strong wind shakes it. The sky disappeared, like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the rulers and military chiefs, the rich and the powerful, and all other men, slaves and free, hid themselves in caves and under rocks on the mountains. They called out to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the eyes of the one who sits on the throne and from the anger of the Lamb! The terrible day of their anger is here, and who can stand up against it? (Revelation 6).

(You will notice that the Lamb broke open all the seals. Each time He opened a seal, a voice says, "Come!" and a horse and its rider showed up. The first horse was a white horse and its rider rode out as a conqueror to conquer. Then followed by the other horses.

The red, black, pale horses brought wars, famine, disease, and death but praise be to Father, the white horse and its rider who is the conqueror has been prepared and ready to conquer.

Though there will be wars, famine, disease, and death all over the world, happily, the faithful of the Father will be led safely by the conqueror).

The Seventh Seal

When the Lamb broke open the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven trumpets. Another angel, who had a gold incense to add to the prayer of all God's people and to offer it on the gold altar that stands before the throne. The smoke of the burning incense went up with the prayers of God's people from the hands of the angel standing before God. Then the angel took the incense container, filled it with rumblings and peals of thunder, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Then the seven angels with seven trumpets prepared to blow them. The first angel blew his trumpet. Hail and fire, mixed with blood, came pouring down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, and third of the trees, and every blade of green grass. Then the second angel blew his trumpet. Something that looked like a huge mountain on fire was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Then the third angel blew his trumpet. A large star, burning like a torch, dropped from the sky and fell on a third of the rivers and on the spring of water. (The name of the star is "Bitterness") A third of the water turned bitter, and many people died from drinking the water, because it had turned bitter. Then the fourth angel blew his trumpet. A third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that their light lost a third of its brightness; there was no light during a third of the day and third of the night also.

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle that was flying high in the air say in a loud voice. "O horror! Horror! How horrible it will be for all who live on earth when the sound comes from the trumpets that the other three angels must blow!" (Revelation 8).

Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet. I saw a star which had fallen down to the earth, and it was given the key to the abyss. The star opened the abyss, and smoke poured out of it, like the smoke from a large furnace; the sunlight and the air were darkened by the smoke from the abyss. Locusts came down out of the smoke upon the earth, and they were given the same kind of power that scorpions have. They were told not to harm the grass or the trees or any other plant; **they could harm only the people who did not have the mark of God's seal on their foreheads.** The locust were not allowed to kill these people, but only to torture them for five months. The pain caused by the torture is like the pain caused by scorpion's sting. During those five months they will seek death, but will not find it; they will want to die, but death will flee from them.

The locusts looked like horses ready for battle; on their faces were like men's faces. Their hair was like women's hair, their teeth were like lion's teeth. Their chest were covered with what looked like iron breastplates, and the sound made by their horse-drawn chariots rushing into battle. They have tails and stings like those of a scorpions, and it is with their tails that they have the power to hurt people for five months. **They have a King ruling over them,**

who is the angel in charge of the abyss. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon; in Greek the name is Apollyon (meaning “The Destroyer”). The first horror is over; after this there are still two more horrors to come.

Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet. I heard a voice coming from the four corners of the gold altar standing before God. The voice said to the sixth angel, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great Euphrates River!” These four angels were released; for this very hour of this very day of this very month and year they had been kept ready to kill a third of all mankind. **I was told the number of the mounted troops; it was two hundred million.** And in my vision I saw the horses and their riders; they had breastplates red as fire, blue as sapphires, and yellow as sulfur. The horses’ heads were lions’ heads, and from their mouths came out fire, smoke and sulfur. A third of mankind was killed by those three plagues; the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur coming out of the horses’ mouths. For the power of the horses is in their mouths and also in their tails. Their tails are like snakes with heads, and they use them to hurt people.

The rest of mankind, all those who had not been killed by these plagues, did not stop worshiping demons, nor the idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk. Nor did they repent of their sexual immorality or their stealing (Revelation 9).

(The real locusts do not have a leader or a king. But the locusts in Revelation 9 have a king. In the book of Prophet Joel, the Assyrian armies were compared with locusts. Their armies are united and they come like locusts; they devour everything they attack).

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down out of heaven. He was wrapped in a cloud and had a rainbow around his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like columns of fire. He had a small scroll open in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and called out in a loud voice that

sounded like the roar of lions. After he had called out, the seven thunders answered with a roar. Then the angel that I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven and took a vow in the name of God, who lives forever and ever, who created heaven, earth, and the sea, and everything in them. The angel said, **“There will be no more delay!** But when the seventh angel blows his trumpet, then God will accomplish his secret plan, as he announced to his servants, the prophets.” (Revelation 10: 1-3, 5-7).

Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, it had ten horns and seven heads; on each of its horns there was a crown, and on each of its heads there was a name that was insulting to God. The beast look like a leopard, with feet like a bear’s feet and a mouth like a lion’s mouth. The dragon gave the beast his own power, his throne, and his vast authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have been fatally wounded, but the wound had healed. The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast. Everyone worshiped the dragon because he had given his authority to the beast. They worshiped the beast also, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who can fight against it?”

The beast was allowed to make proud claims which were insulting to God, and it was permitted to have authority for forty two months. It began to curse God, his name, the place where he lives, and all those who live in heaven. **It was allowed to fight against God’s people and to defeat them, and it was given authority over every tribe, nation, language, and race.** All people living on earth will worship it, except those whose names were written before the creation of the world in the book of the living which belongs to the Lamb that was killed.

“Listen, then, if you have ears! Whoever is meant to be captured will surely be captured; whoever is meant to be killed by the sword will surely be killed by the sword. This calls for endurance and faith on the part of God’s people.” Then I saw another beast, which came up out of the earth. It had two horns

like a lamb's horn, and it spoke like a dragon. It used the vast authority of the first beast in its presence. It forced the earth and who live on it to worship the first beast, whose wound had healed.

This second beast performed great miracles; it made fire come down out of heaven to earth in the sight of everyone. And it deceived all the people living on earth by means of the miracles which it was allowed to perform in the presence of the first beast. The beast told them to build an image in honor of the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet lived.

The second beast was allowed to breathe life into the image of the first beast, so that the image could talk and put to death those who would not worship it. The beast forced all the people, small and great, rich and poor, slaves and free, to have a mark placed on their right hands or on their foreheads. No one could buy or sell unless he had this mark, that is, the beast's name or the number that stands for the name. This calls for wisdom. Whoever is intelligent can figure out the meaning of the number of the beast, because the number stands for a man's name. Its number is 666 (Revelation 13).

(The two beasts are two kings. The dragon is satan. Satan will give his power, throne, and authority to the first beast. This beast will fight against the faithful followers of the Messiah or Yahweh's people. Because Yahweh's people are not yet fully united under His Anointed, Yahweh's people will be defeated. The beast will rule the nations of the earth for forty two months and the people whose names are not written in the Book of Life will worship the beast.

The second beast comes out to support the first beast. This beast will force everyone to worship the first beast. He will perform false miracles to deceive

the people. He will also make the people build an image in honor of the first beast. After the image has been erected, he will perform miracles by giving life to the image. Finally, the beast will force all people to have a mark in their right hands or foreheads and only those who have the mark of the beast can buy or sell goods or commodities).

Then I heard a loud voice speaking from the temple to the seven angels: "Go and pour out the seven bowls of God's anger on the earth!"

The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth. Terrible and painful sores appeared on those who had the mark of the beast and those who had worshiped its image. Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea. The water became like the blood of a dead person, and every living creature in the sea died. Then the third angel poured on the rivers and the springs of water, "The judgments you have made are just, O Holy One, You who are and who were! They poured out the blood of God's people and of the prophets, and so You have given them blood to drink. They are getting what they deserved!" Then I heard a voice from the altar saying, "Lord God Almighty! True and just indeed are Your judgments!"

Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to burn people with its fiery heat. They were burned by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God, who has authority over these plagues. But they would not turn from their sins and praise his greatness. The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast. Darkness fell over the beast's kingdom, and people bit their tongues because of their pain, and they cursed the God of heaven for their pains and sores. But they did not turn from their evil ways.

Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great Euphrates River. The river dried up, to provide a way for the

kings who come from the east. Then I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs. They were coming out of the mouth of the dragon, the mouth of the beast, and the mouth of the false prophet. They are the spirits of demons that perform miracles. These three spirits go out to all the kings of the world, to bring them together for the battle on the great **DAY OF ALMIGHTY GOD**. "Listen! I am coming like a thief! Happy is he who stays awake and guards his clothes, so that he will not walk around naked and ashamed in public!" Then the spirits brought the kings together in the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl in the air. A loud voice came from the throne in the temple, saying, "It is done!" There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder, and a terrible earthquake. There has never been such an earthquake since the creation of man; this was the worst earthquake of all! The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of all countries were destroyed. God remembered great Babylon and made her drink the wine from his cup—the wine of his furious anger. All the islands disappeared, all the mountains vanished. Huge hailstones, each weighing as much as hundred pounds, fell from the sky on people, who cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because it was such a terrible plague (Revelation 16).

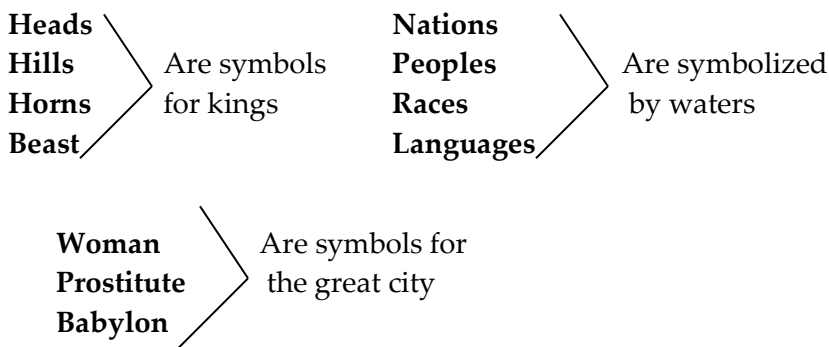
3A Battle Against The Lamb Or The Messiah

"The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet begun to rule, but who will be given authority to rule as kings for one hour with the beast. These ten all have the same purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast. They will fight against the Lamb; but the Lamb together with his called, chosen, and faithful followers, will defeat them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings."

Revelation 17: 12-14

(If the Lamb will suddenly come to earth from the sky or clouds literally at this time, with power and great glory, surrounded with the holy angels, then, why the battle or fight against the Lamb as mentioned in Revelation 17: 14? "They will fight against the Lamb; but the Lamb, together with his called chosen, and faithful followers, will defeat them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings." Let us be reminded that Acts 3: 21 says, "He (the Messiah) must remain in heaven until the time comes for all things to be made new, as God announced through His prophets of long ago." I reiterate therefore that it is my conviction that it is mankind living in earth lead by the Anointed who should make the earth new by the power of the Lamb, and then the Lamb and the Father Himself will come and dwell with men).

B – Word Meaning?



Sword = the Word of God

C The Rider On The White Horse

Then I saw heaven open, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called FAITHFUL and TRUE; it is with justice that he judges and fights his battles. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and he

wore many crowns on his head. He had a name written on him, but no one except himself knows what it is. The robe he wore was covered with blood. His name is "The WORD OF GOD." The armies of heaven followed him, riding on white horses and dressed in clean white linen. Out of his mouth came a sharp sword, with which he will defeat the nations. He will rule over them with a rod of iron, and he will trample out the wine in the wine press of the furious anger of the Almighty God. On his robe and on his thigh was written the name: "King of kings and Lord of lords."

Then I saw an angel standing on the sun. He shouted a loud voice to the birds flying in midair: "Come and gather together for God's great feast! Come and eat the flesh of kings, generals, and soldiers, the flesh of horses and their riders, the flesh of all people, slaves and free, great and small!"

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered to fight against the one who was riding the horse and against his army. The beast was taken prisoner, together with the false prophet who had performed miracles in his presence. (It was by those miracles that he deceived those who had the mark of the beast. The beast and those who worshiped the image of the beast). The beast and the false prophet were both thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. Their armies were killed by the sword that come out of the mouth of the one who was riding the horse; and all the birds ate all they could of their flesh (Revelation 19: 11-21).

(Take note that this White Horse whose rider is called Faithful and True was also mentioned in Revelation 6. The Faithful and True who is also the Conqueror, together with His followers will conquer satan and his armies, defeat the nations by the sharp sword or truth that comes out of His mouth.

The conqueror will then rule over the nations of the earth with wisdom and power, with justice and integrity, with love and faithfulness. HalleluYah!).

4A On Judgments

Don't you know that God's people will judge the world? Well, then, if you are to judge the world, aren't you capable of judging small matters? Do you not know that we shall judge the angels? How much more, then, the things of this life! (I Corinthians 6: 2-3).

When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the righteous people at his right and the others at his left. Then the King will say to the people on his right, 'Come, you that are blessed of my Father! Come and possess the Kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world (Matthew 25: 31-34).

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The power to rule over the world belongs now to our LORD and His Messiah, and he will rule forever and ever! Then the twenty four elders who sit on their thrones in front of God threw themselves face downward and worshiped God, saying: "LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, the one who is and who was! We thank you that you have taken your great power and have begun to rule! The heathen were filled with rage, because the time for your anger has come, the time for the dead to be judged. The time has come to reward your servants,...all the people, all who have reverence for you, great and small alike. The time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth. (Revelation 11: 15-18).

Then I looked, and there was the Lamb standing on Mount Zion; with him were 144,000 people who have his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads... The 144,000 people

stood before the throne, the four living creatures, and the elders; they were singing a new song, which only they could learn. Of all mankind they are the only ones who have been redeemed... They have been redeemed from the rest of mankind and are the first ones to be offered to God and to the Lamb. They have never been known to tell lies; they are faultless.

Then I saw another angel flying high in the air, with an eternal message of Good News to announce to the peoples of the earth, to every race, tribe, language, and nation. He said in a loud voice, "Honor God and praise His greatness! For the time has come for him to judge mankind. Worship him who made heaven, earth, and sea, and the springs of water!"

A second angel followed the first one, saying, "She has fallen! Great Babylon has fallen! She made all people drink her wine – the strong wine of her immoral lust!" A third angel followed the first two, saying in a loud voice, "Whoever worships the beast and its image and receives the mark on his forehead or on his right hand will himself drink God's wine, the wine of his fury, which he has poured at full strength into the cup of his anger! All who do this will be tormented in fire and sulfur before the holy angels and the Lamb. The smoke of the fire that torments them goes up forever and ever. **There is no relief day and night for those who worship the beast and its image, for anyone who has the mark of its name** " (Revelation 14: 1, 3-4, 6-11).

B The Final Judgment

Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sits on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence and seen no more. And I saw the dead, great and small alike, standing before the throne. Books were opened, and then another book was opened, the book of the living. The dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. Death and the world of the dead also gave up the dead they held. And all were judged according to

what they had done. Then death and the world of the dead were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. **Whoever did not have his name written in the book of the living was thrown into the lake of fire** (Revelation 20: 11-15).

5. For Reflection: Read the Messiah's Parable About The Future.

A – The Faithful or the Unfaithful Servant (Luke 12: 41-48).

“Who, then, is the faithful and wise servant? He is the one that his master will put in charge, to run the household and give the other servants their share of food at the proper time” (Luke 12: 42).

B – The Parable of the Gold Coins (Luke 19: 11-27).

“...Since you were faithful in small matters, I will put you in charge of ten cities” (Luke 19: 17).

CHAPTER TWENTY

In The Father's Kingdom

1A The Victory And Rule Of The Faithful

“Evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth” (Psalm 37:9).

“The meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace (Psalm 37: 11).

“For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off” (Psalm 37: 22).

“The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever” (Psalm 37: 29).

“The upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it. But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it” (Proverbs 2: 21-22).

To those who win the victory, who continue to the end to do what I want, I will give the same authority that I received from my Father: I will also give them the morning star. If you have ears, then listen to what the Spirit says to the churches! (Revelation 2: 26-29).

Listen! As for that group that belongs to satan, those liars who claim that they are Jews but are not, I will make them come and bow down at your feet. They will all know that I love you. Because you have kept my command to endure, I will also keep you safe from the time of trouble which is coming upon the world to test all the people on earth. I am coming soon. Keep safe what you have, so that no one will rob you of your victory prize. I will make him who is victorious a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven from my God. I will also write on him my new name (Revelation 3: 9-12).

...The four living creatures and the twenty four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each had a harp and gold bowl filled with incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. They sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to break open its seals. For you were killed, and by your sacrificial death you bought for God people from every tribe, language, nation and race. You have made them a kingdom of priests to serve our God, and they shall rule on earth” (Revelation 5: 8-10).

B The Thousand Years

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key of the abyss and a heavy chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent that is, the devil, or satan-and chained him up for a thousand years. The angel threw him into the abyss, locked it, and sealed it, so that he could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were over. After that he must be set loose for a little while.

Then I saw thrones, and those who sat on them were given the power to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been executed because they had proclaim the truth that Jesus revealed and the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image, nor had they received the mark of the beast on their foreheads. **They came to life and ruled as kings with Christ for a thousand years.** (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over). This is the first raising of the dead. Happy and greatly blessed are those who are included in this first raising of the dead. The second death has no more power over them; they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and they will rule with him for a thousand years.

After the thousand years are over, satan will be set loose from his prison, and he will go out to deceive the nations scattered over the whole world, that is Gog and Magog. Satan will bring them all together for battle, as many as the grains of sand on the seashore. They spread out over the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people and the city that he loves. But fire came down from heaven and destroyed them (Revelation 20: 1-9).

Nothing that is under God's curse will be found in the city. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship Him. They will see His face, and His name will be written on their foreheads. There shall be no more night, and they will not need lamps or sunlight, because the Lord God will be their light, **and they will rule as kings forever and ever** (Revelation 22: 3-5).

2. The New Heaven And The New Earth

After this I looked, and there was an enormous crowd no one could count all the people! They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language, and they stood in front of the throne and of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They called out in a loud voice: **“Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb!”** (Revelation 7: 9-10).

One of the elders asked me, “who are these people dressed in white robes, and where do they come from?” I don’t know, Sir, You do,” I answered. He said to me, “These are the people who have come safely through the terrible persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb. That is why they stand before God’s throne and serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will protect them with his presence. Never again will they hunger or thirst; neither sun nor any scorching heat will burn them, because the Lamb, who is in the center of the throne, will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of life-giving water. **And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes”** (Revelation 7: 13-17).

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth disappeared, and the sea vanished. And I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice speaking from the throne: “Now God’s home is with mankind! He will live with them, and he will be their God. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared.” Then the one who sits on the throne said, **“And now I make all things new!”** He also said to me, “Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted” (Revelation 21: 1-5).

Whoever wins the victory will receive this from me: I will be his God, and he will be my son. But the cowards, traitors,

perverts, murderers, the immoral, those who practice magic, those who worship idols, and all liars- the place for them is the lake burning with fire and sulfur, which is the second death” (Revelation 21: 7-8).

The Lord says, “I am making a new earth and new heavens. The events of the past will be completely forgotten. Be glad and rejoice forever in what I create. The new Jerusalem I make will be full of joy, and her people will be happy. I myself will be filled with joy because of Jerusalem and her people. There will be no weeping there, no calling for help. Babies will no longer die in infancy, and all people will live out their life span. Those who live to be a hundred will be considered young. To die before that would be a sign that I had punished them. People will build houses and get to live in them - they will not be used by someone else. They will plant vineyards and enjoy the wine – it will not be drunk by others. Like trees, my people will live long lives. They will fully enjoy the things that they have worked for. The works they do will be successful, and their children will not meet with disaster. I will bless them and their descendants for all time to come. Even before they finish praying to me, I will answer their prayers. Wolves and lambs will eat together; lions will eat straw, as cattle do, and snakes will no longer be dangerous... there will be nothing harmful or evil” (Isaiah 65: 17-24).

(The above prophecy was prophesied by Prophet Isaiah, that is, in the Old Testament Time. I believe this prophecy would have been fulfilled or realized in the lives of the Israelites two thousand years ago had they believed and accepted Yahshua the Messiah as their Savior and King.)

3. The New Jerusalem

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came to me and said, “Come, and I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” The Spirit took control of me, and the angel carried me to the top of a very high mountain. He showed me Jerusalem, the Holy City, coming down out of

heaven from God and shining with the glory of God. The City shone like a precious stone, like a jasper, clear as crystal (Revelation 21: 9-11).

The City was perfectly square, as wide as it was long. The angel measured the city with his measuring stick: it was fifteen hundred miles long and was as wide and as high as it was long... The wall was made of jasper, and the city itself was made of pure gold, as clear as glass... the street of the city was of pure gold, transparent as glass... The peoples of the world will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their wealth into it... Nothing that is impure will enter the city, nor anyone who does shameful things or tell lies. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of the living will enter the city.

Revelation 21: 16,18, 21b, 24,27

CHAPTER TWENTY ONE

Conclusion

The author believes that the Father has two main concerns in the earth. First, is the salvation of His people from sin and from the rule of satan (Personal Salvation). Second, is the redemption of the world through the establishment of the Father's Kingdom. These concerns have been explicitly shown in the life and works of Yahshua the Messiah two thousand years ago. The author further believes that had the Israelites accepted Yahshua the Messiah as their Savior and King, the establishment of the Father's Kingdom in earth would have been realized long ago. But because of their rejection, the same works continue and it is being done or should be done by the believers and followers of Yahshua the Messiah. The Assembly of believers (Church) which is the body of the Messiah in earth should do the works of saving the people from the rule of satan through the gospel and building the Father's Kingdom by establishing a government whose Governor is the Anointed of the Father. A government that is founded on truth, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Salvation and Redemption of the world through the establishment of the Father's Kingdom is something that believers must clearly understand. Believers should understand that they were saved to reign in earth as kings and priests of the Most High. St. Peter declares: "But you are the chosen race, the king's priests, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvelous light" (I Peter 2:9). Revelation 5:8-10 also says: The four living creatures and the twenty four elders fell down before the Lamb....They sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to break open its seals. For you were killed and by your sacrificial death you bought for God people from every tribe, language, nation, and race. You have made them a kingdom of priests to serve our God, and they shall rule on earth." Believers

should also understand that from among them comes the Anointed of the Father like Moses, like John the Baptist and Yahshua the Messiah to lead all the believers to perfection and eternal life in the heavenly kingdom. In other words, believers should not hopelessly wait for something or someone from the sky (at this point in time) to jump down the earth and perform miracles for us so that we will all go to heaven. Believers should remember that the Israelites waited for the return of prophet Elijah from the sky but they had waited in vain. And when the disciples asked Yahshua the Messiah about it, the Messiah answered, "If you are willing to receive it, John the Baptist is Elijah" (Mathew 11).

The author also believes that the Father visits His people in various ways. Sometimes He visits them through natural calamities and ultimately, He visits and leads His chosen people through His Anointed Leader/s. At the time of Noah, the Father visited the people through the flood; He visited them with anger. When the slave Israelites in Egypt had extremely groaned in pain and cried out to the Father for help, He visited and led them through Moses. Two thousand years ago, He visited the Israelites through His Anointed Son, Yahshua the Messiah who was born through mother Mary. Yahshua then lived and grew in Nazareth, Galilee like the other boys of His age. For this reason, the Immaculate Conception of Mary which was prophesied six hundred years before the Messiah's birth, the revelation during His baptism, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased, hear ye him", were not given much thought and importance by the people because to them Yahshua the Messiah looked so familiar and very ordinary. Some had even thought and said, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (John 1: 46). "Search and look; for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet." "When the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from. And we all know where this man comes from." But in truth even His brothers did not really know Him (John 7). John the Baptist on the other hand though he was especially anointed to prepare the Way

of the Messiah doubted at certain point (Matthew 11). Let us also take note that Yahshua the Messiah wept over Jerusalem and said: "If you only knew today what is needed for peace! But now you cannot see it. The time will come when your enemies will surround you.... They will completely destroy you and the people within your walls.... because you did not recognize the time when God came to save you or, because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation" (Luke 19: 41-44).

To summarize it all, the author believes that the Father works out his plan in earth through human beings presently living. He governs or leads His people through His Anointed Leader. The author therefore maintains that it is rational and logical to follow the Anointed of the Father rather than be obsessed in "rapture". Anyway, in case we will be "raptured" our act of following the Anointed will not be a hindrance to it. If we will be "raptured" then, it will be to the best advantage of everyone if together we will be "raptured". However, the author believes that "rapture" or "translation" will take place sometime later; only after we have been victorious, and our bodies have been transformed into glorious or sinless bodies.

While it is true that Enoch and Elijah were translated or caught up in the heavens, that does not guarantee that the believers today will be caught up in times of great tribulation so that they can escape from troubles and persecutions. On the contrary, history tells us that when the Father sent flood to eliminate the wicked, Noah and his family were in the Ark, similarly with the other cases such as the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrha. Read: Luke 17:20-37 for reference.

Therefore, as Moses led the Israelites to the Promised Land, the author believes that the Anointed of the Father through faith in Yahshua the Messiah will also lead the faithful followers to the heavenly Kingdom in earth. Nevertheless, do we still remember what Yahshua the Messiah said? He said that before the Father's Kingdom comes in earth, there will be great distress

and persecution all over the world. There will be terrible wars, earthquakes, famine, pestilence and death. Terrible things which never had happened since the foundation of the world.

Consequently, during this time food supply and other commodities will be strangely scarce. As a result, the faithful followers of the Messiah will not be allowed to buy or sell anything. Only the worshipers of the beast or those who have the mark of the beast will be allowed to buy or sell goods. "This calls for endurance of Yahweh's people." Assuredly, He who promised is holy and faithful. He promised: "Because you have kept my command to endure, I will also keep you safe from the time of trouble which is coming upon the world to test all the people on earth" (Revelation 3: 10).

At this time also the people will be identified by the marks that they have. The Messiah's faithful followers will have the seal of the Father's Name and the Name of the Messiah on their foreheads. While the cohorts of satan will have the mark of the beast on their foreheads or right hands. The people then will be divided into two groups "As a shepherd gathers or separates the sheep from the goats."

Satan and his cohorts will fight against the Anointed and the faithful followers. It will be a great and terrible wars. In the beginning, Yahweh's people will be distressed but as the battle progresses, Yahweh's people under the Leadership of His Anointed will be able to gain control of the situation.

Finally, the Anointed and His followers will overcome satan by the sword that comes out of His mouth or the words of truth that come out of His mouth. Then satan and his armies will be imprisoned. But the Anointed and the faithful will reign as kings, queens, and priests for a thousand years. The world will then have a New Government, a Government truly ruled by God through His Anointed. Therefore, the world which has been groaning in pain and devastated due to sin will be restored, holy and acceptable to the Father. Read: Revelation 19-20 for reference.

After the thousand years, satan will be loosed from prison. He will again try to fight against Yahweh's people but Yahweh Himself will fight against him. Yahweh's consuming fire will come down to devour all of satan's works and throw him to the lake of fire that shall never be quenched.

Since satan has been completely defeated, the last enemy which is death is already conquered. Happily, by this time the faithful will now have sinless, glorious and eternal bodies. The glorified and eternal bodies of the faithful can now meet Yahshua the Messiah in the air together with His holy angels. Yahshua the Messiah and Yahweh Himself will be with men. They will sit on thrones and will execute the "Final Judgment". All the dead will rise and appear before them who sit on thrones, and then each one will receive the rewards which he deserves or according to what he had done.

At last! The whole creation whether in the heavens or in the earth will be perfectly one under Yahweh, the Creator and Father of all, with Yahshua the Messiah the eldest brother of all mankind. Man will then live with the Father and Yahshua the Messiah, see them face to face as Adam and Eve did at the time of creation. "In all His wisdom and insight God did what He had purpose, and made known to us the secret plan He had already decided when the time is right, is to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head" (Ephesians 1: 8-10).

Lastly, in everything give thanks. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings (but listen carefully and meditate seriously, pray for guidance, and gladly obey). Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit, and soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord (I Thessalonians 5: 18-23).
HalleluYah!

AUTHOR'S PRAYER

Most gracious Father in heaven Yahweh El, there is none like You Father. You alone are the Creator of the heavens and the earth; the Source, the Giver, and the Sustainer of life. You are great and Your greatness is unsearchable! Yet you are so good, so loving and merciful to us. You are holy and our ways are not Your ways, neither our thoughts Your thoughts. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are Your ways higher than our ways, and your thoughts higher than our thoughts.

Father, we acknowledge that there are still many things that we do not understand; things in earth and in the heavens. But we praise You and thank You that in spite of our frailties, You love us so much and You will never fail us nor forsake us. We thank You especially that we are one with You through Yahshua the Messiah and the Holy Spirit whom you gave to us for our salvation, guidance, and protection.

We thank You also Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that in spite of everything we can boldly declare that Your perfect Will be done in our lives, and Your perfect Will be done in earth through us because with You nothing is impossible.

Father, I pray particularly for all the readers of this book. Thank You that You bless them with understanding of the truth and of Your Will. Guide each one I pray, and through this book open the eyes of the "blinds", cause them to turn from darkness to light, that they may receive forgiveness of their sins, and inheritance among us who are sanctified by faith. I pray most especially for your blessing upon the people who have been one with us in our struggle to live and do things according to Your perfect Will day by day. Thank You that we will all share thy wonderful blessings and glory.

Above all, Father, I praise You and thank You for every good thing we have; and for every achievement, success, and victory to You alone be the highest honor and glory for You alone are worthy!

HalleluYah!


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