

CONQUERING THE HIGHEST

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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INTRODUCTION:

Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old (Matthew 13:52).

This verse is basically stating that everyone who studies the Word of God, those who are pupils of the Kingdom of Heaven/God, are likened unto a master of a house who provides out of the abundance of his treasures that which is both new and old. This series of lessons will be a sharing of treasures both new and old. If the “old Word” (not recent, worn out) is not loved, embraced, and cherished, then the “new Word” (fresh) will only be a momentary shot in the arm which creates a temporary “high”, but never takes root or reaches its target.

I have often pondered how it must have been for the prophets and the apostles of old when they received a mandate from God to deliver His Word. How were they introduced? Or how did they introduce the topic and subject matter that they had been mandated by God to present? Did they do like the “preachers and teachers” of the day and **open with a joke**, or a **catchy phrase**, or maybe a **smart performance of some kind**? Did they attempt in some way to “**break the ice**” or to **calm the crowd** in order to make them **feel comfortable or at home in their presence**? None of the above is true. They began their presentation with focus, with God’s Authority, with an unwavering and determined stance, and with pointed and directed aim at the target to which they had been sent to reach.

- Isaiah began with: The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem... Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken (Isaiah 1:1-2).

- Jeremiah began with: The words of Jeremiah... To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah (Jeremiah 1:1-2).
- Ezekiel began with: I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God (Ezekiel 1:1).
- Hosea began with: The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea (Hosea 1:1).
- Joel began with: The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel (Joel 1:1).
- Amos began with: The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah... And he said, The LORD will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem (Amos 1:1-2).
- Obadiah began with: The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the LORD God concerning Edom (Obadiah 1:1).
- Habukkuk began with: The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see (Habukkuk 1:1).
- Malachi began with: The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi (Malachi 1:1).
- The Apostle Paul began five of his epistles with: Paul, the apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God.
- Paul began 1 Timothy with: Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God.
- James began his epistle with: James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting (James 1:1).

Hopefully by now you get the point?! Each one of these servants of God (as well as the others not mentioned) began with power, confidence in their calling and mission, and without any regard to the “carnal feelings” of those to whom they were sent to deliver the Word of God. Where are these voices in the world today? They are few and far in-between.

I have ministered in over 50 countries on six continents over the past 42 years. I have, for the most part, played the ‘performance game’ and opened many teaching and ministry sessions with the recognition of dignitaries, special guests, and prominent persons. I have often been the one to open with a light-hearted story, statement or phrase to ease the crowd and break the ice. But those days are over! I am not saying that there is not a time to give honor, however, the focus of this present dispensation has changed. I have a mission to accomplish, a goal to reach, a people to shake up and wake up, because I have heard the heartbeat of the LORD God of Heaven and Earth for this generation who live in the ‘Time of the End’ before Jesus’ soon and imminent return. There is no time for games – it is time to get real, serious, and focused on the purpose of God for the day in which we find ourselves.

If what you hear, or what you read in these notes does not touch you, then it is not meant for you. Walk away and leave it alone.

- But if it stirs you to action, then take action.
- If it awakens your spirit, then arise.
- If it pricks your heart with conviction, then repent.
- But whatever you do, do not remain neutral. Move on or choose to move away.

Part One: THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The central theme of the teaching and ministry of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was the *Gospel of the Kingdom of God*. The Kingdom of God/Heaven is mentioned over 200 times within the pages of the Gospels and most of the references were spoken by Jesus, Himself. As a matter of fact, Jesus made it quite clear that His mission, ordained by His Father, was to teach the Kingdom of God.

*And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: **for therefore am I sent** (Luke 4:43).* (highlight by author)

Obviously, the message of the Kingdom of God/Heaven must be very important. Jesus said that He was sent for the very purpose of preaching the Kingdom of God. In this series of lessons, we will learn more about why the message of the Kingdom was so important to the Heavenly Father. We will see why this message was Jesus' central theme. And we will also see why it is this message, "*The Gospel of the Kingdom*", that must be preached to all nations before Jesus returns again.

John, the forerunner of Jesus, was also sent to preach and prepare the way for the Kingdom of God.

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matthew 3:1-2).

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is more important, more extensive, more relevant, and more urgent in this present generation than most realize. As already mentioned, it is "this gospel" that must go to the entire world before Jesus returns.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come (Matthew 24:14).

Jesus told His disciples what the signs would be that pointed to the end and to His return. Among the numerous signs, including deception, wars, pestilences, and famines, was the sign of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God being preached in all the world. We are living in that season! This is the time that the Kingdom of God is being revealed and *The Way* is being prepared for the King of Glory to appear. In summary, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is...

- About the King
- It is about His Throne becoming established and set up
- It is about God taking His rightful place as the sovereign ruler within the hearts of His people
- It is about the end joining the beginning (when God was and shall be All in all)

- It is about the called, chosen, and faithful finding their rightful place before God
- It is about true worship (not a worship service, but about being inspired in the adoration of God)
- It is about the perfection of praise from the “babe and suckling”
- It is about conquering, subduing, and taking dominion over untouched, unclaimed territory
- It is about fruitfulness (the evidence of the Bridegroom and Bride relationship – The Sons of God)
- It is about the Melchizedek Priesthood – the eternal order of priesthood – the Salem Kings and Priests
- It is about coming to full maturity – the highest calling of God
- It is about being prepared to meet Jesus when He comes again and going out to meet Him

The thinking of many in this generation is the same as was the thinking of the disciples of Jesus as well as the people in that day. The disciples believed that the Kingdom of God had to do with natural governmental power. They believed it had to do with Jesus taking the natural throne of Israel and establishing His Kingdom in Israel. They believed that the Kingdom of God was about wealth, prosperity, and taking a position of rulership in society.

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? (Acts 1:6).

And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear (Luke 19:11).

And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:20-21).

Many today have misplaced their energy, time, faith, and vision on the establishing of God’s Kingdom within politics and in society at large. However, this is not where the Kingdom of God is established. God’s Kingdom is not established in the palaces of kings or within the halls of parliamentary power. The Kingdom is not established within the mega-structures of wealth and among the crowds that gather therein. The Kingdom of God is not evidenced by tangible, earthly substance. One’s wealth, fame, favor, ministry, and importance in society have little, if anything, to do with the Kingdom of God becoming established. Rather, the Kingdom of God is established within the deepest and most secret place, the core, the Holy Place, within the hearts of men and is evidenced outwardly by the character and nature of Christ, the Son of God, being demonstrated within and from the life of the believer. The Kingdom is within you!

There are levels and dimensions of Truth. The Gospel (which means to declare, to announce good news, to bring, and to show) is also revealed in levels and portions of Truth.

- The Gospel of Salvation – Ephesians 1:13

- The Gospel of God – Romans 1:1 - Romans 15:16 - 1 Timothy 1:11
- The Gospel of Christ – Romans 1:16, 15:29 – 1 Corinthians 9:12, 18, 2 Corinthians 2:12, Galatians 1:7
- The Everlasting Gospel – Revelation 14:6

Many confuse the Gospel of the Kingdom of God with, for example, the Gospel of Salvation. The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is not about the salvation experience, even though salvation ultimately leads you to the Kingdom of God. However, you can experience the Gospel of Salvation and yet never know, understand, or experience the Kingdom of God.

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables (Mark 4:11).

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom of God, itself, is likened unto a *mystery*. A mystery is not mysticism (To note: *mysticism* is the joining of one to the absolute divine deity by means of propelling one's self by deeds into an experience beyond the norm – the origin of mystic experiences is, however, never revealed or known – it is simply stated as a divine power). In contrast, a *mystery* simply means a secret, something untold or yet to be told. A mystery is something that is hard to explain without supernatural guidance (as far as the mysteries of God are concerned, we depend on the guidance of the Holy Ghost). The Kingdom of God cannot be found or experienced in mysticism, but God's Kingdom and the establishment of God's Throne within the life of fallen man is a mystery – something that is revealed by the Holy Ghost.

- *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils (1 Timothy 4:1).*
- *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ (Colossians 2:8).*

We are certainly living in this time. The mysteries of God are being interwoven with mystic philosophy which is full of seduction and the doctrines of devils. These are the same doctrines that caused Adam and Eve to fall in the beginning. Doctrines that question God's Word, God's Authority and Supremacy, and God's Will and Purpose.

Mark 4:13-20...

Jesus goes on to explain the *Mystery of the Kingdom of God*. He likened the Kingdom to a sower of the seed (the seed is the Word of God). The seed is sown upon various types of ground, which speaks of the various conditions of the heart of man.

- The Wayside Soil – When they have heard, Satan comes immediately and removes the seed
- The Stony Ground – Receive the Word with gladness, but has no root – affliction and persecution come due to the Word and they are offended
- The Thorny Ground – They hear the Word, but the cares of this life, deceitfulness of riches, and lust for other things choke the Word causing unfruitfulness
- **Ultimately, the Good Ground. The “good ground” produced fruit and brought forth 30, 60, and 100-fold fruitfulness unto the sower.**

The Kingdom of God is about aspiring to bring forth hundredfold fruitfulness.

Hundredfold fruitfulness is obtained by the establishing of God's Throne and His Kingdom. It is about enthroning the King. It is about erecting a place of habitation for God's Throne and Kingship. All of the "other gospels" are encapsulated within the Gospel of the Kingdom. All Truth leads to the Kingdom. All areas of Truth work to establish God as King! The completeness of hundredfold fruitfulness cannot become a reality without the Lord and King taking His rightful place.

Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof (Matthew 21:43).

Jesus made it clear that the Kingdom is given to the ones that bring forth Kingdom fruitfulness. We will see later in this study what Kingdom fruitfulness is.

THEY THAT ARE "WITH HIM"

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful (Revelation 17:14).

The "called, chosen, and faithful" are identified as those that are "**with Him**". In these prophetic words of John, the Lamb is coming to Earth to establish the Kingdom of God – the 1000-year Millennial Reign of Christ. A new temple will be erected as described by the prophet Ezekiel and He, the Lord and King will sit in the Holiest of All and reign. However, He has a group of followers identified as an army of those that are "with Him". Those that are with Him have already had the Kingdom of God established within their hearts. There is no doubt to whom they belong. There is no question as to their devotion, loyalty, commitment, and adoration. They are already established on Mt. Zion and the Throne is already "set up" in their midst.

*And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and **with him** an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads (Revelation 14:1).*

"**With Him**" are the two key words in this verse. They are joined to, one with, in association with, together with Him, and established on Mt. Zion. *Amos 3:3 states: Can two walk together, except they be agreed?* Those who are with Him agree with His leading, agree and yield to His commands, and they willingly submit to His Will.

*Then I was **by him**, as one brought up **with him**: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him (Proverbs 8:30).*

This is speaking of the Christ, the Eternal Word of God. He was by and with the Father in Eternity Past before anything else was. He was totally one, joined, and in harmony with His Father's

Purpose and Will. In the very beginning of the Father revealing “His Way”, He, the Son, the Word of God, was “with Him”, by Him, and totally joined to Him in absolute surrender and agreement to His Father’s eternal Purpose for Himself and all of creation. He was always near, close, and unified.

He, the Living Word, is our example. This verse shows us the period of Eternity Past when the Son was brought up, or filled up, with the Truth to become the Living Word. Without being “with Him” and daily delighting in Him and Him in us, and without walking with Him, we cannot ever become the living vessels of Truth that inherit the Kingdom of God.

Who are these that are “with Him”? Is it the Bride? Yes, most definitely it is. But it is more than just the Bride and the relationship that she represents. It is evident from the description of the 144,000 who stand upon Mt Zion that this group of the redeemed represents a dual relationship with the Son and the Father.

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads (Revelation 14:1).

On Mt Zion, we see a Lamb standing and “with Him” are 144,000. The Lamb represents the Bridegroom and Bride relationship. The revelation of the Apostle John is all about the Lamb and leading up to the marriage of the Lamb and the revealing of the Bride, the Lamb’s wife. The Bride “knows” Him. She has been in an intimate relationship with Him, in fellowship and oneness with Him; loving Him, adoring Him, worshipping Him, and surrendering to His Will. The knowledge, or intimacy of the Bride with the Bridegroom, must produce fruit. That’s the purpose of union.

*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For **if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ** (2 Peter 1:4-8).*

God has promised for us to be partakers of the “Divine Nature”. This is the character, likeness, and image of “The Divine” that mankind lost in the beginning. Through our relationship with Jesus, or by “knowing Him” (like as when Adam knew Eve – but in our case a spiritual knowing, union, and fellowship) we produce fruitfulness. As His character grows and abounds in us, it removes the barrenness of our darkened and bound spiritual womb (the captivated Holiest of All). As a result, the fruitfulness of the Son of God is born.

We also see something else in Revelation 14:1 that reveals to us a different relationship besides that of the Bridegroom and the Bride. We read “*having his Father's name written in their foreheads*”. In their foreheads was a name, but not just any name – it was the Name of the Father. It is not possible to carry the Father’s Name without a relationship with the Father. The Heavenly

Father does not have a bride and groom relationship with the Bride. Rather, His relationship is that of a father and son – this speaks of the Sons of God!

This group is also the “*firstfruits*” unto God and the Lamb.

These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb (Revelation 14:4).

They are the fruit of the Bridegroom and Bride relationship, namely the Sons of God. The Lamb and His wife produce this fruit together, the fruitfulness of a “Father – Son” relationship with the Heavenly Father. The fruitfulness is both to the Father and to the Son which demonstrates the dual relationship that the 144,000 have with the Lamb, as the Bride, and with the Father as Sons. The Bridegroom’s mission is not to simply enjoy the fellowship, love, and adoration of His Bride, but rather to lead her into a relationship with His Father, a relationship demonstrated by Jesus, Himself, the Son of God.

THE COST OF THE KINGDOM

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is not about salvation. If it were about salvation, then salvation could only be obtained through works, not by gift. Salvation is a gift. (Ephesians 2:8-9) However, the Kingdom of God is not obtained or entered into by gift.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field (Matthew 13:44).

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it (Matthew 13:45-46).

Here, Jesus gives two examples of The Kingdom. One example shows us a “treasure” hidden and found in a field, and the other is a “pearl of great price” which was discovered. Both could only be obtained by the interested parties selling all that they had in order to be able to purchase the ‘treasure’ and the ‘pearl’. This is not salvation. The Kingdom Experience is beyond the Salvation Experience. Salvation is free, but the establishment of the Kingdom of God is costly. For the Kingdom to become an established reality within the life of the seeker/believer, a price must be paid. The price is ALL!! The only way that the ‘treasure’ and the ‘pearl’ could be obtained was for everything to be sold and the price to be paid! This is the Kingdom of God. Hence, many seek but few find because the cost is too great.

Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able (Luke 13:24).

There is a price to pay for God’s Kingdom. Redemption is free, but the fruitfulness required for the Kingdom experience is costly. Gaining entrance into the Kingdom is costly!

Then David said to Ornan, Grant me the place of this threshingfloor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD: thou shalt grant it me for the full price (1 Chronicles 21:22).

And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost (1 Chronicles 21:24).

The threshing floor of Ornan was upon Mt Moriah, the location where the Temple of Solomon was eventually built and where a permanent house was erected for the Throne of the God of Israel (**2 Chronicles 3:1**). Here, God's Kingdom and Kingship were permanently established in Israel. David bought this place for "full price".

Interestingly enough, the word used for "full" in Hebrew is *maw-lay*. This word means 'one that is with child'. **The Manifested Sons of God cannot be brought to birth without the full price being paid.** The full price is ALL of you; not quarter, not half, not three quarters, but ALL of you!!

Mt. Moriah, a part of Zion's mountain range, was purchased for full price. Those that are "with Him" have paid the price. Hence, they "stand" with Him as victorious conquerors of Zion. To stand means to abide, stand still, to stand in your appointed place, to continue, to be established, to set up, and to lay down.

The location upon Zion purchased for full price was a "threshing floor". Threshing floors have to do with fruitfulness. Harvest was gathered and brought to the threshing floor where a "separating" process took place to divide the pure wheat (the fruitfulness) from the chaff. Yes, fruitfulness is costly! It was upon a threshing floor that Boaz covered Ruth with the espousal garment and entered into a covenant relationship with her. Through the "threshing floor" experience that Ruth had with Boaz, the "Son of God" was born. Ruth became the great grandmother of King David and Jesus was called "The Son of David". (Matthew 1:1)

Zion's experience is like a threshing floor where fruitfulness is brought into view while the chaff of wickedness and the flesh of man is blown away with the wind of God's Spirit. This is a place of separation from the world (the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – 1 John 2:16).

Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof (Matthew 21:43).

Without Kingdom fruitfulness the Kingdom is not yours! Fruitfulness unto God and the Lamb is the key to inheriting the Kingdom of God!

The poetic and prophetic book of Psalms opens this way:

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. And 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. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away (Psalm 1:1-4).

This is a perfect description of Zion.

Part Two: THE LIVING WORD – THE MIRROR REFLECTION OF HEAVEN

God has always likened that which is natural and physical to that which is spiritual and divine. Within God's original plan, the natural, physical world was to be a mirror reflection of the world of the Spirit. That is, the world that is invisible to the natural eye, the world where God, Himself, dwells; the world from whence all natural life came from.



Since the fall of man, the perfection of the mirror reflection of the natural world was compromised and marred by sin. Everything that reflected and mirrored God and His world, His beauty, His character, and His holiness, was placed within a shadow; a shadow of corruption that alienated God's creation from God.

God sent His Son, Jesus, to change that. He sent "His Word" in the form of human flesh. Through Him, through God's visible demonstration of Himself, God's Will and Purpose were revealed. Through Jesus, the mirror reflection of Heaven on Earth was to be restored. The words that Jesus taught His disciples to pray reveal this Truth – *"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"* (Matthew 6:10). This prayer could be spoken in this manner, "Allow your Kingdom in Heaven to be mirrored and reflected in me upon earth."

But let's go even further back long before Jesus, the Christ, the Word, ever came in flesh. The Word was also revealed from the beginning.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not (John 1:1-5).

The Word of God contains *God's Purpose for all things*. His Word reveals His Mind, Desire, Plan, and Will. The Word always has been, because the Word was and is God, Himself. The Word was

also “with” God because God breathed from Himself His Living Breath, His Eternal Word, placing His Breath and Word within the form of His only begotten Son whom He had chosen to be the express revelation and visible image of Himself.

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:2-3).

Once again, we see the principle of the mirror reflection. The Son was and is the mirror reflection of the Father.

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? (John 14:9).

Jesus, the reflection of the Eternal Father, came not only to redeem mankind from sin, but also to restore the harmony of the natural and spiritual world. He came to restore God’s Will on earth as it is in Heaven.

The Son, the revealed Word, spoke all things into being. In Him was life and the life “is” the light that lightens the souls of all mankind (whether in Time or in Eternity) that they may know the Way and Purpose of God. Therefore, not only did the Word create all things, but in creating all things, He also revealed God’s Purpose for everything that was created.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

The Living Word that was from the beginning became flesh, dwelt with man, and showed man the way of life through His own life, death, and resurrection. Every aspect of ‘The Word’ is God’s revelation of *His Purpose and Plan* for His creation, and moreover for you and I.

HEAVEN – GOD’S KINGDOM – THE WORD

THE DIVINE ETERNAL LIVING WORD – GOD’S REVEALED
PURPOSE & PLAN

EARTH – EDEN - MANKIND

MAN – BODY, SOUL, SPIRIT – THE MIRROR REFLECTION OF GOD’S
PURPOSE & PLAN

Because of the fall of man into sin and rebellion against God, the heavenly pattern, Eden, God’s paradise on earth among His creation, was lost. Zion, God’s garden reflection of heavenly perfection, was lost. The Garden in Eden was the first Zion.

For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein (Isaiah 51:3).

God promised that the fallen, barren, waste places of Zion would once again become like Eden, the Garden of the LORD. Once again, Zion will radiate the mirror reflection of God's Heavenly Kingdom and Throne Room.

Jesus came to accomplish the same thing in the hearts of those called to Zion. He came to redeem. He is the Savior. But He is also The Way, The Truth, and The Life that leads us to our Destiny and End – back to the beginning, ZION, EDEN, PARADISE, PRESENCE OF GOD, ONENESS WITH GOD AND THE LAMB.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6).

Truth and Life are the way – the WAY that leads to Truth and Life whilst at the same time being the Truth and the Life guiding us to a destiny.

WORD OF LIFE

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the **Word of life**; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) (1 John 1:1-2).*

*Holding forth the **word of life**; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain (Philippians 2:16).*

WAY OF TRUTH

*I have chosen the **way of truth**: thy judgments have I laid before me (Psalm 119:30).*

*And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the **way of truth** shall be evil spoken of (2 Peter 2:2).*

The WAY is TRUTH, and the TRUTH/WORD is LIFE.

Hence, the Living Word is The Way, The Truth, and The Life. Life is not a split second ordeal. Life is an *existence*, a series of experiences and cycles of revolving events and actions. Life is a journey. Hence, life is a “way”, or a road, a path, and track of changing conditions that lead from one place of experience to another. Only Truth can guide us in The Way of Life. There is a way that seems, looks, appears, and even feels right to man but it ends in death.

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs 14:12).

Only the Truth can guide us in *the way* that leads to the ultimate fulfillment of God's Purpose for Time and Eternity – life eternal. Nothing else has the power to guide fallen man to where he should go, how he should live, and what God requires of him.

The Word/Truth is given to show us The Way. Once we come to Jesus, the journey on the pathway that leads to the destiny of eternal fulfillment begins. But it doesn't end the day you find the Redeemer. When we step into any given or particular way, a journey commences. One must move, travel, walk steps, and take action for the way to serve its guiding purpose. *The guiding purpose of a way is to lead you to a particular desired destination.* The purpose of a way is to bring you to the destiny at the journey's end. The destiny is always the goal and the ultimate purpose.

Very few ever discover the vision of the Destiny's End. They find The Way, but never experience the Truth and the Life of the Way because they do not *walk the Way*. Walking The Way has to do with living it out – living Christ Jesus, living His Nature, Character and Likeness as you grow in Him to the fulness of maturity in the Stature of Jesus (Ephesians 4:13). Walking the Way is spiritual growth and spiritual growth is the pursuit of the likeness and image of Jesus becoming a reality in your life.

The Word of God is The Way. The Word guides us by teaching us God's Will on earth as it is in Heaven. The Word is our map. Without the map, we are lost and we are not able to discover where we come from, where we are, and indeed where we are destined to go.

Jesus mirrors His Heavenly Father. We are to mirror Him, the Son. The true Sons of God have reached a goal, a purpose, a destiny of producing the fruitfulness of the likeness of Jesus.

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure (1 John 3:1-3).

The Sons of God mirror the Son of God whom the world did not know. As the "Sons of God", who are the mirror reflection of the character, nature, and life of 'The Son of God', it is not yet seen, or obviously tangible and clear as to what or how we shall eternally appear. However, one thing is clear, when we see Him, we will be just like Him (the perfect mirror reflection of Jesus) because we shall finally see Him absolutely as He is! The dark glass will be removed.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but, then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Part Three: THE LEVELS OF OVERCOMING

The Church is divided into various levels, dimensions, and experiences. There was not just one church in John's day, there were seven. Each church demonstrated a different level of revelation and experience with God and the Lamb. Each church had something different to overcome, and each church was promised a different reward that coincided with what they overcame.

The Seven Churches in Asia Minor during John's time were prophetic of the Seven Church Ages that would follow. They also speak of the Seven Churches co-existing in the End-Times. The Seven Churches also reveal the seven levels of spiritual growth and overcoming experienced by the believer.

This is all significant and important to understand if one is to grasp the full revelation concerning the diversity of the Church. Just as the natural body functions as various parts, in different realms, and with diverse activity, so also does the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:14-20). This diversity has created extreme disunity within the Church for centuries. This had happened because one "church", or dimension and level of the Body, fails to understand the function of the other.

Imagine if the Smyrna Church snubbed their nose at the Church of Pergamos because Smyrna received the revelation of "The First and The Last" (Revelation 2:8), whereas the Pergamos Church had the revelation of "The One with the sharp two-edged sword!" (Revelation 2:12) This would be like the foot saying to the hand, "I do not accept you as part of the body because you do not look like me, act like me, or function as I do."

Due to this diversity, the Church, in general, has grown into a spastic, dysfunctional, and crippled body.

Each of the Seven Churches were significant, important, and loved by God. Each church had a role to play in propagating the Truth of who Jesus is and spreading God's Word throughout the earth. Each church stood for something and had something unique to overcome. Each church, had they heeded the Word of God given to them, were promised a reward; the greater the obstacle overcome, the greater was the promised reward.

Once we rightly divide God's Word and understand the mystery of diversity within the Church, it stands to reason and to also acknowledge that not all of the Church is called to the same experience in God. Hence, the rewards of overcoming are diverse as are the eternal homes of all overcomers. (Revelation 21:1-2)

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works (Matthew 16:27).

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them (Revelation 14:13).

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be (Revelation 22:12).

Of course, it would be possible to spend a great deal of time discussing “the works” that Jesus said He would reward. What are the specific works? What is God looking for when it comes to Him judging the various promised rewards for the works committed. The works are not just about some form of good deeds; this alone is not what determines the reward to be received. Take note: the rewards promised to the Seven Churches were given according to the *works of overcoming*. The works of overcoming determine the specific reward received. To each of the Seven Churches the reward was only promised “*To him that overcometh.*” (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26. 3:5, 12, 21)

Inheriting the fullness of the promises of God is *all about overcoming*. Overcoming all that God sets before you, secures the inheritance of all of God’s eternal reward for the overcomer.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son (Revelation 21:7).

The level of reward is measured by the level of overcoming. Many people have a life filled with good works, righteous works, even godly works, however they are not overcoming. They are not prevailing over the inner turmoil, death, and darkness. They are still bound within by their own weaknesses. They have not produced the fruitfulness that subdues and takes dominion over unconquered territory within. The promised inheritance of God is received by those who overcome! The reward is given according to that which is overcome! Overcoming, therefore, is the evidence of eternal fruitfulness.

For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again (Matthew 7:2).

And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given (Mark 4:24).

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again (Luke 6:38).

By principle, these scriptures teach us that the measure that we receive is determined by our own choices, or by that which we, ourselves, have measured. This same principle works the same way when it comes to overcoming. Just like running a race for the sake of winning the prize, so

indeed should every believer aspire to overcome the ultimate, the highest, the deepest, and the greatest obstacle with the Prize of God's High Calling in view.

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

Pressing toward the mark has to do with overcoming. To press means to press forward, to pursue after, and to flee from. Overcoming has so much to do with pressing forward by pursuing God, whilst at the same time fleeing from the world and its lusts. You cannot pursue after one thing without fleeing from another, and you don't flee from something without heading toward something else. *Pursuing* and *fleeing from* go hand in hand. This is how we press toward the mark of the Prize of the High Calling of God. We pursue after God as we flee from the corruptions of the world. Since there is a "high calling", there must also be lower callings. To obtain the reward, the Prize, of the High Calling, we must press, we must overcome! This is fruitfulness.

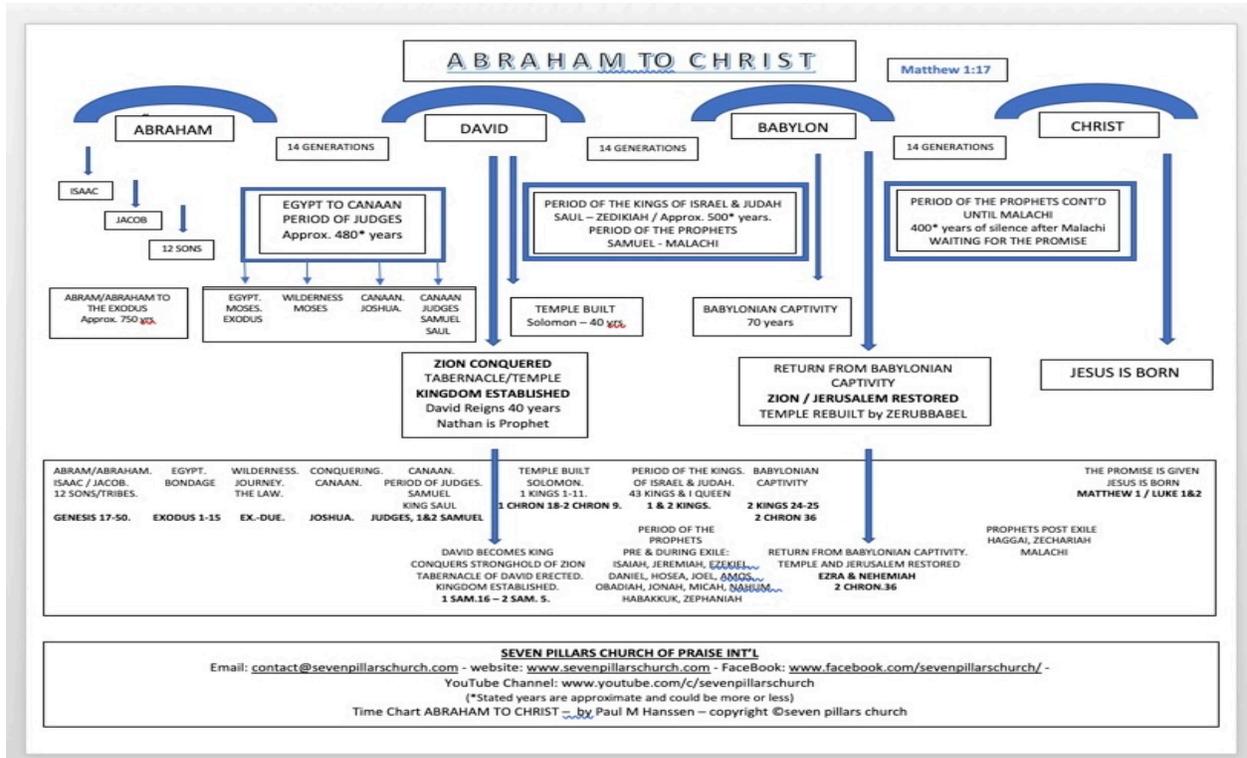
Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

Paul likened his spiritual journey to a race where a prize was to be obtained by winning. To win the prize and to gain the "mastery" (to endeavor to reach a goal), Paul said that we must run. To accomplish this, we must strive and keep the weaknesses of the body in check as we bring them under subjection. This is overcoming! Whether you win the gold, silver, or bronze, as it were, depends on the press, the run, the level of subjection, and the level of overcoming accomplished.

Part Four: THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD

The following segment of this study is not for everyone; it is for those who are destined to the highest place of fellowship with God. We have already established the fact that there are various levels, positions, dimensions, and experiences to be gained within the Body of Christ, His Church. We have also established that God gives natural pictures to demonstrate the spiritual world. One such picture given in God's Word is the journey of Israel from Egypt to Canaan. After entering Canaan, the ultimate conquest was that of taking Zion, the final unconquered stronghold of the Jebusites upon Mt. Zion.

(see the diagram on the following page)



Abraham to Christ Time Chart – copyright ©Seven Pillars Church

From the days of Joshua until the time of David was a period of approximately 400 years. For 400 years, even though Canaan had been conquered, the Kingdom was not established until the days of David. Saul was the first king of Israel, however Saul never established a capitol or national center where God’s House and Throne were set up in the nation as the heartbeat and core of national identity. As a matter of fact, the Ark of God, a symbol of God’s Throne, was not included at any point of Saul’s reign. *(And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul (1 Chronicles 13:3).* The Ark was already in exile when Saul became the king of Israel. It was kept in the house of Abinadab after having been removed from Moses’ Tabernacle by the sons of the high priest, Eli. At that time, the Ark was taken by the Philistines, then returned to Israel, and eventually sent to Abinadab’s house for safe keeping for almost seventy years. (1 Samuel 7:1) Saul never attempted to restore the Ark of God to its rightful place in the nation. He never even enquired at the Ark for the guidance of God’s Will.

This picture is typical of the Church today. There are those who are dedicated and committed in their relationship with God; they “cross Jordan”, as it were; they fight the giants of the land; they develop a bridal relationship with the Bridegroom, Jesus, in Beulah Land (Isaiah 62:4 - Beulah Land = married, husband, wife, have dominion over). However, the stronghold of Zion remains unconquered. Hence, the Kingdom of God remains unestablished within the center core of their hearts.

Canaan’s Land, the Land of Beulah (married, husband, wife land – Bridegroom and Bride relationship territory) represents the relationship of the Bride with Jesus Christ. However, Zion

represents the fruit of that relationship. The fruit is the “birth” of a ‘son’; the Manifested Sons of God.

God’s plan for all relationships is “fruitfulness”. (Genesis 1:20-25)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto 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 1:27-28).

As we have already seen in this series of lessons, the natural, visible world types the spiritual, invisible world. The natural picture that God gave us in His Word of His blessing upon the union of Adam Male and Female is a representation of the blessing of the spiritual relationship of the Second Adam and His Bride. This union is blessed by God, but not for the reasons that most people think. Many want and seek for the Bridegroom intimacy for the reason of “self-elevation”. Many seek this relationship for self-gain, self-promotion, and self-honor. But God blessed this union for the purpose of fruitfulness. Without bearing the fruit of the union with Jesus, your spiritual womb is lifeless and you have not fulfilled the purpose of the union. The Bridegroom desires fruit. He desires for the seed of His Word to be lodged within the depths of your inner being and there nourished, loved, cradled, and eventually brought to birth in the form of the character, nature, image, and likeness of the Son, Himself, – fruit unto God, Sons to the Father (Abba Father). It is through and by this fruitfulness that true subduing and dominion power are evidenced.

Many of those called by God to the “high place” enter and conquer spiritual Canaan. However, very few go deep into the “Canaan Experience” and conquer the highest place and experience of all, Zion. Zion was not just an elevated city. It was a stronghold and considered to be one of the most impregnable fortified cities of the time. The inhabitants of Zion/Jerusalem, the Jebusites (meaning to trample, to loathe, to be polluted, and tread down under foot), mocked David for even considering an attempt to conquer Zion’s stronghold.

Therefore came all the elders of Israel to the king to Hebron; and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel. And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus; where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land. And the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, Thou shalt not come hither. Nevertheless David took the castle of Zion, which is the city of David (1 Chronicles 11:3-5).

Part Five: PROPHETIC INSPIRATION – TRUE WORSHIP

And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise? (Matthew 21:16).

There is praise, and then there is “perfect praise”. The difference between the two aspects of praise is profound. Praise and worship are the keys that open doors into God’s Presence. They are also the power that rattle and shake the deepest hell and demonic foes that plot against the believer. Praise and worship are also the power that overcome spiritual wars. And praise and worship create a stronghold of defense against the enemies of Truth.

Jesus quoted Matthew 21:16 from Psalm 8:2:

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger (Psalm 8:2).

The NIV translates this verse as follows:

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Over the centuries some have been so bold as to state that Jesus misquoted the words of David that were recorded in Psalm chapter 8. This is absurd. How could the Living Word in flesh misquote the Word? – impossible!

In the early days of the New Testament Era, whilst the New Testament itself was being written, Old Testament scriptures were frequently referred to. Instead of quoting the Old Testament scriptures verbatim, the writer or speaker would rather quote the scripture whilst using the context, or meaning of what was written. One example of many is found in Matthew 13:35.

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world (Matthew 13:35).

On this occasion, Matthew is quoting Psalm 78:2.

I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old (Psalm 78:2).

Matthew quotes the verse whilst at the same explaining the verse. Asaph, the author of Psalm 78, uses the words “dark sayings of old”. Matthew explains what that means by quoting the verse as “things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world”. The words are different, but the content is the same.

When Jesus quoted from Psalm 8, He quoted the content, not the actual words written.

Jesus said: *Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise.*

Asaph wrote: *Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength.*

The strength that Asaph wrote about was the strength of a citadel, a fortress, a strong tower, or a stronghold. The Hebrew word for strength is 'oz meaning force, security, majesty, might, power, prevail, bold, and loud. It is the same word used for the "strong tower" of the LORD's Name (Proverbs 18:10, Psalm 61:3). However, 'oz also means praise!

This 'oz praise is like a fortress. It forms a stronghold. It is a mighty tower of strength. This particular kind of praise is not your regular *clap and dance* praise and worship session. This form of praise and worship do not flow through regular melodies, or popular "top of the chart" worship songs, or the typical forms of Sunday morning worship sessions. There is nothing wrong with the aforementioned; they, too, have their place. However, "perfect praise", "'oz-praise", comes from babes and sucklings. Babes and sucklings refer to a newborn infant that is totally dependent on the mother for survival and existence.

Have you ever heard words from the mouth of a newborn infant? No – they do not form words. The sounds that belch from their being are sounds that have no form. Sucking infants yell, cry, scream, giggle, coo, and make various breathing sounds. But they make all of these sounds with no form or no words.

The Bride brings to birth the Manifested Sons of God. The Word of God describes them as a "Man Child", a sucking infant as it were.

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne (Revelation 12:5).

This is the birth of the relationship with the Heavenly Father. These are the "Sons of God". This fruitfulness of the Bride is portrayed and demonstrated as "a child". This child is totally dependent upon the Father. There is no arrogance of self-sustainability, but rather the absolute surrender to, and trust in, the Father. It is out of the mouths of these babes and sucklings that praise is perfected. They seek for nothing but His face. They pursue nothing but His Presence. They want nothing besides His Glory. No words can ask for that – only the longing cry can call out for such a relationship.

Asaph wrote, in so many words, that through the praise of babes and sucklings the "stronghold" against the enemies of God is established (Psalm 8:2). Jesus said, when He quoted the meaning of Asaph's prophetic words, that the praise of babes and sucklings is the perfection of 'oz strength that establishes the stronghold.

It is this type of "free-flow", no form, inspired, spontaneous praise and worship that God calls "perfect praise". It is not made by prompt or command. It is not timed or commissioned. Perfect praise is not a programmed "worship service" (once again, there is nothing wrong with programmed worship services – this too has its place). However, the inspired worship of the "cry

and call” to the Heavenly Father, the longing for Him, the intense thrill of knowing His touch and Presence, cannot be compared to anything else. It is spontaneous and it is inspired from the depths of an awakened spirit that is birthed into a loving relationship with God. It flows like a river. It is frequently not accepted by the mainstream and certainly not by those who are inclined to find their security within the structure of programmed praise and worship. But those who find this place of inspiration, to them, it is a fortress, stronghold, and citadel of strength. No worship compares to it.

The Glory of God cannot and will not return and be restored to God’s remnant people without inspired speakers, singers, worshippers, warriors, saints, and musicians! “Church leaders”, and moreover worship leaders in general, within the modern-day church have all but lost inspiration. God’s people in general have lost spiritual inspiration. The sermons preached from the pulpits these days are not born from spending time with God and by the ministers having been filled to overflowing with the inspiration and revelation from God’s breath; rather, the sermons are born from reading a book, or from attempting to coddle the people, or from watching a movie, or hearing a story. Sermons are also birthed out of spite, rebellion, and the need to “prove” something. I am not saying that one cannot be inspired by some of these things, but this is NOT the inspiration that is going to be restored in the end-times.

The inspiration that God will restore comes from being filled with the “breath” of God, the breath like that of a “child”, as it were. Breath and fire cannot be captured into a form.

- True inspiration is becoming overcome and by succumbing to God’s weighty Glory Presence.
- True inspiration comes when God’s servants burn within with an absolute and resounding thirst, hunger, and longing for God and nothing but God!
- The “babe and suckling” seeks for nothing else than to be “picked up”, as it were, into the loving arms of the Father/Mother (El Shaddai – Almighty God, meaning *the breasted one, the feeder*).
- From this place of yearning comes true inspired worship and praise!

In the beginning, in the “perfect creation”, in paradise, the Garden of the LORD, God placed man whom He had formed and in whom He had breathed the breath of inspiration.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed (Genesis 2:7-8).

The Hebrew word for “breath” of life is *naw-sham-ah*. *Naw-sham-ah* means divine inspiration, wind, and spirit. When Adam, the “son of God” (Luke 3:38) was formed, when he was in his “infancy” as far as his existence was concerned, he was filled with the breath of inspiration. When he was placed inside of Eden’s Paradise, Adam overflowed with divine inspiration. They, Adam Male and Female, breathed after God. Did they know anything at that stage? No. Was mankind

filled with knowledge? No. They only knew a command God had given them; a command to leave the Tree of Knowledge alone. This beginning place pictures The End, the ultimate. What they had is what we must have in the finale. The inspiration of the Breath, Fire, Power, Wind, and Spirit of God as infants that joins us to the Tree of Life which will ultimately join us to The Father, "All Knowledge". Had mankind used the breath of inspiration, as God intended, they would have eventually been joined to the Tree of Knowledge, the Eternal Father.

Mankind, and eventually all creation, lost the *breath of inspiration* through sin and rebellion against God. Nothing has changed. Sin and rebellion against God is still the reason that man loses the breath of inspired praise, worship, and adoration of God.

All in whose nostrils was the breath (naw-sham-aw) of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark (Genesis 7:22-23).

In the days of Noah, after a very tumultuous 1656 years since God formed Adam, God took all *breath of inspiration* (naw-sham-aw) away from all living creatures on the Earth apart from those whom His Spirit called into the ark. Mankind had used the breath of inspiration to serve himself and his own desires.

We are living in a day when God will once again breath His *naw-sham-aw breath* on His people. The Bridal Saints will produce the fruitfulness of the Sons of God, the Man Child; out from these comes the perfect praise of inspiration.

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD (Psalm 150:6).

This verse is not saying that everything that "breathes" praises the LORD. No, rather let everything that is "inspired" (the word breath is naw-sham-aw) praise the LORD.

When King David erected the Tabernacle of David and set up a place for the Throne of God to be truly established in the nation, he and the captains of the host chose certain ones who were to be responsible for the "worship" around and before the Ark of God, the Throne of God.

Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was (1 Chronicles 25:1).

When David brought the Ark of God to Zion, he was inspired. He, along with the inspired captains of the army regiments, chose and separated certain people to bring the Ark and the Glory of God to Zion. Every one of those chosen had to be able to prophesy.

David set up priestly musicians and singers who could prophesy. I do not believe that the Glory of God will come and fill a house that is void of inspiration!!! The restoration of David's

Tabernacle among us today is going to be accomplished through the breath of inspired words, song, and music. God's fiery Glory will not come and join to anything that contraries His Nature. His Breath is inspiration (Genesis 2:7 breath of life – naw-sha-maw – inspired breath).

Prophecy - *naw-baw*, means: to speak and sing by inspiration.

Inspiration in the Hebrew is the word *naw-sha-maw* which means: breath, spirit, and wind.

Any gifted singer can sing a song, but not all singers are inspired. Any skilled musician can play their instrument, but not all musicians are inspired. Any trained preacher can preach, but not all preachers are full of the inspiration of the fiery, glory, breath of God. Any believer can operate the gifts of the Spirit, but not every believer is inspired in their actions and movements among people.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7).

Once again, *Breath of Life* is *naw-sha-maw* in Hebrew. Mankind could not successfully live in the Garden Paradise of God without the *inspiration of the Breath and Spirit of God!* God formed man outside of the Garden Paradise and did not place him within the fence of His Garden where His Glory Presence resided until he was filled with the fiery Glory and *naw-sha-maw* Breath of God.

Take note to what 'prophecy' means: To *SPEAK and SING by inspiration*. Prophetic inspiration goes far beyond preaching, teaching, and 'prophesying'. It spills over into the realms of music, in songs, worship, and sounds/tones, in daily living, making choices, and in overall service to God that ring out and proclaim adoration unto God.

It's not enough to have the fire of the Holy Ghost kindled in your bosom. That may be enough for many, and of course it's good and awesome, we must have it - but it's not enough for those who desire to experience Zion, the dwelling of God - the Glory of God! The Holy Ghost is given to lead and guide us into this experience.

Within the deep place of man's being, God formed a Holy Place, a Throne Room, a place designed for the breath of His Spirit-inspiration to reside. Once this breath fills our inner most being "again", as it was in the beginning, the way we live our lives, and conduct ourselves, changes dramatically. Understanding, true Godly discernment, and Wisdom becomes as common in your daily existence as breathing air.

But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding (Job 32:8).

Spirit – *roo-akh*/ wind, breath, mind

Inspiration – *naw-shamaw*/ breath, spirit

Understanding - *bene*/ discern, sense, wisdom, separation

Within man's spirit, which is the deepest part of man, is the place where God positions the *naw-sham-aw*, the breath of inspiration. From this Throne Room, from the Most Holy Place, God governs as King.

- True inspiration will cause a man/woman to understand the things which please and displease God.
- True inspiration is discerning. There is, however, a huge difference between discernment and carnal perception. Many people "perceive" one thing or another believing they have been inspired to discern God's mind when in reality they are divining under a false spirit of prophesy
- You can identify an inspired person who is filled with the breath of God because they understand what it means to be set apart
- Inspired people stick out! Inspired people glow with a Presence that is not their own
- Inspired ones make you want to draw close to God, or they make you want to run as far away as possible – depending on the desire and position of your heart before God
- Inspired people care little about their own feelings, they have no agenda of their own, and their focus is always to the honor and glorification of the Living God, no matter the cost

Once again – let's look back at the beginning. Eden, the first Zion habitation, had a river flowing through it. This was a river of life, a river that watered Eden and gave life and preservation to the Garden of the LORD.

And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads (Genesis 2:10).

This was a river of 'inspiration', the river of 'life' from the breath, mouth, presence, and Throne of God:

There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early (Psalm 46:4-5).

River = *naw-hawr'* / prosperity, a flood, to sparkle, be cheerful, assemble, flow together, be lightened

Streams = *peh'-leg* / a small channel of water

Within this river are many streams of various water temperatures and even streams of various swiftness of current. All of the streams together produce one river. The river of life has many streams of inspiration; all types of worship and praise, all manner of prayer and supplication, all kinds of sounds, melodies, songs, and notes, all kinds of gifts, callings, and service. But it all flows together to make *glad the City of God*. This river does not flow to satisfy man. It serves to satisfy God and His habitation. It is within such flow of Divine inspiration that *God dwells in the midst of*. This is why the raising of David's Tabernacle and the set up thereof was surrounded and filled with those who were inspired.

In the days of Moses, whilst he was leading the nation of Israel through the wilderness, the people were angry and disgruntled because they were tired of manna which God had provided. Moses was the one they turned to, and Moses was the one they blamed for what they considered their misery and misfortune.

Moses went to the LORD and poured out his heart, even asking that God kill him rather than asking him to carry the nation in his own bosom. (Numbers 11:10-15)

However, the LORD told Moses to gather seventy of the elders of Israel and position them around about the Tabernacle. (Numbers 11:16-25) When he did, the LORD took from the Spirit that was upon Moses and placed it on the seventy. When the Spirit rested upon them, they all began to prophesy.

And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease (Numbers 11:25).

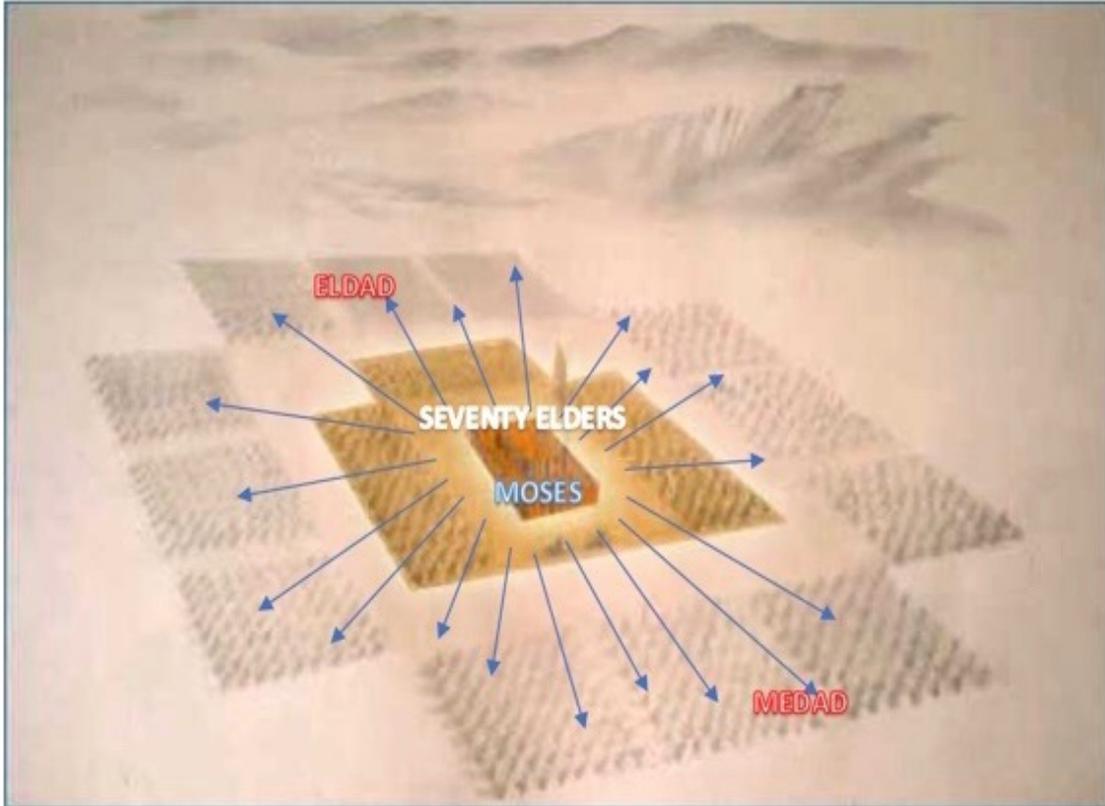
Every one of the seventy had the same Spirit on them. The Spirit that was upon their governing leader rested on them so that they all spoke the same prophetic words that God had given to Moses. None of them stood as an isolated voice, but rather as “one voice” to speak inspiration, prophetic Word, to a people that were discouraged, tired, worn, and downcast.

However, there were two of the seventy who were left out in the camp who were also prophesying. These two also had the same Spirit and were inspired by the same inspiration. But there was something different about them. Their prophetic words of inspiration went further. They flowed among the camp like a river running between the dry and downcast hearts of the people.

And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp. And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them. And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them! (Numbers 11:27-29).

(see the picture on the following page)

THE SEVENTY PROPHETICALLY INSPIRED ELDERS – SURROUNDING THE TABERNACLE
TWO OF THE SEVENTY AMONG THE CAMP– ELDAD & MEDAD



The Spirit that was upon Moses rested on the seventy and they all spoke by divine inspiration the Words of God – they all spoke under inspiration the same words given to Moses. Eldad and Medad, however, were not among the other 68 that surrounded the Tabernacle. They were out in the camp running around like overflowing rivers of water. What was the difference between the 68 and these 2?

The name Eldad means **GOD HAS LOVED**

The name Medad means **LOVING, TO LOVE, TO BE AFFECTIONATE**

True inspiration and the love of God go hand in hand. Inspiration that is birthed from God loving you and you loving God is released like a river flowing from His Throne. Yes, you can be inspired whilst standing firmly in your post around the House of God's Presence. This is actually where inspiration begins. However, inspiration birthed out of love, just like King David's prophetic inspiration (the name David means love), moves, flows, reaches further, touches more hearts, goes beyond the norm, and accomplishes God's Purpose among the camp of His people. Inspiration birthed from love raises a habitation for God's Presence. Inspiration birthed from love is selfless; it is God-centered, God-serving, and God-adoring.

The question we need to ask ourselves on a perpetual basis is, “What and who inspires me?” What and who inspires my service, worship, and devotion? The word for worship in Hebrew is *shaw-khaw*. This word means: to depress, prostrate (especially in homage to royalty or to God), bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, and make to stoop. So, ask yourself, to whom, and to what, am I bowing before? What causes me to fall down flat in homage? What do I yield myself to? To what or whom do I prostrate my heart, will, emotions, feelings, and desires? Whatever the answers are to your questions, that is the god you serve.

Joshua did not understand the inspiration that was flowing out in the camp. He requested Moses to forbid these two men from prophesying in the camp. This disgust, however, was birthed out of envy. Moses asked Joshua, “Are you envious on my behalf?” Basically, in so many words, Moses told Joshua not to be envious but to allow “love” to overflow. Eldad and Medad were still speaking the same thing as the others; they were under the same anointing as the others; they spoke under the inspiration of the Spirit that God took from off of Moses. Therefore, Moses said that he wished that all of God’s people were prophets (were inspired) and for these men to be left alone.

It is one thing to be disruptive and out of sync with the Spirit of God, it is yet another to be joined and be one in the same Spirit that flows from God’s Throne. Many today operate in rebellion and resistance to God’s Authority, not in sync with it. They should not be allowed to flow like a river among the camp!

The prophets Ezekiel and John both had visions of the Temple of God and the river that flowed from the Temple.

Ezekiel 47:1-9

Revelation 22:1-2

Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar (Ezekiel 47:1).

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations (Revelation 22:1-2).

Ezekiel saw the river issue out of the Temple and John saw the river flow out of the Throne of God. *This is a Kingdom River*, a river that proceeds from the very place of the heartbeat of God. This river comes from the Throne-Room of God. This river flows from God’s Glory Presence and everywhere it goes it produces LIFE, HEALING, DELIVERANCE, REFRESHING, PRAISE, WORSHIP,

PRAYER, PROPHECY – this is a river of inspiration! True inspiration comes from the Throne-Room of God. It is inspiration that begins at the ankles, then the knees, the loins, and eventually a river torrent that cannot be crossed over, but rather carries you where it flows. (Ezekiel 47:1-5)

This vision of destiny and the Kingdom of God is about the restoration of God's people coming back and reclaiming what has been lost! This is about bringing back the Glory! This is about raising a habitation for the Ark of God's glorious Presence. (1 Samuel 2:8, Jeremiah 14:21) This is about the Kingdom of God!!