

INTRODUCTION

This book is a compilation of the transcribed messages at the 2010 Holy Convocation, held in Benin, Edo state, Nigeria from March 31st to April 4th 2010; with the theme:

“Understanding the times-2: The Light of His Kingdom and His day”

The 2010 Holy Convocation at Benin-City was the 21st in the series of Holy Convocation, held annually since 1989.

The first Holy Convocation; held in September 1989, as a result of a strong move of the Holy Spirit across Nigeria; where God made His displeasure known about the abominations of mixture, complacency and love for material things sweeping across the body of Christ.

The theme of the first Holy Convocation which held at Ede, Osun State in 1989 was: *“Awake & Rise”*.

It was clear after the 3-day convocation that a new move of the spirit, with clear emphasis on the need to *move beyond Pentecost* had been birthed in Nigeria.

Another angle of the Lord’s emphasis in 1989, was on the church departing from God’s order and government for His church; with the widespread error of one-man ministries; as opposed to the Lord’s arrangement for plurality of ministries and divine government in His church (Acts 28:17, 1 peter 5:1-4)

Although this abomination still persists in the land and across the globe; these series of Holy Convocation gatherings have served to alarm and enlighten God’s people on the need for us to return to God’s pattern for the church of Jesus Christ.

The theme of the 2010 (Benin) Holy Convocation was a follow up to the theme of the 2009 (Lagos) Holy Convocation, which had the theme: *“Understanding the times.”* These series of messages and prophetic utterances at the 2010 (Benin) Holy Convocation brought forth much enlightenment to God’s people regarding God’s overall, eternal purpose and plan; relating it with the current trends and events in the world.

KOLA ADEGOKE

(April 2010)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All the nine messages in this book were transcribed by Brother David Omoghene.

It must have been a tedious task. May the grace of God upon his life increase in Jesus name.

It is necessary to commend the efforts of the brethren who, not only ministered the messages transcribed in this book, but also took time out of tight schedules to edit the contents; thereby ensuring again that the burdens that birthed the ministration at the Holy Convocation are also properly expressed in prints.

May the Lord cause more unveiling of His end time purposes and plans to His church, as the age gradually winds to a close.

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CHAPTER ONE
THE TIME OF RESTORATION IS UPON US
(KOLA ADEGOKE)

You are welcome to this convocation.

For those that got the pre – conference newsletter, it was earlier indicated to be a life changing convocation, because the Spirit of the Lord has said so. So much prayer has gone up before the Lord about this convention; and if you have found yourself here, then it is not by chance. There are people here who never knew they would be able to come, I want to announce to you that as long as you are here, you are not here by chance. God has brought you for a visitation.

We had time to seek the Lord early this morning, and I just feel I should let you know that God has been waiting for you.

I just feel like letting you know that there some definite things that the Lord has said He will do; and as we start tonight and in the course of the convocation and ministrations, I want you to just release yourself to the Lord. During the seasons of worship or the ministry of the word, just key in to the Spirit of the Lord; because somewhere in the course of this convocation, you will receive an answer.

There are three things the Lord said to us this morning as we were praying and waiting in His presence:

- 1. The Lord said he would attend to chronic situation of His people, and the Lord did say He would do that in all areas.
You know what a chronic situation is?*

It is a condition that is not good, not palatable but has remained or persisted. The Lord specifically said He would attend to the chronic situations; and this will happen in all areas so I assume the Lord will touch the burdens of His people. The Lord will reverse health conditions that have given us concern. The Lord will turn around ugly and exasperating financial conditions. Even marriages that have been 'managing and managing', some of them are chronic; the Lord said there would be a turning around in the name of Jesus.

2. *As we also prayed and waited on the Lord, the Lord showed a vessel this morning, two hands that were let down in our midst. The Lord said, This is His glory that is being let down at this convocation. So the Lord is saying His glory is not going to come, but is already come! As we are here therefore, the presence of the Lord is here.*
3. *The Lord said there shall be dramatic reversals of situations that have held His people down. Now what is the Lord saying? The Lord has called us to work with Him. The Lord has called us as a separated and holy people. The Lord is calling a spiritual body unto Himself. The Lord is doing a work of gathering a people that He can call by His name. Then the Lord is saying that He will attend unto ugly situations in a dramatic way. Now I want to say this, brethren: our situation shall not be like one who goes to God and comes back, and goes to God and comes back and there is no change. The Lord has emphatically declared that there will be a dramatic turn around.*

What does this mean?

It is not going to be by your struggling. It is not going to be as you strive. The Lord says He himself will do it: "And the Lord God in the midst of His people is mighty".

The 2010 Holy Convocation has as its theme: **Understanding the Times.**

What does the Lord want us to understand?

Last year, the theme of the convocation was also: "*Understanding the Times*". As we waited in the presence of the Lord for direction this year, the Lord did say to us, Yes, I still want to talk to you about the times. I still want you to understand the times that you are in.

But this time the Lord gave us an emphasis. The Lord wants to give us an emphasis regarding His kingdom and His day. The Lord wants to give us the light, because one characteristic we see around us is darkness. There is darkness in government; there is

darkness in the nations; there is darkness economically, socially. Nobody seems to be safe except they that are in Christ. So there is darkness and **Isaiah 60** tells us so.

60:2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people:

But at that time what did the Lord say?

But the LORD shall arise upon [us], and His glory shall cover [us].

Now brethren, there are many strange and fearful events; many strange and fearful sights at this time of the end. Many hearts are afraid. Many people are getting on edge by the reason of the things that are going on; not only individuals but also governments and nations.

This year we woke up to witness one earthquake after another. Apart from the earthquakes, there were troubles in the nations. The hearts of many are failing them for fear. Even many of the sons of light themselves, as it were, are almost caught up in this web of fear. Associated with these global and environmental events is that many of the Lord's people are finding it difficult to reconcile certain issues and events in their lives with God's word and promises. The Lord is giving us a word of assurance and a word of comfort.

Now the Lord has gathered us together so that the things that are befalling the nations are not going to befall us. God is bringing a clear separation between those who are His own and those who are not His own. What is going to make this manifest is the day that we are in.

I bring you, brethren, good news from the presence of the Lord. The Lord is saying we must have an attitude to the things around us that He is also having. What is the attitude of the Lord, and what is the attitude that the Lord wants us to have? The Lord is saying that we should know that the time of restoration is upon us, and the exhortation I will give tonight is:

“The Time of Restoration is Upon Us”.

Now, let us look at the book of **Isaiah 65**, I will read from Verse **17**.

65:17 “for, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth:”

This is what the Lord says He is doing. Remember, the Lord is saying the time of restoration is upon us. Whatever is happening in the nations, what God is seeing is not what the nations are seeing; but what the Lord is seeing is what we should see.

“And the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind”.

And what is the Lord asking you to do my brother?

65:18 “But be ye glad and rejoice...”

For how long?

“...for ever”

Now the Jerusalem the Lord is talking here is not situated in the land of Palestine. Do you know the Jerusalem God is talking about? He is talking about you and me; a people who are in His will and bound up to His purpose.

He says further that as He is doing the work of restoration, we should be glad and rejoice... because He is doing a new creation.

65:19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

And what do we say to that? Amen!

65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old: but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

65:21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

65:22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat:

This has been the condition of many of the Lord's people: activities of the devourer; loses of diverse kinds... But the Lord says further;

...for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and my elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.”

What again is the Lord saying to you?

65:23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth in trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

65:24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

AMEN!

Now, we were talking about the kingdom of God, because the Lord is saying we have to understand the times. There must be a difference between us and those who are not in the Lord. The Lord says the day of the Lord will not come upon us unawares. What do we have that others do not have?

We have the light of His word.

We have the light of prophecy. And so the Lord says He wants to give an understanding of the times.

Remember **1 Chronicles 12:32** the Bible speaks about a tribe of Issachar. It says the children of Issachar have understanding of the times.

For what purpose? So that Israel might know which way to go.

So even as we see confusion and dread in the nations there is a hidden tribe of the Lord that is in touch with God; that is very much aware of the mind of God, and knows what is happening and what will happen.

The Lord wants us to understand and be able to reconcile the things that are happening now in the light of His eternal program. God does not want us to move and operate in panic; and that is what the nations are doing. Any little thing happens and you see them moving in one direction. Another thing happens, they move in another direction. But the Lord is saying He wants us to have an understanding of the times we are in. The Lord began to speak to us emphatically about this last year, and the Lord says but now He wants to zero in on His eternal program as it affects His kingdom and His day.

The kingdom of God has always been. The kingdom of God is; and the kingdom of God shall be. His kingdom shall have no end. But there is a period referred to as the Day of the Lord. This period is peculiar and sensitive in divine plan and prophecy. It is

a period that God desires to carry out - I won't call it a repair, but - a work of restoration.

In this **Isaiah 65**, the Lord was giving an announcement of what He has in mind for the time of the end; and this time, this period we are talking about is the day of the Lord. The Lord wants us to have an understanding of His day relative to His kingdom program, and then that we might have an understanding of the things that are around us, and be able to reconcile them.

God want you to understand the things that are happening in your life, the pressures that you are having, the things that are happening in your family, the things that are happening in your business, and the things that are happening even in the visible church. God wants to give us understanding so that we can know where all these things come in, and then to reconcile them to His kingdom plan and purpose.

So the Lord says what He is doing is creating new heavens and new earth. But you see, one glorious thing is this. The Lord is saying by the time He finishes this work of restoration, the former shall not be remembered. It shall not come to mind.

Now, note that when the Lord is talking about His day, when the Lord is talking about a time of restoration, man can be very impatient; but God is very patient. If there is a word or a promise that God gives us, some of us will be counting time and be saying,

‘God, it is two weeks now since you spoke to me. I’m waiting for your word’.

‘God, it is one year...’

‘...it is two years!’

However, I want us to understand that the God with whom we have to do is eternal. He dwells in timelessness. Time and space do not constrain Him.

Now God is very patient. When we are talking about the day of the Lord, we are talking about a stretch of a period of time, when God carries out a very significant aspect of restoration work in the divine plan. So the Lord says, as I am doing what I am doing what should you do? Be glad and rejoice! Be glad and rejoice!!

I bring you good news my brother, my sister. What does the Lord say should be your attitude to what is going on now? Be glad and rejoice! Now let us listen. The perception *a son of light* should have about the things around us should never be the same as the nations around us. I will give illustration and then we will go into the Scriptures.

For example, the world woke up this year to a very devastating earthquake. Over two hundred thousand people died. Since then all manner of things have been said. To people who are not in the Lord, all they can see is sorrow, woe and disaster. Shortly after that, we had other earthquakes. There has been an interesting development. Earthquakes are beginning to occur in regions and belts that are normally not scientifically prone to earthquakes. So the Lord is making us to know that the times we are in are extra-ordinary times. They are not normal times. And because the times are extra-ordinary the Lord is also raising up extra-ordinary people that will possess capacity built in by the Spirit of grace, such that the things that are casting down shall make us to fly.

We see this in the account of Noah, as recorded in the book of Genesis in the bible. The same water of the flood that drowned the world in his day lifted him and his family up.

Now it must begin by what is happening to you, around you and the interpretation you have towards them. Now, many things are happening around us in Nigeria. Politically, many unpalatable things are going on. Yet, I want to give you good news: God knows what is happening.

Economically, so many unexplainable things are happening. God is behind it. What does the Lord say He is doing? He has already begun the process of creating a new heaven and a new earth. The Lord says by the time I finish you will not remember the former one again. AMEN!

My brother, as we said, God wants you to be able to interpret and understand His work at this time of the end, beginning with what is happening to us. The reason is that we are beginning to see that many of the Lord's people are wobbling in their walk and in their faith. Many are asking God questions as Habakkuk asked God so many questions.

In **chapter 1 of the book**, Habakkuk asked God so many questions and questions and questions. You know there are times you keep asking God questions, and God will be silent...in His love. Now **in chapter 2**, Habakkuk said, 'I know what I will do. Instead of asking God questions and not waiting for reply, I will stand upon my watch and stay upon the tower and I will hear what the Lord has to say unto me.'

Many of God's people are asking many questions. Many others are wondering whether what is going on around them can ever end up in good. As we stop asking but listen, He will give us understanding. He will give us light.

Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.

In your life, the Lord is saying I am doing a work of creation. Are you aware that God is creating a new man? God is creating a new man. The works that God is allowing in our lives are a miniature aspect of the grand work that He is working on the earth. So many shakings and other things are taking place. The Lord is now saying by the time I finish with you, the former shall not be remembered again. The Lord is saying you will come out new, entirely new.

This will help us to place many things in proper perspectives, because as the sons of light, we cannot afford to grope in the dark. As the children of light, we cannot afford to sing the song of the heathen nations around us, but as we key into the Lord, He will give us a new song. The song we shall sing, the language we shall speak, the words that will proceed out of our mouths will be different from the nations around us. The reason shall be because we are not seeing as they are seeing. We shall be seeing as the Lord is seeing.

Now, to all these, what attitudes are we expected to adopt? Let us see what the Lord is saying in verses **18and 19**:

65:18 But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy:

65:19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and Joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall no more be heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

And we say, AMEN! AMEN!

From this moment, I want you to meditate on this continually because even from this moment there is a change that is taking place in our lives. The Lord wants you to zero upon it. Peradventure you have been looking in the wrong direction; the Lord is giving us a shift of focus. The Lord is saying: Look in my direction and see as I see.

What is the Lord saying my brother, my sister? He says that He is doing a work in your life. As He is doing this work, He has a program, and that work has a time frame.

David said in Psalm 30:5: '*Weeping may endure...*'

For how long?

It has a time frame; it has a span. '*...but joy comes in the morning.*'

The Lord is saying, I want you to understand; and because you are seeing things in my own perspective I want you to rejoice. Rejoice *for ever* because I am doing a work of recreation,

How many of us believe God is creating a new man in us? Say after me:

“God is creating a new man in me... and the former, I shall not remember... for I shall come forth in the likeness of Jesus His Son. AMEN!”

My brethren, God is talking to us who are in the light. He is saying look at things in my own perspective. As He is saying it to us regarding our individual and personal challenges, He is also saying it to us regarding the nations around us. Of recent, I have heard many people speak blasphemous words against God. Some say,

“But if this God is there, where was God if there is God that He should allow hundreds of thousands of people to perish in earthquake?”

Some are saying,

“Even the little children, what have they done?”

Now note:

To the world, all that took place in Haiti was devastation, but to the Lord it is restoration. That is the mystery. May the Lord open our understanding to catch that mystery. It is an aspect of the understanding that God seeks to give unto us at this time of the end.

Now, let us look at the book of **Luke 21**. There is nothing that is going on that is not in His word. What the Lord is doing for us at this time is that He is giving us understanding of what is going on so that we might be able to apply our hearts unto wisdom. Now in the book of **Luke 21**, Jesus Christ said the Spirit of grace is connecting many things together for us, and that is the essence of this convocation. He says,

21:25 “And there shall be signs in the sun...”

The times for these things to take place are already with us.

“...and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;”

Therefore, one aspect of what is happening, though it is a time of restoration, is that God said we were going to see signs. Are we seeing signs? Oh, yes!

We are seeing signs already in the nations.

We are seeing signs already in the church.

We are witnessing strange events, some of them difficult for man to comprehend. We have seen the beast in man coming to fullness. We have seen it all around us: Man taking another man, slicing his intestines for one form of ritual or the other. We have seen men slicing the womb of a pregnant woman, bringing out the child and using the blood for rituals.

Now the beast in the natural man is coming to fullness. We have seen all these things happen. We have seen strange things, strange events, and strange signs. What is the result of these? The hearts of many are failing them for fear. Many people are afraid, honestly speaking. Many are afraid today, afraid to go out and afraid to come in; some do not even know which one is safer, whether outside or inside! Many are afraid to relate with other people. People are afraid to travel on the road, and afraid to fly in the air. We can see fear all over the nations of the earth. The hearts of men are failing them for fear!

However, the Lord has an attitude to all these and that is what we want to key into at this point. The zeroing and the emphasis for the moment is this: May the Lord open our understanding that we might see things as He is seeing them. *While the world is seeing devastation all around, the Lord says: Let my people see it as restoration. People may look at you and may be explaining events in your life as ugly, and uncomplimentary, but the Lord is saying He is bringing forth a new man in you because all things work together for good to them that love God, and to them that are called according to His purpose.*

My prayer and strong desire is that by the time we have gone through these meditations we will be able to walk with steady steps. We will be able to have enough light to interpret events and circumstances around us and in our lives in the light of the prophetic word.

The Lord says in verse **27**,

21:27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Amen!

This verse **27**, my brethren, is beginning to take place. The world is seeing devastation, but the Lord is seeing restoration. As these seemingly devastating things are taking place the Lord is saying:

The world shall see a sign. What is the sign? It is the sign of the Son of man coming in a cloud. Who is this Son of man? Jesus Christ. What is the cloud? It is people.

The Bible says we are clouds. **Hebrew 12:1**, tells us about clouds of witnesses. When the Bible uses the word *cloud* to symbolize man, it uses it both in the positive and in the negative senses.

Isaiah spoke about thick clouds, dark clouds.

Jude spoke about clouds without water. (Jude verse 12)

Clouds symbolically are people. Therefore, when God says at this time of the end that you will see troubles, signs, fearful things and devastations in the nations, there is a sign you must make sure not to miss. It is the sign of the Son of man appearing in a cloud; and that is already taking place. Your presence here is a sign that the Son of man is coming in a cloud, in His people. He is not just coming in a feeble way. The Jesus that is coming and appearing now is not the gentle and meek Jesus that was born in a manger. This is a glorified Christ appearing in His people, coming forth **with power and great glory!**

What is the Lord saying to us in verse **28**, what should be your attitude? What should be my attitude towards all these things around me?

21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Let me now ask you: the things that are happening around are they positive or negative to you? To me they are positive. Just lift up your hand and say after me:

“Father I thank You, because from today I shall cease to see the events in my life as men interpret them. I shall cease to behold the events around me as men interpret them. Lord from today I receive grace from you to enter into your mind and to key into your Spirit and to see things as you see them. Amen.”

If you came here sad, you are walking out with rejoicing. If you came here fainting you are going back fully revitalized. The Lord says I create new heavens and a new earth. Jerusalem shall be a rejoicing and her people a joy.

Now there are five things I received as I also looked up to the Lord, which I believe are a summary of what will take place at this convocation. I enjoin everyone to also look up to the Lord for these things in the light of the direction the Lord has given us-

“Understanding the Times: The light of His Kingdom and His day”.

Please note these things; and as you go through the various ministrations just open up your heart. I am very certain that in the multitude of ministries, you are going to find your portion in them. Note these five things that the Lord wants to accomplish. You see, God is not a purposeless God. He said I have not asked the sons of Jacob to seek me in vain. So when the Lord says gather my saints together unto me, it is because He has a word. Now the Lord has things to accomplish, and as we submit ourselves to these ministrations from this moment, may the heavens be fully opened unto us! May we be able to receive clear light and may we thereby begin to walk with steady steps.

1. **The Lord seeks to give us understanding of the times that we are in so that our conversation or life style can be assisted by this understanding.** Somebody can say, well last year, the Lord said He was going to give us understanding. Yes; but did He give us understanding? Yes! Yet the path of the just is as shining light. It shines brighter and brighter until the perfect day. Therefore, the Lord gave us understanding. He is giving us understanding; and He will yet give us understanding as we approach a perfect day. So He says He wants to give us understanding. What is the purpose of the understanding?-He wants us to be able to understand the times that we are in so that our conversation, our life style can be assisted by this understanding.

Now if you look at the book of **Romans 13**, my brethren, our attitude to everything around us must be assisted by the understanding we are receiving from God. The light we are receiving from the presence of God must assist our lifestyle. In **Romans 13:11** it says,

And that, knowing the time...;

Therefore, the Lord has brought us here that we might know, understand and discern the times.

...that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

There is a glorious salvation God has promised us. The Lord is telling us that when you begin to see all these things happening, what do you do? Should you bow down your head in sorrow? No, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draweth

nigh!-Luke 21:28. The Lord is saying here in **Romans 13**, verse **11**, that now, this glorious promise is closer than when we first believed.

What should your attitude therefore be? Things are happening around us. Many things are collapsing. Civilization is in trouble. The Lord is saying: Let all these affect your style of life. The things that used to mean much to you should no longer mean much to you again.

Do you understand what we mean? Certain things you have never taken seriously, you should now begin to take seriously. Attachment to things that are mundane, earthly and transient must begin to break their hold upon us! The Bible says no man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who has chosen him to be a soldier. It says the night is far spent.

When you know the night is far spent, and you know the day is at hand, what message does it pass across to you? "...Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put in the amour of light..." As we are under ministries at this convocation, may we receive strength to put off the works of darkness.

Now listen brother, God can assist you; but He will not put off the works of darkness for you. Did it say, Let God put off the works of Darkness for us?

No! Rather, as we sit under ministry, as we understand, as we know the times, let us apply this understanding and knowledge to cast off the works of darkness.

May you receive grace and strength these few days. May these few days be as many years unto us. May we receive enough strength, because many people have the best of intentions to do certain things, but the strength is not there: "...The child is come to birth but there is no strength to bring forth...2Kings 19:3" But God shall give strength to bring forth at this time of the end, in Jesus name!

The Bible says Ephraim is an unwise son, because he should not have stayed a long time in the place where the children should break forth-Hosea 13:13. May our staying and our tarrying in the place of breaking forth be cut short in the name of Jesus. There are some of us that have been in the Lord for a while, yet, we are still operating, talking, behaving and walking as babies. But it is time to break forth! We shall not be unwise. The time we have paraded this threshold must cease. The Lord will give us strength to bring forth!

13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day;

As you see this day approaching, let us walk in sincerity. My brother, Christendom is filled with all sorts of hypocrisy and insincerity, from the pulpit to the pews. People are deceiving themselves, and they know it! The whole place is full of vomit.

Brethren as we know that things will not remain like this forever, let us call ourselves to order. Let us take advantage of the word of the Lord, let us take advantage of the light of prophecy to call ourselves to order in the presence of God in Jesus' name.

The Lord wants to give us understanding so that this understanding will assist us in our lifestyle. By the time we leave here, my brethren, such ugly things that have attached themselves to us, the Lord will break them off. How will the Lord break them off? He will give us strength to shake them off! As many as have come to this convocation, who have come to the place of giving birth but have no strength to push, the Lord shall give us strength to push and bring forth in Jesus name!

... create new heavens and new earth...”

By the time the Lord has finished with you and me, we will not remember the former things again.

2. The Lord at this convocation seeks to make us to understand the present events in our lives and on the earth and thereby cause us to reconcile these events with His divine plan.

A major thing God wants to do for us is that He wants to give us understanding so that the things that are happening in our lives, things that are happening in our families, things that are happening all around us and in the nations of the earth, we will not just look at them in isolation. Rather we shall be able to reconcile them with His divine plan, with His kingdom plan.

We have said the kingdom of God has been, is and forever shall be, for His kingdom shall have no end. Now many of us make a mistake and we look at ourselves in isolation from the divine plan. From today the Lord will give us understanding. Whatever is happening to you, you will never separate it from the overall plan of God. Do you know the reason? You are part of His divine plan. Say after me:

“I am part of God’s plan. God has included me in His divine plan. Amen”

Now, because God has included you in His divine plan, my brother, nothing is taking place in your life that is outside of Him. Somebody can say:

“But some of these things happening are my mistakes?”

Do you know one thing? Because your heart is set upon God, God will turn around even your very errors and mistakes for you good. That song from **Psalms 130** that we normally sing which says "... For there is forgiveness with you..."

Whatever the Lord causes or allow to happen in your life, from this moment, provided your heart is set upon God, believe **Romans 8:28** that says: *all things work together for good...* For us who are in His will and purpose, even our chastisements are working for our good. This is because when God deals with a covenant son, it is different from when He is deals with an outcast, with an outsider. Remember David, the covenant of the sure mercies of David. God said "...even if his children forsake my ways..." What will He do? Will He cane them? Yes! He would cane them with the stripes of man but His loving kindness will never depart from them. That is the covenant of the sure mercies of David.

Now this is not a license for sin. There is no single person who is alive in the Spirit that will take a license for sin. However, I tell you one thing, if you are a covenant child, even if you take a license for sin God will deal with you as a son. God will cane you either privately or publicly. Nevertheless, because of your covenant that you have with Him, His loving kindness will never depart from you; unless you on your own, decide that you will turn your back on God. May you never get to that point in the name of Jesus Christ!

God wants you to reconcile everything that is happening in your life, in our nation and even in the nations of the earth, all the seemingly devastating events, God wants us to reconcile them in the light His kingdom and divine plan; particularly in the light of the work of restoration taking place in this day of the Lord.

3. God is going to give us at this convention, light as regarding His kingdom agenda and the day of Christ that is breaking forth upon us.

There is a day breaking forth upon us and that is why the theme of the convocation is: "*Understanding the Times in the Light of His Kingdom and in the Light of His day.*"

God wants to give us light. Note that light is information, and when you have light you are placed at an advantage over those who do not have light.

If there is darkness everywhere and you have two people: one who has light and the other who does not, now, who has greater chances of survival? Of course, it is the one with light, because the Bible says no man stumbles in the day. When there is light, no man will stumble but when there is darkness, people fall upon one another. You are not going to stumble and you are not going to fall! This is because you are going to sit

under the presence of the Lord and the Lord will give us light. The light God is going to give us is the light of prophecy.

Brethren, we are a prophetic people. At this time of the end, God is raising a most prophetic generation! This body of people God is raising shall not operate or walk like mere men!

Brethren, I plead with you by the mercies of God from this moment, cease to interpret situations around you in the light of mundane things. Recognize that you are child of His purpose. Recognize that God is not a wicked God. If there are people around you who say this God is wicked, tell them: My God is not wicked. God is bringing all things into their perfect picture. After all, God is not responsible for what has gone wrong on the earth. He is not! Go to **Isaiah 24** you will see it there. Man is the one that has broken the everlasting covenant. Man is the one that has deviated from God. Despite all these, God says: *I look towards the day, a day that I shall bring forth all things in the light of my eternal plan.*

Now look at **Isaiah 2**. God says, I want to give my people light concerning the agenda of my kingdom. Let us understand brethren, that God has an agenda. You may also have your agenda. God is not quarrelling with it if you have your agenda. The wise thing however is to let your agenda fit into the agenda of God. If you dare have an agenda that is at cross purposes with divine agenda, as a covenant Son, it will fail!

Let me say this: There are many of us who are covenant children and because of our covenant with God, He will cause us to fail in certain areas. This is true, whether it pleases you or not.

Because you are a covenant child, God will cause you to fail in certain areas. If you take a right step when God says to take a left one, the Lord will make sure that He will cause that step to fail. Listen, it is very imperative for us to receive the light of prophecy and listen to the Spirit of God at this time. The Lord will allow seemingly negative things to happen to some people who have refused to listen to His words. The Lord will either lead you by His word or He will lead you by His rod, provided you are a covenant child.

May the days of our wilderness journeys be cut short, so that we do not keep moving around in circles!

The only thing that can help us is to obey the voice of prophecy! We cannot afford to operate as mere men at this time. We must key into the prophetic word of God.

Now what does **Isaiah 2** say?

2:1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2:2 It shall come to pass in the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

Brethren, this is an agenda of God and God will give us further light regarding this agenda.

Now let us understand this. God is not releasing His creation to Satan, no! Because it has pleased God that Christ should have pre-eminence in all things. God has a plan of a definite intervention in the affairs of man. In fact, it has already begun. It is already going on. Are you aware of the fact that many people are crying to God more than ever? Many people are ready to listen to God now.

I once gave some brethren a testimony of what happened when we were travelling through Heathrow airport in London to Nigeria sometime last year. It was a very big plane belonging to Arik Air. It was a night flight. Just about 10.30 pm. We were about taking off, and as usual everyone was quiet. Then, from an angle in the aircraft, I just heard someone shout:

"Children of God shout Hallelujah!"

The strange thing was that everybody, I say everybody chorused,

"Hallelujah!"

Honestly, I thought nobody would answer. I was in shock. The voice now continued,

"Now, we are going on air. We shall commit this journey into the hands of God that there shall be no plane crash..."

People were shaking their heads and praying seriously. I was dazed! You mean people can pray like this? The prayers lasted for about one hour. The air hostesses so respected it, they stopped serving anything. After a while, the woman gave an alter call. We sang choruses for another hour. Why such a good response? Because, when you are airborne, there is no bus stop. So you are telling them, 'Children of God shout hallelujah', even if they will not say it tomorrow, they will say it now, at least for the exigencies of the time!

What I am trying to say is that the events and the situations of the times are dragging many to God. I am aware that many are running to Satan. Yet I tell you my brethren, as the sons of God are maturing and we hold forth the banner of light, men shall come to that light. Men are only waiting for solutions. Forget the painted faces you see around. Many of such are merely cosmetic. They are waiting for whoever has an answer to their questions and crises!

My brethren let us arm ourselves with the word of God. Wherever you are men will search you out and seek the word of the Lord from you, because; “*out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem*”. The Lord wants His sons to arise and take their rightful positions.

- 4. God seeks to have us understand at this convention, how far the Church has travelled in His purpose and also, where the church comes in, relative to all the things that are going on.** The testimony I gave is just a part of it. So many things are going on. Strange, fearful, unexplainable events are happening. One of the things God wants to teach us is that the time is ripe to reach out. God wants us to know that the harvest is ripe. Let us take advantage of it.

Many people are only waiting for somebody that has the right word for them. They surely are.

It may surprise you that people you assume are unreachable, only want to be sure you have an answer for their situations. When you talk to them and they are sure that you know what you are talking about, they will listen to you. May God help you to know what you are talking about. The Bible says: “... *be ready to give a reason for the hope that you have in you...*”-1Pet. 3:15.

Now, what should you concern yourself with?

Satan is seeking to distract the sons of light, this body of people that God is raising up at this time of the end; that will reveal unto creation, the light of God. Satan knows that when you are what you ought to be, he cannot beat you. Satan knows that you have something that the world is waiting for. He knows that all you need do is stir up the Christ in you and solutions will come.

He knows it.

However, what is he doing? He is trying to distract you. He is trying to bring up one problem here, one problem there; problems with your children; problems with your business; problems with your husband, and so on. And many Christians are saying,

“Oh God, these things are too much for me.”

May the Lord revive us in the name of Jesus. Brethren, the world is waiting for us.

The Lord wants you to know that the time is ripe. Where does the church come in now, in the affairs of the nations? The Bible says in **Isaiah 32** that a man shall be as a hiding place. You are going to be as a hiding place. The Lord will cause people who have looked at you with disdain to knock at your door and say: *Show us where Your God is.* People that have castigated you and spat at you will come running to you for help. My brother, keep holding the light. They know where you are. They know your address. They will look for you at this time.

How will they look for you? When men are saying there is a casting down, you are saying there is a lifting up. They will see that there is a different spirit in you. May God cause them to see that different Spirit and migrate to where you are in the name of Jesus.

5. God at this convention says He will calm the nerves of His people.

How will He do it? He will attend unto troubles, overwhelming troubles and give prophetic light as to how to handle our diverse situations. Now this is very important. God is saying that He is bringing us here and He will do a work to calm our nerves. As He calms our nerves, what will He do? He will attend to troubles, overwhelming troubles.

As I am speaking now somebody is saying,

‘Brother Kola does not know my own troubles. You need to fast and pray just to understand my troubles.’

Amen! The God present here knows everything about you and He says He wants to calm your nerves. Some of us are on edge. Some are very edgy right now financially, marriage and health wise. However, the Lord says we do not have a High Priest that cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities.

Remember what the Lord said to us as we prayed for the sessions of the convention, which i read out earlier? God said He would attend unto chronic situations. Do you know what a chronic situation is? A situation that has existed for a while. He said He

will attend unto chronic situations in all areas amongst His people. And what do you say to that? Amen!

Just begin to address yourself in the light of God's word. God said the fifth thing He will do is that He will calm nerves of as many people as are on edge. Some of us really want to serve God but the waves and the seas are troubling us. David said in **Psalm 93**, 'The floods have lifted up O Lord! The floods have lifted up their voice.' Do you know that floods have voice? David said the floods have lifted up their waves! But what did he say in verse 4?

93:4 The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.

The Lord at this convention is releasing grace. Remember that God specifically said chronic situations shall be attended to? Do you remember somebody in the Scriptures that had a chronic situation? The woman with the issue of blood had a chronic situation for twelve years. The day she connected with Jesus was the end. Do you remember the man Jesus walked to at the pool of Bethesda? He had been there for thirty and eight years! I do not know how many people here have had their situations for thirty eight years? The Lord is saying He wants to attend to chronic situations. Jesus told that man to pick up his bed and go home and that was the end. If I were you, from this moment, I would begin to address the situations and say,

"You this situation in my life, you have been chronic but I bring you before the Lord today. As the anointing of God's Spirit says He will attend to me, I say I am not leaving here with you in the name of Jesus."

God said His glory shall be let down. He said there shall be dramatic reversals. It is not because you are going to struggle. It is not because you are going to pray so hard and going to walk on broken bottles or jump up and down. No! The God of heaven will hear your cry.

Blind Bartimaeus heard Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. He was the very last person that protocol should reach out to, but he said,

"Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy upon me!"

Did Jesus despise him by saying, 'who is this beggar?' No, He did not. The Bible said that as that man cried out, there was a crowd that sought to keep him quiet. I do not know whatever crowd that is seeking to keep you quiet in your situation, but reach out to God and say,

“Jesus, son of David, have mercy upon me.”

The bible tells us that Jesus stood still. Our cry shall bring Jesus to our attention in the name of the Lord Jesus. People said,

“Keep quiet! It is not the likes of you that Jesus is looking for.”

Jesus said: Bring that man here. And that was the end of his situation! I trust the Lord that as He said there will be dramatic reversals at this convention, let your cries reach out unto the heavens. Cast aside the garment! That garment is protocol. Cast it aside. Cast aside the crowd or whatever wants to stop you. My brother, shut it out. Reach out unto God.

I want to say this. Even if your mistakes brought you to where you are, there is forgiveness with God. If He can give you Jesus, there is nothing He cannot give you. In the light of prophecy, we shall begin to interpret everything around us. We are not going to see as men see again in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are rounding up with **Psalm 130**. There is a glorious song at the end of that Psalm that says, ‘My soul, wait for the Lord.’ God said He would attend to you. He will attend to chronic situations and dramatically reverse ugly situations.

Now let not the things happening globally trouble us. There is hadly anything you can do about them. Some of them, we can do something about them. What the Lord is saying is that we can prophesy to ourselves according to **Psalm 91:7**. It says,

91:7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it will not come nigh thee.

So we are going to, on our own, prophesy; we are going to be able to bring deliverances to us and our environment; but the Lord wants you to know that He has included you in his Plan. Amen!

Psalm 130 is one of the songs of degrees. The psalmist there says “...out of the depth have I cried unto thee, O LORD”. I do not know how many of us are in the depth, in a valley, in a very bad condition. This psalmist cried unto God from a valley condition and said: *LORD, hear my voice*.

Can somebody say:

“Lord, hear my voice! Lord, hear my voice!! And let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications”

Now in verse 3 he says,

130:3 If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

In other words, he is saying Lord even if it is my sin (because there are people here who are saying just that). Some people here will confess and confess. They will confess even things they have not done. The psalmist continues,

130:4 But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

May we wait for the Lord. The nations are in turbulence. The waves and the seas are roaring. Let us not allow the roaring of the waves to disturb our spirits. Let us key into the spirit of the living God. Look, nothing can happen to you as the son of his purpose that is not in His divine plan. If any other thing happens to come your way, the Lord will turn them around for your good. So let us be released to serve God.

God is raising a new generation, a people that will hold forth the light. The world is dying for solutions and here we are. We have the solution. Whatever Satan has used to block our lives, may the Lord remove them during this convention; and as we leave here, we are leaving here as fire brands. We shall hold the banner of light and we shall say unto people,

“Behold your God!”

To as many as are cast down, we shall say there is a lifting up. May the Lord hear us.

“Lord, hear my cry. Attend unto the voice of my supplications.”

The Lord surely will hear your cry, but the end of it is this: The Lord will put a new song in your mouth. You are going to leave here as a different man because the former conversation shall no longer be. He says I create new heavens and a new earth; the former one shall not be known again. Cry, say:

My God, as I come to this convention let there be a creation work in me. Let the former not be remembered again.

AMEN and AMEN!!!

CHAPTER TWO

THE DAY OF THE MANIFESTATION OF THE POWER AND LIFE OF GOD IN HIS PEOPLE.

(WILLIE UCHEYA)

Isaiah 6:1 “In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple”.

Brethren, the Lord just quickened that in my spirit as I was coming up here. I perceived that Isaiah at this time had ministered, prophesied, spoken for God and done so many things for the Lord in the midst of the people of Israel. A year came that something different happened; he said, in the year that Uzziah the king died, I also saw the Lord, high and lifted up and His glory filled the temple. Isaiah said here that Uzziah was a kind of a blockade unto him; a kind of a veil. There were certain levels that he could not go; there were certain things he could not do. There were certain things about God He could not appreciate because King Uzziah was still there reigning.

In the year that King Uzziah died there was a change. In other words, Uzziah was removed; the blockage was removed and he could appreciate God. He could now see God with His glory filling the temple.

I believe the Lord is saying that the Uzziah in your life must die during the cause of this conference so you can appreciate the Lord in His mighty ways and His glory; so you might be able to appreciate the God whom you serve. You need to see clearly to appreciate what He is doing in your life and the church. Some Uzziah has blocked you; some mind set, some veil. The Bible said when Moses is read some kind of veil is cast upon the people. This must be removed from the way so they can see and appreciate the Lord God almighty in the things that He is saying and doing.

You might have been attending conferences and hearing the word of the Lord and experienced certain things about the Lord, yet you cannot adequately express or appreciate the Lord in the way He wants you to appreciate Him. The Spirit of the Lord is saying expressly today that during the course of this conference you must let Uzziah in your life to die, to be taken away so that you can see the Lord. **See** here means to appreciate God, to know clearly, to see Him, to appreciate Him and His glory and His

majesty. Then you will be able to appreciate the things He is doing and can relate to what is happening to you.

“The veil must be turn and removed from your life, otherwise you will not be able to see the Lord in His true glory and majesty. Therefore let loose, let the veil be cast away, let the mindset be put aside that you might appreciate the Lord,” saith the Spirit of the Lord unto thee. “Let all your knowledge, past knowledge and understanding, let your doctrines, let all the petty things that you have known and heard over the years that hinder your moving into the things that the Lord has laid up for you be put aside, that you might appreciate what the Lord is saying at this hour unto His people. Let your ear be opened. Let the stuff in your ears be taken away. As you open your heart to the Lord, there is going to be a moving and a tearing up of the veil, and a removing of the things that blocked your way that you might move to the place the Lord has ordained that you move in this hour,” says the Spirit of the Lord Almighty. Hallelujah!

To many people here listening to my voice this moment, the Lord has this to say. The reason some problems have persisted in your life till this time in spite of all the prayers, in spite of all the deliverances you went through, in spite of all the things that you have done, in spite of all the waiting and crying to the Lord is this. You have laid idols in your heart that you are holding, and have blocked your way from seeing the Lord. The Lord is saying you must let go this moment so that you will appreciate what God is doing. Then God will come and say, Lift up your heads O ye gates that the King of glory may come into your life and into all the crevices of your life; for the Lord to move and go into and touch all the departments and areas of your life that have never been touched before now.

The Lord wants to come into those places in your life that had been locked up that there might be healing. He wants to come in and He is knocking at the door right now. He says open that I might come in. Open up that the Lord of glory might come into your life today and begin to do that which He is supposed to do in your life.

We are considering the general theme of **understanding the times in the light of the Lord’s Day and His kingdom**. In the last chapter, our brother introduced the theme and outlined some things that the Lord will achieve in our lives in the course of the conference. One of the things that struck me among the five things he said the Lord was going to do is that the Lord will calm your nerves.

When you are agitated and your nerves are running, you are shaking and unable to do anything, you are so disturbed; you will be given some tranquilizers to calm your nerves so you can settle down to do whatever you want to do. Those are temporary

things. The Lord wants to calm your nerves with a permanent tranquilizer to make sure that it does not rise again.

The things that are responsible for bringing such agitations, such stress, the Lord by His word and by the move of the Spirit of God at this conference will touch them, and He will speak those three words spoken in the Scriptures when the storm arose in Luke chapter 8 from verse 22; and the disciples were so perplexed and afraid. They cried to Him. He spoke only three words. He said,

Peace, be still!

The Lord is going to speak to your situations and conditions and say, Peace, be still; and there shall be calm.

So we are talking about the day of the Lord and His kingdom. We have heard so much about the day of the Lord. In the previous chapter we were made to understand that the day of the Lord is not just one day but, if you like, a season. It is a period of time in which the Lord accomplishes some things within His purposes and plan, for the church and for the world.

Therefore, we know it is not a day. We are already living right now in the day of the Lord. There are certain things the Spirit opened up in the Scriptures to give us an insight into what the day of the Lord is. When we begin to see those things we will have no more reason to doubt that we are living and operating within the day of the Lord. Instead, we begin to expect most of those things to begin to come in more concrete way and quicker succession. This is because the Lord is just about to wrap up His plan for the ages.

Now, if you search the Scriptures through the books of **Isaiah, Zechariah** and other prophetic books you will discover this about the day of the Lord: It is a day of judgment of iniquity and wickedness. Another characteristic event that will mark the day of the Lord is the *Manifestation of the power and the life of God in the midst of His people*; and through His people unto the outside world. It is one of the events that must take place, and is already taking place.

That time is not in the future. It is not tomorrow. It is now. The time for the manifestation of the power and the life of God within His people and through His people is now.

I hope nobody here still believes that one day a mighty trumpet is going to sound somewhere, a miraculous thing will occur, and we will all be transformed instantly.

Brethren, the trumpet is already sounding! The dead in Christ are rising already. Those who are in Christ and are dying, are rising up. The Bible says, because the Lord has declared unto his people a day of deliverance and restoration, it says the sons of God are rising.

The day of the Lord is a day of restoration. It is the day of jubilee. We are coming into that time. We are already inside it and we are going to move till we come to fullness of the day of restoration and the day of jubilee.

We do sing that song about the day of jubilee. That song says; “it is the year of jubilee... the prison doors are open. The captives are going free. There is a glorious resurrection, mighty move of God causing restoration in the lives of God’s people. A mighty victory, the sons of God appearing in the year of jubilee.” There is a mighty revelation of the power of God. All these are happening right now!

Perchance, this is something you do not know. It is something that is happening. As we sing in that song, the prison gates are already open by the reason of the working of the Spirit of the Lord in the lives of His people. The prisoners are already going free. You need to recognize that, and rise up from where you are and just discover that the bondages, the stakes are already falling away, so you rise up and walk away from that place where you have been bound over the years.

You might have been in bondage to something or habits for so long that you have concluded it is the cross you must carry for the Lord. Let me tell you emphatically, It is not the cross the Lord is talking about. Just settle it in your heart that by the time you leave this conference and you hear the voice of the Lord, you rise and shake yourself and walk away from your bondage. The prison doors have been opened!

You have to rise up and walk away from that place of bondage that you might be able to enjoy the freedom the Lord has declared unto His people.

Note however that this manifestation and this thing the Lord is doing will be in the midst of crisis; in the midst of tribulation and all manner of things that are coming around us. It is in the midst of these that the Lord will manifest His power and glory in the midst of his people.

It is in the midst of crisis, devastation and tribulation that God will showcase His power through His people. **The effectiveness of any weapon is properly proved during the war in a battle.** When there are weapons to be tested, it is not effectively done during peace. It is during war that you try your weapons and discover how effective and potent they are. Brethren, we are in a state of war! Moreover, the Bible

says in the book of Jeremiah chapter 51, verse 20, that *you and I* are the Lord's battle-axe and weapons of war. Now there is crisis. We are witnessing all manner of devastations and movements in the camp of the enemy. Man is rising to his fullness. Everybody is helpless and there are no solutions to the problems rising all over the place. The world is losing the battle to overwhelming natural disasters. Even you are feeling caged, and cannot move forward! This is the time that the Lord will begin to test His weapons; and you are that weapon. The Lord is beginning to test the weapons that He is preparing for these last days.

The Lord will showcase His power in His people that the world may know that He has not worked in vain. The world must know that Jesus Christ did not die and resurrect in vain. There is a reason why He died and resurrected: That He might show forth a people that will move through this land with power and might just as He did, even more than He did. He said, Greater works than these shall ye do because I go to the Father. (John 14:12)

Let us begin to understand because that is the essence of our talking and sharing in this conference; that we might come to the knowledge of what the plan of God is. We need to know what God is doing and what He has ordained for us. This knowledge will guide our behavior and inform the right reactions to situations that confront us and the nations around us.

Let us now go to **Isaiah 60:1-3**.

60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

60:2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

The Lord is saying unto thee, arise. If you are asked to arise it means you were either sitting or lying down; or staying idle somehow. You were in a state of inactivity. God says arise and shine. You may not have realized that a light has risen upon you. The Lord says your light has come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. This light and glory are coming upon you in the midst of darkness. He says darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people. But His light shall shine upon thee.

So in the midst of darkness a light will shine upon thee. We said earlier that it is in the midst of tribulations and trials, devastations and calamity, that the Lord will showcase His people. In the midst of gross darkness that covers the land and the people, is the time the Lord is causing His people to rise up and shine as light so that those in darkness can behold the light and come to the brightness of the light of the Lord.

The light is shining upon you so that you might stand out and be a light unto the people in darkness all around you. You may now say, ‘How can I shine? I seem to be in darkness myself. The things surrounding me prove that I am in darkness’. Is that what the devil is telling you? You can rightly respond from Micah chapter 7, by saying;

“Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Even though I fall, I shall rise. Though I dwell in darkness, the Lord God is my light.”

You cannot continue to dwell where the enemy has put you. The Lord says, arise and shine for thy light has come. The trials and tribulations and persecutions and all manner of situations that you find around you, that the enemy has brought upon you have only one purpose he wants them to achieve. He wants to cause you to come to a place of compromise, and bondage. The enemy wants to distract you from focusing on what the Lord is saying unto you.

The Lord has spoken definite words concerning you of what He wants to do in your life. God has given you words of deliverance, words of prosperity, words that you should rise up and do certain things for Him. But the enemy brings distraction to make sure that you do not go forward. All he wants is to bring you to where you can negotiate with him so that you will not be as effective for God as He has ordained for you to be.

It is good for you to know this so that you know how to act and react in situations that are surrounding you. On the other hand, what do you think the enemy is trying to do? Imagine a situation where the Lord is calling you to a time of fasting and prayer. Now instead of praying and bringing down the power of God, all your children fall ill at the same time. You begin to run around to take care of them and can therefore not pray effectively.

The Lord tells you to go and preach in such and such a place. Somehow everything begins to go negatively; maybe your car chooses that material time to park up. Or a big problem arises at the place of work. Your boss suddenly remembers a wrong committed sometimes past and chooses this time to issue you a query. Your business

partner suddenly thinks this is the right time for him to pull out of the partnership so he wants his part of the business now or never. You are completely devastated! The enemy's aim is to bring you to a point that you will be distracted from the call of God in your life. You begin to find a way of negotiating with him because he is going to speak to you to come to the negotiating table. The aim is to force you to a compromise.

However, I tell you something, and this is what you need to hear. No matter how bad, how devastating, no matter how terrible the situation might be; no matter how overwhelming it might be, do not ever compromise. Do not ever go into any deal with the devil. **No Deal With The Devil!**

Once you make a deal with the devil you are in trouble. Check the Scriptures and see those who made deals with the enemy. All his aim is to bring you to a place where you will become inactive and you become subject to him. No matter how, even if you are dying make sure you do not compromise.

Now note this. In the very heart of all these troubles which the devil has cooked up to distract you, in all that he is doing to put you in bondage and ensnare you into compromise, and you are feeling that all hell has broken loose upon your head, right in the heart of it all God turns them around for your good. The Bible says in rom.8:28 "all things work together for good to those that love God, them that are called according to His purpose".

The enemy planned it and meant it for evil; but God turns it around for your good. Every trial is a stepping-stone to a higher place of glory. Therefore, do not be afraid of trials. Do not cry when there are fiery temptations. The grace the Lord will release upon you at this time is to enable you to overcome them. When you overcome them you are promoted. You rise up from that level to a higher level of relationship with God, another level of power and glory in the kingdom of God. You should therefore never ever shy away from any temptation that comes your way because God did not promise there will be no temptation. He only promised that in any temptation He would make a way of escape for you. (Icor.10:13)

If you know and understand these facts well, then it will be easy to manage crises and tough situations, and react accordingly. You will not get to the point where you will begin to accuse God, and get offended with Him.

Many of us are offended with God. You feel, 'Well, I have been a good child of God. I have been so consistent. I have been serving the Lord and done so many wonderful things for Him. I have made very painful sacrifices for the sake of the gospel. My

mates are into many wonderful things and have prospered beyond imagination; so what is happening, God? You seem to have forgotten me. You seem to have turned your back against me.’ You become a little bitter. This is not impossible.

Likewise, do not say, ‘Well, my case is just terrible’, because John the Baptist had the same problem. He had knowledge of the Lord. He prophesied about the coming of the Lord, but he got to a point when he expected something from the Lord, to do it exactly the way and time he imagined in his mind. It did not come, so he began to ask, ‘Go and ask Him, Is He the one who is going to come? Or do we wait for another?’ The Lord said let no man be offended with me!

Brethren that is the one thing the enemy will try to drive us into, to be offended with God and begin to complain. You are bringing yourself to a very terrible state when you get to that point. It is better to cry out to God always. Cry out to God, for His help is very close to bringing deliverance and succor to you.

A proper light and understanding, as we heard earlier, are what will cause us to react properly. Peter tried to pass across this truth to the people. Please turn with me to **1 Peter 4**. Peter had seen the things some brethren were passing through, and how they were reacting to them. Some were probably feeling bad and were saying, ‘God, why is this happening to me? I have not sinned. I have always paid my tithes. I love and help the brethren. I have always done the things You said I should do, Lord. Why, why, why?’ Here, Peter tried to give us what will help us to have the right attitude in such situations that we find ourselves. Let us read from verse **12**.

4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you:

4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

He says, do not think it strange. You know, it looks strange really for someone who is carrying on diligently and is consistent with God, yet all sorts of fiery trials, not just trials, but fiery trials are befalling him. You begin to wonder. Peter is saying, do not worry about this thing. Do not go wondering why these things are happening to you. Do not look at it as something strange because God allowed it for a purpose. If you flipped back to chapter **1** of the same book he gave some more light and reasons why you should conduct yourself in a proper way even though your situation is dire. Look at verse **7**.

1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, thou it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Now the result of the trial of your faith is that it will bring forth at the end of it a nature of God in you. It says, after your trial you will come forth as gold, purified. Therefore, you gain something. There is something worth much more than the things that you are passing through. A glory is coming. The Bible says Christ who is the pattern Son, because of the glory that was set before Him, endured the cross.

Something is set before us brethren. There is a nature, a glory set before us. That should be our focus. That should be something that will comfort us. It should encourage us to pass through all kinds of trials, persecutions, and devastations that may come our way. We should know that after we are tried, and have passed through those things successfully, by the grace of God we scale through them with the right attitude, we shall come forth as gold, purified. We shall then be partakers of that glorious nature the Lord has prepared for us.

Brethren, because of the situation and the experiences the church is passing through right now, I believe that we have already begun to celebrate Tabernacle. That is where the Lord is bringing us. Of the three feasts of ancient Israel, the last one is the feast of Tabernacle. We know also that before the feast proper, by way of preparation for the Tabernacle there is the great Day of Atonement. You can get all these in **Leviticus 23**. The Day of Atonement is the day of the offering of your soul, a time of afflicting your soul. There was strict commandment that every Israelite must afflict his soul. Anyone who did not comply was to be cut off. It was compulsory for you to afflict your soul.

What this means is that it is compulsory for you to pass through these trials and terrible experiences because of what He wants to work out in you through these experiences you are passing through. When you understand this and realize what you stand to gain from them, it becomes easy for you to pass through any persecution, trial and devastation knowing that there is a plan that God has put in place. At the end of all these you will have benefit and profit much more than the trials you passed through.

So it is time to celebrate the Lord's feast, of Tabernacle. We need to afflict our souls. This is the Day of Atonement, a time of repenting; a time of trying to make amend with God. Atonement: be at oneness with God. It is a time of removing those things that separate us from God; those things that prevent us from relating with God as intimately as He wants us to relate with Him. We remove those things as we afflict our souls. That corresponds with the experience at the golden alter of incense. Before you

can approach to the mercy seat at the Holiest of all, you must pass through the golden altar of incense. That is the place of offering of the soul. All of man will have to die.

What God wants to do as He allows us to pass through some of these experiences is so that the man in us will die. Everything about me will die. It is only gold, the Godly nature that will remain. It says as that you pass through these trials; it is like fire that purifies. After you have been purified you will come forth like gold, the nature of God. That is the ultimate of what God is doing in our lives. He wants to bring us to a place where we will be just like Him.

Therefore, let us rejoice when we pass through those fiery trials. James says we should count it all joy. So rejoice in tribulations! While others are carrying long faces, and crying and mourning all over the place, you should rejoice. The Lord has made such plans and you know the end of this whole thing is not that you will die and perish in that tribulation. You know the end is that you are going to be saved; you are going to be rewarded; you are going to be glorified with the Lord.

I believe two things are crucial at this time, in the light of what the Lord is opening to us. The aim of this convention is that light will come from the Lord. This light relates to every obscurity in our lives, things that make us to ask such questions as, “are we sure we are in the right or have we missed it somewhere?” when the light comes then all those thoughts of darkness will flee away and we will be able to see the Lord and what He is doing clearly. We can then align ourselves with Him.

One of the crucial things therefore is, **knowing God in reality**. We need a true revelation of the person of Christ in our lives, in our experiences. You may have known the Lord as savior. You may have known the Lord in several other capacities, but there is a knowing that is necessary at this time. That is the knowing of the Lord in reality. You know, the disciples had followed the Lord for a long time. They assumed they really knew Him. Then one day He cornered them and asked them, who do people say I am? They quickly answered the question. It was easy for them to say what people thought of the Lord. Then He turned directly to them, “who do **you** say that I am?” There was silence. Then the Spirit of the Lord brought light, it is imperative we have light, to Peter and he answered, ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ That was a revelation that came by the Spirit of the Lord.

If the Lord were to ask you the same question now, what would you say? Who do you say God, the Lord Himself is? What is Christ to you? Who is He to you? Is it something you can just use your head knowledge and tell people about Christ; but when it comes to the nitty-gritty you would not be able to move forward?

Who do *you* say Christ really is? There is need for a revelation knowledge of Christ Himself; an intimate relationship, knowing Him for who He is. That revelation will change everything about us. That revelation will change the way we think, the way we behave and the way we react to situations. When we do not have that revelation we just grope in darkness, and the least tremor will just blow us in pieces. Then no teachings, expositions, conferences and meetings we have attended have succeeded in bringing us to a place of real revelation knowledge of the person of Christ.

Otherwise, it will show. If you know Him your actions and reactions will show that you know him. That is why I wonder why people at this time who claim to know the Lord and speak all kinds of kingdom jargon turn around to ask such questions as, 'If I marry an unbeliever, do you not think God would convert him? He is very good; even better than some Christians I know. He is so gentle; he is so nice. In fact, he fears God.' How can you have a revelation of Christ, and have an understanding of what God is saying and yet ask such a question?

I am not making this up. Some of you here have asked that question. Some are asking it and others will yet ask it. Some of you are planning and arranging so you can present it to the elders. Revelation knowledge of Christ, and who He is will restrain you from this kind of thing. You do not need to ask anybody because the answer is plain unto you. Except your intentions are to manipulate people so you can say brother so and so said nothing is wrong with it.

We need the knowledge of God in reality. I want to read **Daniel 11:32**. We need the true and realistic knowledge of God, and a true revelation of the person of Christ for us to move in the light of the things the Lord is saying and is doing in this hour.

11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

If you do really know your God, there is something that will prove. The Bible says you will do exploits for the Lord. Exploits includes being able to put the devil where He belongs. It includes the ability to say no anytime something is coming against the word of God and the will of God for your life. You need to be able to take the bold step and say, 'No, others may but I cannot'. It is the courage to say, 'My case is different. I am a child of God. I will not move in that direction.' The knowledge of God will bring you to that place where every other person bows and you stand.

That is what happened if you flipped back to chapter 3 to the record of the three Hebrew men and of Daniel. That is the expression and the manifestation of those that really know their God. The Bible says it came to time when King Nebuchadnezzar as powerful as he was, set up an idol, a golden image. He summoned the people from all over the nation including all the big men, generals, governors and other dignitaries. At the sound of the music they were all to bow to the mighty idol.

It was an order. Any who dared to disobey was to be thrown into the fiery furnace immediately. Everybody obeyed. All the high and mighty, not to talk of the commoners, bowed low. All except ...some Jews. These Jews remained ramrod on their feet. The King was dazed! Who were these Jews that had the temerity to disobey the command? The King tried every form of cajoling, reasoning and barefaced intimidation to get them to bow. Nothing availed. The king could not get these men to compromise!

Nebuchadnezzar said, “Okay guys, I forgive all the earlier reports. This is just between the three of you and me now. There are no sisters or brothers here. No one will need to know what took place here today. You do not even need to prostrate all the way. Just nod the head ever so slightly and I will be content. You can then have your freedom and go about your business.”

Honestly, brethren, many of us would have given in. After all, what does it matter? Is it not a case of giving Caesar’s things to Caesar? But these people had knowledge of God beyond the ephemeral. They said, “O king there is no need for us to ponder over this matter for any length of time. We have the answer ready.” There are things you do not need to go home to ponder. There is just no place for compromise or other consideration. It is when you give room to consider, and reason and argue with the devil that you get yourself ensnared. You have no reason to talk over a matter with the devil; no time.

Nevertheless, many of us find ourselves negotiating with the devil to find a way out because actually, we are very, very interested in the issue of a stake. Your heart is not pure before the Lord. You might speak it. You might shout it, but inside there is an idol you want to lay hold upon. That is what is propelling and pulling you to do the things you are doing. All the maneuverings and manipulations are inspired by that idol, that mess of porridge.

You could be professing one thing, but it is what you have in your heart that will flow out as actions. That is why the Bible says the heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked. Who can know it? But God knows our hearts; that is why He said give me

your heart. God can show you the true state of your heart. If you are sincere and are really willing to serve then you can cry out to Him and say, 'Lord, cleans my heart!'

These three Hebrew men said, No we would not bow. The king said, Fine, let us see that your God that will deliver you out of my hands. When such threats come to you it is time for you to think, 'Look, let's be wise. We have a mission to accomplish. We have the call of God upon our lives. We have not finished the call of God. We have not gone on that mission. So many people are yet to know the Lord. Let's be wise. If we continue like this and they kill us, it means that three people from the army of the Lord are dead. What about the unreached people? I say let us just bow so we can continue with the gospel.' That is what people will say.

These men however knew God, and said we will not bow. They said it does not matter even if our God that we serve refuses to save us for any reason. We know our God that He will save us though; because He cannot abandon us. He said He would never leave nor forsake us. If we pass through the fire He will be with us, it will not consume us. Even the water will not overflow us. We know this God. He will deliver us from your hands. If by any chance our God decide in His sovereignty to say, Guys, this time around, I am not going to deliver you, still we will not bow.

These people know their God. What was the result of their uncompromising faith? The Bible recorded that by the time they threw them in, even the soldiers who threw them in were killed by the flames. Yet the smell of the smoke did not show on their dresses! God had arranged a divine air conditioner and they were enjoying themselves. God was there with them. He fulfilled His promise to be with them in the fire. Know too that as the fire is coming upon you, He is there with you. You do not have to fear.

The King looked and said, did we not put three men in the furnace? How come I am seeing four men in there, and one of them looks like the Son of God? The King had the revelation that God was there. These men knew their God. A declaration was made that anyone who spoke evil against the God of Meshach, Sheldrake and Abednego will be dealt with. They had to reckon with this God because someone stake out his neck for His glory. When you honor God He will honor you.

Young folks, be careful and make sure you do not walk in compromise. It is very easy to compromise and say, 'It is the in thing. We are young people. You are old school. Your time has passed. This is new age'. Be careful about the new age because God's standard does not change. If you honor God in your youth, God will honor you.

The second thing is that we learn to live and walk in the Spirit, live and walk by the leading of the Spirit of God. It has become very, very crucial for anybody who will survive in these times must know how to walk by the leading of the Spirit. In other words he must learn to know and recognize the voice of the Spirit of God, otherwise there is no way you can survive. Sorry, because the amount of deceit and devastation that is coming, that is already here, is awful. You need to have a definite leading of the Spirit of the Lord before you take any step even in things that you know are normal. You know this is the normal way to do it, yet, because of the times we are in the Spirit of God constrains you to ask again like David did.

If yesterday, a problem came up and you solved it this way as God led you; tomorrow if the same problem surfaces you better ask God. He might have another way for you to solve the problem. That is what it means to live by the leading of the Spirit of God.

In **Galatians 5:16**, Paul gave us an understanding on how crucial and important this aspect of our life is. It is the only way we can succeed in our Christian life. It is our key to survival. Now I am not being judgmental here, but just consider the recent victims of Jos massacre. If someone were in the Spirit, he could receive a prodding from the Spirit of God saying, 'It is time to move from this place'. Such a person could have moved out before the pogrom.

Brethren, that is what is going to happen. Let us face it. Do not expect the devil to fold his hands and watch you grow and come to overthrow his kingdom. He will not only fight back, you need to know that he is quite old in the trade. He is many generations older than you are. He has an impressive collection of tricks up his sleeves already. You had better be careful. You cannot handle him. However, God in you by His Spirit knows how to handle him. Therefore depend on God who knows the devil inside out, who even created him. God will lead you on how to overcome the devil. God will teach you how to put the devil in his place.

It is really beautiful to have someone do that for you. Why do you have to struggle; falling and rising, when you can have someone to lead you? God will just give you the direction so you do not have to falter. That is where God is calling us to. God is calling us to a life where we will walk in perfection.

It is true that we are waiting for a life of full perfection, and we shall get there. But for now there is another level of perfection God is expecting from us. Perfection at this time means when God says go and you go, then you are walking in perfection. Perfection now is obedience and extra diligence to the voice of the Lord.

Galatians 5:16.

5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

5 :17 For the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the ether: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest.....

5:25 If we live in the Spirit , let us also walk in the Spirit.

Paul also spoke in another place that if you walk in the flesh you will die; but if you walk in the Spirit you shall live. So there are two ways. You decide what you want to do. Which is better, to live or to die? If you want life, he said you should walk in the Spirit. So why do I not walk in the Spirit so I can live?

How do we walk in the Spirit? That is the greatest problem we have in the body. Many people do not know the voice of the Spirit. Many cannot identify when the Spirit is speaking. Many people have problem about how God speaks, so when it comes to making decisions they are in deep problem. They have not trained their spiritual ear to identify the voice of the Spirit of the living God. Many times other spirits speak to them and they follow.

Jesus Christ however, said in John chapter 10, my sheep hear my voice, and they follow me. The voice of the stranger they will not hear. This is because they have been trained to tune to the voice of the Master. When the Master says, Come, they know it is the voice of the master. When the enemy says, Come, they will know it is the stranger. How will you differentiate that? You have to train your ear to identify the voice of the Spirit of the Lord.

Romans 8 says, “as many as are led by the Spirit of the Lord, they are the Sons of God.” Many people quote this Scriptures by saying, ‘As many as are led by the Spirit, they are...’ I prefer to say, As many as are led by the Spirit of the Lord, because there are many other spirits that can lead you after all, and that does not make you a son of God.

If you learn to walk and live in the Spirit you will not have problem in making choices in life. Young folks who are looking for life partners, learn first of all to recognize the

voice of the Spirit. Learn how to be led by the Spirit of the Lord then you have no problem knowing and choosing the right life partner after the heart of the Lord.

If that has been put in place, there will be no place a brother going to about five sisters, proposing to all of them and saying God spoke to me. God cannot speak to you concerning five sisters at the same time. It means you are not hearing God.

A sister will come up and say five brothers have spoken to me. I do not know which of them is of God. You need to be able to recognize the voice of the Spirit of God leading you to tell you where to go, who it is. It is crucial at this time brethren, more than ever before.

When we begin to walk in this thing, it will usher in the manifestation of the power of God in our lives. Open to **Romans 8**. The power of God in our lives goes beyond the things that we know and the things we see. It goes beyond leading us into making right decisions. It takes care of everything concerning us physically, spiritually, mentally and otherwise. Flip through to verse **11**.

8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his spirit that dwelleth in you.

Do you have the Spirit of Him that raised Christ from the dead? If you have the Spirit, the Bible says this same Spirit shall quicken. That word *quicken* means revitalize. It will revitalize or give life to your mortal body. This means that if you have cancer and the Spirit of God lives in you it can quicken your body and bring life and cast away the cancer.

This is not something that is farfetched. If you have not seen that and you are here, just apply faith on the word of God, you will see it will work in you because the word of God is true.

I remember last year December, we were about to go to Ivory Coast on a mission. About three weeks to that, I began feeling very bad. My wife decided to run comprehensive medical tests. When the results came out the devil brought a report, very terrible report. The report if interpreted to make you understand is that my kidneys were failing, my liver function was failing and all my major organs would soon park up. That was the report. Everything was abnormal. The devil was trying to test certain things.

But you see I think he was foolish. He has a short memory, because he tried something like that a while back and he failed. He kept trying and he kept failing. He once hit me with a bad slip disc and they said they were going to hang up my leg for three months on traction and I will stay there. If I wanted to ease myself, I would stay there and do it with my leg hanging there for three months.

I said no, I could not do that. They said that was the only solution for this case. We went to Orthopedic Hospital Igbobi it was the same. We said, okay, let us go home and bring our things. We will come back.

We went home and my wife and I decided I was not going any where. I would stay right there. Within six weeks God raised me from that place. They said I would not be able to drive. I am driving. They said I would never run again, I am running. Young folks, if we need to run now you may not catch up with me. God is bringing to pass His promise of giving us the power of an endless life to work in our members. The Spirit of God is quickening us, revitalizing us.

So when I am fifty plus going to sixty I can walk and move like I am twenty! What do you think was operating in Caleb? Someone can say, 'You know you are not that young anymore'. Yes, if I moved around when I was twenty, twenty-five, preaching in many places a day, I am fifty plus going to sixty. I will still do more because the power of endless life is working in my members.

He said this Spirit will revitalize your mortal body. When the devil brought the report, it did not move me. My wife was a bit worried because being a doctor she knew what those things meant. Somehow though she also felt, the devil is trying to do something in this thing. Unfortunately for the devil, that day was a Wednesday and we had fellowship. We therefore went to fellowship and told the brethren. When we finished, the elders just prayed and cancelled that report.

We went for a repeat of the medical tests two days later and the report was direct opposite! I found myself in Ivory Coast. Even if the report had not said so *I* still would have found myself in Ivory Coast because we have a covenant of life and not death with God.

God spoke to us not too long ago that He is rewriting reports. Many of you have been given report by doctors. God will rewrite the reports. My own is not an isolated case from other cases of the same kind of deadly report, but God rewrote it. Whose report will you believe the devil's report or God's report?

God says you are alive. God says you will prosper. God says you are free, you are liberated; but the devil says you are in bondage. Whose report will you believe? Rise up and listen and hear the Lord speaking unto you. He said the power of the Spirit of the Lord will quicken, revitalize and renew your mortal body, not just your spirit man. He will renew your body, renew your soul and renew your body so your body can carry your soul to move by the word of the Lord. (IThes.5:23)

The restoration is total, and all round. That is what the Lord is doing. The earlier we begin to understand that what God is doing is not just something on papers, something you read, the better for us. You have read in the Scriptures what Jesus Christ did. You probably have read many reports of what mighty men of God have done and are doing all over the place. Right here in the body God is doing many great things. God is breaking yokes of poverty. The HIVs are healed. Cancers are being destroyed. The thing is that we do not even know what is happening in our midst! You need to check it out. Go round and ask brethren you will discover that what you feel you are not seeing is happening.

God is moving, and now He is about to begin the manifestation of the reality of His power and glory in us. We will rise up because the entire world is coming unto us for us to give them life. The Bible says that the God has life in Himself, and He gave His Son to have life in Himself; and the Son is giving us life that we may have life. God is bringing us to a point where we will be life givers.

Do not ever think that the restoration of God is to bring us back to Eden, no. The Bible says the first Adam was a living soul. The second Adam is a life giving spirit. God is bringing us to the stature of life giving spirits not that of a living soul; so we can give life to people. People are overwhelmed with so much problems. They are run down. They need more than mere, '*Epele o*'. No, they need more than pity. They need us to bring life to them.

Furthermore it is not you that will do it, so do not consider how it is going to happen. Do not hesitate by saying, 'Suppose I lay my hands now and nothing happens?' Just do it because the power of God will move and do it; and let the name of the Lord be glorified! That is the situation God is bringing to us.

Let this encourage us to know that no matter what the limitation we have or whatever problem comes our way, our God is mightier than all those things. Even when he decides to take away your means of livelihood do not fret like the unbelievers do. That is why the Bible says when others are saying there is a casting down; you are saying there is a lifting up.

We need to understand what God is doing in our lives. If we know the purpose of God we will key in there and we begin to flow in it. There is no special person that is formed to walk in this way. Everyone has the potential and ability to walk in the things God is saying these days. Do not say, well when I grow and become an elder, no, no, no!

If you believe these things are true, what are we expected to do? We should trust and obey. Many a time the enemy will say, ‘Okay, let me take his joy away from him. Let me see how he will have the boldness to talk about this his God when he does not have money to feed his children. Let me see what he will do’. Or maybe you bring in some goods. He now moves in the hearts and mind of the custom officials and they seize your goods so that you can come and pay three million Naira for goods you probably bought for two million.

Do you feel, ‘O, all my hopes are shattered? All the great things I planned to do are ruined!’ Praise God. Our God is mightier than all those things. Look at Phil. 4:19. It says, “My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”, Not according to your bank account, or according to your business worth. It is according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus’ unlimited treasures that is laid up for you.

What the Lord will do is this. Those things He gave you brought you joy. Then you say, ‘But Lord you gave me the job. Why did you allow the enemy to take it away from me? Job said, “The Lord gaveth, the Lord taketh. Blessed be the name of the Lord’. That is what you should be doing. If you cry like others of your colleagues cry, what will be the difference? But if you rejoice they will come and say, ‘You are rejoicing, how come?’ You tell them, I have another job!

There is a song that we sing that says, ‘Our God is mighty’. He provides for all our needs. When all of His ravens which have fed us are all gone, then..... Then it is time to rest in him. Those provisions that we know, when they are taken away even though it is God that gave them to us, then it is time to walk in real faith. The just shall live by faith. That is when the realities dawn on you, when you know that help will not come from brother A; help will not come from the church; help will not come from any known place. After you have tried everything, then is the time to fall upon the Lord and he will lead you.

There are many things the Lord is going to do. It would be appropriate to read the whole of **Isaiah 60** and **61**. Towards the end you will see what the Lord will bring unto us in terms of the restoration that is coming upon us. When we hearken at His call, and

move in the light of his word there is nothing like it. No eyes have seen, and no ears have heard, no heart has perceived what the Lord has prepared for His people.

When you confess that no matter what happens, if everything fails, and even the world falls apart, I Know the Lord will meet my needs, then God steps into your situation.

CHAPTER THREE

SING UNTO THE LORD A NEW SONG

(SHOLA AJAYI)

We are going to be looking at the topic, Sing unto the Lord a new song. The Lord desires to take the old songs, the sad songs, the horrible songs, the songs of discouragement that many of us have sung up to now. He wants to change our perspective; He wants to change our understanding; He wants to change our mind set, the way we see things. That is important particularly as we realize that the theme of the conference is **Understanding the Times**. The Lord desires to enlighten us concerning His ways so that when He begins to move none of us will be surprised or be confused, and we know we will not be confused in the name of Jesus.

Before we go into the main thrust of the message, I want to read a few 'Thus saith the Lord'. When we left wherever we came from, we came with an understanding that the Lord will speak to us. I heard Brother Kola saying yesterday that this is a prophetic conference where the mind of the Lord is revealed. Now I want us to pay attention to some of the things that will be said; they have been said before; they will be said again and I am sure many more will come in the course of this meeting. But I want to assure you we are not saying these things to make you feel good. It is not a case of somebody waking up to say, Okay, what can I say to make these people happy with themselves,; and then you begin to pick words. The Lord is speaking to His people and it is important you pay attention; because by laying hold on what He is saying you will be prepared for the days that are ahead.

One of the things the Lord is saying, and I think we will go into that, is that the days which we are moving into will be days of darkness. I am not talking about **Isaiah 60**. That is a measure of what the Lord is saying; but that it is a day when there will be no answer from the Lord, a day when vision will cease. We will give the condition under which God says, If these things happen or go on in your midst there will be no visions and there will be darkness.

However, because we are people of light, we are going to listen to the things that God says, I do not want this. You know, God is a God of covenant. He tells you this is the

way I want to do things. This is the plan. This is the pattern. Then He now tells you, 'Choose, I set before you life. I set before you death; but choose life.' But you know, some people can decide to choose death. Now, will God feel very terrible or very miserable if the person decides to choose death? Well, He might not like it but He is sovereign and He will leave you with your choice; but the beautiful thing is that the Lord will ensure you are not without information, you are not without light.

I want us to open to **Isaiah 35:8-10**. This passage speaks of Zion; speaks of the kingdom of God; speaks of the people of God.

35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those; the wayfaring men,

Those who have a mindset that they are travelers. They are not bugged down with the affairs of the world. They are not tied down. They are wayfaring men. It says even though they are fools, they shall not err in this way. In this way there shall be no lion,

nor any ravenous beast go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:

The redeemed shall walk in the light of the kingdom of God. The redeemed shall walk in the light of Zion. The redeemed shall walk in the counsel of God. The desire in the heart of God will be their desire. Now **verse 10** is actually where we want to go. It says,

35:10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,

There shall be an inclination, there shall be a desire to walk in the counsel of God.

and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads:

There shall be a return, a return with joy, a return with gladness. It says,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Sorrow and sighing shall flee away. That is one of the things the Lord is doing. And may I say for our information. If there is nothing else you hear in the course of this ministration, hear the fact that God is a methodical God, is a God who makes His plans. He makes His purposes and for those who will hear He tells them.

There is no power, there is no force, there is no thought, there is no imagination that can stand in the way of God's plan. Most times when we look at the things happening around us we get jittery. Is God going to be able to deal with this situation? However, I want to assure you no matter what is going on do not think if you are panicky that God is panicky too. Do not think if you are jittery, God is jittery. I want to tell you at any

particular time that God is seated relaxed. He is working His purposes. He is a deliberate God. He is a methodical God. No matter what you are seeing around you He is working out His purposes. They will come to pass.

Now leaving **Isaiah 35** we will go to **Jeremiah**. There is another ‘Thus saith the Lord’ in **Jeremiah 33**. In fact this one came twice recently. We shall read from verse **3**. It says,

33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee,

In these days that we are living call unto me and I the Lord I will answer you.

and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

I will not leave you in darkness; I will not leave you confounded; I will speak to you; I will reveal Myself to you. I will not be a God that is afar off; but call onto me.

33:4 For thus saith he LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the king of Judah, which are thrown down by the mounts, and by the sword;

Concerning the people of the Lord who have known devastation, challenges, problems, whatever.

33:6 Behold, I will bring it health

Behold I will bring you health, in the name of Jesus.

and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.

33:7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return,

That is I will turn your captivity around. I will destroy your captivity.

and I will build them, as at the first.

33:8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

33:9 And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honor before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them;

I will be good to you. I will do good unto you, and when I do good to you all those who hear the things that I have done, it will be good news.

and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

33:10 Thus saith the Lord; Again there shall be heard in this place,

There shall be heard in your midst, there shall be heard in your lives, it shall be heard in the place that you said is desolate – ‘Well, we don’t see anything happening. O, we don’t know what is going on...’ - In the place where such has been said, in that place you shall hear the voice of joy. You shall hear the voice of gladness. You shall hear the voice of the bridegroom. Many who have looked at themselves, will I qualify as bridegroom; many who have looked at themselves and said, ‘when will I become a bride’! You shall hear the voice of them say,

Praise the LORD of host: for the LORD is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return your captivity

I will turn your situation around.

33:12 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Again in this place,

Again in your life; again in your home; again in your situation which has been called desolate you shall know the habitation of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down.

Now the Lord desires to bring a visitation upon His people. He desires to change our testimony. He desires to change our orientation; the way we think, the way we perceive, the way we look at things.

In this thrust, in this burden we shall be going to **Exodus 14**. There we find an account. The Lord says this will be a pattern of the way He will receive glory in our lives. We shall begin our reading from verse **1**.

14:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

I want us to follow as we look at this particular passage and realize that the initiator of this particular event is the Lord. God began the process. The Lord came unto Moses; the Lord will come unto us in the name of Jesus. That which characterizes our walk this time will be a visitation of the Lord. It will be to the pleasure of the heart of God to visit His people and to speak to them. However, even when God comes in and he speaks, we need to listen to Him. One of the challenges we are going to have as we move on is, ‘How do I handle the transition between the word of the Lord and the fulfillment of that which He is speaking’.

Any of the events we are going to be looking at, anybody coming in the middle of the story will come to a wrong conclusion. Nevertheless, as long as God is at the beginning He will be at the end in the name of Jesus.

14:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it ye shall encamp by the sea.

This was after Israel had come out of Egypt. Then among the devastations that had come upon Egypt was the last one that had been the death of all the first sons in Egypt. Pharaoh had been hit.

Now let me say this. One of the things the Lord is indicating is that most of us most times would like a situation where God gives one blow and the enemy is destroyed. How many will like the Lord to give one blow and the enemy is destroyed? I am sure most of us would like that. But at times God does not do that. So should He choose not to do it, pay attention to the things that are being said.

Before now, God had called Moses, He had called Israel. He had talked to them. Maybe a little bit of background. The Bible says God had called Abraham and God had told him, you are going to come out of your father's house; out of your kindred; out of your nation; and you are going to come to a land that I have chosen for you. It is a good land, a glorious land. You find that in **Genesis 12**. Abraham listening to that, would have been excited. I bless God, these are wonderful promises, these are great promises; but by the time you get to **Genesis 15** the Bible says Abraham had an encounter with God.

God came visiting that day, and Abraham said,

“God, I am really not in a good mood. I am not enjoying this at all!”

God said, “Why?”

“You know, You made a lot of great promises to me. But right now, from what I am seeing, the person who is going to inherit everything I have is this my servant. Is this what You said?”

“Abraham, do not worry. What I have said, will happen. And to further assure you, let's go out. Come outside. Look at the stars; can you number them? That is the way I am going to bless you. Your children are going to be many.”

Now, let us put things into perspective. For Abraham, it was just,

‘God, just give me a child so when they say, father of child, I can raise my hand.’

God is here saying the stars in the heavens, your children would be like that. Abraham said,

‘Okay, I believe you. What you have said sounds very good. But how would I know that this thing You are saying will come to pass?’

‘Okay, make an offering unto me. Make a sacrifice unto me and then I will speak.’

Later, God said,

“You will have that child. That child will come out of your body. When he comes out of your body he is going to have his own children. Your children will go into a nation. They will be there for four hundred years. In the course of the four hundred years, those people will exert upon them. They will make things difficult for them. They will make life hard. But do not worry. I am going to bring your children out of those people with a strong hand, with a mighty hand. When I bring them out they are going to come out with great substance. And those people I will deal with them.”

Now, the time came and Moses was born. He went through a few experiences; but eventually, God called Moses and said,

“It is time, the time that I will bring the children of Israel out of the land of bondage. I have heard their groaning. Their cry has come on to me, and I have come to bring deliverance.”

Moses did not want to go but God convinced him.

“Do not worry, when you get there drop the rod in your hand, it will become a serpent. Put your hand under your jacket, bring it out , it will be leprous...” Signs to assure him.

And the account says Moses eventually went. He convinced the people,

“Let us go and meet Pharaoh!”

The people were aghast,

“Are you sure? God is able to bring deliverance? We have been in this state for so long that we have gotten used to it. It is painful but we do not know what to do.”

“Do not worry, God is going to bring deliverance. He is going to do mighty works.”

“Okay, no problem.”

And they went to meet Pharaoh.

“Pharaoh, thus saith the Lord, the God of the children of Israel, Let My people go that they may serve me”

Pharaoh said,

“What did you say?”

“The LORD, the God of the children of Israel says, Let My people go that they may serve Me, that they may worship Me, that they may offer unto Me.”

And Pharaoh said something that is very interesting:

“Who is that God? Who made that God? What is His address? Where does He live? Who empowered Him? Who does He consult with? Why do you think I will release

you? Okay, you know what I am going to tell you? You people are idle. You know what your problem is ?, you do not have things to do. That is the reason why you are talking about a God that will deliver you. I will give you work to do and let me see what that God will do to deliver you.”

He then told the handlers of the Israelites – you know, they had been making bricks for the construction projects of Egypt – so he said,

“You have been giving them straws for the work they are doing. From today, don’t give them straws anymore.”

The people did exactly that. The leaders in Israel ran to Pharaoh and said,

“Pharaoh, what is going on? We know this bondage has been on us. It has been hard. But somehow we have managed prior to now. But you are now making our hardship even more. Why? Why are you doing this?”

“Because you people are idle. I insist you must make the same number of bricks. We will not reduce it. We will make your situation harder.”

Now, let me ask, Did the children of Israel feel like singing a good song at that time? Were they singing, ‘Come and join me sing hallelujah’? But did they have the word of God? They had the word of God. But the situation seemed to have gotten worse instead of getting better. You know what they did? They went and met Moses. They said,

“Moses, we were enjoying our suffering on our own. We did not tell you to come and help us. You came making great promises. ‘God will do this. God will do that’. Is this what you told us God will do?”

Now the account says, Moses said,

“It is alright; it is alright.”

Then he went back to God. I want us to look at what Moses told God and then what God answered. As I said, God is a methodical God. He follows His program. We need to buy into his program lest we get confused.

Exodus 5, reading from verse 22,

5:22 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, wherefore hast thou so entreated this people? Why is it thou hast sent me?

5:23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all.

“You said You were going to deliver! That is what You promised; and I said I was not going. You insisted I must go. You gave me a rod in my hand. But You have not delivered your people.”

Then God made some powerful statements. Our brother was reading it earlier in the morning but I want us to look at it again. **Exodus 6.**

6:1 Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shall thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out from his land.

6:2 And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:

6:3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

6:4 And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

6:5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

6:6 Wherefore say unto the children of children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you from under the burden of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm, and with great judgments:

6:7 And I will take to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

6:8 And I will bring you into the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it to you for an heritage: I am the LORD.

So what is God saying?

“No matter the situation I do not change my mind. I do not begin a thing and abandon it half way. When I begin a thing, I complete it. I will be honoured, I will be glorified upon the Egyptians. But I will walk in a methodical way. I am walking out a program. I am following a plan. Buy into the pan. Flow with me. My purposes shall be established”, in the name of Jesus.

The account says when God would begin to bring judgments upon Egypt, the first judgment that came was the turning of the water of the Nile into blood. You know Moses had been told go and wait for Pharaoh.

“He will come to the Nile when he comes to have his bath in the morning. When you meet him, tell him, ‘Thus says the Lord, let My people go that they may serve Me.’ And he will tell you who is that God? Say, The God who will bring this judgment upon

you. Stretch forth your hand towards the Nile. When you do so, the water will turn into blood.”

When that first judgment came, what do you think Pharaoh did? Was he seriously dismayed? No! That was just the first blow. As we said earlier, God is a methodical God. He fights long. He fights strong, but at the end of the day, the enemy will be flat out and not be able to rise. He will be totally devastated, in the name of Jesus.

When the water was turned into blood, the magicians of Egypt jeered and said,

“Is this what you are able to do? We can match you magic for magic, power for power.”

They therefore looked for the remaining water left in the land and said,

“We turn you also into blood.”

And it was so. Now that gives you an idea of the way the mind of the devil works. If the water has been turned into blood and people have no water to drink, you will expect that they will be wise to say, Let us leave the remaining water. Instead, they said, If you think you can turn water into blood so can we. And they did that. God said,

“No problem, we have just started. It is a long thing. It is going to be a definite thing, but it is going to take some time.”

Soon after that, Moses went and met Pharaoh, and said,

“Thus saith the LORD, You will need to let these people go. If you don’t let them go, there is going to be problem. I am going to call forth frogs from inside the rivers.”

Maybe you will ask me if all the water became blood, how did the people have water to drink? The account says they went and dug wells, and God was merciful it was only the open waters that were affected by the first judgment. When they dug the grounds, water came, and that was like a respite. Let me also say when that judgment came, it came upon all that was in the land. What does that say about the initial days of the judgment? It means when judgment comes, they may affect us in a few ways. However, their effect on us will not be enduring; and it will not be for long when there will be a demarcation between those who serve the Lord and those who serve him not.

You know you find some of the people who say, Ah, Rapture: God will throw all of us out of the world before anything comes. God is not building weaklings. He is not building people who do not have stomach. He is building people who are tough. When God brought judgment upon Israel, during the time of Elijah when the water was stopped, it came upon all in the land. But God made a provision. So do not get worked up by the things going on around you. The Lord will make a provision. He will make a way of escape, in the name of Jesus.

So frogs came. After the frogs, lice came and so many other things. Flies came. Livestock died, and all manner of plagues, but it was only the first three that affected Israel. Eventually God said,

“Okay, Israel, you live in Goshen. When the judgment comes upon all the rest of Egypt, your place will be safe. The judgment will come upon them it will not come upon you.”

In fact, there was one very interesting one. The account said God brought thick darkness, darkness that could be felt. It was like you could touch the darkness. For three days the darkness was on every other part of Egypt, apart from Goshen. The Lord will make an exception for His people in the name of Jesus.

This however is largely the background. God has been dealing body blows. It is like the experience in boxing. When I was in school, I was in the boxing club. One of the things they teach you as a boxer is you are lucky if you are able to give your opponent one blow and he falls down. Most times, if you have trained and he has trained, the chances of your giving him one blow and he falls down is not usually there. What they teach you is deal your opponent regular body blows. As you give him regular body blows he becomes weakened. He becomes so weak that when you give the final blow he goes flat on the ground.

God is systematic. The judgment he may begin to bring on the land, it will be little by little. Initially, the forces of darkness would still be doing *shakara*,

“No, we too can match you. We can resist...”

But eventually, a time will come when they will say,

“We give up. We cannot fight any more.”

Let us therefore not be discouraged by saying,

“Oh God, when are You going to do everything? When are you going to round up quickly?” God is not in a hurry. He does not work in a panicky way. He works in a steady way, little by little, definitely, until eventually He accomplishes His purpose.

As I said, the area where the Lord focused on is this **Exodus 14**, the final onslaught, the final blow that He was going to bring upon Egypt. Before the event began, God gave a picture. This is what I am doing. He called Moses. That is why I am saying, those of us who have leadership responsibility in the body of Christ, there is nothing the Lord will do that He will not tell us. He will tell us. There is nothing to be gained by hiding His mind from us. However, we will need to ensure that we are available to hear the mind of the Lord.

Back to our **Exodus 14** passage. The Lord said to Moses ,

“Speak to the children of Israel. Let them turn, let them camp before the Red Sea.

14:3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, they are entangled in the Land, the wilderness hath shut them in.

God says,

“Move to a particular location. When you get to that location the enemy will look at you, he will look at your position, and he will say, ‘From the way I see you, you are vulnerable. You will be easy to attack. It will be very easy to finish you up. It will be the easiest thing.’”

Now, many times the enemy does a lot of wrong calculation, as you will see a little later. Nevertheless, in this particular one his calculation was perfect. On the right, no way to go. On the left, no way to go. In front is the sea. The enemy says if we arise and we begin to pursue now they will be easy pickings. So many of us will look at our position and say,

“God, why have you made my position so vulnerable? Why have You made me seemingly easy for the enemy to attack. I would have loved to be in a position where I can brag of strength.”

God told the children of Israel,

“Do not worry. Wherever I put you does not matter. The devil is going to analyse and he is going to come to the wrong conclusion, even though by human reasoning that conclusion would be smart. Pharaoh will say, ‘They are entangled. The wilderness has shut them in’; and I will even go one step further. I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he shall follow after them.”

Now, usually people will call and say, I have two news for you. I have good news, and I have bad news. Which one do you want first? You could say, Okay, give me the good first so that when I hear the bad, the good will overwhelm the bad. God says,

“Go to this vulnerable position where it will be easy for the enemy to pick you and finish you. The enemy is going to sit and analyse. Having analyzed he is going to come to the conclusion that, ‘I can finish them.’ And that conclusion will be a very valid conclusion. Now I God will go one more step.”

The bible says the hearts of the kings are in the hands of the Lord to turn as He wishes. Ordinarily we think turn them in a positive light. But at times God will push him to try his worst so to say. I hope I am not telling you things that will come as a surprise; because many of us will ask,

“What is going on? Why am I going through this? Why has this befallen me? I love the Lord. I serve the Lord. I have been doing all the things I ought to do. Why am I facing challenges.?” That is only one side of the situation.

The enemy says, I will attack them. I will finish them. And God says I will not soften his heart. What did He say He will do? He will harden his heart.

“Haba! God, that is not like you. How will you harden the enemy’s heart for him to pursue your people? Is that not wickedness?”

Is it wickedness? Now, what you need to hear is the last part. What is the goal? What is the purpose? What is the end that God is working towards? He says I will be honored upon Pharaoh. I will be honored upon those things that have been challenging you. I will be honored upon things that have intimidated and told you all sorts of lies.

There is something I call the phantom wars. The enemy comes,

“I will finish you,” and he begins to rage, “Brrrrr.....” Initially, you start to panic,

“Ah, God how are we going to deal with this?” Then after a while you come to yourself and encourage yourself in the Lord,

You say “ look, calm down. What is this all about? You then tell the enemy Who are you anyway? What makes you feel you can do what you are saying?”

So what are you saying? Is it that the enemy will not try anything at all? It is just that I left a few things. When you go and read the story of Israel, the account says the people multiplied. The people thrived. After so many years in Egypt, God increased them. They were strong. They gave birth. Everything was going very well. The account says Pharaoh called his people and said,

“Look, we have to deal wisely with these people.” Wisely means craftily, wickedly. “This their God, we do not know. They came into our land, and before you know it, they have been increasing, getting bigger; doing well. Everything is going rosy for them. No, we must do something. We must make their lives miserable.”

So when God begins to help you, when God begins to bless you, do not think the devil is going to get excited and rejoice with you. He will not. He will raise a challenge. What am I saying? At the end of it all, the goal in the heart of God is,

“I will be honored upon Pharaoh,” Pharaoh is the king of the enemies in this situation. **“And upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.** That is what I am working out! The Egyptians will know. Pharaoh will know. His hosts will know that I am the Lord. There is no other God. Pharaoh has boasted, ‘Who is this God. Is He able to deliver? Can He deliver out of my hand?’ ‘

God is therefore saying, We will know on that day.

Now, verse 5 says it was told the king of Egypt, that the people fled. You know, all we have said is God’s counsel. How was it worked out? It was told the king of Egypt that the people fled

14:5 ...and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we let Israel go from serving us?

God hardened the heart of Pharaoh. If God had left him alone what He wanted to do to him would not have been done. He would still have been telling himself, 'maybe if I had struck that time, maybe I would have been able to destroy them.' But God wanted to teach him a permanent lesson so that next time when you hear, 'The people of God', you run.

The Egyptians therefore pursued after them. All the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, they overtook them encamping by the sea.

14:10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold the Egyptians marched after them;

Now what happened to them, did they begin to rejoice, "Praise God, the promises of God are being fulfilled!" Was that what they said? What does the account say?

... they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

If all they did was cry unto the Lord, it would have been good. But they did not stop with crying unto the Lord. They began a song, an old song; a bad song, a song they had offered many times before then. What did they sing?

"Moses, is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Wherefore have you dealt this terribly with us, to carry us out of Egypt? Is not this the word we told you in Egypt saying, 'leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians.' It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than we should die in the wilderness."

Is that not a pleasant song?

"Moses, we told you. Leave us. This suffering, we have gotten used to it. These challenges, not as if it is good, but eh... we can manage. We told you leave us. You came making great promises. You came telling us this will happen that will happen."

I am sure for many of us we find ourselves saying that, some publicly, maybe some privately.

"God, this is not what you told us. You told us, You are able to save; You are able to deliver. You said You can remove problems. You can take care of us. But what is this? You know, this people that came and said come out of Babylon, maybe if I had stayed there maybe my life would have been better...even more than this. I do not know."

The Lord will take such song from our mouths in the name of Jesus. We will have a new song, a song of victory, a song of assurance, a song of confidence in God; an assurance that God does not panic. He does not fret. He is steady. He is sure.

14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, standstill, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he shall shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever.

I will take that again. Fear ye not. Stop looking at what you are seeing in the physical. Maybe let me help you. Yes, the sea was in front. The Egyptians were coming with some of their best soldiers, and they were coming on chariots. The chariots were intimidating. On the right, nowhere to go; on the left, nowhere to go. And it was like, Ah, what are we going to do? But they made a mistake. Do you know the mistake they made? They looked at the chariots, and they kept looking at the chariots. Take your eyes away from the chariots in the name of Jesus!

What should they have looked at? They should have looked up, because the presence of God was there! God was leading Israel. The pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night was up there. The presence of God was there. Rather than look at God they were looking at the chariots, and I tell you the chariots are intimidating. If anybody tells you that chariots are not intimidating it is a lie. But it is a function of what are you looking at? The presence of God was there as we will see.

Do not be afraid. Stand still. Now, is stand still as in, ‘Stand where you are?’ No, it is stop fretting, stop panicking, stop shaking, stop being jittery. Calm down! Gather yourself together.

You do not need to panic. What can the devil bring that he has not brought before? A lot of times we get panicky. I thank God for some of the ministrations that have come before now. Stand still! Do not be panicky. Be calm and you will see the salvation of the Lord. God knows you are vulnerable. God knows that which you are looking at. You have tried to solve it yourself and you have not been able to. He knows that. He placed you there. He allowed you to be there to glorify His name on the enemies of God.

The Lord will show you His salvation. He will show His salvation today. The Egyptians, the calamities, the problems, the difficulties, the challenges that you have seen today, you shall see them no more in the name of Jesus.

The Lord shall fight for you. The Lord shall fight for you. The Lord shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace. Calm down. Do not panic. Do not worry. Relax. Let the enemy fire his best shots. It will have no effects because God is with you.

And the Lord said unto Moses,

“Why are you crying to me? Why are you panicky? It looks like they are also getting unto you. Moses, why are you panicky?”

14:15 ...speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward.”

You know one of the things that panic causes is that it paralyzes. It makes the people of God incapable of making the right decisions, the right movements. The Lord says why are you panicky? Why are you fidgety? Why are you saying the wrong things? Tell the people, Move forward.

The Lord is saying we need to move forward. We will move forward. We will not stand in panic. We will not stand in confusion. We will not stand in limitation. The body of Christ will move forward unto the purposes of God in the name of Jesus. Move forward.

14:16 But lift up thy rod, and stretch out thy hand over the sea, and divide it:

The Lord will give us strength to speak to situations, to speak to challenges. You know many times we begin to wail,

“Oh God where is the solution?” God says,

“The solution is there with you! The rod was in your hand all the while. Why are you crying? Stretch forth the rod in your hand. Tell the sea, ‘Part! that the people of the Lord may cross over, may move over.’ ”

Brethren we will move over. We will cross over in the name of Jesus. Lift up the rod, stretch it over the sea and divide it.

...and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

14:17 And I, behold, will harden the heart of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honor upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

14:18 And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten Me honor upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

All the forces that are arrayed against you, the Lord will get honor upon them in the name of Jesus. They will lose the ability to bear their name. If *lack* has been a challenge, God will take lack's ability to arrest you in the name of Jesus. Is it not interesting? God says you will go through fire and it will not burn you. For fire not to burn you, God will take from fire the ability to burn. When fire becomes like air conditioner, then it becomes a different thing. God says you will go through water and it will not drown you. God will take its ability to perform its normal functions in the name of Jesus.

The Egyptians, the challenges, the afflictions shall know that I am the Lord when I have gotten me honor on Pharaoh and all his hosts.

14:19 And the angel of God , which was before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before their face and stood behind them.

And God began war games.

14:20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these:

Same place, same location: darkness on this side and light on the other side.

...so that the one came not near the other all the night.

14:21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

14:22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea by dry ground: and the waters were a wall onto them on their right hand, and on their left.

14:23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

So the Lord will use you as a bait to destroy the enemies of your soul in the name of Jesus. Now God took their chariots' wheels. He began to break them as they began to move into the sea. He began to break their chariots. Before they were able to jump and pounce. But God began to break the chariot wheels. A struggle began. Israel was not even involved, they were just going.

When God began to move, they now said,

“Let us flee from the face of Israel for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”

When God began to pull the wheels it now dawned on them that,

“Ah! God is fighting for Israel!”

Brethren, God will fight for us in the name of Jesus. By that time the enemy will not be able to run again. He will be devastated in the name of Jesus.

14:26 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

14:27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

14:28 And the waters returned and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them: there remained not so much as one of them.

14:29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea

And went to the other side; and they sang a song. You find that in **15**. It says,

15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

15:2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him a habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

15:3 The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

15:4 Pharaoh's chariots and his hosts hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains are drowned in the Red sea.

15:5 The depth have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.

15:6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand O LORD hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

15:7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee; thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

15:8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

15:9 The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them: I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

15:10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

15:11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Doing wonders. Doing wonders. Doing wonders. Getting Himself glory. Getting Himself honor. Having the last say.

He has the last say. Those enemies, you will see them no more. The enemy said, ‘I will pursue. I will overtake. I will take the spoil.’ Was he bragging? He was not bragging. He analyzed the situation and concluded,

“I have the ability. I have the strength to pursue. I will not only pursue, I will overtake. I will not only overtake, I will spoil them.”

But God said,

“That is a lie. You may pursue; you may even draw near, but you will not overtake. You will not take the spoil”, in the name of Jesus.

The Lord will change our song. The Lord will give us a new song. He will give us the song of victory, in the name of Jesus.

As we continue to reflect, however, there is a word that the Lord equally wants us to look at. You find it in the book of **Micah**. There is a part of the book of **Micah 4** that is very familiar. We know it. We also find it in **Isaiah 2**. The mountain that is the Lord’s house shall be exalted above the mountains and the hills. That is the plan of God. That is the purpose of God. That is the mind of God.

However, there are a few things the Lord is saying that can work contrary to the fulfillment of what we find in **Micah**. We will just quickly race through them and the round up. **Micah 2**.

2:1 Woe to them that device iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! When the morning is light, they practice it, because it in the power of their hand.

That is in the day that we are speaking about. There is a judgment that will come upon the land. And what will God be judging? God says a people in that day will sit upon their beds in the night and they are going to plan. They will plan to do evil. They will plan to do wickedness. When it is morning, they will get up and go and implement because the ability to implement is in their hands. That is what Pharaoh did. Nevertheless, God will judge as many as have this inclination in the name of Jesus.

2:2 And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

2:3 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, against this family do I device an evil, from which ye shall not remove your necks; neither shall ye go haughtily: for this time is evil.

It is an evil time for those who do wickedly; those who do evil. There are quite a lot of things in chapter two but we will just pick a few things.

2:7 O thou that are named the house of Jacob, is the Spirit of the LORD straitened? Are these his doing? Do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly?

Is God constrained? Is God not able to save? Does He delight in judgment? Does He delight in destructions?

2:8 Even of late my people is risen up as an enemy; ye pull off the rope with the garment from them that pass by securely

That is you exact, you use your power to harass; I am speaking about any tendency of that nature in the church or in the land.

2:10 Arise ye,

This inclination is not your rest because it is polluted. It shall destroy you.

2: 11 If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto you of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.

What he is saying there is a spirit in the land,

“Ah! In the name of Jesus, anything can happen.” And people are jumping at it. It does not matter the way he lives. God is saying that will not be. *That* will not be.

3:1 And I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; Is it not for you to know judgment?

The mountain that is the Lord’s house shall be exalted in the place of judgment; in the place of justice; in the place of equity.

“If you hate the good, and love the evil; you pluck off the skin, you pluck off the flesh from the bones of my people.”

3:3 Who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones, and chop them in pieces...

3:4 Then they cry unto the LORD.

They do wickedly, but claim they are crying unto the Lord. Will this be?

...but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

3:5 Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace;

So you find the spirit of hypocrisy as the spirit in the land, as a spirit in the church, the larger church. A person bites with the teeth, but he cries with the mouth, Peace. Behind you, a person may do wickedly; but in front of you,

“Ah! Brother, how now?” And smiles at you

God is saying men may not see it as an issue but I will see it as an issue.

...and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.

If you are not with me you are against me. Bring money; bring this; bring that. And you do not bring, it is war! What does God say will happen?

3:6 therefore night shall be unto you,

Any tendency, any inclination in this way will bring darkness. Night shall be,

that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them.

3:7 Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer of God.

But it will not be general darkness. It will be a matter of choice, a matter of life style, a matter of inclination. It will be selective darkness, and selective light. But in the midst of it, there will be a people that will say,

I am truly full of power by the Spirit of the Lord and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.

As there will be wickedness in the land, as there will be evil in the land, as darkness will come upon many, as many will not be able to divine and vision will not be, a people shall decree,

“Truly, by the Spirit of the Lord, by the Spirit of power, by the Spirit of might, I have power to declare unto Jacob his sin, and to Israel his transgression.”

“Brother this is not right. Sister this is not the way it is.” We will not gloss over sin; we will not smile at iniquity; we will not talk as if, ‘It doesn’t matter.’

3:9 Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhors judgment, and pervert all equity.

3:10 They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity.

3:11 The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priest there teach for hire, and the prophet thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? None evil can come upon us.

3:12 Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

I will cause a shaking. I will cause a shaking so that only the things which cannot be shaken will be left. But in the midst of the darkness, in the midst of the evil, in the midst of the things that are going on,

it shall come to pass, that the mountain of

of those who are inclined unto the Lord, of those who love the Lord, those who desire the Lord, those who are burdened concerning the things of God, they

shall be established in the top of the mountains, and they shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

People shall not flow to hypocrisy. People shall not flow unto evil. People shall not flow unto perversion. The Lord will do a work of shaking so that only the things that cannot be shaken will be left. Then this prophecy will be fulfilled in the name of Jesus.

So it is not enough to say, O the mountain shall be exalted. Which mountain? A mountain as by the word of the Lord.

4:2 And many nations shall come, and say

Come, let us go to the mountain that glorifies the name of the Lord, and

To the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4:3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares

Their ability to fight will be taken away from them.

Their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not take up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

4:4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and non shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.

4:5 For all people shall walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever

And ever and ever.

Micah 6.

6:1 Hear ye now what the Lord saith; Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice.

6:2 Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD's controversy, and ye young foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

6:3 O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? Testify against me.

6:4 For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

6:5 O my people, remember now what Balak king of Moab consulted, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him from Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the righteousness of the LORD.

6:6 Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

6:7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my first born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

You know, bring an offering; bring fifty dollars; bring one hundred dollars; bring this one; and all your problems are solved! The Lord will help us in the name of Jesus.

Can I buy God? Can I make God turn His face elsewhere, and say, 'O well, I have given you money, so do not disturb me again'.

6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Let us pause and think about these things brethren.

Amen.

CHAPTER FOUR
GOD PREPARING A PEOPLE IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS
(DAVID WALTER)

Romans 4: 16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

4:17 (As it is written, I HAVE MADE THEE A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, SO SHALL THY SEED BE.

4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

As we read the accounts of Abraham in the New Testament, it is as if the man is untouchable, a man of faith, so impossible for us to relate to. My God, he's the father of faith! How can we ever match up to such a power, such a presence of a man of God? But thank God we also have the Old Testament that gives us the day by day thoughts, struggles, and failures along with the successes that went into the building of a man of faith. A man we can now relate to.

Abraham was 75 years of age when God said to him, 'Get thee out of thy country, away from the kindred and out of thy father's house and I will bless thee and thou shalt be a father of many nations.' (See Gen.12:1-3) Thank God for the promises of God.

We need the word of the Lord in our lives spoken directly to our hearts that we know, that we know, **THAT WE KNOW!**

As you walk through the Old Testament through the life of Abraham you will begin to see that he obeyed the Lord, left his country, but he only obeyed one of the edicts that were given him. **ONLY ONE!** Did he leave his kindred? No. Did he leave his father's house? No. His father went with him to Haran, but could go no further. How many know that partial obedience will bring you only so far in God and you can go no further? So Abraham reached the country of Haran, and that is where he stayed, and that is where he remained until God did a work in his heart. Abraham finally died to his father's ways, for his father was an idol maker, and then he could journey on towards the Promised Land as he left his father's house. Amen!

We do our part, and God will do His part. So Abraham came into the Promise Land and two of the three commandments that the Lord had given him were obeyed, but one was remaining. He still had his kindred. Yes, he still had Lot with him! God allowed a contention to arise between the herdsmen; a contention between Lot's herds' men and Abraham's herds' men. Abraham being a man of God said, 'Let us not as brethren quarrel.'

There should be no quarrel between us. Our trust is in the Lord. You know when we quarrel, it is because we have not trusted the Lord. There will be very little quarrel amongst us if we trust God. God will settle every dispute.

Abraham said to Lot, 'you choose; wherever you want to go, it's your choice Lot.'

And Lot looked over the well watered plains, and he chose the land on the verges of Sodom and Gomorrah. It was not a good place, though it looked beautiful. Be careful of the things that look pleasing to the sight. It might not be the will of God at all for your life.

So Abraham said to Lot choose, and Lot chose. When Lot was separated from him, all three commandments spoken by God in Genesis 12:1 were now obeyed. Then God spoke to Abraham and said, Abraham, look up. Look to the north, east, south and west. It is all yours! The inheritance is yours Abraham. And Abraham began to walk with the Lord. We saw how he walked with God in the Promised Land.

God came to him and spoke to him by word. Then God began to come to him in visions. Oh, yes! God began to appear to him in visions. Brethren with this large of a congregation there should be multiplicities of giftings. There should be the flowing of the prophetic gifting moving amongst us. We need to stir up the gifts. There are true

giftings and we should not be afraid of them. We can discern that which is of God and that which is not of God.

If you bring a prophetic word and it is not from the Lord, you are open to receive correction. But if it is of the Lord we will love to hear it. We want to receive it; and there should be confirmation, “Thus saith the Lord, it is the Lord.”

Therefore, God began to reveal Himself to Abraham. And Abraham began to grow in faith. Are you hearing me today? He did not have the faith overnight. He began to grow in faith. However, Abraham made a mistake when he came into the Promised Land.

And the Bible said there was a famine in the land, and do you know where he went to get some help? Where did he go? He went down into Egypt. Yes he did! Do not ever go to Egypt for help. Do not ever go to the world for help. Egypt is a type of the world and we must never go to the world for help. ‘Some trust in chariots, some trust in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.’

So Abraham made that mistake and went down into Egypt for help; and it looked like it was not a really serious matter until later. He came back to the Promised Land and he began to ponder the promises of God; the promises that he would bring forth a son; that he will carry the seed and that he would be the father of many nations.

But Abraham got a little hasty, didn't he? He listened to the voice of his wife. He gave in to her, and brought forth a son by Hagar whose name was Ishmael. Do you remember, Ishmael? Now, where did Hagar come from? Ponder that for a moment. Where did Hagar come from? Egypt, yes! When he was in Egypt he must have picked up the slave girl. Be careful what you pick up in Egypt because it may later come to haunt you, and might even destroy you if you do not deal with the things from Egypt. We have got to be careful of the things we bring with us.

Many years later, back in the Promised Land, Hagar was there. She should never have been there for she was of Egypt. Eventually, Abraham had a child from Hagar and his name was Ishmael. You know, Abraham really believed that Ishmael was the promised son.

Listen to me now. Listen closely. He really believed that Ishmael was the promised son. He poured everything he had into that son by the name Ishmael. For thirteen years, he believed that that was the will of God. Was it the will of God? No, it was not; but Abraham did not know it. Is it not interesting that God was silent for thirteen

years? Thirteen years God was silent and for that long Abraham believed that Ishmael was the promised seed. He believed Ishmael was the Isaac!

Father we pray, deliver us when we are applying our lives to Ishmaels when they should be Isaacs. Lord God, we pray, that we will not devote our time to Ishmaels, in Jesus' name.

Brethren, pray that prayer every day. You will be surprised what God will deliver you from! He will deliver you from certain business arrangements that are Ishmaels when you believed they were Isaacs. God will deliver you economically; He will deliver you physically. "Lord, deliver us from Ishmael. Deliver us from pouring our lives into Ishmaels." Thirteen years of Abraham's life was poured into Ishmael.

Then, one day, when Abraham was ninety-nine years of age, God came back to him and said, **"I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect... Sarah thy wife shall have a son."**

Now I want you to notice something here. Ishmael **did** fit every prophecy up until that point, oh yes. God did not speak about Sarah until Abraham was ninety-nine years of age. Think of that. Oh, yes! God help us when our programs seem to fit perfectly into the prophetic word, and they are not God at all!

This takes a walk with God. This takes discernment. Brethren, I believe there are people here growing in discernment; discerning the will of God, discerning the mind of Christ, discerning the Spirit of the Lord versus the spirit that is not of the Lord. We believe you are a people of discernment and growing in discernment. You are not going to apply your efforts towards Ishmael, but are going on to Isaac. Regardless how our plans match up with the prophetic, we are looking for the higher call. We will sense and know by the Spirit the will of the Lord; as we ascertain this, we will move in that direction.

God said to Abraham, 'Sarah shall surely bring forth a son.' Now remember we just read in the New Testament, 'The father of faith, the man of faith,' right? What did Abraham say to God? What did he say to the Lord?

"Oh, that Ishmael might live before thee!"

He was still on Ishmael! God help us, when we are still stuck on Ishmael whereas God wants to deliver us from Ishmael by the word of the Lord. God then came directly to him and said Sarah shall bring forth a son.

We do not want anything to do with the Ishmaels. We want all to do with the Isaacs, with the promises and the will of God. We want the will of God.

So Abraham was tested of the Lord. Ninety-nine years of age; and then one day like any other day, Abraham was in his tent tending to his chores and three men came to Abraham. Scriptures said three men. However he recognized something totally unique about these men. He discerned by the Spirit that these were men he could bow down and worship; and he did because the Bible said that the LORD appeared unto Abraham. To Him and Him only do we worship! We do not worship angels; we do not worship anything other than the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father Himself.

This was a day like any other day and God appeared unto Abraham. God is appearing unto His people. Are you hearing me? God is appearing unto you; He is appearing unto me as we walk before Him. We are going to have a visitation and we are going to have a habitation of the Lord working deep within our lives. God is working with us; working within us. When He comes, we will recognize Him. We will not turn Him away. We will receive Him into our hearts, the engrafted word of life that is able to save our souls.

He received these men, and he made food for them. They did eat, the Scripture said. The Lord indeed came to Abraham. This was a great day. Oh, what a great day! Nevertheless, just think of what was following the next day, the day following that great day when the Lord visited His people; when the Lord came to Abraham. The Lord Himself said, 'Shall I hide this thing from Abraham, that thing which I do?' God chose not to hide it.

The lord began to reveal the plan concerning Sodom and Gomorrah. Then Abraham, as a true man of God began to go down in intercession. We heard the word yesterday about intercession. He began to intercede, and he began to pray and he said,

“Lord, for fifty righteous will you destroy the city?”

“No, not for fifty.”

“Not for forty-five.”

“Not for forty.”

“Not for thirty-five.”

“Not for thirty.”

“Not for twenty.”

Abraham said one more time, ‘If there be just ten righteous, Lord, would you destroy the city?’

And the Lord whom we love, who is great and merciful; said if there be ten righteous in that city, I will not destroy the city. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is protecting His people and He is in the business of protecting us. This is His job. As we walk before Him, He will protect you through the storms of life that are coming. That is where we are going in this work.

Sodom and Gomorrah were slated for destruction, but the angels of God came and physically took Lot out of the city for his protection and for his life. He will do it for you and me. We can trust in the Lord. We are here to encourage you to trust the Lord for we know that He will never fail you. No matter where you go, no matter what place you are found on the face of this earth, God will be with you if you walk before Him. He will preserve you. He will keep you. He will deliver you. Those cities that are slated for destruction, He will deliver you from them all.

Do you believe there are cities slated for destruction today? I do. I believe there are cities slated for destruction today; and I believe that God is leading His people out of those cities. I believe that the devil is leading his people into those cities also. It is a righteous judgment, for God is judging the world. He is judging the church. He is moving by His Spirit in our lives, and we want to have a clean slate. We want to have a clean bill of health when the Great Physician looks at our health situation, even the very condition of our soul.

Sodom and Gomorrah were slated for destruction. God said in the Scripture to have rained down brimstone and fire and that is where we are taking up the story. Turn with me to **Genesis 19:24**.

19:24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

19:25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

19:25 But his wife

Notice that,

...looked back from behind him,

You notice the Scripture never gave the name of Lot's wife. Do you know why? Because she could be any of our wives. God did not give a specific name because He knew that we should relate and say, Lord, I will never turn back. Sisters, do not ever turn back. Do not ever turn back to the things that are back there in Sodom and Gomorrah. Do not look back to your possessions. Do not hold on to things. Do not hold on to any material possession whatsoever. Release them to the Lord. This will be the hardest test for the sisters; but do not look back.

19:27 And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD:

Abraham had a place that he came to early in the morning to commune with the Lord. We need that place where you and I commune with the Lord. Every morning, he had a customary place that he went to. It was not a tradition. It was not a religious spirit driving him. It was a hunger and a thirst and a desire to know this God. He was searching for a city that had foundations whose builder and maker was God. He had this desire in his heart. Do you have that burning in your heart? We are at a time when the foundations are already laid. The super structure is already going up. We are at the edge of time where the roof is going on of this great super structure! How much more should we have a desire for the living God than Abraham did?

Abraham loved God. He got up that morning to touch and to find the heart of the Father just as he did every morning. I want you to notice this. I want everybody here to watch this in the Scriptures at Verse 28.

19:28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

Abraham, as he got up customarily to meet with the Lord, saw something that day that he had never seen before in his entire life. Are you hearing me? He saw fire and brimstone coming down from God, raining down destruction, judgment upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Think about that. He saw something he had never seen before, EVER!

Thirty years ago, I was working as an engineering consultant for a consulting firm. They flew me all over the United States and Canada. Every city I went to was a city that was having a natural disaster. Oh, yes. For a year and a half every city that I was assigned to work in, was having a natural disaster. It was quite unusual, wasn't it? It was quite unique. I realized it was not man that was sending me to these places. It was

God. God's hand was upon my life even for this very moment to share with you the word the Lord gave to me.

The seventh place I found myself in was Mount St. Helens, where the volcano exploded in 1980. Many of you here were probably too young to remember that. It was in America, in the State of Washington. I was stationed in the largest city just outside of Mount Saint Helens; Longview, Washington. One day, I saw something I had never seen before, and I will tell you this: I have never seen it again except in pictures; like the pictures of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. I saw a mountain explode.

It was a volcano. I saw a thunderous cloud go up, and up, and up. It seemed like the heavens opened for it to go higher and higher and higher. I had never before seen such a sight in my whole life; the power of a volcano as it exploded. Do you know what I heard that day? What do you think I heard in the natural? Do you think I heard thunderous sounds and great rumblings? No, I did not! I heard nothing, not one sound. Yet I saw before my very eyes this huge mushroom cloud going up into the heavens.

Some of you engineers probably know why I did not hear anything. The wind was blowing at my back, therefore the sound was traveling away from me. If I had heard the sound of the volcano going off, soon the sun would have been covered in darkness and I would have been covered in ash. However, I was not on that side of the mountain.

Seven natural destructions, in seven different cities within a year and a half time; then I said, Lord, what are you speaking to me? The Lord is in control of our lives. He is in control of your life, and of my life. What the Lord spoke to me thirty years ago is still with me today. He said,

“In your life time you shall see disasters and catastrophes greater than the proportion man has ever seen; but as you walk before me, I will preserve you, I will protect you, I will keep you from all damage, danger and harm,” saith the Lord.

That word is not just for me. That word is for you. Take it as the word of the Lord. God will preserve you. **Psalm 91** will become your song. Under the shadow of the Almighty He will stretch forth His wings. He will preserve us. A thousand may fall at our side, ten thousand at our right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Amen!

Some years ago I was praying about this, and I said, Lord is there a confirmation that You can send me to that word that You gave me back in 1980? Have you heard of hurricanes? I come from the State of Florida where hurricanes are a common occurrence. I have survived many hurricanes in the State of Florida. There was a year,

2004, when a category two hurricane came in and actually leveled the city where I lived, Port St Lucie. Statistically, it was claimed that it is totally impossible for one city to get hit with two hurricanes greater than a category one, in one hurricane season. They said it was virtually impossible for this to happen. The number of zeroes behind the one is so astronomical.

However, not only did we have one, but we had two hurricanes; one a category two and the other a category three. Frances and Jean were their names. They came in to level Port St. Lucie not only in the same season, but also in the very same month! When something unusual happens like this, brethren, we need to enquire of the Lord, for He is surely speaking. He said,

“A dream doubled, shall surely come to pass.”

This is a passage of scripture out of Genesis, and I knew exactly what the Lord was saying; He was confirming the word He had given to me thirty years ago. He was confirming to me that you and I are going to face disasters. We are going to face destructions. We are going to face calamities never known to man. I am not here to scare you or to bring fear upon you, but I am here to share with you the word of the Lord that there is hope in the Lord. There is confidence in our God. There is strength in the Almighty. You do not need to be afraid. God tells us things which are to come to pass, so that when they do happen, we are prepared. We are ready! We can then have faith to believe God.

There is protection under the shadow of the Almighty. Do not be afraid of the storm clouds that are building. Do not be afraid whatsoever.

Our brother shared earlier about Haiti; two hundred thousand people were killed at the very least in the earthquake. We also heard a word from our brother the first night, “Men see destruction, but God sees restoration.” In that earthquake, God saw restoration.

We knew people that were in Haiti when it all happened, and we also saw new missionaries pouring into Haiti right after the earthquake happened. God has His people everywhere. There were so many testimonies that came out of the land of Haiti, and in the midst of that destruction there was restoration!

We heard this testimony of a sister that had children. When her husband went out to work, sisters would come together and they would have a prayer meeting in her house. They would bring their children and the sisters would come together for prayers. On

this particular morning she said, “Oh it’s such a beautiful morning. Let us go outside and have our prayer meeting outside.”

When all the women and children came outside for their prayer meeting, the earthquake struck. The whole house was leveled in a moment’s time, destroyed! If they were inside the house they would all have been killed. They were saved by the power of God! This is the result of simple obedience. She was walking with the Lord. She said to the other sisters, ‘Let’s go outside today,’ thereby saving her life, her children’s lives, and the lives of all those that fellowshiped with her! Glory to God!

There is an organization called Missionary Flight International (MFI). It operates flights between Florida and Haiti, bringing cargo goods all the time to Haiti. They operated about three times a week; big cargo planes with donations of things to Haiti. When the earthquake hit, I must say the people of America just poured out and gave. They filled those cargo planes and MFI began to send in SIX SHIPMENTS A DAY into Haiti! They were still doing six shipments a day even two months after the earthquake hit.

God has His people everywhere. The body of Christ is going to flow. All this group (MFI) does is bring in natural supplies to those countries that have needs. That is all they do. They trust the Lord for the rest. You and I are here to bring the word. Let us be obedient to the heavenly calling. Let us walk before the Lord.

We are talking about natural disasters. Have you ever heard of tsunamis before? Oh, yes, tsunamis. I had never heard of an actual tsunami hitting, until the first catastrophic tsunami hit Indonesia. I paid close attention after I heard of the sudden destruction that happened in Indonesia a few years ago.

I want to share something with you that is very key, very important. When the tsunami hit, do you know that there was very little wildlife that was killed? Do you know why God built it that way? God built it that way that the beast of the field, the beasts of the earth are so tied to this earth that they can feel and sense the smallest of changes, and know what to do and when to go to higher ground. Now if you don’t have a walk with God, then you would be wise to follow the beasts of the earth. It was reported that all the wildlife began to move into the high land just before the tsunami hit, just hours before!

How much more should we, the people of God, be in tune with our heavenly Maker? We should sense, we should know the times and the seasons. We should know the hour we are in, and we should be in obedience to the will of the Father. We should obey the

Lord. We should sense and live by the Spirit and know what God is saying, what God is doing, where God is leading us, and especially where He is not leading us.

In the tsunami of Indonesia, very little wildlife was killed. In Mount St Helens, there were fifty-seven casualties. Do you know that none of those should have happened? Not one person should have died. I know because I was there. Fifty-seven people were killed. One was a photographer that was down inside the volcano taking pictures when it exploded. That was the last thing he ever took a picture of. That was clear foolishness. There was another man that lived on Spirit Lake. They warned him, 'You must leave or you will die here'. He said, 'I would rather die here' and he did. There were others that just wanted to gaze and they broke through every road block and barrier.

In all, fifty-seven people died. Not one of them needed to die. Theirs was a needless death. May God help us to heed the warnings. God will send us prophets. God will send us the prophetic word. God will send us His utterances to warn us. Let us take heed to the word of the Lord.

So there are tsunamis, there are earthquakes, there are hurricanes, there are tornadoes, there are typhoons. There are all kinds of natural disasters. Are you noticing them taking off in the earth? Oh, yes, they are increasing. God is warning us. God is sending tremors our way that we may be warned, we the people of God.

Coming back to the story of Abraham; something happened in his heart that day. Abraham had met with the Lord, the day before, and the Lord had spoken of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. However, when Abraham SAW the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, something changed in his heart. Believe you me, that day, something changed.

Remember now, when the men came, when the Lord came and said that Sarah shall bring forth a son, do you remember what Sarah did in her tent? Yes, she laughed. She laughed because she could not believe it was possible for a woman, eighty-nine years of age to give birth and to bring forth a son. Do you remember Abraham's response to the Lord? He also laughed. Do you remember that? Oh, yes, it is in the Scriptures. He also laughed when God gave him the promise about Sarah.

Well, Abraham laughed. Sarah laughed. Do we know that God has the last laugh? Something happened in Abraham's heart that day and he began to believe God. He believed God when he saw the destruction; when he heard the word of the Lord, he knew that God is real! He will bring forth His word. His word shall be accomplished. I

am going to believe God, and Abraham began to believe God. Remember, this is the father of faith, and how God built faith within his heart. He believed the Lord and God had the last laugh. One year later, a son was born and the Lord said, 'You shall call his name Isaac.' Isaac means laughter so God had the last laugh.

Oh, don't you love the Lord? Abraham was a man of faith. He was a man that grew in faith. When we read in the New Testament about Abraham, you and I would say that he is a model man of God! That is someone else, but couldn't possibly be me. But God was seeing the end of his life. If we can look into the book of life you would see your name written there and you would see the things that you are about to accomplish, that even right now if God spoke to you what you would do, you would not believe it. God is delivering us from all unbelief.

We shall serve the living God and we shall believe His word. As Abraham said, He that spoke the word is able to perform it. God is speaking His word to His people today. Do not doubt. He will only strengthen your feet to go higher in the Lord.

Turn with me to the book of **Hebrews 12:18**. Now I want you to follow closely with me here.

12:18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

12:19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

12:20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, AND IF SO MUCH AS A BEAST TOUCH THE MOUNTAIN, IT SHALL BE STONED, OR THRUST THROUGH WITH A DART;

12:21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I EXCEEDINGLY FEAR AND QUAKE:)

12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

12:23 To the general assembly and church of the first born, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.,

12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

12:25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall we not escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

12:26 Whose voice thou shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, YET ONCE MORE I SHAKE NOT THE EARTH ONLY, BUT ALSO HEAVEN.

12:27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

12: 28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

God is in the shaking business. He is shaking things. Yes, He is. Everyone of us here, if you are walking with the Lord in any direction, God is shaking things in your life. He is shaking everything that can be shaken until, until, until that which cannot be shaken will remain.

So God is in the shaking business. God is therefore giving us a warning in His word, and remember, we ARE understanding the times in which we are living. He said that in the last days, in these last days, they shall be likened unto the land of Sodom and Gomorrah where Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed (Luke 17:29). Oh, yes. But as great as that destruction was, it was still isolated. It was still cities that were targeted. Many other cities on the earth at that time were not destroyed.

Follow me now. There was an isolated destruction, and God is saying in the end days, there is going to be isolated destructions. Certain cities are slated for destruction. Note also that He said that those days shall be likened unto the days of Noah (Luke 17:27). What happened during the days of Noah? There was a flood. Do you know how encompassing the flood was? The flood encompassed the entire world. All of Nigeria was under water. All of the United States was under water. The whole world was covered with water. As great as the destruction was in the time of Sodom and Gomorrah, which was isolated upon those cities, God caused water to come down from heaven; and the fountains of the great deep were broken up. Rain from heaven came as they had never seen rain before. The whole earth was flooded with water. That was

God's judgment. God judged the earth for sin and unrighteousness. God judged Sodom and Gomorrah for sin and unrighteousness. God said it shall be so in these last days.

We agree with God's word. He is going to judge unrighteousness. We love the Lord and we agree with Him. So He is giving us a warning that those things which happened back then when judgment came by water, He said now He will even shake the very heavens; He will shake the very foundations of the heavens and the earth.

Yet, be not afraid. Be not afraid. Our anchor is in the Lord. Our trust is in Him. He will preserve us from all destruction. You may now say to me, 'How will He do that?'

We have the answer. **“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”** Proverbs 3:5-6. Amen! That is the word of God. We trust the word of God with all our hearts. We look at those in the Old Testament and how they went through preparation. For God sends us tremors, tremors. God is sending little tremors your way, coming into your life. Let your confidence be found in the Lord.

There is a false sense of security we have in this earth. Oh, yes, a false sense of security. I know what I am referring to. In America, Nigeria, there is a false sense of security. Do not trust in anything down here. Trust in the Lord. He will preserve you. He will protect you. He will keep you.

And when the day came that Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed, the scripture said that God remembered Abraham and delivered Lot. (Gen. 19:29). So God has a covenant with us. You and I have a covenant with God. As we walk before Him, God will give us our households. Do you believe that? It is for only those that believe. It is only for those that walk with the Lord with their whole heart is this covenant given; but as you walk before the Lord, whatsoever you ask, you shall receive. You shall receive even the deliverance for your household. Wives, do not faint. If you have a wayward husband, you continue to pray. Your holy conversation coupled with fear will bring that man to his knees.

Trust the Lord. Believe in the Lord. Give confidence to Him and He shall be found faithful. For we know that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding.

So God is sending us tremors; little tremors are coming our way. However people do strange things when the pressure is increased, when the heat is on, when testing comes our way. Oh, yes. All sorts of strange things come out of our lives in the midst of

crisis. The people of Mountain St. Helens began to park their cars in the driveway in the direction of the road so that they could drive out very quickly.

Now brethren, if a volcano was going to erupt in your neighborhood, how much time do you think you have to get out of harm's way? Do you think you can drive fast enough? I do not think so. It is foolishness. You would be better off staying in your home, than getting in your car, and getting maybe 100 feet down the road before you are taken by whatever comes your way. May God help us.

People of the world are very foolish. Humanity is very foolish. You and I are very foolish without the Lord. People do strange things when they are under pressure; under testing. When I first moved to Florida, my wife and I went to a supermarket to pick up some things late at night. It was about eleven o'clock. When we saw so many cars in the parking lot we thought there must be a great sale going on here. The whole parking lot was packed solid! We went into the store and I saw all these people piling all sorts of goods in their shopping carts. The lines were stretched all the way into the aisles. Then I said, "What is going on here? Do they have a special sale or something? Are they giving things away?"

"Don't you have a TV?" they said. "Don't you have radio? There is a hurricane of a category four coming our way! And we are stocking up goods."

I therefore started to look into the shopping carts of the people that were buying goods. Do you know what I saw? I saw microwave and frozen dinners! Now brethren, let us reason together here a little. If a category four hurricane is coming your way, that means you are not going to have any power. Now, in America we do not live without power as much as you do here in Nigeria, but still you can think, "What am I going to do with a frozen dinner, if I have no electricity to cook it in the oven, and no electricity to keep it cool in the refrigerator for the next day?"

Are you gathering what I am saying? Man prepares his own way, but it is foolishness with God, utter foolishness. May God deliver us from foolishness. May God deliver us from fear. May God deliver us from panic. We do not need to panic. We do not need to fear.

I remember when I was a little boy. My father would take me to a lake up in Minnesota and we would go fishing for the day. One day a storm came up on the lake and we happened to be on the shore. Thank the Lord we were not out to sea. It was just like the storm that blew through here yesterday. It came down just like that, wind and rain; and

it was on the lake and you could not see anything. We thought, ‘Oh, poor people! Whoever is out on the lake right now is in serious trouble.’

When the storm finally subsided, here comes this boat! There were three men in this boat, and it comes to the shore. Remember, I am just a young lad and I stood watching this. The three men came out of the boat, and the one man had a rope tied around his foot and the other end of the rope was tied to the anchor. My father said, “Why did you tie the rope around your foot and then to the anchor?”

“So that if the boat goes down, I want to go down quick”, the man answered.

He already gave up! We are a people that do not give up. Amen! We do not have to tie a rope around our foot, tied to an anchor. If hard times hit, we trust the Lord. The Lord should be the anchor of our souls. So we are not driven to foolishness, we are not driven to panic.

We want to talk to you today about what the Lord is calling for. He is calling for preparation. There was a man in the Old Testament by the name of Joseph that was designated of the Lord to be a savior for his people. Joseph had a dream; he had a true vision from the Lord. God visited him and talked with him, and said there was going to be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine; and the seven years of famine were going to be so severe that they were going to eat up the years of plenty. Do you not love it when God warns us? God was warning Joseph and with God’s wisdom he began to open up store houses and he began to store corn.

Do you know that archeologists today have found in Egypt what they believe were the huge storage areas buried under the ground that were Joseph’s storage areas for the corn. They were astronomically huge. I saw pictures of them. I was amazed. They had an underground system that when the corn came down, it was filed into one major holding center. It had a place where people would buy the corn, fill up their sacks, and go out the other way. It was beautifully designed and engineered.

That was wisdom, wisdom in the natural; wisdom for Joseph during his day, passing down wisdom for you and I today. God says we need to store up corn, corn in our store house. Do you know what corn is? Corn is the word of God. Corn is food in the natural, and so the word of God is spiritual food. Brethren that is what we are doing here this weekend. We are storing up the word of God in our hearts. Spend time with the Lord and seek Him. Have fellowship and continue on with Him. You are the store house for the word of God. He will preserve you. He will protect you. He will tell you what to do. He will guide you by His Spirit, and no harm shall come upon you.

Do you believe the word of God? Yes, I believe the word of God. We want the word rich in our hearts. Now I want you to pay close attention because we are coming down to the part where you will really need to have understanding. God has set a platform for you to have understanding. He is sending tremors our way. Yes, He is sending little tremors our way because there is a bigger storm coming. There is a picture of a bigger storm that He is brewing in the face of all the nations.

When you see these troubled times, look up. Our brother shared earlier in this conference, Look up for your redemption draweth nigh. Trust in the Lord, for there is no need to fear.

So God sends these little tremors, and suddenly things start to come out of us. Things start to come out of us that we never even knew were there. Have you ever noticed that? Put somebody under a little bit of pressure, like a time constraint. Something has to be done before tomorrow morning. All kinds of things start to come out of us. Sometimes we get upset. Sometimes we get upset with the ones closest to us. Sometimes we get upset with our husbands and our wives and we explode like a volcano.

Or maybe you do not know what I am talking about. Oh, you do? Volcanoes that explode from within! Oh, yes, there are volcanoes in there. We are talking about volcanoes inside us. God wants to deliver us from every volcano. God wants to deliver us from every earthquake. Oh, fear is a horrible thing, is it not? Fear has torment, the Bible says, but perfect love casts out all fear. You know something about fear that I found? People that are prone to fear; that are given to fear, are also very controlling.

Fear breeds control. Oh, yes, a person becomes afraid and they say,

“No, you can’t go outside! You can’t go outside!”

They become very controlling. Have you ever been around a person that is very fearful? Have you ever felt threatened that you being controlled by that person? The fearful spirit is not of the Lord. God deliver us from all fear. God deliver us from control in the name of the Lord. We trust the living God. We trust Him and Him only will we serve. We do not need to panic in the midst of crises.

To tell you the truth, the church is in crisis. Oh, yes, the world is in crisis. The church is in a deeper crisis. We need the Lord more than ever, because everything that can be shaken is being shaken; EVERYTHING! We must trust and have our anchor in the Lord.

I want to show you some Scripture that I think will bless you. This passage we just read in **Hebrew 12** is very interesting because we just read about God shaking the heaven and the earth. But just before that we read about a man by the name of Esau. That is in verse **16** and **17**.

12:16 Lest there be any fornicator or profane person as Esau who for one morsel of meat sold his birth right.

12:17 For ye know that afterward when he would have inherited the blessing he was rejected, for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

I kept pondering the placement of this Scripture in its context. They said he sought it carefully with tears but there was no place of repentance. Who was this man by the name of Esau? Oh, yes. We shared about Abraham. We shared about Isaac, and Isaac had two sons. The two sons were twins, Esau and Jacob. Now I tell you something. Neither name is a good name. Esau, or Edom means red, ruddy, a man of the flesh.

Jacob was not a better name either. You know what Jacob means? Oh, yes, supplanter; he was a deceiver. He deceived, and he learned deception, even from his mother, Rebecca. You know the story very well. Rebecca taught him how to deceive. God deliver us from what our forefathers have taught us that is contrary to the word of God. God deliver us. Our prayer is,

“Lord, I receive only that which you have given to me. All else of my tutoring and training I receive not. I want the Father’s will done in my life. God deliver me from every familiar way, from every custom, from every tradition that is contrary to the will of God. Father I honor You. I trust only in You.”

So Jacob and Esau grew up together, but Esau was a man of the flesh. Esau loved to hunt and he loved food, venison. One day Esau went out hunting. He came back and he had caught nothing. He was very, very hungry. His brother on the other hand, was already making a bowl of pottage. Now, think of this, brethren, picture it in your mind. This man Esau comes in and he is very hungry. Have you ever been very hungry? Esau was on that day. The Scripture records that he said his hunger was so great that he said,

“Behold, I am at the point to die:”

This is a question to the sisters now. Do you think if he did not eat that day he would have died? You are right. He would not have died. Neither will your husband die. Hunger is a strange thing, isn’t it? When you do not have your meal on time, sometime

you become irritable, upset, angry. Oh, sometimes that is when the volcanoes go off in our homes. God deliver us from every volcano. We are not given to food. We should be a people given to fasting and prayer, men and women of God. Yes, one meal, you begin with one meal. Two meals, three meals, finally you make it a day, two days! As men and women of God, we should be people of fasting and prayer that know what it means to go without food; that know what it means to go before the Lord and be filled with the word of God, called of God. Let the thought reach our hearts that we love only Him.

We should be able to fast and pray for a week. Brethren if you are up against the enemy of your soul, you can go two weeks. You will be surprised how long you can go without food. I know. Yes, you can go three weeks. Yes, you can. You can go twenty-eight days. You can go forty days if the Lord calls you to do it. He did it in the Old Testament. He did it in the life of Moses. He did it in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. He can do it in your life. We have struggles, things within us, volcanoes that need to come under the blood of Jesus Christ.

Esau was a man of the flesh. He wanted the flesh. He said, 'I will die if I do not get anything to eat.' God deliver us from being irritable. Deliver us from anger. Deliver us from frustration. Frustration often takes hold of the people of God.

What is your pressure relief valve? Hello! Do you know what your pressure relief valve is? When certain things do not go your way, when you are under pressure, you are under some time constraint, you have not slept the night before, you have not slept in two nights, you have not slept in a week, you have not eaten that day, you become irritable inside. We become upset. Sometime we even become confused. God deliver us from confusion. God is not the author of confusion but of peace. God should fill our hearts with peace every day.

We should be a people given to fasting and prayer. Esau wanted venison. He wanted food and he sold his birthright. Are you hearing me today? He sold his birthright for a bowl of pottage. May God help us! You might say, 'How could a man have done that?' He had no value for the birthright, none. It meant nothing to him. He said, 'if I die what good is my birthright?' Brethren, you have a birthright in Christ. Don't you sell that birthright for anything. Cherish it. Hold it close to your heart. It is the promise of God for you. Do not let any man take it away from you.

I want you to notice closely here that Esau did not give his birthright away. He did not give it away. No. The Scriptures said he SOLD it. There is a difference between buying and selling, and giving. Do you know that? You should know that here in

Nigeria. There is a big difference. When you buy and sell, there is a contract in the spirit. You are giving something in order to receive something. Or you are selling something that you no longer have need of. In any case something is sealed spiritually. There is a big difference between giving and selling.

Oh, yes, as a young man, the Lord told me one day to sell all I had, sell everything. I was questioning the Lord, “Lord, do you have twentieth century disciples today?” I wanted to know. I knew there were disciples during Jesus’ days; but how about in the twentieth century? Today the question might be ‘Do you have twenty-first century disciples today? My question was thirty- some – years ago. The Lord said to me, “Yes, and you are one of them. Now go and sell all that you have.”

Now brethren, I had accumulated a lot of things. I was a wealthy young man. I had cars. I was looking at boats in Southern California. I had a beautiful condominium. I had money in the bank, furniture; I had everything that many young men and women want today. God said sell it all.

God has twenty-first century disciples today. I am not telling you what to do. I am telling you what God told me to do. I sold everything. In the process of selling however, I got so excited I began to give things away,

“Brother, here, you have this. I give this to you. Would you like to have this? Yes, I give this to you....”

I got so excited. One night when I went before the Lord in prayers, the Lord rebuked me and said,

“I did not tell you to give. I told you to sell.”

Now you probably do not understand any more than I did. I did not understand why. The key, however, is obedience. So I went back to selling what I had in obedience to the Lord. Then the Lord gave the revelation. The revelation is when you sell, God sends the buyer, God sets the price. God is in control. On the other hand when you give, you are in control. Are you hearing me today?

The principle is in the word. The Lord spoke to his disciple, sell all that you have, and then give to the poor. Obedience to the Lord. You want to grow in revelation? Grow in obedience. When you obey the Lord He will give you revelation. But until you obey the word of the Lord revelation will be held back from you. Trust me when I say that.

Esau sold his birthright. He sold it for a bowl of pottage. I pray there will not be one person here that will sell their birthright in Christ for something of the earthly gain. We are going to pray for you that not one of you will sell your birthright. Esau sold his birthright, and I tell you, even in the story there is something that grieved the heart of the Father even more than that. It says after he sold his birthright, he sat down, he ate, he drank; and the Bible said that he ROSE UP AND WENT HIS WAY. Think of that. He rose up and went his way. The children of Israel in the wilderness when they built the golden calf, it says they ate, they drank and they rose up to play. They rose up to PLAY brethren. Esau ate, he drank and he went his WAY. It did not trouble him at all. There was no repentance.

Brethren, when we sin and we fall short of the glory of God the Holy Spirit convicts us immediately. The Holy Spirit immediately convicts us. That is the time we go down before the Lord, 'Lord, forgive me. Lord, I repent. Lord I have missed Your way. Forgive me.' Do not let one day; do not let one hour go from you when you know the Holy Spirit is convicting you of something you have done wrong.

We are talking about growing in the Lord today. We are talking about being established in the Lord. We are talking about those that are matured, those that understand the times. Are you understanding the times today? Understand the day and the hour we are living in.

Esau, it did not trouble him that he had lost his birthright. It did not trouble him and so the Scripture said therefore Esau despised his birthright. He despised his birthright. I pray there will be not one here that despises their birthright. You have great and precious promises given to you from the Lord. Believe the Lord. Receive them and do not sell them for one morsel of food, one carnal thing, one worldly thing, one anything that the devil will tempt you with. You are a son of the living God! You have being called to sonship, to walk all the way with the Lord. No one comes to discipleship without first giving a full dedication and commitment to the Lord. Once you have done that, you begin to walk with the Lord. God will advance you and you will become a true son and daughter of the living God.

So what is your pressure relief valve? When pressure gets too great within, do you rise up in anger? Do you get upset? Do you do things that you should not do? Do you get frustrated? Do you get confused? It is a good question for all of us here. What happens when the pressure is really on? Certain pressures do not seem to trouble us until more pressure is added. Sometimes God has to take us out of our environment to deal with the deeper things within.

Just think of what God said in His word in Jeremiah 48:11. Moab was settled on his lees. He was not poured from vessel to vessel. He was not **POURED OUT**. When you manufacture wine, wine has lees that come up inside of the wine. The wine therefore needs to be poured off from one vessel to another that the lees might stay in the other container so that it can be washed away. Lees begin to stink after a while. It is a terrible smell. Some of the finest wine, if you allow it to settle on its lees will develop a terrible taste, and an awful stench will develop as well.

God is therefore saying that wine must be poured from vessel to vessel. Moab was not poured from vessel to vessel. Allow God into your life to change your life. Allow God to pour you from vessel to vessel that we be cleansed, cleansed, cleansed of every sin, of every wicked way, of every carnal thought. There is a pathway in Christ that God is leading us; and we are walking with him now, moving with Him. Let us let the Lord wash away everything contrary to Him.

Husbands: I want to say a word to the men, the fathers, to the husbands. Do not allow sin to come into your household. It is the greatest way for the enemy to come in and destroy your life, the life of your wife and the life of your children, when you allow sin to come into the camp. Husbands, fathers hear the word of the Lord today. You are the priest of your household. You are the king and the priest in your household. You have the responsibility and you have the power given to you from God to resist sin and keep sin out of your household.

I tell you, things are changing. Things are drastically changing. Crisis is coming upon the church. I have been in full time ministry for twenty-eight years of my life. The last three years of ministry have been given totally to crisis. Crisis, oh yes, we are talking about crisis. Have you ever come into a household where divorce is entering into the picture between husband and wife? Oh yes, you are watching a real volcano. You are watching an earthquake coming into that home. God is calling us to be saviors, to sit down, to pray, to counsel with couples that are on the verge of divorce. Divorce is destroying the church of God. The long term effects of divorce on the children are so devastating. If a man was in his right mind he would never consider it, never! If he is in Christ, he would never consider it. He would consider the damaging effect it will have on his children, on his wife. Husbands, keep sin out of your life, out of the camp. God has given you a wife. Be faithful to that wife in Jesus name. God has called you to faithfulness.

Wives be faithful to your husbands. Secure the door. Do not let the enemy come in to destroy, and bring distraction. We are talking about crises. We are facing crisis in the

church today. Division, divorce is coming into the home in many, many facets, in many ways.

Sometimes we are in the midst of people who have severe sickness or illness that have been terribly troubled. You watch and see the effects it has on the rest of the family! When one is sick, deathly sick, with not many days to live; ever been in a situation like that? It is very difficult. Pressure is building. People say things that they would never say. They do things that they would never do, but Christ wants to be King of the soul. We can allow Christ to come into our lives regardless of what volcano is building. May we find ourselves in Christ.

Sickness can bring many trials into the whole household. One person can be sick: it is like a battle field where other soldiers need to come and rescue that one person out of harm's way. Sometimes it takes five or ten soldiers to deliver one wounded soldier; and so it is in the army of God. One person gets sick at home and it affects all the other family members. It affects them all.

God wants to intervene in every situation of crisis. God is the giver and taker of our lives. We trust Him. Over the years we have seen many of God's people raised up, healed miraculously. Oh yes! We saw one in the State of California just last year. His death certificate was already signed! Brethren, that is unheard of! That is unheard of in the United States and I imagine here too. His death certificate was already signed and God pulled him out of the grave and began to heal his brain. The neurosurgeon said he would never live, and if he lived, he would only be a vegetable. That doctor was wrong.

Jesus Christ is the giver and taker of all life. God is able to deliver. He is able to heal. Not only did God heal him physically, but last November at a conference much like this in the State of Nebraska he gave his heart to the Lord. A man that was against Christ all of his life, surrendered his heart to the living God. If all the angels in heaven can rejoice over one sinner that repents, how much more should we rejoice? God is still in the healing business. God is still in the delivering business, but God is sovereign. We have seen where the Lord has taken some of our brethren home to be with the Lord. The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh; blessed be the name of the Lord.

Do you know that more people are won to Christ at funerals than at weddings? Think about that. When people are broken, when people are searching as they have never searched before, that is where we should be. In your neighborhood, you have friends, you have neighbors all around you. Pray for them. Be kind to them, serve them. I thank God for my wife. She sends her greetings to you! Many of you remember her. When

someone moves into our neighborhood, she is making something. She is making a meal or she is baking a desert, or bread, or cookies and she brings it to the neighbors. Sometimes the neighbors look and say,

“Oh, no one has ever given me anything my whole life!”

It opens the door. Kindness is a wonderful thing. The love of God is contagious, brethren, believe you me! Start to share the love of God to the people around you; your peers, your co-workers, those you work with, those around you. Just begin to shower them with love. You do not have to preach to them. Begin to shower them with Love, and you pray, and you pray, and you pray, and you wait upon God until (listen closely now) UNTIL the crisis comes into their lives; and God will help you right there. He will have you go to the hospital to visit them and you will be allowed to pray for them.

My wife is a register nurse for over thirty- five years now. Wherever she went, after she ministered to their natural needs she would say to the patient, ‘Can I pray for you?’ A hundred percent (**100%**) of the time people would say, ‘Yes’. Crisis opens every door to pray for the sick, so let us pray for them.

Brethren, we have friends, we have neighbors, we have all kinds of colleagues all around us. Pray for them and wait upon God for the crisis to come that you may win a soul and cause one that is a sinner to turn to Christ because of your love and your kindness.

In the midst of crisis, God will have His people. He has prepared you and me for crisis. We have been built for tribulation, are you hearing me? This is a deeper word now. Do you hear what I am saying? God has prepared you as a vessel that can handle tribulation, that can handle testing, that can handle the fires of life, that you can minister grace to someone else in time of need. What you are storing up today, you are going to give to others. That is the nature of Christ. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Many people are in crisis today. We have been in the midst of crisis; financial crisis. Let me tell you about financial crisis. A brother in the Lord came into our town several years ago. I believed that I heard from the Lord that he was to move and be joined with us in fellowship, and God opened up a home for him to move into. Now listen to this. The brother comes into this home and he walks through this home and he says,

“Wow, this is beautiful. It is more than I ever dreamed. I would love to live in this home.”

“If you love this home,” I suggested, “It is yours. Believe God. It is yours. I guarantee you. It is yours.”

“Oh, no, no. I could never get work in this town. I have to be in a big city in order to work and do the employment that I do.”

“But what is God saying? If God is saying He is giving you this home, then He will give you work in this area,” I stated.

Are you hearing me? Well, he left the promise of God. He left that house and went and moved to the big city. He poured out his life for this company where he was working. He was working day and night. Every time I called him, even at eleven o’clock in the night, he was at work, working, working, working. You probably know some men or women that are given to their work like that. They give hours and hours, not just eight hours; sixteen hours a day! They hardly have enough time to sleep. Work has become an idol to them. God, deliver us from every idol.

Well, after three years of working for this company, suddenly another company bought them out. A merger happened. One after another, his colleagues were called into an office and within ten minutes, they were cut, no longer employed! He sat at his desk, waiting for the phone to ring. The phone rang. He went into the office and within ten minutes time they fired him also; no longer employed.

He gave his life, his heart, his soul to this business. Everything he was working for, to bring provision to his family, everything he wanted, was in this business. EXCEPT the Lord was not first! Brethren, the Lord must be first in our lives. Do not ever move to where the job is unless the Lord has spoken to you to go. I have seen God bless brethren that have moved into areas, cities and fellowships, just because the Lord spoke to them to go there. Once they moved there, God blessed them. God brought them a provision, brought them work; and I have seen just the opposite with those that moved because of money or a promotion. They moved to the big corporations, they moved with a promise to make it big; but it was not God. It destroyed them. We want to be in the will of the Lord. Do not be enticed by the seeing of the eye.

Let me tell you the end of the story with this brother.

Three years later he called me on the phone and said, “I would like to come and visit with you. Do you have a free weekend?”

I said, “Come.” He came up on a Friday night. All day Saturday we fellowshiped and shared.

Not until Sunday did he opened his heart and say, “I have been fired. I don’t have work anymore.”

He was a broken man. Have you ever seen a broken man before? Oh, yes. He was broken, totally destroyed. Everything he had worked for, everything he had desired, suddenly came crashing down all around him. He was a sight to behold.

I said, “Brother, I have good news for you.”

I took him by car and drove him back to that same house. That same house was now available again! We walked through the house and he said, ‘I remember this house.’

I said, “It is yours. That is the word of the Lord to you! It is yours.”

He said, “Do you believe I can get a job in this small town?”

I said, “I absolutely believe that God will give you a job in this town.”

He said, “I am going to believe, I am going to believe!”

It is God’s work, when His servants work in His vineyard. I prayed with the brother. Not only did he get one job offer that next week, he got two job offers! God is so good he gave him a choice. Praise God!

Brethren, you are in crisis of one form or fashion. Some have crisis in their finances. Some of you are struggling just to keep your marriage together or there’s problems with the children. Some are struggling with illness. It is affecting all of your family members. Some of you know of other family members who are ill also and it is affecting you. There is crisis in the body of Christ. Some of you are in a devastating crisis of the loss of a loved one, a husband, a wife, mother or father; very serious business today. We are talking about crisis, but God has built you and I for this hour, that everything that can be shaken, will be shaken until that which cannot be shaken will remain.

Turn with me to **Proverbs 24:10**

24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

I pray that there not be one here who will faint in their day of adversity. Let us be strong, not in ourselves but strong in the Lord. For the weaker the vessel the stronger the Lord is. God is saying to you and me, if you faint in the day of adversity thy strength is small. Let that not be named once amongst us for the day of adversity has come.

Crisis has come to the church. The church is in birth pains ready to be delivered. Brethren, the sisters know what it means to bring forth children and they know the pain that they go through; but when they deliver they no longer remember. We are believing for a man-child to be born. The church has entered into labor pains, and this is where the tough get going. God has called you to be a part of the army of the living God. God has called you to stand in the day of crisis, that you might stand in the gap and minister peace in the midst of every storm.

Are you all thinking today? Good, the Lord loves you. He wants you to prosper. He is going to cause you to prosper in ways you never believed possible. He is going to place you in the midst of crisis, in the midst of devastation, but God will arise upon thee; and he shall shine His face upon thee. Then you shall give that which you have received in this hour; for you are storing up corn in the storehouse just as Joseph did. Get as much corn as you can; get as much word as you can. Spend time with the Lord. Seek the Lord with all of your heart. Be filled with the power and the glory of God. Let the Lord minister to each and every one of you. All of you should be feasting at the Lord's Table. All of you should be at the table of showbread feasting on Christ. If you are not, we as ministers have failed. Our job is to bring you to that table that you can feast on the Christ so that the body can be made whole, every whit whole.

He is building a body in the earth today; a many membered body where each one of you is vital in the army of God. Let not one person, let not one little one, say I am of no value to the Lord. That is not true. Nor is that the word of the Lord to you. God says you are valuable to the King. To the King of all kings, you are valuable. You have a position and a place unique, only for you to fulfill. I pray each one of you here fulfills it.

This is a call not just to the men. It is a call to the women, and it is a call to the children. You are valuable to Him. Let us believe what God has spoken to us and not what our own soul may say to ourselves any longer. Let us believe the word of God and let us prosper in the word. Let us believe what God has spoken, that we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; not nations! We are one nation!

We came to Nigeria twenty years ago with a word from the Lord that we have need in the States for you. Do you believe that? I believe it. We have need, the body of Christ in America has need of you in Nigeria; and you in Nigeria have need for the body of Christ in America. Let nothing divide us. Let nothing separate us. Let no enemy come in and divide that which God has joined, for we are equally yoked. We are growing in Christ and we are working with Him. He is raising up one new nation; one blood, not

my blood, not your blood, but the blood of Christ is flowing through the veins of this many membered body.

Turn with me, one last Scripture, to **Isaiah 66:22**

66:22 For as the new heaven and the new earth which I will make shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall thy seed and your name remain.

This is a promise from God to you. The new heaven and a new earth that He will make shall remain. You may ask what is going to remain? All that God is making, all that God is creating right now will remain. He is sealing it. He is sealing it in the saints of the Most High.

Destruction is coming but all through Scripture, God always protects His people just when they need it. When you study **Ezekiel 8** and **9**, there was a slaughtering going on with six men with slaughter weapons in their hands, but there was one that had a writer's ink horn by his side. He was going through the congregation marking those that sigh and cry for the abominations taking place in the household of God.

The writer's ink horn is going through the land right now sealing us, marking us. For those that cry, and those that sigh, God knows our hearts. It is no longer time to criticize. It is time to love, and it is time to be broken for that which is being done in the outer court, or even in the world today. My God, can we see what is happening? Sin is taking over the whole world. Unrighteousness is ruling and reigning; but God is raising up a people supreme.

We can rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice, for the Lord is sealing His people. Did you ever notice what day that was when this happened in **Ezekiel 8:1**? Take a close look at it. It says it was the sixth year, of the sixth month, of the fifth day. Sixth year, sixth month, fifth day; so it was **665**. It was one day short of **666**. God has a message for you and me just before the destruction totally takes over with the fullness of man, or wickedness, or **666**. The message is that God will mark His people and seal them for their protection just before the wickedness of man reaches its fullness.

We are feeling tremors. We are feeling earthquakes and we are dealing with our volcanoes with the help of the Lord. God is preparing a temple within us; but all hell is about ready to break loose.

However I have a good word for you, a promise from God, that just before you need it, you will be preserved, you will be protected, you will be sealed by the power of the living God! Do you believe the Lord today? I believe the Lord with all my heart. Do

you believe the Lord? He will preserve you, He will protect you, He will keep you and He will seal you from all danger.

The Book of Revelation talks about those that are sealed with the seal of the living God. He is going through the land right now sealing those that are His, sealing those that are sighing and crying for the abominations in the household of God, that He alone will have a people worthy on that day, and in that hour.

Everything that can be shaken, brethren, will be shaken in order for that which cannot be shaken to remain!

We have heard there has been much bloodshed in the land of Nigeria. We are hearing reports of Christian people being killed. How many know that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal? Do we take up the sword and defend ourselves? No! Do you really believe that? The Bible says the weapons of our warfare are not carnal! We do not take up the sword. If you take up the sword, you will die by the sword. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they are **mighty** through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

There is an army assembled here. There needs to be prayers to take down those spirits! Prayers to take down those spirits of violence and murder. Are you hearing me brothers? We need to lead a charge for the people of God that we will take up our armaments which are not carnal, and all here will observe and see that our weapons are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

We do not need to be afraid of the enemy. The Bible says to love your enemy. We are to love him and pray for him that he be delivered from the spirits of darkness of this age; the spirits of fornication, the spirits of murder, the spirits of theft and the spirits of sorcery. These spirits that have been released over the surface of all the earth are in full operation today; **but we have power with our God!**

God has given us everything that we need to destroy the power of the enemy. He has given us the blood. We overcome them by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony and we love not our lives unto the death.

We have the blood. We have the Holy Spirit; and we have the Spirit of Christ. We can destroy every power of the enemy. What is being tested right now is your faith, not the weapons. The weapons will destroy all the power of the enemy. Will you believe? I believe, I believe! I believe. Lord Jesus, destroy my unbelief! Destroy your unbelief. God help us, deliver us.

Let us pray for these things that are happening in your land. We are praying back home in the USA about many atrocities that are coming, and we are seeing the hand of the Lord stay the enemy. For I tell you the truth, the enemy would have closed in stronger by now, had we not prayed.

Trust the Lord.

CHAPTER FIVE
THE LIGHT OF THE LORD’S DAY AND HIS KINGDOM
(RICHARD OSAGIE IYOHA)

The theme of our conference is:

“Understanding the Times: The Light of the Lord’s Day And His Kingdom”.

We will look at the Light of the Lord’s Day and His Kingdom. Turn your Bible to **2 Corinthians 4:6**. This Scripture was also quoted in the course of the last chapter. Let us read from verse **1**.

4:1 Therefore, seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not.

4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor dishonesty; nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost;

4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the mind of them which believe not; lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ who is the image of God should shine unto them.

4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Christ’s sake.

4:6 But God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus.

This passage of Scripture as well as others we shall be having in reference indicates a divine contrast. In most of the verses we read, the Scripture talked about darkness and things that answer to darkness. Either by works or by being, darkness is alluded to; but right in the midst of it, there is the outshining of a bright light.

God always does this whenever darkness fills any place. Before I had this understanding, I used to be worried and very concerned when darkness seems to almost take over a place. But sometimes back, the Lord showed me that the grosser the darkness gets, the more apparent the light becomes. You will really not appreciate light except against the background of darkness.

For the purpose of this word from the Lord, we shall be looking at darkness and light as follows:

(Darkness answers to works, actions, situations and personalities physical or spiritual that is devoid of light. It will also include ignorance, lack of understanding and outright foolishness

Light on the other hand denotes the absence of darkness. It includes good works and deeds, and by extension, men and women who practice good works and live in obedience to the word of God. We are the light of the world).

When darkness is very thick, when almost everything appears dark and there appears to be no light at all, even a little ray of light will be greatly appreciated. The Lord therefore made this known to me that when darkness fills the land and everywhere is covered with darkness, that he (the Lord) has a way of bringing up light right in the midst of it.

The bible tells us that God commanded that the light to shine out of the darkness. Only God can do that! He is the Lord who can bring life out of death. He is the Lord that can bring good out of everything that would appear to all to be evil, and everything bad. He created the good order out of the chaos in Genesis chapter one! ***“God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the Lord in the face of Jesus Christ”...***

Light and darkness do not agree. When there is darkness and you beam in light, darkness disappears. It is automatic. You do not need to pray for it. You do not need to exercise any special kind of faith. The solution to darkness is light! The moment light comes into the realm of darkness, darkness disappears. The Bible says that ***“the light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehended it not”***.

So beloved brethren, we do not need to be worried when there is darkness in the earth. When gross darkness appears to cover the entire earth, when all around you appears to be all dark, the child of God, the child of His purpose should rejoice; because the Lord, who has the ability and the unique characteristic of causing light to come out of darkness, is present!

In fact, when darkness appears very thick and very gross a lot of time, I find myself rejoicing because I am looking out for the Lord to show up anytime! Because he is the Lord who is in “...*the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with ...*” Deut. 5:22. Who “...*made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies...*”

We are going to look at that and look at some of this Scriptures in the light of what the Lord is saying. Let us take a few Scriptures and see how the Lord God Jehovah whom the Bible said dwells in light that no man can approach unto, the Lord who clothed Himself with light as with a garment can be in a place and hide Himself in thick darkness. We will explain what that means.

Somebody said yesterday that the devil was very foolish. When he was crucifying the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and was killing Him and torturing Him, darkness was all over the earth “...*And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour...*” Luke 23: 44. Everywhere was covered with darkness; but unknown to them, the Lord of all lights was going to spring forth from the midst of that darkness! He did! He resurrected. When that light shone into the realm of darkness all the forces that contributed to that darkness were paralyzed and the Lord arose. The Lord God who commanded the light to shine forth out of darkness shorn forth!!

Let us take a few scriptures and we will try to be brief. **Exodus 20**, we will read from verse **18**. Follow closely:

20:18. And all the people saw all the thundering, and the lightning's, and the noise of the trumpets, and the mountains smoking; when the people saw it they removed and stood afar off.

20:19. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us lest we die.

If God spoke to them they would not have died. Now you can see from the foregoing scripture that fallen humanity is very comfortable in darkness. Here, the Lord appears to them. There are thundering and lightning. If it there was total darkness here and a beam of light shines forth, everywhere will become bright. We will see ourselves fully. But, the people did not like the light, according to the Scriptures because their deeds were evil. They were more comfortable in/with darkness, where all the hidden work of evil is done. Fallen Man is more comfortable in darkness. He prefers to be in the dark – because his deeds are evil.

20:20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not, for God is come to prove you and that his fear may be before your faces that ye sin not

God came with light and the people ran away. They said, No, let Moses talk to us because if God speaks to us we will die. That has been the story beloved brethren. When you begin to expose the hidden works of darkness in the lives of men, they rebel against you because they prefer darkness. When you begin to expose their wickedness's as you beam the search light of the word into their wicked works, they consider the prospect of exposure unbearable and therefore rebel. This is one key reason people remain in their sins. They love the wages of sin too much to let go.

They said, Moses, we do not want to stay and face the light of Jehovah; we would die if we come under this light! Would they really have died? The only thing in them that would have died is the carnal nature. Their flesh would have died; but these men would have entered into a realm where they sin not. They would have had permanent victory over sin and the sin nature; but they chose to remain in darkness. They ran far away from the light!

Moses said to them, No, God has not come to kill you. He has come with light so that He can prove you; and having been thus proven, you come into an estate of victory over sin. But these men said, *“No, we want to remain in darkness. We want to retain our sins. We choose to retain our evil works. We will run far away from God. You go and talk to Him, and you come and talk to us. We will hear you”*.

You know why they prefer to hear Moses? Because, if Moses talked nonsense, they would beat him up. And they tried to do this several times, isn't it? They said we will hear you; but God? No way! If He talks with us we will die.

God has not come to kill you. When God begins to expose your works of darkness in this meetings, let no man be afraid. I see some times when we make some alter calls;

some people have this attitude of, ‘Well, I am not going! How can all these people know I had such a problem?’

People want to stay in darkness. They enjoy the works of darkness. It may not really be that they enjoy it, but they prefer it; because they do not want to let go of those evil works.

The people therefore decided to hear Moses. They can stone Moses. If he said what they did not like, they picked up stones and stoned him; but you cannot stone God. We shall read chapter **19** from verse **20**.

19:20 And the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain; and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

19:21 The LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the Lord to gaze, and many of them perish.

19:22 And let the priest also, which come near to the Lord, sanctify themselves, lest the Lord break forth upon them.

19:23 And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai: for Thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the Mount, and sanctify it.

19:24 And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.

19:25 So Moses went down unto the People and spake unto them.

Now, the Lord came down upon the mountain and there was thick darkness round about him. He is the Lord that dwellest in the midst of thick darkness.

When darkness is very thick, the Lord is near, because the Lord has many people in the midst of that darkness and He will shine in their hearts. He will shine forth for their redemption. He will shine forth for their deliverance. He will shine forth so they will not perish. Therefore when we see darkness all around, especially these days, beloved brethren, let us not fear! One of the things the Lord is telling His people at this time is “fear not”; Let darkness cover the earth, let gross darkness cover the people; but

beloved brethren, you should not be afraid because the Lord shall arise upon you in the fullness of His light!

Let us look at **Deuteronomy 5:22**.

5:22 These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tablets of stone, and delivered them unto me.

Now you can see why I call it ‘the divine contrast’. The Lord comes down to the whole assembly. He speaks to them in the midst of fire. Fire is not dark, beloved brethren. Fire brings light. The sun, the stars that services this Solar System, are huge balls of fire, burning from the day the Lord created them, beaming with light to thousands of kilometers away.

The appearing of the Lord is described in this 3-fold manner:

1. He came down in fire
2. He came down in a thick cloud
3. He came down in thick darkness.

How these three mixed together in this appearance is a mystery. However, we are going to look the third aspect, which is, *“the Lord comes down in the midst of thick darkness”*.

God came down upon that mountain and there was thick darkness. The people would look, the fire is burning, there is cloud all over the mountain, but right in the midst of it, where the Lord Himself is, He is clothed with thick darkness. *“...He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies...”*

It is like there is darkness all around Him; but the Lord, according to the Scriptures, is light. The Bible says God is light. Every one say, *“God is light! God is light.”*

2 Samuel 22:12

22:12 And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies.

God made darkness His pavilion. Now take a little look at the tabernacle. In the outer court, the light is from the natural sun, sun, natural light, natural understanding!! When men dwell in the realm of natural understanding, walking according to the senses, they are living in the outer court. It is the character of the outer court for men

who live in that realm to live according to their natural understanding, natural senses. They do not think spiritually.

In the Holy place however, the candlestick brings light. It beams light into the whole of that place. Each time I look at the tabernacle I am amazed, because I do recall the times when there is power outage in my house. Here am I in a ventilated room with light. Then suddenly, light is gone. I open my windows, and I will still be sweating. But do you know that the Holy Place had no windows. There was no ventilation. The place was covered. Look at me now, I am wearing this coat and I am feeling very hot. I am sweating. The priests that operated in the Holy Place were dressed in layers upon layers of garments. Yet God gave commandment that they must not sweat.

Have you ever wondered how he did not sweat? Apart from the fact that the place was not ventilated, the light from the seven lamps were generating heat, burning oil. The place could be lit only by the candles and yet the priest that went into place for ministry would not sweat. God commanded him not to sweat.

Comparatively, that place is even good. Then you move into the Holy of Holies. In the Holy of Holies it was all covered. The door into it, called the veil, covered the only opening. There was no natural light at all in that compartment. There was no sun, no candle stick, and no natural form of lighting. Can you see why the Bible says the Lord hides Himself in thick darkness? That priest had to go into that darkness to minister.

The Lord said to Moses, Tell Aaron, he is to come before me, bringing incense to the mercy seat between the wings of the cherubim. There I will speak with him. If you were to enter that place without incense, it would be pitch dark and you would see nothing. No light is coming in from anywhere. Nothing filters in. It was total darkness, gross darkness, and yet the Lord was there!

Until the priest takes a handful of incense and he offers it between the wings of the cherubim upon the mercy seat and then the whole place brightened up with the Shekina. It was so bright that Aaron could see every single furniture inside the Holy of Holies. The place becomes brighter than the Holy Place, brighter even than the outer court. Yet there was not a single lamp in there except the Shekina.

This is why the Bible says that *'He maketh darkness His pavilion'*. God makes darkness his pavilion; but when men bring incense before Him, when they come with praise, with worship, when they come exalting the name of the Lord, the presence of God breaks upon them. The place becomes so bright that the priest can minister before the Lord without erring.

This God is a great God of contrasts. He is light but He can wrap Himself in thick darkness. We will look at that for a moment. Let us take a few more readings. Turn to **1 kings 8:12**

8:12 then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.

The Lord said He would dwell in thick darkness.

8:13 I have surely built thee a house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever.

8:14 And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the people of Israel; (and all the congregation of Israel stood;)

8:15 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled it, saying,

8:16 Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein, but I chose David to be over my people Israel.

Wow take note that Solomon acknowledged the fact that God said He would dwell in thick darkness. Let us not be afraid when darkness seems to be all around us. We should not fear. The Bible says we are the light of the world. God will shine through us. Remember that the light we are is actually the light that God is; not our own light. But the light that God is. In **Psalms 18:11**, the Bible says, *“He made darkness His secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick cloud of the skies”*.

He made darkness His secret place. Didn't the Bible say he that dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty? And now David is telling us that the Lord made darkness His secret place. It is said that the darkest hours of the day are just the ones before dawn. Why is it so? Even the things in nature shows us that God, by Himself, right in the midst of darkness, is capable of bringing forth light from within it.

In **1 Timothy 6:14**.

6:14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

6:15 Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords;

6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen.

We see a divine contrast again. We are told that the Lord is the only Potentate; the King of kings and the Lord of lords; who only hath immortality; dwelling in light that no man can approach unto. And then it went on to say “whom no man can see”. That was Paul’s way of saying that the Lord wraps Himself in thick darkness. Can you see in darkness? No. You cannot see Him. He is the Lord that hath immortality, dwelling in a light so bright that no man can even approach unto it. Yet, no man hath seen Him, nor *can* see Him. Why? Because He wraps Himself up in thick darkness. This brings me to the theme of our convention. I want to talk a little bit about the day of the Lord. **Joel 1:15.** Joel was speaking about the day of the Lord, and he made some statements.

1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

Move up a little bit to verse 13.

1:13 Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the alter: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.

In Chapter 2:1, he said,

2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

2:2 A day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.....

2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come.

Now look up a little bit. I read at random those Scriptures to show us this: the day of the Lord is quoted as being the day of darkness, a day of gloominess, a day in which

the darkness will be very thick. God says that the day of the Lord is a day of darkness. It is not going to be a day when there will be light everywhere. It is not going to be a day when the children of God look around and there is light and you can do anything at your own time. It will be a day characterized by darkness; a day that will be very gloomy; a day that the people and the circumstances around you will portray darkness, total darkness.

So do not be surprised when you hear of wicked works. You know, let us look at it. When you say darkness let us not begin to think in terms of physical lack of visibility. The Bible says the sun shall be darkened, and the moon turned into blood, most of the time theologians try to explain it to us that there will be an eclipse of the natural sun and so the sun will no longer shine! Therefore, there will be darkness upon the earth. There may be eclipse, but that is not what the Scripture is talking about. It is rather talking about a day, a season in the divine timing when darkness will be allowed by God to manifest, to show themselves.

It is a day that the devil and all his cohorts will be allowed to roam free. God will allow them to do what they want to do. That is what it means by darkness. It is a day that the kingdom of darkness will appear to be winning the victory. It is a day that will be characterized by fear. People who are very afraid are afraid mostly at night, is it not? When it is dark, I remember when my children were very small, when there is power outage you would hear almost simultaneously a chorus of shrill yells! And you know that N.E.P.A (the electric company) has 'taken' light. Fear grips men's hearts when darkness is around. In fact, fear is a spirit of darkness.

The day we live in is the day of the Lord. Now, let us look at the day of the Lord. In the first day of this conference, one of the speakers defined the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord is not a twenty four hour day like we all know it. It is a season; it is a time span during which the Lord incepts, propagates and concludes aspects of his divine plan. He takes an aspect of his work and finishes it. This is the day of the Lord, and beloved brethren, there is a work that the Lord is doing and this is the day that God is going to round it up.

God will finish all His mysteries. He is going to take all the men and women that have been shrouded in mystery, and He is going to unveil them because He had finished His works upon them. We are his workmanship! In that same day, the Lord will allow darkness to proliferate their works. It will be a time when the beasts, the beings from the realm of hell will be allowed to work. In your life, many things that pertain to darkness may show up again. Things that you thought you had the victory over and

thought were clear gone may show up again! Know that the Lord will do a thorough work. He will leave nothing hanging. His dealings with us will leave us thoroughly prepared to exercise adoption rights. You may begin to think ‘My goodness, I thought this thing had been gone and finished with’. It is not because you became weak. No. It is because God is allowing the devil to show up with his best. It is that we might have opportunity to win the last vestige of our overcoming victory! Let us read **Amos 5**.

5:18 Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! To what end is it for you? The day of the Lord is darkness and not light.

Well that is Scriptures. It almost doesn't sound like the Bible. The day of the Lord is darkness and not light. Verse **19** takes a look at what would be happening during the day of the Lord:

5:19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, (in his own house), and a serpent bit him.

Now, if he ran into somebody's house, you would say, maybe the devil organized this for him, being in a neighbor's house. He (the neighbor) just arranged it and got him messed up. But he is running from a lion. That means, God is going to, in this day, allow the lions to be let loose. The devil is ‘as a roaring lion roaming to and fro all over the earth, seeking whom he may devour’.

So the lion, the beast, serpents, are animals that are used to portray, or symbolize Satan and his demonic pack. God will allow them to operate.

When Jesus was to round up His program in His earthly ministry, God allowed the worst of demons to show up on the earth. They came around. I believe that was one time that hell did not have any demon in it. They all came out. They showed up in form of human beings; they showed up in form of creatures; they showed in the weather; they showed up in the skies; they showed up everywhere. God allowed the worst of them to come around. Why? Because the Lord was preparing His Son. He had a jewel that was being prepared upon the earth, that was going to show the principalities and powers that God is. He had a Jewel that was being prepared to reveal God upon the earth. The Bible said ‘In Christ Jesus lays the fullness of the God head bodily’. God needed to show that to the entire kingdom of darkness. But do you know, that was the darkest part of human history. And God will allow that also at this time.

The day of the Lord is not light, it is darkness. As if a man is running from a lion. You say ‘Ah! All the territorial spirits from my village are pursuing me’. And then you are running away to the Church system, or run for cover with the political system, trying to seek help from the occult, and then a bear meets you. Then you say you say ‘well, I’m not going to relate to anybody, I’m going into my house’. Only for you to discover that there has been a serpent there all along. All the time you were running from the lion in the field, and on the way you were meeting the bear, a serpent was there, well and alive in your own house. That is what the day of the Lord is all about. It will reveal the serpent in the house!!

Amos said, ‘woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord’. Oh! You are looking for it; the day of the Lord is coming, and we are going to manifest as sons of God. That is true; but I tell you, the darkness that precedes it is very scary. God will allow all kinds of forces upon the earth at this time.

Beloved brethren, the earth is going to become very dark. Jesus, speaking of these evil powers, said, *‘behold I give you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions’*. These are not literal serpents and scorpions. If it were just natural scorpions, I will not be afraid, because there are *scorpion-cides*. All you need to do is fumigate your house, and all the scorpions will be dead. Is that not it? But you need a different kind of fumigation against these kinds of serpents and scorpions. The earth will be filled with them in this last days!

The Lord showed me something. Because of time, I am going to just be running through. The Lord said to me, or rather, I had an experience. In interpreting it to me, the Lord showed me some things. This was some years ago. The Lord said ‘Look, evil doers are going to become more daring as the age draws to a close’. As the manifestation of the sons of God draws close, evil will become grosser. Evil doers will wax worse and worse.

What is going to make them wax worse and worse? Certain spirits that are more wicked than the previous ones will be released upon the earth to assist them. Some of the evil personalities that will perpetrate these evil deeds will not be human. The Lord said there are spirits - evil spirits at will be released to do so. And then He said there are human agents of the devil, who have completely sold out their souls to Satan and become one with him. The devil relates with them. They can stand in for the devil in any occasion. These are human agents. They occupy a definite strata, in the hierarchy of the devil’s army. Then there are those who are possessed by the devil. These ones are just possessed. A demon comes in, and takes hold of them and uses them for all

kinds of carnal, evil and wicked things. Well, the Lord said there is going to be another class of beings that will be upon the earth in these last days. The devil does not use them all the time.

He uses them when he begins to see that the purposes of God are being revealed, and he can read in between the lines that if he does not do something, he is going to be overrun quickly enough. He uses a special group of soldiers. These are very wicked, high powered spirits in the realm of wickedness. They take on human bodies, but not born of women. Do you know that such exists? They are not born of women. They come in with bodies they take on. They use these bodies for special missions. And once that mission is over, the body dissolves and the spirits go away. Some of these creatures are already moving about the earth!

Look, there are men walking around on the earth that are not human beings at all. There are people you pass by in the market place that are not human. They do not have an earthly address. They do not live here. They took on a body. These are spirit beings. And when they do wicked acts they do not look back. When you are saying 'I beg', it rejoices their hearts to do the evil. The earth is going to be filled all over. Look, go to the markets, the Lord said they are showing up in the market places already. There are armed robbery gangs, some of which are not humans. There is no police man that will catch them. And when they do devastations you will wonder, 'were these human beings that did this?' These are phenomena that are already happening upon the earth!

In 1985, I had a ministration. I went to a school to preach the gospel. While ministering, I had a word of knowledge that there was somebody on the campus who was one of such agents. Brother Johnson Egielewa went with me then. They went and brought the girl. When she was coming she was somersaulting, crying and shouting, but they dragged her to the room where we were. I realized immediately that this was not human. We shut the mouths of the spirits and we said to the apparent human person to begin to talk. 'Tell us your story' we asked her. She told us that, she was from the kingdom of darkness; that they were not humans at all. But that she agreed to come and be born as a human. She told us that her birth was not caused by her father (her so called, earthly father), meeting with her mother in marital union.

Now the only virgin birth we know about is that of Mary the mother of Jesus. At least, most of us here would know about that. There are other claims. Well, this is the first one of such claims that I saw. I did not read it in a book. She said they decided to come to do destruction, and she was sent to go to a certain region around Eastern Nigeria. She went to the riverside, and *there* was a woman who needed a baby. The

native doctors had told her to go to the riverside, fetch a bucket of water, bath with it, and then she would become pregnant.

So she went to the riverside that day, fetched a bucket of water, and this spirit, (demonic personality) leapt into the bucket of water. She took it home, had her bath, and without contact with her husband she became pregnant. (Note that the devil is a liar and a deceiver!)

Now look at this. She said that she is not capable of showing any love; that when they hear Christians talk about love, it angers them. It is like when a sanctified Christian hears somebody talking about fornication. It makes you want to spank him/her. I mean, you cannot fight physically - but you are distraught. She said that they did not show any one love. They delighted in killing people and watching humans die in pain. I immediately realized that we could not do much for her in terms of deliverance ministrations. There was nothing we could really do for her. We called upon the Lord with whom nothing was/is impossible.

She pleaded with us to make her experience this thing called love, that she has heard so much about it, though it used to repulse her when she hears about it, but she did not mind. She would like to experience it. Obviously, that spirit was overwhelmed by the presence of God around. The devil is not capable of showing love. He can only show the corrupted kind of love. Well, we prayed over her and we let her go. She left where we were. Honestly, that day, in my mind I said 'God, was there something we could have done for this young girl that we did not do?'

If you saw the girl I am talking about, you will be amazed. There is no natural man that would see her, honestly speaking, and desire her. When she said men were running after her, I was wondering, 'only a very stupid man would run after that sort of person! I did not know whether it was because of the presence of the anointing that stripped her of whatever beauty those who ran after her saw! But she was not that beautiful, but men would be killing themselves because of her!'

Beloved brethren, '*we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against very wicked spirits that occupy the heavenly realms, the satanic realms of darkness*'. Upon the earth, the devil will let some of these people lose. Or how do you explain some things? There are some very wicked men. A man straps himself with explosives, goes into the middle of a conference audience, and detonates them! He wants to die and kill everybody, as many as possible.

Look, if people like Osama bin Laden had nuclear weapons, they will use it. Let nobody believe them when they say ‘Oh, we are getting it for peaceful purposes’. I think the US needs to be more careful with Iran and all these other places that are clamoring for nuclear capability, especially in the Arab countries. There are some of these countries that will be headed by these princes of darkness in these last days; and if they have nuclear weapons, they will use it!

America may be disciplined, and not use their own to kill people; even though they have used it to kill before in Hiroshima and Nagasaki! Britain may be very civilized and say, ‘Well, we have restraint and so cannot control its use. We only use it as a deterrent.’ If you give it to some people, they are not in doubt what they want to do. They have one dream, one purpose: to wipe out the entire earth!

The day of the Lord is a day of darkness. The devil will have free license to operate. He is going to come up with diseases you have never heard of before. He is going to come up with realms of bondage that men have not thought of or conceived in their minds. These would be supervised carefully by personalities of darkness whose only aim is to kill to steal and to destroy. They are loyal to only one personality, Satan himself.

The devil will, in these last days, in the day of the Lord aggregate all these forces together. Beloved brethren, just think of the level of darkness we are going to have! It is still bright. It is still bright upon the earth. At least we can still run around and say we are Christians, we have light to go out and preach. The day is coming when the devil will seek to clamp down on that liberty. He is already doing it in some places.

But I tell you beloved brethren, on that same day the Lord will shine forth as light in the midst of that darkness. The One who causes the light to shine out of darkness will shine forth through a body of people. The devil is actually going to think that he is winning because he will be all over the place. He will seem to have the upper hand. Because all his agents will be everywhere! They will be heading ministries. They will be heads of nations. They will take over Parastatals; and be heads of institutions.

In the midst of all these, God’s jewels will be finished, and they will break forth as light upon the world.

It is a day that the beasts of the earth will just be ruling; they will be at liberty. Those that have been bound up in river Euphrates will be released. Those held in check, that are not operating yet, reserved for a time like this, will be let loose. You know the devil

has some soldiers that are so wicked that God had to chain them. He had to restrain them. If you let them loose, they will wipe out humanity.

Just look at what happened in the days of Noah. In Noah's days, there was darkness all over the earth. God foresaw that if He did not take a step, the whole of humanity would be swallowed up. His purposes would be interrupted and destroyed. He therefore put in place a hundred and twenty year plan. God predicted that in one hundred and twenty years, everybody on earth would have been swallowed up with evil. He therefore put a hundred and twenty year rolling plan in place.

He said, *'My Spirit shall not always strife with man'*. The days are coming when My Spirit would be withdrawn completely, and men would just be swimming in darkness. They would have a field day in darkness. That day is coming'.

Therefore, Noah, the servant of the Lord was given an assignment, 'Have a one hundred and twenty year rolling plan. Build an ark that will conserve humanity. If this is not done, the devil would succeed'.

I am sure by the time Noah was concluding at the end one hundred and twenty years; the devil was very satisfied that he had gotten everybody. However, there were eight people. Noah had being able all through one hundred and twenty years of ministry to save eight souls including himself. These were the only people that were remaining. In that period the devil rolled out the last army before Noah's world was destroyed.

These same kinds of people are now here! The sons of God came down and married daughters of men; they began to have human beings that had all kinds of characteristics.

They gave birth to men that were giants. They were so big, eight feet tall and above. Look at somebody like Goliath! The bible says, his spear was like a weaver's beam. It took a whole group of soldiers to carry his shield and sword. David had to do a lot of struggling just to cut off his head after he was killed!

Beloved brethren, that was a time on the earth, many years ago. The devil will do that again. Spiritual personalities will materialize. They would come on the earth to assist the devil in this evil; but I tell you, Just when you think darkness covers everywhere, evil works of darkness, fornication, immorality of different kinds, men marrying men, women marrying women, all kinds of evil (very soon they will be eating human meat publicly),..... Already you can go to the shop and buy human flesh.

I tell you brethren, darkness will cover the earth, and gross darkness the people, but the Bible says, the light of the Lord shall arise upon us.

The Day of the Lord will be a day that the devil will muster all resources, put up a last minute effort, to try to subvert the purposes of God. He will try, but he will utterly fail. Victory is determined in our favor. The lightning company of the Lord, will be perfected at the same time. Just when the devil thinks he has the victory, God's perfected people will arise and both wage and win the war between light and darkness! Beloved brethren, continue in the Lord. Like our brother said in the previous chapter, do not sell your birth right. Every other thing may appear dark. I know many here, who have questions because of the trials and tribulations you went/are through, "O, wait a minute. Things are not working! I prayed; and my prayers are not answered."

Do not take any irrational steps. Stay with God and in due time he will grant the desires of your heart.

The most fearful times, the times I dread the most in my life are times when I feel very confident and are filled with a sense of arrival. That is not to say I am afraid. Of course you know I am not the fearful type. However, when I look round and I am having a sense of satisfaction and arrival, "Ah! Praise the Lord!" and I can boast, "Look at this and that; I am just about finishing this...Look at what I have done!"

That is the time I feel a lot of pity for myself. Despite our graces, despite our abilities, we must depend on the grace of God. We must trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. The Bible says, when all around us begins to shake, we are to look up; not look at our abilities and ourselves.

Let us look at **Isaiah 60:2**

60:2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Is that not a great contrast? Darkness surrounds the earth. Everything appears to be in darkness. The devil is running free. He goes after your economy and he messes it up. He goes after your finances and tries to ruin it; and thinks he has gained the upper hand. He goes after your work place and creates problems. He goes all around you and whip up things around you that will discourage you. When there is such darkness all around you, beloved brethren, rejoice! It says the light of the Lord will arise around you at such a time. God is not far away whenever darkness becomes very thick. Whenever you are surrounded by darkness never fear. Just know as a child of God, as

the child of His purpose, God is nearby. The Lord is at hand. He will come. He will not delay. The Lord shall come!!

The Bible says that it is a day of gloominess. Joel says the Day of the Lord is a day of gloominess, The word 'gloominess' in Hebrew is '*aphelah*' and it means duskiness, something shrouded in doubts, darkness and uncertainty. The word means misfortune; to conceal, concealment. It is a day that the devil will work with all three terms we have mentioned. Many things will be shrouded in mystery. The devil likes to operate shrouded in mystery. Upon the earth and against the children of God, he is going to try to hide many things. This is why Jesus said we should be wise as serpent and harmless as doves. It will be a day of misfortune. A day that the enemy will be around; darkness will fill everywhere. There will be a lot of misfortune, accidents and mishaps. The devil will cause so many things to go wrong.

He will shroud everything in mystery and instigate lots of superstition. This will be one of his major tools in the last days, to conceal things. 'Do not let anybody know what is happening'. You can now know where the Nigerian presidential cabal get their cue from; concealment. He comes around; he does not inform you he is coming. In fact he leads you to a decoy. He pretends to be coming that way; things are very nice and then he goes the other way. Then everything goes wrong.

He will use that. He will use deceit in these last days. He will deceive people. When they asked Jesus what would be the sign of his coming, the first thing he said was, 'Be careful that ye be not deceived.' Deception will be another major tool of the enemy in these last days. He will use it to the maximum. He will deceive men. He will turn them away from God. He will make promises of utopia to them of things going very right, and at the end of the day, he will disappoint them.

Disappointment will be one of the very direct fallouts of deception. He will lie to people. He is already working in many so called servants of God. There are people who preach the gospel who know that they are servants of the devil. It is not that they do not know, or that they are misled. They deliberately entered into covenants with the devil and they are ready to go on in it. They come out to tell the people all sorts of stories.

A person goes to the devil and acquires magical powers; but he comes around and calls on the name of Jesus. People are deceived and they troop after the miracles (magic). A day of reckoning is coming when God will judge the innermost thought and intentions of men's hearts! The wicked will be punished and cut off for ever.

It is a day of gloominess. Just look around. Everything appears to be hopeless. It will be a time when there appears to be no hope. There are documentaries I do not like. They are interesting. I listen to them until they start telling me stories. As far as the astronomers are concerned the universe has no hope. Everything is headed for destruction. The sun one day will finish the fuel in it and go into darkness. Our solar system will collapse; all life forms will die. Sometimes I ask them, What about you, what will happen to you? “Aw! There is no hope!” they would say. It is a day of gloominess.

Finally, the Bible said, It is a day of judgment; a day that the earth will be judged. In **Acts 17:31** the Bible said that the Lord has ‘...set aside a day in the which He will judge the world...’ He will judge men. There will be judgments in these days; judgment upon sin. Men should not toy with sin. Men should not play with God and play around with uncleanness, immorality and idolatry. God will judge it. The hand of the Lord will begin to come upon sin in this last hour.

I was not surprised when Haiti had the earthquake. My major concern was the children of God in the Land; but God provided for them. There was a picture that they sent around to tell you God’s hand was in the whole thing. A cathedral was destroyed and completely razed down, but a cross was standing! The concrete structures in that cathedral were more than what was in that little cross. Everything around it was demolished. But the cross stood fast.

Somebody might say,

“Oh, is that not religious?” God has a way of sending his messages across. It was a judgment. That nation was openly declaring for voodoo and proclaiming that voodoo is was their religion, and the devil, their God. They were enjoying it and drinking alcohol and pouring libations. The day that God came down upon that land even the president was praying to God. Everybody that was left began to pray. They remembered God on that day.

Man would always remember God when there are evil occurrences. Have you ever being in a flight, and there was turbulence? Oh, my God! You will know that people pray. You will find people praying and praying very hard. When life is hanging on a balance, most people will pray at such times.

It will be a day of judgment. The Lord, beloved brethren, will no longer condone sin in His house. The people of God must begin to learn how to put away the works of darkness, like you strip yourself of a garment. That is the only way we will not be partakers of the judgments that God will bring on the kingdom of darkness.

God dwells in us; but for now beloved brethren, it would look as though darkness is all over. If you looked at the typical Christian, you will just see God wrapped up in a blanket of darkness because you will see all kinds of things in his soul and in his body. He carries all kinds of things along. Nevertheless, he is a child of God. He is born again. The time is come however when we shall begin to throw off to garments and works of darkness, and throw them away. All sinful characteristics, attitudes, ways, principles, ideologies and other such phenomena twisted by men and Satan to suit them will be judged in this day of the Lord.

God will judge men's ideas. God will judge men's ways; because there is only one way that will be acceptable in this day. It is be the way of the Lord. The Lord will be jealous for His people and He will preserve His house. The Lord will judge the nations by His word.

God will always cause light to spring out. In **Genesis 1**, take note of this because this is what God is about to do, the Bible said God created the heavens and the earth; and the earth became formless and void. Darkness covered the face of the deep. There was darkness all over. Right in the midst of that darkness, God said,

“Let there be light.” What happened? Boom, there was light!

Beloved brethren, the circumstances around you may be all darkness. Your neighborhood may be all dark; but remember that our God is a God who always causes light to spring forth out of darkness.

Israel had this problem. In **Isaiah 60** that we read earlier it said behold darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness shall cover the people, but the Lord shall arise upon thee. Brethren, when things appear to be very dark, I know we have prayed for many of us here, but I am here to announce to you, no matter how dark the circumstances around you may be, know this that the Lord is set during this convention to arise upon you. He is going to arise in the midst of your circumstance. It does not matter how bad it looks.

“Oh, Brother Richard, you don't know how bad it is”. If I tell you how bad mine is, some of you here will rejoice. But I know that the Lord is at hand. The Lord will arise, and He is arising at this time and His glory will be seen upon you. By the time you are going home from here all darkness will be defeated in your life. Go with that attitude. Your neighborhood may be filled with darkness. They may say there are kidnapers all over the place. It should not deter you. The kidnapers are not after your

life. They have no right; they have no power over your life in the name of the Lord Jesus. The light of God will shine forth on your behalf.

In Abraham's day it was very dark. God called him out of the place. Even though he took a few initial faltering steps, carrying his father along when he should have left his father, but God corrected him. God sorted him out, and he became the ray of hope for humanity today. Out of his loins came the Messiah, the only light of the world.

John picked up his pen, and Holy Ghost inspiration breathed upon him and he said, *"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 anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehends it not"*.

God is light. And that light will shine, all because Abraham stayed faithful in the midst of that darkness, in the midst of that hopelessness. Look, if Abraham was a typical family today, many of us here would not like to go for house fellowship in his house. Did you hear what I said? Some of us doctrinal perfectionists will not attend the fellowship in Abraham's house. He has had a second wife, and he even had a child by that wife! He had an illegitimate child. Even if Abraham came to cry in repentance, we will say,

"Well, yes we have forgiven you."

However if tomorrow he comes to say,

"As I was praying, the Lord said to me"

Many people will say in their hearts, 'See who is saying the Lord said to me!'

If Abraham's family was in our day, many of us will not want to associate with him at certain points of his life. Yet, that was the ray of hope for humanity in the name of Jesus Christ. We pride fully say today, Abraham's blessings are mine. I am blessed in the morning; I am blessed in the evening. Abraham did not appear to be blessed all the time of his life. There were times when he literally felt he was cursed; and he told God so! God came one of the days and He was making promises again, "You will be the father of many nations." Abraham said,

"Stop, stop, stop Lord! What are you doing about these promises? I am dying childless. The only child in my house is Eleazer, a servant bought with money!" Abraham had those moments too. Beloved brethren, darkness will cover the earth. Gross darkness will cover the people, but the Lord shall arise upon thee. He is the light of the world;

and He says we are the light of the world. Light speaks of those good things. The greatness of the divine hand; the divine intervention is light. When God gives you understanding and grace for victory over the powers of the evil ones; that is light!

Light will spring up at this time; and beloved brethren, you will be victorious, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Elijah had dark moments. He challenged the forces of darkness in his day. Eight hundred and fifty principalities, and he overcame them! He slew all of them; but you know, you cannot kill spirits that way. As soon as the demons came out of the physical prophets all of them ganged up in Jezebel. Spirits that were carried by eight hundred and fifty people ganged up in one woman. I do not think Jezebel was one person you could write any negative thing about in the newspapers.

They speak of Turai, and *Tell* writes about ‘Her Imperial Majesty’ and everybody laughs at it. You could not do that to Jezebel. If Turai was a Jezebel *Tell* would be in real trouble.

Jezebel had not even appeared. She only sent a message to Elijah. She said,

“Look, as the Lord your God liveth if He is really alive, by the time the sun is down today, I will have your head.”

Of course, those were not ordinary words. Those words were reinforced by demonic forces. By the time Elijah heard them he took to his heels. Elijah ran for his dear life. Not only that, the man became despondent. He said,

“Lord, look, take my life. I would prefer that you killed me!”

Who was talking about death? How could Elijah hear the voice of spirits and then starts crying, and saying,

“God it is better you kill me by yourself. I will not be shamed. You will not allow me to be ashamed. They would say demons killed me! No way, you kill me by yourself. Then, I won’t be better than my fathers. I am just like one of them. After all, it is traditional in our lineage to die for you. Kill me by yourself.”

And he began to cry; and the Lord visited Elijah in the middle of that darkness. Israel was under the siege of these evil forces. Jezebel was one terrible woman. She was a house of devils. This woman was ready to deal with Elijah. Elijah said, “Look, everybody has forsaken the alter of the Lord. I am the only one left!” But God said,

“Ah, ah, ah! You make a mistake. I have seven thousand men who are fierce; who have never bowed their knees to Baal. I have men that will take care of Jezebel.”

I am sure Elijah did not think about Jehu, small Jehu. You think Jehu would come and stand before Elijah in Elijah’s days? Prophet Elijah!!! You are sentencing yourself to death. Yet, that was the man so anointed. The person who eventually dealt with Jezebel was not as powerful as Elijah in men’s eyes. In God’s eyes however, they had what Elijah did not have.

Darkness covered Israel in that day but there was light in the midst of it. God sprang up with seven thousand men. They took out Ahab; they took out Jezebel. They took out all their armies and there was restoration in Israel.

You cannot say you have taken over everything. God is light; but some of the time He just wraps Himself with darkness. He allows darkness to have sway, to have free ride. Sometimes He allows the devil to bring out his best; and then, He just brings out one of His own.

In the reformation years men like Martin Luther, when everybody had gone astray, when the devil thought he had succeeded with his religious spirit, and idolatry mixed freely with the church, he thought he had everybody. All of a sudden, when they would have launched the last blow and quenched all the light, from nowhere, Martin Luther sprang up and said, ‘the just shall live by faith’!

When darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness fills the land, the Lord will arise in divine light. I do not care what darkness envelops you, I do not care what the devil has done in the past, I do not even care what he has set in motion. It is all darkness. The Lord will arise with His light in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jewels are formed deep, deep down in the earth, in thick darkness. The most precious of metals and stones are formed deep down in the earth. No light, nothing is there. Everything is shielded in absolute darkness; under intense heat and pressure.

If you were one of such jewels you would not be singing, ‘Praise the Lord...’ every day and jumping. No, it is very difficult to sing like that, even though the children of God sing for joy at all time. In the midst of darkness we sing for joy; we rejoice. Paul said ‘rejoice always’. That means in times of darkness, and in times of light, shout for joy! Rejoice in the Lord that made you. Let the devil be jealous. Let him say, ‘What is he rejoicing about? What is he talking about?’ Never be intimidated.

Once, Ebuta and I had an experience in Abuja. Somebody phoned me. We were to have a meeting and the person did not have money to come; so he phoned me and I did not have a kobo myself. He said, Look, I cannot come for this meeting. Please pray that I will have some money. I then complained to Ebuta, “Look, here I am trying to get money to pay for my registration, and someone else is asking me to pray for him to have money. If I had all the faith, how come I did not have the money for myself?”

He laughed and said, “Look, Brother Richard, you don’t need to have one kobo in your pocket to bless anyone.”

Now, it is not as though I did not know all this. When problem is around, when things are hot, sometimes you just do not walk by those principles. It is difficult; and then it dawned on me! Wait a minute, all I needed to do was to pray; and I got up and prayed. It was not up to thirty minutes we finished praying when he phoned and said, “I am on the way coming. God brought some money for us.” He had received money to pay for his registration and to transport himself to Abuja. I live in Abuja and I had not paid my own registration. But I prayed and God worked a miracle for somebody. Do not be intimidated by the darkness around you. You do not need to have everything all in place to bless somebody else and blessing does not come from our minds. It does not come from the natural things around us. It does not come from the natural circumstances around us. You have a man that cannot sin because he is born of God within you. Arise and shine.

In **John 11:4** Jesus was told that Lazarus was sick. He said to His disciples,

“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God.” I looked at the word that was translated ‘this’ sickness. For some reason I became particular about the word ‘this’. It is a word that defines something; an article that defines a thing for what it is. It is the Hebrew equivalent that is used when Adam saw all the creatures pass by him, he gave them names. He identified them, and the Bible said whatever Adam called each of these animals that became their names.

What have you called the trials in your life? What have you called the darkness that surrounds you? We do sing a song that says, *God I have magnified my problems more than you.* Then it says *O Lord forgive me.* Sometimes we sit down and we name our problems. We give them names. We say, this problem you are very big. This problem, you are so great; in fact, you could kill. We tell the problem how big it is. We tell the problem what it can do. We define its abilities, its capacities, and we tell the problem what it is.

When a situation of life and death was presented to the Lord Jesus Christ He said *this* sickness is not unto death; but you are O sickness for the glory of God. Today we are not going to call out people here except the Lord singles you out, but we are all going to pray. Call the darkness around you. You know them. You are going to define them. Call them by their names. Tell them what you think according to the word of the Lord they ought to be.

“This sickness is not unto death, but that the Lord might be glorified. That is why this sickness is here.”

What happened at the end of the day? The situation became worse. Lazarus died. He was put in the grave. For four days, he was there, by which time he smelled. Jesus then came around. The worsen state of that circumstance did not change the words of Jesus. It did not change what the Lord called it. ‘You are not unto death, but you are for the glory of God’

When we define the darkness around us according to the divine purposes with which we are identified, they have no choice but to line up with that divine purpose. Today, the darkness in your life will line up with the purposes of God. Today the problems that have troubled you will line up with the purposes of God. Whatever it has been, my beloved brethren, today they shall align themselves with the divine purposes of God for your life! As the age draws to a close darkness is going to become more intense. O, darkness will cover the earth. Things will become worse than they presently are. The economy will become worse than it currently is. The people of God will learn not to depend on the economies of wherever they are from. Our God will supply for them in the name of Jesus. Did you hear that? Our God will supply for us according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Dearly beloved, it is what you call that darkness around you that it is. Let us not allow that darkness to just move on. Let us not be deceived by the way it is; a little here; a little there. **Zachariah** said that the light of that day shall not be light. He said it will not be night or day. It will not be clear. When light is not clear people get into all kinds of troubles. May you light spring forth with the brightness of the noon day!!

Beloved brethren, come under the divine light, let it be clear to you that there is no darkness around you that has the capacity to swallow you up unless you come under it by yourself. Today you are going to name it. You are going to call it for what it is. Call it by its name. Say, “You darkness, you are not for my destruction. You are not for my down fall. You are not meant to bring me to shame. In the name of the Lord Jesus, the

purpose of God for my life is total victory, and I will have the victory over you. I will walk in total victory.”

Beloved brethren, as we speak this let us be mindful of the fact that we are here praying. The atmosphere is very rich in the anointing. However, we are going back home. Do not allow the atmosphere to leave you. Go back home. Your neighborhoods which may be infested with all kinds of forces of darkness, when you get there, call it for what it is. Tell it, “Look, you are not meant for my destruction. There is a purpose of God in my life. I must come unto perfection. I must enjoy the goodness of the Lord. I must walk in the things that God has given unto me.”

Some of you that are having difficulties walking in righteousness, you are falling in and out of sin, there is victory today. The light of God will arise upon you. You will obtain your total liberty.

God has prepared His army. He is still preparing us. And we have come to a point when the Lord will begin to show us up. We will begin to show up. When the devil thinks he has got everybody in an area, you will show up and mess him up completely. That will become your testimony from today in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the age draws to a close, let us not be afraid. No matter how sophisticated the army of darkness is, they have no solution to the people that God is preparing. They have no solution to you. When you see what God has built into you, you will shout for joy. The Lord will cause the light to burn bright and you will see what the Lord is doing in your life. Do not be intimidated by darkness. Do not be intimidated by the atmosphere. When you look at the business atmosphere, it is fearsome. Do not be afraid of it. The Bible said in the midst of it God will raise His people up.

The devil is at work again, and he is causing confusion everywhere. However just when he should think he has everyone in check a body of people will arise, empowered by their God, and they will call him to order and turn his works all around. The kingdom of our God must be established in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The kingdoms of this world, the kingdoms of darkness, the kingdoms of the economies of this world, the kingdoms of men must become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ!!

It is this body of people clothed in light that are going to turn the kingdom over to David, even our Lord Jesus Christ!!

God is doing a work in your life and in my life. God is doing a work with us and He will finish that work. Beloved brethren, today we are going to pray. We want to

address the kingdom of darkness. Darkness will cover the earth. Gross darkness will cover the people. We are seeing it already. Some people talk to you and you know they are wrapped up in darkness. You should not be offended by them. Do not let them upset you. For some of us the Lord warns us ahead and yet we fall to anger and different kinds of vices.

We are going to call those kingdoms of darkness, those darkness wrapping themselves around us, those works of darkness that fill the entire land, we are going to say, 'you darkness, you are not meant for my destruction. You are not here for my destruction'. There is a purpose of God in/for my life. That purpose is that my light must shine in a manner that God is glorified. Therefore darkness you are here so that you can magnify the light of God that shines through my life

That is the only purpose they serve. They are not meant to make you weak. They are not meant to make you sad. They are not meant to make you reflect on the past and think about ancestral problems. Many of us these days do not take responsibility for anything anymore. Once something is going wrong, we say it is ancestral spirits. We blame everything on ancestral spirits. Some young men are angry with their parents because they believe their parents made mistakes for which they are paying today.

That is a lie of the devil. The Bible says in Ezekiel 18:

2 "...What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?

3 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have *occasion* any more to use this proverb in Israel.

This parable is now obsolete in Israel. It was a parable that the fathers ate sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. It said, "...But it shall no longer be so".

Whosoever eats sour grapes, their teeth will be set on edge. A man will pay or die for his own sin. Remember however, that Jesus died for your sins. If God is not even allowing you to carry your own sin, why would He let you carry your fathers' own? The devil has got some people hooked on this ancestral thing that they do not take responsibility for their sins and faults anymore.

A young man goes about watching blue films and goes from there to commit fornication. His excuse is, 'It is in my lineage. My father had four wives that is why I have no control over myself.' It is a lie, a lie of the devil! You stop watching blue films and the urge will go away. There are choices you are making. You are the one carrying that affliction upon yourself with your own hands.

God wants us to take responsibility. We are becoming matured sons of God, one of the demands that comes with maturity is, responsibility. The Lord will set you free from that evil force. You will tell that darkness around you, ‘hey you are not meant for my destruction. The reason you are around me from today, O darkness, is so that the light of God in me will burn brighter’!

Light is appreciated more when there is darkness. In the day time if you switch on these light bulbs nobody will look at them. Do you understand that? Nobody will bother about the bulbs whether they are on or off because there is light. But in the night time, you turn off the lights right now and everybody will complain. In fact there will be a stampede. Light is appreciated more in the midst of thick darkness. We are in the world today in the midst of thick darkness. Your light will burn bright. The light of God in you will burn bright in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Raise up your right hand and say this with me, everybody:

God has made me a light

A light in the midst of darkness.

The thicker the darkness, the brighter my light will burn.

As darkness does not overcome light so the darkness around me will not overcome me.

I am on the Eternal side.

Light will always be victorious over darkness.

The Bible says that weeping may endure all night but that joy cometh... The word ‘cometh’ means joy will sprout, will spring forth in the morning. That joy is light; light will always come and overwhelm darkness. You are the light of the world. It does not matter the stories they are telling, even if you are living in Bayelsa State where there are kidnappings, even if you are living in the very swamps. Darkness can never overcome you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those are not the works that are meant for you. You are the light of the world. You will perpetually be victorious. You are a light that will burn bright in the midst of all that darkness.

That is our ‘calling’ right now. We are to burn as light, burn bright. Overturn all darkness. It does not matter how much strength you have or do not have. If today, you have no strength at all but you heard me, you have enough strength to overturn the darkness in your life. Shall I repeat that? If today you do not have any strength but you heard the word of the Lord at my mouth today, you have enough strength to overturn all the darkness in your life. All you need to do is to say the word like Adam, **“You darkness are not meant for my destruction. You are not meant to overcome me. I am light; and I will be above only. I will always be on top of you. I will always overrun you.”**

You have all it takes to overrun the devil and all his works. Whatever the circumstance, whatever the sickness or disease you have what it takes to overrun it, to overturn it. This is the time that chronic diseases will disappear. There will be

dramatic reversals of situations and issues. There will be instant cures because light will always overturn darkness. Our God is a God that dwelleth in the midst of thick darkness. He makes thick darkness his pavilion, but He can shine forth anytime. The Lord who commanded the light to come out of darkness shines forth in your souls now in Jesus Christ's Name!!! Amen and Amen!!!

CHAPTER SIX

LIFTING UP THE GATES

(ALADE AGBABIAKA)

While taking a second look at the theme the Lord placed in our hearts for this conference – **Understanding the Times: The light of the Lord’s Kingdom And His Day** – something dawned in my heart. The sons of Issachar had an understanding of the times , and they knew what Israel ought to do. You know, it is one thing to have understanding, but another to know what to do. I am sure there is still a third thing. If you know what to do, are you not expected to do it? Let us know what we ought to do, and let Israel do it.

I believe the Lord is giving us so much within these few days. He will yet give us much more. We also want to promise God that we shall do the things He is laying in our hearts. The understanding that God is giving to us is such that it must move our circumstances. It is an understanding that must change our situation. When you see something, you follow that thing. You know, the sons of Issachar saw afar off, they saw rest afar off, and they saw that it was good. The Bible says they therefore bowed their shoulders and carried the burden for the Lord. We have seen many things. We shall see more things, and we shall take hold of the things God has given us and we shall run with them.

This morning I want to share with us about something which I titled **Lifting Up The Gates**. We are going to talk so much about the gates this morning, and we would prophesy to those gates.

I believe so strongly that we are in the days of God’s manifestation of His power. We are in the days when God wants to reveal Himself to us and through us. You know, God has kept so much in store; there is so much that has been spoken concerning the days we are in. There is so much that God has prepared for times like these, that whether you like it or not, we can’t but thank God because we are privileged to be living at a time like this. Even the prophets of old saw this present time from afar. Some of them had a foretaste of it, but God has by His infinite mercy decided to bring

us to that place where we can partake of those things that were spoken of by the prophets of old.

It is something that should make us to be glad. It is something that should also make us to be humble. It is what should make us to be courageous. It is a shame, and it will be a shame if we know so much and we do not act on what we know. You know, there is a way that you may know what your rights are, you may know what your entitlements are, you may know what your benefits are, but if you do not act on them, if you do not take a step and insist on what belongs to you, you can continue to wallow in ignorance. Maybe not in ignorance as such, but at least you may not be taking what rightly belongs to you.

We shall take that which belongs to us. The Bible says that since the days of John the Baptist the kingdom of God suffereth violence, and only the violent takes it by force. Why does it suffer violence? Because the devil is always there trying to fool us. He is trying to say, "well, what you heard is true but maybe it does not apply to you". **It sure** applies to you. Tell someone "It applies to me". This understanding applies to us. It does not apply to someone else outside of here; it applies to me and you. It is not applying to a generation that is yet to come. It applies to us."

Therefore, it is so easy, even like we have prayed for people here, you may leave here now and the devil says,

"Look, don't mind those people who were with you here. They were just talking their own. You are still under me."

You see, you need to tell the devil that, "I am not under you anymore". If you do not, you might be set free, but you are still in bondage in your mind. Moreover you are not stepping out to receive that which has been given to you. That will not be our portion in Jesus' name.

I Corinthians 2 from verse 1.

2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

2:3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not in enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

2:6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

2:9 But as it is written, EYE HATH NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NEITHER HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN, THE THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM.

Eye has not seen it. Ear has not heard it. We are the people of God, whom God loves; and He has prepared these wonderful and glorious things for us.

I have been so blessed by the ministrations that have come. In fact, the way the Lord has done this thing, it is awesome. You know it just keeps going stage by stage, stage by stage as if God Himself lined it up. I know only God could have done that. The truth about it is that even though God gave all of us a general burden, the details of it is not as if we sat down to look at issues and said,

“Well, bother this is your own portion, and that is your own portion.”

However, the Holy Ghost has a way of doing things. He gives you a bit here, and He gives you a bit there, and as each person begins to bring his own portion you see a complete meal.

I want us to go to **Isaiah 60**. We will start from there this morning. Our brother was sharing from verse one, and I was very excited last night. I was excited because I knew that out of the mouth of two or three witnesses every word, is established.

It is not a time of so much light around us. It is not. And it is not a time of so much encouragement around us. But we are not a people that are influenced by the things that are around us, but by the things that are inside us.

The passage in **Isaiah** says “arise” and do what? Shine! Why? “For thy light is come. And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee”. Now God’s declaration was not based on what we will see in verse **2**, because the issue was that there was so much darkness around. However, God was not apologetic to the darkness for causing light to be inside you. And God owes darkness no apology.

60:2 “For, behold, the darkness”

He did not just say darkness, but “*the* darkness”. So it is a darkness that we know; a darkness that has a symbolism.

.”...the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee”.

This means there is going to be a contrast. Even though there will be darkness all over, but in you and I ,the Lord shall arise. Say, “The Lord shall arise in me and His glory shall shine in me.”

The Lord was ministering to my heart that a city that is set upon a hill – what happens to it? – it shall not be hidden. You are a city. We are a city of God. Glorious things have been spoken of us. We just read one now. It says eye has not seen. Ear has not heard the things that the Lord has prepared for you and I. We are a glorious people. The truth about it is that we will not just be glorious, hiding with the glory; but the glory shall shine forth.

No man can cover the glory. As humble we would be, and as humble as we will continue to be, God’s glory will continue to shine within us. In your humility, in your quietness, you will not be able to hide because God will exalt you.

This morning I want us to move a little bit further, and to look at the consequences of this light shining upon us, and its glory coming to us. From verse **3** of that **Isaiah** passage, we will begin to see some things. It says,

60:3 “And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”

That means your light will attract the Gentiles. It means there will be an expression of that light. Your light will have expression. Your light will not and cannot be hidden. In your office, you will not be able to hide it. In your home you will not be able to hide it. wherever you are with people you will not be able to hide it.

I was telling some people the other day. I said, many years ago I was in New York. I was down in a train station. The underground station in New York has thousands of people. People are going, passing left and right. Everybody is moving on. There was this old white woman. She called me aside in the midst of this sea of people and said,

“Young man, come. Pray for me.”

It struck me that in the midst of this huge crowd what did this woman see in me that told her I was a Christian and that I could pray. How did she know I could be the source of contact for her to get what she was believing God for?

Well, that happened like an isolated case many years back. You know, at times God gives us a foretaste of the things that are to come; but I tell you today, it is going to come sooner than later, that you cannot hide anymore. It will not be isolated cases. It will be more of a daily occurrence. You will stay in the bus and people will rush to you and say,

“Brother, pray for us.”

You will be surprised!

“Was there anything written on my forehead?”, you may be tempted to ask.

Nothing physically is written on your head but they will see the glory of God. They will see the light of God shining in you. You may not be able to see it, because at times even we do not see the light. However, those that know darkness, when they see light, they appreciate light. If you are in a dark hall and you light a match stick, it might not mean much to you that are lighting it. Another person who has been in deep darkness knows that light. He will see that light and it will represent a breath of fresh air unto that person.

The Bible is telling us that the Gentiles shall come to the brightness of our light. When they come to our brightness, let us not send them away. Let us not disown them since it has been predicted that they shall come to us.

60:4 Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

60:5 Then thou shall see, and flow together, and thy heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

That to me speaks about positive things, plenty, increase that will come upon us. There will be increase spiritually and physically. There will be abundance in the house of God. It does not matter how you were before you came to this conference; but if you leave this conference with the Spirit of the word that is in this conference you will not be the same again.

It is so easy to look at yourself and say,

“Am I not the same person? Is this not the same shirt which I took from Lagos and brought here?”

Well, you might be wearing the same shirt. You may not have changed your wardrobe. Your wristwatch might still be the same. All the things you own might still be the same. But inside, you are a new man. You won't be the same person by the time you leave here. Therefore when you begin to see abundance coming unto you, when you see God opening your eyes to greater revelation, and even in the expression of the physical, you begin to see God bringing favor your way, do not be surprised. It is the offshoot, the fringe benefit, the consequence of God's light coming forth in these last days.

When our Brother started on the first day, he read **Isaiah 2**. I am not going to read it but I want us to go back and continue to look at that **Isaiah 2**. It says the mountain of the Lord's house shall be above the mountains and the hills, and nations shall run unto it. It is a confirmation of this.

So let us move down a little bit. It says,

60:6 The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord.

60:7 All the flock of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nabaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

You know, I want to give us a physical example of how certain things might come to us. There are many times that even physically as you are relating with people, before you know it you find yourself quickly naming your price. Maybe you are standing somewhere and somebody says how much am I going to pay you? What do you think I should pay you? If I were you, after leaving this conference I will not name my price again. Because the price you will name might be less than what God has given to you.

The price that you name for your self can be a lot less than what God has priced you for. What people see in you maybe higher than what you see in yourself. You know you can go to an interview at times and they say,

“Okay, what are you expecting?”

Or some of us who are professionals, you meet a client and he says,

“Okay, how much do you want on this?”

At times there is a tendency to quickly say give me 200 hundred Naira, give me 50 Naira. However, there are times where you can sit down and say,

“Do you see my worth? Do you know my worth?”

He is looking at you. He is understanding what you are saying because God is impressing upon him the fact that in this man the light of God is upon him. So even in your own natural you look at yourself and say,

“Well, it’s 200 Naira”.

Having asked the man what you are worth, and remembering what was spoken about you in **Isaiah 60**, that the Gentiles shall come to your brightness, the man might take a look at you and say,

“I will give you 2000 Naira”

Because God will cause men to see in us what we cannot see in ourselves for the glory of the Lord is upon us. Many times, you cannot see what is in you. However, the point I want to leave with you before we move on is the fact that you should not under value yourself. Do not under value yourself in these days of the light of the Lord’s Day and His kingdom. We have entered into it. It is not one day. It is a period. We have already started it. Do not under value yourself. Many of us make that mistake. We look at ourselves and say,

“O I am not better than my fathers.”

Somebody said it here! Elijah said,

“I am not better than my fathers!”

We let ourselves loose and say,

“Well, I am just like any other person.”

You are not like any other person. This is not to make you to be arrogant. No. it is to make you to be confident. He says, 'Hold fast this confidence from the beginning', till when? 'Till the end'. Many of us are losing our confidence. Many sisters here are beginning to lose their confidence. You are saying,

"Well, I am not better than the others. Let me quickly join them."

You are better than the rest of them. They are getting their strength from you! You are now saying,

"Well, what has it profited me? I have stayed like this now for ten years; I have not got a husband. And every day they say do not be unequally yoked. *Jo'o*, if that Alhaji comes again I think I will go for him!"

You are not an "Alhaji material"! God has priced you more than that. Do not price down yourself because of immediate pressure. Remember Esau. This is nothing but the spirit of Esau. Do not sell your birthright, because when you want it again you might not get it.

Let us know what we are worth. A pregnant woman does not move around carelessly. She knows that, 'Inside me there is a precious seed.' If you tell her to climb up here, she will say, 'No, no'. She will walk gingerly and carefully to where she is going. She cannot just play anyhow. She cannot just sit on the ground and begin to roll. No! She knows that she is carrying something within her.

Let God begin to change our attitude to know that we are precious. We are precious to God. We must therefore appreciate ourselves and carry ourselves with that awareness that we are not ordinary people. Many times because we under value what we carry the man who is standing out there and is watching you, he does not see in you that you are carrying that pregnancy about to come forth. But they shall begin to see it in us because we shall not be fooled any more.

At times when you do so many things in life, like when you take or give bribe, or the many other things that lead us into sin and we come and repent, it is because we forget who we are. At times, you get somewhere and someone tells you,

"You see, if you do not play ball I will not give you this,"

And immediately you do not remember that you are the son of the King. You do not know that God can bring angels down and tie that man up and dictate to him and bring him to do what he said he could not do. Instead, you chicken out. You are not even

ready to let God prove Himself strong on your behalf. We will not make that mistake again, because behind us is the host of heaven. We are not ordinary people.

When you look at **Isaiah 60** that we read, it says the glory of the Lord shall arise upon us, is that not so? The promise is given unto Zion, is that not so? Zion is not a mountain. Let us look at **Hebrew 12** so we can define Zion because we will see Zion in many of the things we will go through this morning. Zion is not a place in Jerusalem. It is beyond that.

12:18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness and tempest,

12:19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them anymore:

12:20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded. AND IF SO MUCH AS A BEAST TOUCH THE MOUNTAIN, IT SHALL BE STONED, OR THRUST THROUGH WITH A DART:

12:21 And so terrible was the sight that Moses said, I EXCEEDINGLY FEAR AND QUAKE)

That is not the mountain we are talking about, the one that Moses saw and was afraid, no.

12:22 But ye are come to mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

12:23 To the general assembly and church of the first born, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than the blood of Abel.

That is where you are! You are at the place where the blood of Jesus is speaking for you. You are at the place where you are not alone in your battle. You are in a place where the innumerable company of angels are around you. You are in a place where God cannot allow you to stand alone. There are angels at your beck and call.

I will give you a simple testimony. The other day there was a wedding I was to attend about three weeks ago in Lagos and it was after Environmental Sanitation. Meanwhile, somebody had been dodging me. A client of mine had been dodging me. He is very

old and very wealthy but each time it came to payment, he would dodge me. I began to wonder that How can I have so much to accomplish and this man is holding unto my pay. I finished the work he gave me, and when I tell him he would be looking for excuses. When I called him, he would not pick his phone. Therefore, I made up my mind. I will not call this man; I will just go to his house.

So I quickly drove down to his place right after the Environmental Sanitation and before he would have the time to go out. Normally, if he does not leave your name at the gate they will not let you in. Even though the security men knew me, when I got there that day they said,

“Oga, oga no give your name o! So can you call him?”

I called him, and as usual, he refused to pick his phone. Let me tell you one simple thing that I did. Simple, but it worked; and I want to commend it to you. You are not alone in this battle. You know what I did.? It was quarter pass ten, and I had to leave by ten thirty because the wedding would kick off at eleven at Unilag. So I said,

“Angels, go and harass that man inside there. Harass him to know that he cannot be cheating a son of God. Let him open that gate for me.”

I said the prayers with confidence, simply and I left it there. I gave my business card to the gateman with instructions to take it inside. He protested,

“He will fight me o.”

“Don’t fear. Give it to him”, I encouraged him, and I said,

“God, as that card is going, let the angels tell him that he cannot intimidate me or cheat me.”

Twenty minutes pass ten nothing happened. Twenty-five minutes pass, nothing. Twenty-eight minutes, and the devil began to rub it in,

“You see, you have lost the battle.”

You have not lost the battle! You are not alone in Zion. You are in the city of the Most High God. Jesus Christ the mediator is there. The blood of Jesus is speaking for you in that place. You are not alone. You must know to whom you belong. You must know to where you belong. You must know what citizen you are. If you do not know, the devil will begin to cheat you. The devil will not cheat us anymore.

Twenty-nine minutes pass... and the security came out. I said,

“Well... so what is this thing?”

He did not answer me. He just swung open the gate so I drove in. I knew God had given me the victory. So the ten thirty I had given as my deadline, I was driving into his compound. I said,

“God, you have taken me in. You will give me victory.”

Of course by the time I went up, you will not believe it, the man was doing as if he had swallowed a spider. He was very incoherent,

“Oh ...ho ...come on Monday.”

I said I was not coming on Monday. He said could not see well. I said,

“Your hands are blessed. Your hands are blessed, you can write that cheque sir. Your hands are blessed.”

“I cannot see. I have just put eye drops in my eyes!”, he continued

“Your hands are blessed. You can write it”, I replied him.

We shall decree a thing and it shall be established! This man is seventy-four years old. He was struggling with me and I just kept saying,

“Your hands are blessed Sir! Get that cheque book and write it.”

He walked inside and came out. He said,

“Oh, my eyes!”

“Your hands are blessed!”, I assured him again.

So he said,

“How much should I write?”

“Sir, write everything. Everything, pay me everything so I can go”, I quickly replied.

This means I was practically dictating to him, he did everything, and I walked out. Immediately after he wrote the cheque, I grabbed it and ran! I ran to the wedding.

God will give us victory over our enemies. He will give us victory. We are not alone. Whenever you are in any situation, remember that you are a Zionite, and remember in the book of **Hebrews**, it says Zion is not a mountain. It is a spiritual position. The

innumerable company of angels are there. The spirits of just men made perfect are around. They are fellowshipping with you. You are not alone.

Obadiah 17 tells us that upon mount Zion there shall be deliverance. And what else? And holiness; and what else? The sons of Jacob shall possess their possession. As God shines forth His light out of our darkness, as God begins to cause us to be light, deliverance has come. As God causes his light to shine through us, holiness has come because unrighteousness will not be able to comprehend it. It says when His light comes darkness cannot comprehend it. As the light of God begins to shine forth in many of us and we begin to be set free, sin will have no place anymore. When he comes again to your body, he will not find where he can reside anymore, because there is too much light and sin cannot stand light.

Remember though, that there is one more thing. You will possess your possessions. Say,

“I will possess my possessions.”

There are certain things that God has given to us and the enemy will not take them from us.

Let us now go back to **Isaiah 60** and consider verse **10**.

60:10 and the sons of strangers

Say, “And the sons of strangers”

...shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister to thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favor have I had mercy on thee.

It is not by works of righteousness. It is not by power but it is by the grace of God. We will not throw away the mercy; we shall appropriate it because it has been given to us.

There is a way that you can begin to think because you did not earn it, it is not your own. It is your own. The devil cannot deny you of it. Whether you fought for it, whether you did not fight for it, Jesus has died for you. When you now have it, you should no longer say,

“Since I did not fight for it, I cannot use it,”

You had better use it. It is given to you. The mercy of God that has been given to us is for us. The devil cannot come and say,

“You know, that mercy is not for your category”.

It is for my category, because Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant is standing for me.

60:11 Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night;

Then, what will happen?

that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought.

Your gates! Say,

“Gates.”

Say,

“My gates shall be opened continually.”

What are gates? You want to enter into a place, what prevents you?. From where you are now, to where you are going, there is a gate. A gate is a pathway, and most times, those pathways they put doors on it. But the gate that is standing before you God says they shall be opened, and not only opened but continually. It will not just be seasonal, like,

“You know, when it is around April to September, I get special favour. I do not know why. Around that time favour, favour come my way, but September is always a bad month!”

September will not be a bad month for you. People say,

“You know, January... January, by that time everybody... you know they have just finished Christmas so most of my people will not be able to pay me...”

Your own will not be like that! Your gates will be open continually.

Some of us believe that those gates have been imposed upon us permanently. However, the Bible says He has the keys of David. If He opens a door, who can shut it? No man! So if God says your gates shall be opened continually, do you know the time God is referring to? God is here saying this will happen in the Lord’s Day. If you believe that, and you know that it is true, that the Lord has risen upon me, His light is within me, you know that there has been a fulfillment of **Isaiah 60:1&2**, it means the promises that go with it shall be your portion.

He says your gates shall be opened continually. It went on for emphasis and said, “Day and night”. When you hear continually, you could be tempted to say,

“You know, it could be only when people are awake in the day...or at least when the sun rises. Then when the sun goes down, it is shut.”

God’s word tells you, “Continually”; and then went on to say, “Day and night”. So you do not say,

“Well, it is night you know. I have to wait for tomorrow morning, because the gates are shut at night .”

The gates are opened continually. Then I asked myself,

“If the gates according to God’s words shall be opened continually, what happens when you come and stand there and the gate is shut?”

You declare to them! Because you know that God’s word has been spoken saying that the gates shall be opened continually.

Brethren, I believe that the season in which we are entering now, the visitation of God upon us shall not be, “come today and go tomorrow”. It shall be a resident visitation. It says “the glory of this latter house shall be greater than the former”. It says, “I will give you the former and the latter rain”, when? “In the same month”; He will restore the corn, the oil and the wine. The years that the locust, the palmerworm and the caterpillar have eaten, He will restore it! When He restores it He said it shall be opened. It is still part of the word of God unto us. It is the promise of God, the attribute of God for the time we are in.

Now it goes on again and says

60:12 For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish;

When you hear that, you might be minded to say,

“It means I can stand up and declare that they perish.”

I do not think so. It means that they will be dependent on you for life. If they do not come to you, they cannot live again. They cannot survive the darkness that is around them. It is only you they must come to if they want to live.

Now God has helped us and will continue to help us that whenever we hear these things, they are very mighty. They are mind-boggling. For a young man who is not matured, he can begin to get proud and arrogant. But is not what God wants for us.

God is telling us this so that our confidence level is so strong and hard but we are not proud and arrogant.

So we will make a commitment to God that as He causes this light to shine the fruit will be the fruit of the Spirit, humility, meekness but also confidence in who we are and what God has given to us. He says the nations that shall not come to you shall perish. So when people come to you, I am telling you brethren, they are coming to you, if you do not give them life, they will die.

That begins to bring us to a point where our hearts must be very large at this time. He says “if any man drinks of me, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living waters”. Now, that rivers of living waters, you may find people who have attacked you, people who have hated you but now they cannot live again; if they continue in their bitterness against you they will die.

The truth about it is that they know it. The enemy knows where he can get life, they will come back to you, and they will say,

“Bro, Please help me.”

Some of them will not even say, ‘Bro’. They will just say, ‘Amos!’ But whatever they call you, know that they want life from you. Do not deny them life. If you deny them life, they will perish. It is not your making; but it is because God has given you the grace to be the life giver.

You see how yesterday God helped us to see that darkness is a serious matter. Darkness is a bad thing. You do not know what you have, that the light is inside you. When somebody says, “the things I do not want to do I find myself doing them”. Is that not darkness? You see somebody possessed! He cannot help himself. You will hear people say,

“Is that not that man who was like Saul before he became Paul? He was persecuting!”

He was darkness ,but God brought that darkness to the house of God. God will bring so much bundles of darkness to His house that they will receive life and become light. Let us be careful not to allow them to go. If they come to us, do not think of the past. Help them otherwise they will perish.

We are life givers in this day. Let our hearts be large. Your boss who has persecuted you so much in the office, he will call you and say, “My boy.” When he calls you, your first impulse could be a flare of anger,

“What does he want from me again now?” You might even think he wants to accuse you again. You will be surprised when he will say,

“My boy, help me.”

Only yesterday, he was angry with you. Today you came and he is begging you to sustain him. If he does not come to you, he will perish. And you will look at him and let compassion come to our hearts, because we are the ones that are going to sustain the nations.

I do not know how it is going to be. In your own case it might be different. It might be a neighbor. In another person’s case it might be a boss in the office; but you will see opposites coming to you and asking you for the grace that has been in you, that they have persecuted for so long. They will be asking to drink of it. May we not fail you Oh Lord, in that hour. Because to whom much is given much is expected

yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.

Now, what are nations? It is so easy to look at nations and say, ‘O, it will be the gentiles’. At times, even we believers might have strange nations inside us. Is that not so? You have strange nations. You have things, which are not supposed to be inside you. Within us even, you will see some people who would come and the nations are raging inside them. They know that without you they cannot be saved. Please we shall save them in Jesus’ name.

As we were coming in this morning, God was even ministering to my heart that a time will come, and very soon, when in our gatherings like this, people will be coming in with cassock. Do you know what cassock is? They will be coming with cassock but do not look at their cassock. People want to survive. They are perishing; they want life from you.

The other day we went to Congo. Many people came. When you make alter call you see people coming with cassock.

People will come, say, ‘Come, and teach us the Law. Show us the way’. They will come to you; and we will not abandon them. Let us tell God that we will not abandon them. I tell you there will be an upsurge upon us in this work that we have not seen before. In these last days, people will come, people that you thought were big, big, big. They will come looking for you, and you will be surprised.

I have some friends. It is already happening now! These are friends, if I tell you their names, everybody knows them; and they are big people. Five six years ago, they would

not come near me. Now they are looking for my number and I say, “God, glory be to Your Name”. They are not looking for my number because they want business; they want fellowship. If I tell you their names you will not believe it; but I am not arrogant about it. I am just seeing the fulfillment of God’s word that a time will come that they cannot hold themselves again. All the pride that they have been holding, they have been standing against you but God is pushing them. They have come to a point now where if they continue to stay away they will die. So they begin to say come let me take life so I can live.

It is the last day. It is the desire of God to still save some, and many through us. So water will come out of this fountain and it will go to feed the nations.

Isaiah 45:1

45:1 Thus saith the LORD

To whom?

...to his anointed,

Are you the anointed of God? Are you the anointed of God? There they put Cyrus. You had better put your name there.

...to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

That is another witness. He shall open before you the two leaved gates; and God is saying those gates will not be shut. There are many things you may look at and say,

“Well, you know, I missed that chance. O, we failed it in the past.”

Now it is a permanent gate opened to us. You have not seen anything yet. You will go to Angola. You will go to Zimbabwe. You will go to China. You will go to Russia. The gates shall be continually opened; because nations shall drink of you. It is just the word of God. It is the timing of God. It is the prophecy of God; and God is not man that will lie, nor the son of man that He will repent. When God releases a thing He does not regret about it because He knows what He has done.

He says the two leaved gates shall be opened unto us. They will not be shut.

45:2 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron.

Some gates are serious gates of iron, heavy brass. When you see some gates you will know that,

“Man! This is German gate! This is a gate that has been planned by the colonial masters.”

God says, “I will break them in pieces! I will cut them asunder. They will scatter.” No matter how strong those gates are that stand before you to block you from what God has promised you, he says I will break them for you. You know, the good thing about God is that God is not a politician. When politicians come and make promises, they will later say, “It is soap box”. It is like soap, when you wash, it washes away. What they promised you, forget it.

But God is not a politician. When God tells you something, he is telling you what He knows that He has established from the foundation of the world, and no man can take it away. He said those gates of brass shall be cut asunder. We will not be ignorant anymore. We will not allow the devil to fool us.

45:3 And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD which called thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

Does that sound like God stamping something and sealing it? That you may know! They say they that know their God shall be strong and shall do exploits; because they know that God cannot lie. Therefore, when they go out they are determined. They know that if God be with us who can be against us?

Now look at what He says there. He says I will give thee the treasures of darkness. You know, there are some treasures of darkness. Some works have been formed in the dark recesses of the earth. Take diamonds for example. They are only formed in darkness. You go deep, deep down into the mines. At times the whole thing will collapse because there is no light there but there are some treasures that come out of it. God says he will give them to you.

You know there are some treasures of darkness. It might be some experience that God took you through. It might be you having passed through this situation and God made you better for it. There may be some people who have gone to prison. It might have been a dark period for them. But in that their prison experience God turned them around, and made them gold, brought out the gold and the silver. He will give them the treasures of that darkness. He will not give you the wicked things of the darkness; but he will give you what he has turned out of that darkness to glory. He will give it to us.

He will give us the treasures of darkness and the hidden riches of secret places. He that dwells in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the almighty. Now even in that secret place there are some riches. There are some hidden riches. God says He shall give them to us. So even though we are poor physically, God is going to bring riches to us.

In that your righteousness you have hidden in righteousness. You have said, “God I am hiding in this secret place of God; I will not do this. I will not do that. I will not take this. I will not take that”. Do not worry. Many of us have been like that. They will come and look for you one day. You will be amazed.

“We want to look for that brother, because that is the only brother that can stand in that place. Because that brother does not take bribe”

The hidden riches of secret places shall be your own. You will now be profiting from the righteousness of God. They will give you that responsibility, they will give you that position, they will give you that benefit because you have been faithful to God. It will now become a testimony to the Gentiles. They will draw you and you will begin to get riches out of it to the glory of God.

So do not be weary of well doing. Do not be weary in the fact that you have followed on for so long. Do not be weary in the fact that,

“All these things I have done, have they profited me anything? At the end of the day look at me. Look at where others are!”

Do not worry, brother, there are hidden riches. That secret place that you have been, there are some riches that are attached to it. God will cause you to have it in Jesus’ name.

Now let us move to **Psalm 24** from verse **1** even though where I want is verse**7**. I just love the beginning of the **Psalm**.

24:1 The earth is the LORD’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

24:1 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

24:3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

24:4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

24:5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

If you look at the passage, it is like an introduction, telling us who God is and the fact of who can qualify into those that the Lord will say, 'Even though darkness is around the earth and gross darkness around the people, I will arise upon thee'. He said who, who are those that will ascend? It is those that have clean hands. We thank God because even though we felt as though there was condemnation upon us, God has established to us that Christ has not condemned us. He says, the law of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death.

24:6 This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob.

Before I read verse seven, I want us to have at the back of our mind what God has promised to us in **Isaiah 60:11-12** and **Isaiah 45:1-3**.

24:7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors; and the king of glory shall come in.

Now when you know, it is like a proclamation that has been sent forth; which is aligned with the word of God, that even in these last days of the Lord's Day and His kingdom the gates shall not be shut. But He begins to tell us that, that declaration is a word that has been spoken for our favour and for us. It is addressed to the gates that are before us. He says, "Lift up your heads O ye gates!" Interestingly, he went on to say, "and be lift up ye everlasting doors"!

Do you know what everlasting means? It means before, now and forever. But now the word of God has gone against it; so that "ye everlasting doors", even you are not exempted.

Our fathers ate sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge. There are some people like that,

"You know, I am like this because my father died at this age. It runs in the family. You see this is a genetic thing."

You are looking at everlasting doors. God has said even those everlasting doors shall be lifted. Some of us have seen those gates. They looked so permanent. You may say,

“Bro...Bro, you know how old I am? Every time...Every time...”

This time will not be like every time. Those everlasting doors will be lifted. She says,

“See, twenty men have come and none of them has married me!”

This twenty-first man that will come, these everlasting doors will be lifted.

“Every time I take in,... miscarriage, ...miscarriage!”

This time it will not go!

“Bro, I do not think we are going to try again. I think we’ll just leave it that way.”

This time you will try and it will hook! No matter how everlasting those doors are, the word of God has gone against them! The Bible says, everlasting doors. Someone would say,

“Oh boy, na everlasting door oh!”

Everlasting, who made it everlasting? Is it the Person that owns the earth and the fullness thereof? The Person who owns the earth is telling you that these doors must be lifted; and you are telling me they are everlasting?. Whose report will you believe? Whose? Is it not the One that owns the earth and the fullness thereof? So if there is any door, can it be greater than the person who made the earth?

So whatever age those doors are, whatever time keeper has been ministering in your heart, those that have been mentioning age for you , saying “you are this age now” or, “this is your so, so and so birthday”- and they are beginning to plant permanent foundation upon it, they shall be lifted in Jesus’ name.

Now what is the declaration? It says, “That the King of glory, the King of glory shall come in”. Are you with the King of glory? On whose side are you? You are on the side of the King of glory, so those gates shall not stand against you; because the King of glory must ride in.

No matter how strong Government House gates are, when the governor is coming, do they shut it for him? When the governor is coming whether he uses siren or not they know, That is the governor,

“The governor is coming, the governor is coming, ... open gate. You want to loose your job?”

You are sending a note of warning to the spirits of darkness that, ‘If you continue to hold those doors again, you are in trouble,’ “because the King of glory is about to come in. You cannot ban me from that which the Lord has promised unto us.’

So you see that, that declaration is made for us, and it is made by us; and we should continue to declare it, that the King of glory shall come in. It goes on and says,

24:8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Now our brother was sharing with us when we started from **Luke 21:27**, where you shall see the Son of man coming in the cloud. We bless God for that revelation, that the Son of man is not coming alone. The Son of man is coming with the body of Christ. He is coming with you and I. It is time for God to come down and save the nations, and He is coming with you and I. Therefore, the king of glory that is coming in, no gate can stop it. Whether it be national gate, it cannot stop it.

If God tells you now to go and minister in Russia, no gate in Russia can stand against you; because the King of glory is about to come into Russia. Moreover, Russia belongs to the Lord. It is part of the earth and the fullness thereof.

From every ramification therefore, God’s word is going to open doors unto us. Whether it is gate of infirmity, or the gate that has had its roots from whatever foundation,

“O, you know this thing? It is a sickness that started from birth.”

It can start from birth, but it will not end in death. Did you hear what I said? That your sickness may have started from birth, but it will not end in death; because you will not die, but you shall live to declare the glory of God. Those gates must be lifted up, and the King of glory shall come in.

Now let us go on again in repetition. You might say it is repeating itself. When God repeats a thing however, it means God is making a declaration that cannot be shaken.

24:9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Two times, two times! When God says a thing once, and says it again the second time, maybe the first time you doubted it; but the second time, you know God is serious. “All ye gates, be lifted up”.

There is no power that can stand before our God. That power has not being born. There is no principality. And the essence of God causing us to rise out of darkness is not for us to continue to stay in our own shelter of timidity, no! It is for us to be set free from fear and intimidation, or limitations of our minds. God is breaking us loose. You will not take that step and God will leave you there. God will go with it. He will back it up with his power and with His might; and behind you signs and wonders will follow.

Many of us, for many years we have been praying for people. People have sicknesses, you pray. After praying, when they are asked,

“How is it?”

“Well...you know...”

“Go and see this consultant. He is ...”

Now you pray for people when they go and do test, they will not see the sickness again! God is breaking the things that used to limit us. Brethren, I am not saying this to excite you. I am saying it because I hear God telling me that, and I know that we are entering into the Lord’s Day, the last of the days. God will release His power in a mighty way.

The other day we were in church. We had gone to pray for a brother whose mother was sick. When we got there we discussed, they said the sickness is cancer, they said... You know, there are some names that doctors input to some sicknesses that when you hear them, they bring some levels of fear into your heart. When you hear, ‘Cancer of the cervix, or Kidney of the that!’ You hear some heavy words. The word sounded so heavy.

We went and we prayed, and prayed with this woman. We went out. When I was going back God started ministering to me that this woman, she will not die. I said,

“Na wa o!”

On Sunday, we sat again at fellowship and God ministered to my heart,

“Carry these elders again and pray for this woman. That cancer is not there anymore”

I said,

“God, You don start o! The name of this thing is very big o! It is not headache o, God! It is not headache, and the place where these people were, they have all sorts of machines. God, they are big, big machines o!”

I sat down in that my chair there lost in thoughts. When fellowship ended I called the elders and said,

“Please, I’m sorry , but please let us go back to that hospital. God is ministering to my heart that this woman, whatever they call that thing ,God will take it away.”

So we carried our anointing oil and went back to the hospital. When we got there we discovered she had in fact graduated from general to specialist hospital. You know when they say your case now is a case for LUTH, it means it has become more complicated. We had earlier gone to the general hospital to pray for the person. We were now going to a higher hospital. The person’s infirmity has been promoted; promoted from general to specialist hospital. If it likes, let it go to super specialist hospital, God will break that gate!

But you know the ordinary man will say,

“Old boy, where did we go to? It was Lagos o - general. Now we are going to LUTH - specialist! This is specialist o. They know what they are talking about.”

We entered the hospital. Thank God for brethren! Thank God for agreement! Thank God for agreement, brethren. There is nothing like body ministry, because if it is you alone, fear will catch you. But when you see your brother forging ahead, you too will begin to encourage yourself, “Me too I’m strong!” We shall cover our backs! When my courage cannot carry me any more, my brothers’ own will take over, because we are in mount Zion. When your brother hears you speak a little, his own faith fires on with greater enthusiasm, ‘Yes, I have a witness!’

You know, witnesses strengthen you. That is why the Bible says “they that feared the Lord spoke often one with another”. Do not deny yourself fellowship. You do not have it all. You will never have it all!. Do not say, ‘Ah...!’ You need your brother otherwise you will die in that field alone. You need your brother. These are not days for lone rangers. Like the Police used to say,

“If you say police is not your friend, when you have problem, go and call an armed robber!”

These are your brethren! You must have the vision of the body at this time; if not, you die. Abraham caught it long, long ago, as someone shared the other day. Abraham and Lot, he said we cannot fight! Herdsmen, we are brethren. Ministry of herdsmen, you had better be careful. Herdsmen are those that belong to supporters club. You carry story here, and carry story there. Stop carrying stories! God is in the business of joining

the brethren. You hear what this man said, you hear what that man said. Stop carrying stories. If they give you story, return it to sender.

Begin to return to sender. It is not every package that DHL delivers. If you give DHL some undesirable or dangerous packages, they will return them to sender. Begin to return some messages to sender. Do not begin to deliver messages. One day, as you are delivering messages your leg will cut on the road. When it is bad message, return it and say,

“Bro, me I cannot say that kind of thing o. Bro, these people are our brethren o.”

“O bro, are you not with us again?”

“I am with God.”

There is nothing like I am of Apollos. I am for Cephas or Paul. Christ is not divided. If you continue that in this time, we are in the last day o; fire will burn you! I am telling you the truth; fire will burn you.

Abraham was so wise! He said, ‘No, we are brethren! Herdsmen should not divide us’. We are brethren. Anybody that carries news is in the ministry of the herdsman. Reject it.

Let me go back to my testimony. You know at times God just gives you something and you just bring it out. You did not plan it. God just say you should say it. Maybe it has helped somebody somewhere, so my brethren we encourage ourselves.

We went back. We said,

“Mama, you will not die.” Others chorused it. We carried anointing oil and anointed the woman. We said,

“Brother, go and do that test again.” We will not be afraid to send people to go and do tests again, because when they go again it will be negative.

You will not believe it, but you will believe it, because in the day of His power, His people shall be willing. They went the next day and they did not see anything there again! The woman that they said had no hope is still very much alive! They carried her out. We said, ‘Mama, you will walk out of this place. You will not die, you will live.’

They did two different tests from two international standard machines and got two different results concerning one body. God will give us much more of that.

The King of glory is about to come in. There is a time the King of glory was waiting, but there is time no more. This is the last day. The light of God is coming out of darkness; and when it comes out of darkness, it will not hide any more. So He said, 'Every gate that has been standing against the people of God, I want you to be lifted up, because the King of glory shall come in.'

Say, "I am with the King of Glory. I am with the King of glory."

O yes, you are on the side of the King of glory. You are not doing it in your power; you are not doing it in your might. The strength you have is not of your own, but you are on the side of the King of glory so the light of God is shining through you. It does not depend on your power. It is not your might, but because it has been spoken concerning you; the glorious city of God. The glory of God is going to shine forth. The Bible says "the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea". You are part of that glory.

Let us go to **Matthew 16**. We will read two more Scriptures and we will round up. Now the Lord was asking his disciples that, "Who do men say that I the Son of man am? " They replied saying "Some say You are John the Baptist , other say You are Elijah" etc, Verse **15**.

16:15 He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am.

Who is the Lord to you? Because that is where the robber meets the road. If to you Jesus Christ is just an ordinary man who was born in a manger, the physical son of a carpenter, and everything that happened to Him is natural, if your knowledge of Jesus is limited to that, your power will be limited.

16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God.

Brethren, that is a revelation that you and I should never loose track of. The person that we serve is Christ Jesus, the Son of the Living God. He is neither a dead God ,nor a dying God ; but he is the Son of the living God, the risen God.

Now what was His reaction?

16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto, but my father which is in heaven.

You know this issue of knowing Christ is a revelation. Some people do not understand. They look at you and say,

“O’ boy, what is your problem now? You are an educated man. A graduate and you do not have a problem. This one that you are following these SUs all over the place, what is your problem?”

They do not see what you are seeing. Pray for them that they may see what you are seeing. I told some people, I said,

“You know, I am going for a conference.”

“Eh eh, is it a conference on Arbitration? Is it NBA? Is it lawyers’ conference?”

“Is it an international conference?”

“O yes, it is an international conference!”

“Boy, that’s a big one! You are going to Benin for an international conference.”

When I told people in my office that I was going for a conference, they said with a tinge of envy,

“Oga is going for a conference.”

O yes! It is a conference, an international conference. The revelation in this conference is bigger than any other revelation. It is the beginning and the end. It is the difference between life and death. That is the revelation of this conference. It is not an ordinary conference. ‘It is not an ordinary name; it’s the name that’s full of power and of praise’.

It is not an ordinary name. The name of Jesus is not an ordinary name. Who is Jesus to you? Is it just a name? Is it just a social gathering? Is He just an ordinary man? He is not an ordinary man. That name that you have is a name above all names. A name that is timber and caterpillar. If it bulldozes this place, this building can come down at the name of Jesus!

He said “You are the Son of the living God”. Jesus said this revelation, you did not get it through academic prowess. There are people who have done theology, Ph. D, post Ph. D, minus Ph. D, plus Ph. D; but they do not have the revelation that you and I have that Jesus Christ was risen from the dead. Paul said “that I might know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering”.

Some people do not know that. They would theologize, tell you about Jesus. The historians said, ‘When we went to Egypt, we saw ...’, it ends there! Your own will not end there. Your own is life. Jesus is not just a name to you. It is not just a story in the history book. He is life to you. When you hear the name “Jesus”, something inside you is quickened.

When someone says ‘Jesus’, your body begins to shake. They are calling Jesus, you too are responding, because the Spirit of Christ is inside you.

Therefore, what did He say about that? He said “flesh and blood have not revealed this unto you”.

16:18 And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock

Upon this revelation; God cannot build His church if you do not believe; upon this revelation that I did not just carry an ordinary name. So all the power, all the glory of this time shall be based on the understanding that Jesus is more than an ordinary name. He is more than an ordinary person. He is a power. He is an authority. He is a light out of darkness. He is a great dynamo that can bulldoze the whole earth and nothing can stand before it. brethren we need to catch that revelation.

Now what did He say about that? He says,

“When I build this My church ...”

Who are you? Are you not the Church of God? You know the Church is not this building. People say, ‘O build a house unto the Lord.’ Others say,

“O boy, I am bringing a hundred blocks to build a house unto the Lord.”

But the Bible says “ye are lively stones being built unto a spiritual house”. You are the church of God.

...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Therefore, if you know you are a church built on the revelation of God, and Jesus the Son of God, you have no fear. You have every power over the gates of hell. They have no power over you.

Let us read verse **19**. Always, when God gives you a right, He gives you benefits to go with that right. One thing about God is this. Everything that is in the Bible, if you relate it to a profession, it will be consistent with that profession. If you go to those

places where He was talking about food to eat, those clean and unclean foods, they are the things we call health foods today. Every instruction in the Bible is consistent.

Whenever Jesus Christ establishes a right for you, He also puts down the benefits that go with that right. Lawyers will also tell you that; that there can be no right without a corresponding duty. If somebody says, “Look, you have a right as a son of God” it means somebody has a duty to respect that thing that you have. They cannot give you a right that stands in isolation. They cannot say you have the right to be a citizen of Nigeria then Immigration now messes you up. No! Immigration has a duty to respect and uphold your right of citizenship.

If you look at the Bible therefore, when Jesus Christ gives you a right, He puts a duty on somebody else to recognize that right.

Now look at this one. He says he will build his church and the gates of hell shall not prevail. Then He goes on in **19** and He gives us our rights.

16:19 and I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven

That is your right! He has established His word: because you have done this you are my church; I will build My church upon you; and He goes on to say, ‘You have certain entitlements. Let nobody take it away from you. I will give to you the keys of the kingdom.’

Do you have the keys? Do you have the keys? Do you have the keys?

What is the consequence of having the keys? Whatsoever we bind on earth, is bound in heaven. So all those foul spirits, all those spirits of infirmity, all those wicked spirits, all those spirits of condemnation, all those spirits of division, all those spirits of oppression, all those spirits that have come to steal, to kill and to destroy, He says whatsoever we bind on earth is bound in heaven.

Now we are not saying this to excite ourselves. We are saying this so that we go out of this place as new people. That is why the Bible says in the days of His power His people shall be willing. They shall be convinced, they shall be persuaded. They shall become one with what God has declared. They shall identify with the declaration of God, and they shall run with it. That is the willingness. They shall see what God is seeing and they shall move with it; and there shall be a performance of it.

Isaiah 61:1-3 & 6-9.

61:1 The Spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD that he might be glorified.

He says, to appoint unto them that mourn, where? In Zion. Are you in Zion? Then these are your attributes. Let us look at them again. They are beauty for ashes; oil of joy for mourning; garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Is there anybody here that is going through mourning? There is the oil of joy. Is there anybody that has the spirit of heaviness, whether through condemnation or whatever? You are in Zion. God has set you free. He has given you the garment of praise. What else is there? He says beauty for ashes.

Now what does He say there? That they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord; that he might be glorified. God will be glorified in Zion; and this is the day of God being glorified in Zion. It is the day that the glory of God shall come forth in His fullness in the midst of His people.

Let us open our vessels knowing that “it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth”. The things that happen to you do not so happen because it is you. God will show you more than you can think or imagine. God will give you, when you say favour, it will blow your mind. I was telling someone the other day I said favour is when you are entitled to be manager but God makes you a director. Favor is when you are entitled to just be a cleaner, a doorkeeper in God’s house and he makes you a miracle worker. Favour is when you get something, that by your strength, or by the widest stretch of your imagination you could not have got it.

You shall be called trees of righteousness, the plantings of the Lord. The Lord shall be glorified.

61:6 But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD; men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

61:7 For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

61:8 For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

61:9 And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed that the LORD hath blessed.

Remember, when God gives you a right, when God gives you a position He gives you benefits and attributes that go with it. If we are the people of God called by His name, called from the dark and delivered from shame all these glorious things are meant for us.

May God Bless His word in your Hearts. Amen

CHAPTER SEVEN
GOD’S UNCHANGING PURPOSE
(SAM POPOOLA)

I will like to title this short session: **God’s Unchanging Purpose.**

God has a purpose. God is not distracted from His purpose. God is not failing in His purpose. Look at **Ephesians 1:9**. The writer said,

1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

There is a good pleasure which God has purposed in Himself. If you go to chapter **3:11** it says

3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

God’s unchanging purpose; He has a purpose, He has a pleasure which He has purposed in Himself. He has a purpose which He has purposed in His Son Jesus Christ, and that purpose is unfailing. That purpose is unchanging, and God has never turned away from that purpose. We want to look at some aspects of that purpose this evening.

We have a small project with a state government. At about two weeks ago, we just heard a message from Government House that the Governor is going to be on site, so we left for the site. We were there waiting for the Governor. Finally he came. This is a project where the government had spent over two hundred million Naira already. He got to the site. He said,

“This thing will not work! This is my vision, but what I’m seeing is not my vision.”

We tried to say it will work. He said it will not work. He said,

“It is not your vision. It is my vision. All work stopped!”

Of course people had several things to say about his personality. The thing that came to me however is that this man has a vision, and he came to inspect how far that thing was becoming a reality, and he said, no, it is not according to my vision. He then sent for another professional to rub minds with us and with himself. At the end, he said a state government facility; the only facility that produces the Daily (newspaper) for the state should be brought down, because this vision of his cannot be contained in this small place. He said they should let that project go down!

“Destroy everything so that my vision can be my vision.”

We let him know that to pull down the existing project would cost additional one hundred and forty million Naira. He said, ‘That is my vision.’

Now, when I look at a man talking about his vision and I look about God talking about His vision, then I have a clearer understanding of what we are talking about. God has a vision. That vision is no man’s vision. It is no nation’s vision. Now it has taken so much. Of course, at the government level we said this is public fund being wasted. However, this is the chief executive of the state! He has the last word in the matters concerning the state, just as God has the last word about His vision.

In this project, we had already built staff quarters, an international hospital, four roofed staff quarters! He said pull them down, because he wanted his vision to be his vision.

I therefore imagine how many things God is ready to pull down because of His vision. I imagine how many things will go because God’s purpose must be realized. The Bible says God’s eternal purpose which He has purposed in His Son Jesus Christ, that purpose is unchanging. That purpose is unyielding. My beloved brethren, I am encouraged every day! That purpose keeps me alive. That purpose is renewing my age, making me younger than I am, because it is a living purpose.

Look at **Isaiah 62**. You are in the centre of that vision. You are in the centre of that purpose. Look at verse **1**. It says,

62:1 For Zion’s sake will I not hold my peace, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until

My vision, until My purpose; and that vision and that purpose is about you. That vision and that purpose are about me. He said, I would not hold My peace. Do you know God is restless? ‘I will not hold My peace. I will not have rest, until the righteousness, until

the salvation become a burning lamp.’ For Zion’s sake will I not hold My peace, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest until

the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.

The righteousness is likened to light. The salvation also is likened to light, and it is not light that is a reflection. It is a light that gives glory, and keeps burning. Until attention is called to the source of that light, God said He will not have rest. That means there is something that God has to accomplish in your life that has to do with God’s eternal purpose. That means there is a work that God must bring forth and accomplish. That means there is a work, a process, that God must accomplish in your life. Until God has it, He can pull down, and pull down until He has what He wants out of your life. It is bordering on God’s eternal purpose. Verse 2.

62:2 and the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness and all kings thy glory:

Now this eternal purpose of God, various prophets have various entrances into it; and again, they explained this God’s eternal purpose from their backgrounds, background of their personality, and background of their environment where they were.

Isaiah, we understand among several other prophets, was an intellectual, and we find that his writings are different. Just like Paul was a great intellectual. Therefore the approach of Isaiah touching God’s eternal purpose is different from the approach of other prophets. All the prophets however had an entrance into God’s eternal purpose. We are going to look at one, two, three prophets; and look at one, two Apostles touching on this God’s eternal purpose. The way Paul approached it as an intellectual is different from the way Peter approached it as a rugged fisherman. All these diverse witnesses attest to the fact that God has an eternal purpose, and that purpose God will not turn back until He has accomplished it.

Now, the Bible says without faith it is impossible to please God. Those that must come to Him must believe that He is. We must look up to God at this time to key into the faith that will bring us into the full accomplishment of God’s eternal purpose in our lives. There is a personal dimension to it. There is a corporate dimension to it. Your faith will determine how you relate to it individually.

For instance, how many spies went to spy Canaan land? They were twelve spies. How many entered the Promised Land? Two of the twelve spies! What made the difference? It was their faith, and their unbelief. Very critical to our ability to enter into the

promise of the father is your individual faith. It is not sufficient to hear the word of the Lord. That word must be activated in you to entering into the Land of Promise.

Still continuing in the book of **Isaiah 62**

62:2 And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory:

God spoke to Moses, He said, the garment on Aaron is for beauty, and it is for glory. It is part of unveiling of God's eternal purpose. God set Aaron up that we may see from the natural perspective what it means to have beauty; what it means to have glory. Now God is saying I have a plan for you to come into my estate of righteousness that the world around you will know that you are come into an estate.

Part of the work of redemption, the climax of the work of redemption, which Isaiah calls salvation here, is to accomplish in you a lifting into the estate of His character, of His righteousness. Sometimes a preacher will call it perfection. Isaiah calls it righteousness. What Isaiah is calling righteousness is entering into the estate of perfection; and God says I will stop at nothing until I get it in your life. I will stop at nothing until you experience a breaking forth and a breaking through; and there is not going to be any barrier. Nothing is going to stop God.

In verse three He says,

62:3 Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

62:4 Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate:

Of course, there are many seated here this evening devastated, in a state of desolation, state of hopelessness; hopeless situations and circumstances; but God is saying I have a vision. I have a plan. I have a purpose; I have a counsel

Many times when I enter into a challenge in my personal life the issue is not that I want victory over the challenge. The issue is how God takes honor out of this challenge. The issue is how God takes glory in this challenge. How does God feel big and fulfilled in this matter.

Now when you challenge God and you tie God to His purpose in your life, there is no how big that mountain is before Zerubabel; it shall become a plain. If you know how to tie the challenge in your life to God's eternal purpose, because that is what is eternal, your problem is not eternal. Your challenge is not eternal. So if you are able to

tie the uneternal unto the eternal, the eternal will swallow it up and you see victory come up.

These are the days when we must tap into the secrets of life; tap into the secret of victory; tap into the secret of power. It lies in God's purpose.

You want God to move, then see how the matter relates to His own purpose. Why was God saying to Moses, Tell the people that they should stand still and see the salvation of God? It was because the matter was bordering on His purpose. It was not because He wanted to make Moses become a big army general, so that his CV points can be heavy. That was not the matter. The matter was something that touched on the glory of God.

What do you think made it impossible for the three Hebrew children to get burnt in the furnace? It was because the matter involved touched on the purpose of God; it touched on the glory of God. It was not because those young men suddenly discovered some magical powers. The thing however was that they were focused. They knew that there was a purpose of God tied to their lives, and until that purpose is fulfilled, nothing could happen to them. How did Daniel know that they were to be freed from the land of Babylon? They were focused. They researched into Scriptures, and recognized, 'seventy years are determined'. They were not ready to negotiate because it touched on the glory of God.

That was why it was possible for Daniel and his colleagues to say, there are people who are watchers here, whose decree must be obeyed. Their decrees and laws over kings and over nations were final. It was because there is a purpose of God involved in their lives. That is why they can make decrees and decrees are established.

I would not know the doctor Hanna the mother of Samuel saw, for instance. I would not know the report the doctor gave to her to such an extent that her husband was always trying to appeal to her,

“Even if God is not going to.... Let's move beyond this one!”

Anytime Elkana gave gifts, he would give her multiple gifts; but the woman said,

“God's purpose is involved. It is not because I want a child at all cost. God's purpose is involved. God must produce a prophet in times of darkness that will be a voice for God, touching on the purposes of God.”

There is no way, there is no barrenness that can withstand that. There is no barrenness that can stand when God's purpose is involved. Amen!

God has gathered you here this week, touching God's purpose. That is why there is no barrier here in this week touching any circumstance or situation, I do not care what the reports say. You are here because of God's purpose. God's purpose is involved in your life. You have travelled far and near, you are here because of one singular purpose, the purpose of God. That purpose cannot fail so God is ready to pull down any barrier because His purpose is involved. It is not because of you per se. it is because of His purpose which He has purposed in His son, the Bible said, before the *katabole* of the world; before the foundation... The word foundation is *katabole*. It is not the foundation of this house. It is not even the beginning of the world. It is before the fall, God had purposed that.

The Bible says God Himself had to swear and take an oath so that it can be said that by two immutable things in which it will be impossible for God to lie... This purpose cannot fail. It is tied to an oath. That is why nothing can act in your life as a barrier for God accomplishing His purpose in your life.

God said, I shall not have peace. Have you seen where God places a sentence on Himself because of you? That is a sentence! God has placed a sentence of peacelessness on Himself because of you, because of His purpose in your life. He said He would have no peace. The only other Scripture I know about somebody having no peace is the Scripture that says, There is no peace to the wicked in **Isaiah 48:22**. But where you find the Creator of the heaven and the earth placing a sentence upon Himself the matter is critical. The matter is serious.

That matter is bigger than the problem you think you are carrying. That matter will swallow up that problem. God's purpose is bigger than the things that are your inhibitions and limitations. God's purpose will swallow up all those things as the serpent of Moses swallowed up the serpents of all the magicians of Egypt. It is a bigger purpose.

Of course Satan has a purpose tied to the circumstances in your life, but God has a bigger purpose. All other purposes are like the serpents of the magicians of Egypt. God's singular purpose will swallow them all up in the Name of Jesus. God said I have declared I will have no peace because of you. Who is Zion? It is you.

For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest ,

He did not say I may not hold My peace or I May not rest; He said until something happens. Until the righteousness in your life; the righteousness in your life is the

righteousness of God! It is the fulfillment of the righteousness of God in your life. That righteousness is God saying when I have accomplished it then I prove Myself righteous in your life. I am justified. Until God's purpose is fully justified in your life God will not stop and He will not have rest.

Look at **Isaiah 40**. We might come back to this issue.

40:1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people

There is a word of comfort

saith your God.

40:2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she hath received from the Lord's hand double for her sins.

This is talking about the pardoning of iniquity. This is not talking about the forgiveness of sins. That is something bigger. In chapter **62** He was talking about righteousness. Here He is talking about the pardoning, the taking away, the removal of a nature,

What can stop God's purpose in your life? Not iniquity. Are you hearing me? Nothing can stop the purpose of God, in your life. The purpose of God in your life transcends material goals. It goes beyond goals and accomplishments or attainments. It goes beyond financial attainment. The purpose of God is eternal. Peter says gold, diamonds, silver are all corruptible. But there is something incorruptible. That which is incorruptible is what God wants to produce in your life, and God says until He has that He will not rest.

As much as the Lord is concerned, God does not expect anyone to die until you have become, and if you have become then you are no longer dying. Are you understanding me? Now when you understand what this Scripture is saying then just like Simeon of old, he knew that there was a coming of the Messiah and he tied his living to the coming of the Messiah and his eyes seeing the Messiah. This coming glory, you can tie your life to it. Are you hearing me?

Simeon said I refuse to die except I see what God has promised. Has God made a promise? Do you have what it takes to say I will not die until I see that glory? You do not need big faith; you just need to believe God. For instance, when the governor spoke about two weeks ago, you do not need faith to believe what he had said. Instantly, the contractor disbanded all his workers. The contractor does not need any faith. Because

of the word of the king is power, the contractor disbanded. The next two hours, the place was deserted!

If God says I have a purpose in your life, you can hang on that. If something is not working for you, you say,

“No. There is something tied to my life. Because of that, you hindrance have no hold on me.”

God has bigger purpose than the purpose of the thing holding you bound. It is not about you now. It is about God, and God’s purpose. You hold to the fact that God has a purpose. That purpose is eternal. Until God accomplishes that purpose, He is not going to turn back.

Therefore, until you see that purpose truly blown up in your life, you tell sickness I have nothing to do with you because there is something bigger than you in my life now! You tell limitation that there is a bigger purpose. I have seen it work again, and again because it is real. It is a living promise. It is a living burden in the heart of God. When you catch it, it turns you round one hundred and eighty degrees. It turns things around you one hundred and eighty degrees.

Dou you understand? Because, there is a bigger purpose. You catch the vision, your life will turn around for good. God the creator of the heavens and the earth said, I will not rest, I will not hold my peace until I see you come of age, until you break forth in this glory, until I can see you come in the righteousness of God.

If that is involved, then sickness in your life is contrary to that word. Sickness and righteousness do not go together. God said the light of that righteousness will get brighter and brighter until the Gentiles are able to see the light. He did not even say you are going to have to announce it, they will see the light and they will come into it. When the shepherds that were watching their flock by night saw the star, they followed the light of the star because it was a light that could be followed.

If God says by His word that there are wandering stars, it means there are stars that are not wandering. Those stars in their courses, when their light comes to attract the attention of the world around them they will look for them. God wants to achieve that in your life. He wants to accomplish that in your life.

So God said comfort My people. There is a promise for you. He said he is going to change the condition of iniquity and the righteousness of God will now be seen. Daniel

saw it from another side in **Daniel 9:24**, when he was talking about “seventy years being determined for your people...”

9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins;

As part of God’s plan and program, transgression will be finished. He would make an end of sin. God will make an end of sins, and bring in an everlasting righteousness, that is to enter into a state that is irreversible, everlasting. You just step into it. That is God’s plan, God’s purpose; and it is eternal, something that God has been pursuing.

The governor said, tell me in about a week if you pull down this whole structure, tell me how long it will still take me to achieve and accomplish my vision? Now,... God has a determinate counsel. His time is determined. That is why we know that we are in a particular day. Is that not correct? God has determined the seasons and the times. He may not have revealed the particular day unto us in terms of twenty four hour day but we know we are in the day of the full accomplishment of this glorious purpose of God.

So God said there shall be an end of sin. Transgression will be dealt with, and will be finished.

Look at the entrance of Paul into it in **1 Corinthians 15**. This is the way that Paul described it from verse **45** to **49**.

15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul;

That was not pleasing in the sight of God.

The last Adam was made a life giving spirit.

15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which was natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.

15:48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy; and as the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

What Isaiah saw as righteousness and as salvation is what Paul is describing as the heavenly image. Paul said, and that is where faith comes in, if we have borne the image

of the earthy then we must of necessity bear the image of the heavenly. If we have identified with the first Adam we will have to identify with the last Adam. If we have partaken of the lesser glory then we will partake of the higher glory. That is what Paul is saying. He is saying,... it is nonnegotiable. Can you see it written in the spirit of, ‘this cannot be negotiated. If we have borne the image of the earthy we must also bear the image of the Lord from heaven?’

The righteousness that Isaiah is describing is the righteousness that touches on the heavenly image. For me it is nonnegotiable. I have seen the depth of corruption of the first Adam, I must see the highest height of the glory of the risen Lord. Nonnegotiable, I cannot negotiate this. For me that is what I am living for. I want to see it like Simeon saw. I want to see it. John said, the things we have seen; the things we have touched; the things we have handled. I must touch it! I must see it! I must handle it!

...What matters to me is entering into this promise of the Father....During the Nigeria civil war there was this military jingle, ‘To keep Nigeria one is a task that must be done’. Do you understand? To partake of the heavenly image is a task that must be done. To partake of the heavenly image is a task that must be done. Take it as a project and you will experience it. Take it as a project and you will partake of it.

Of course Holy Ghost baptism, for over two thousand years now, there are some who are yet to be baptized in the Holy Ghost, but today you can still partake of it. Is that not true? So there has to be early fruits like the apostles who participated, the first hundred and twenty disciples who partook of the glory of that token of the promise, the giving of the Holy Spirit. It is not the fullness of the promise of the father. It is just a down payment, something of an evident token that God is going to do what He has said. Until now, even that token, some have not partaken of it.

It takes faith. To enter into any of the redemptive promises you need faith. To walk in any dimension of the promises that come by redemption you need faith. Even this one, we are partaking of the token, but you can also partake of the fullness of it. If you know that the reason you are living is to wait until you enter into the fullness of that promise I can assure you that sickness will go out of your body, because the glory of that breaking promise is enough to keep you alive and to swallow up every disease, swallow up every sickness, dry up every germ. Because you are seeing a glory bigger than the glory of that sickness; and the Bible says you are changed into the glory of that which you have seen.

If you are looking at the glory of this coming promise and you set your eyes on it, the present life will destroy in you all those things which are like separating us from the Father.

Let us look at **1 Peter 1:3**. Peter tried to describe it with some greater clarity for us.

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

What makes that hope living again? It is because Jesus resurrected. So that is additional confirmation that God is committed to this purpose.

1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible,

It is an inheritance. That inheritance is incorruptible, is undefileable, and it does not fade away. This inheritance is reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed. There is a salvation ready to be revealed when? When? In the last times. Are we in the last times? Is there something to be revealed? What is its name? what is it called? Salvation; salvation ready to be revealed. The hope of that revelation is made living because Jesus resurrected.

Peter said this hope, this inheritance does not fade, it does not fail. It is not corruptible and it cannot be defiled.

1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

That salvation of your soul is what Isaiah called righteousness, **Isaiah 62**. He calls it righteousness, the salvation of your soul. All the things happening in our body, where are they first generated? It is in the soul. When the glory of that salvation enters into your soul the power of those things is broken upon your bodies.

When the revelation of this salvation breaks forth in your soul, and every day you see the light of that hope; the Bible calls it a living hope, the light of that living hope destroys every darkness; darkness of sin, darkness of sickness, darkness of disease. The light of that salvation, as it is getting brighter, will destroy every darkness that brings reproach to our lives.

Peter said we should rejoice because the resurrection of Jesus has made the hope of that salvation to come alive again. He said in verse **9**, ‘receiving of your faith, even the salvation of your souls,

1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

This matter we are discussing, you call it God’s eternal purpose, you call it the salvation of your soul, you call it righteousness, Peter said the prophets, ... saw it coming. They prophesied concerning the grace that accompanies it. They had prophesied, they had also enquired, because they wanted to enter into it. You understand? So it is a very serious matter. They sought, by the Spirit in them as to the manner of His coming, and as to the time when He should come, supposing that God in mercy would bring it in their time; but Peter said,

1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

They saw the sufferings of Christ, and they saw the glory that should follow. Now the sufferings of Christ have been accomplished; but the glory to follow is only partially accomplished. The fullness of that is what you and I are waiting for.

Now if God in mercy sees His Son go through the sufferings because of the glory, will God now deny you the glory? Jesus was a sacrifice for the purpose of that glory so that that glory can come. If God allowed His Son to go through the sufferings, after His Son had suffered for that glory, will God withhold that glory from you? Will He withhold the promise from you? That is what God is calling His people unto at this time.

Peter said these prophets prophesied, and they were looking for ‘what is the time like? What is the manner of time in which this is to come?’

1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us

Peter believed that the thing would come in his time! The matter was so serious in the heart of Peter. He said it was revealed to the prophets that it was not unto them. The bringing forth of that glory was not going to come in the time of those prophets, but that it would come in our time. Peter thought that right when he was talking the thing was being expected.

Now, but by the Spirit of God we know this is the time of the coming into the fullness of that glory; and I can assure you God will stop at nothing to ensure that glory comes upon His people in this hour.

Now let us go back to **Isaiah 62** to look at some characters, some of the things that we will expect to happen, to facilitate the coming of the revelation, of the unveiling, of the bringing forth, of the pouring out of this grace. We shall see verses **6** and **7**.

62:6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall not hold their peace day nor night;

How do we relate to this matter they are talking about? God is raising watchmen. As many as are able to see this vision clearly, they are brought into the number of the watchmen that are watching for the fulfillment of this promise. God said if you find yourself entering into dimensions of intercession for the breaking forth of this glory it is not because you are a great intercessor. It is because God is committed to raising men who will pray it down.

The matter is not, ‘O, I have heard what the purpose of God is;’ and then we can go about our business as usual, no! There is a responsibility that comes with it. If you get it clear that means you have a responsibility to become one of the watchmen that will cry unto God and give him no rest until what He has said is brought to pass. He says,

Ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

When you look at verses **1** and **2** when God said I will not hold my peace, I will not give myself rest, it is because there are people who are not giving God rest. There is a cry in their hearts, ‘God, You said there is this glory, but my life does not look like what you are talking about. The experiences in my life do not seem to agree with the promises of your word.’

So as you come to God everyday you say, ‘No, the conditions around me are not in agreement with your promises’. Therefore, you will not give God rest. He said I have set watchmen upon thy walls O Jerusalem which shall never hold their peace day nor night. He said further, Ye that make mention of the Lord keep not silent, and give Him

no rest until He does what? Until He establishes, until He makes Jerusalem a praise. Until God makes your life a praise, God is saying give me no rest; God is saying let me have no peace. So God takes pleasure when you lay hold on God's word and say, 'God....' just like what Simeon did.

Do you know that the only thing that Simeon and his colleagues were gathering unto was to intercede for the coming Messiah? Because God had said there was going to be a savior, a Messiah that would liberate, just like Moses was a liberator and a deliverer. There is a promise of a greater Moses who is called a Messiah who was to come to set them free from the bondage, the present bondage. They were waiting on the Lord. They became watchmen over the walls of Jerusalem. That was why they knew when it happened.

There are some in this hall to night who will know when it is beginning to happen. Why, because they are watchmen, watching over the walls of Jerusalem, knowing that there is a promise, knowing that God cannot promise and fail, knowing that the reason why they are alive is to see the purpose of God established in the earth. That will not give them rest, and as long as they do not have rest in their soul they will not give God rest. As long as they do not have peace they will not give God peace.

When you look at things around you and they are as it were a contradiction, they are glaring contradiction to the promise of the coming glory, then you lose your peace, lose your rest. Paul said stir up yourself as men and lay hold upon God. He said quit yourself like men and lay hold upon God. Take God by his word. 'God you said you are going to send us this promise. You said You will not have rest or peace until the righteousness of your people is as a brightness, as a light that shines, and the Gentiles are able to see it. You that watch over the walls of Jerusalem, give God no rest. Give Him no peace.

62:7 Give Him no rest, till he establish, and till he makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Let us get back to **Isaiah 40**. So one dimension of the way God is going to accomplish His promise of the coming glory is as men and women are able to catch the fire of interceding, laying hold upon the hand of God to pull down the glory. Let it become a passion in our souls. We become passionate about the matter. We shall read from verse **3**.

40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

One dimension in which the coming glory shall become a reality is that God is going to increase the anointing of the messengers that will go forth with this word with clarity of utterance. On one side there will be those who are watching, who are not giving God rest or peace. On the other hand, there will be the word, the ministry of the word getting clearer and clearer about the fact that this is a glory that God has promised and that must be established; that must be accomplished. The greatest deliverance is that which is wrought by this promise, this coming glory. Whatever little deliverance now is a temporary one. The promised glory however is a total deliverance. It is a breaking from the old nature of the fallen man; and a breaking loose from the curse and the effect of the curse, because of the fallen man. The greatest deliverance therefore has to do with God's eternal purpose.

We are in **Isaiah 40**. He says as the ministry of the word with regards to God's eternal purpose gets heavier and heavier what will be happening? He says every valley shall be filled. Every valley shall be exalted. Every mountain and hill shall be made low. That means that the preaching of the word that has to do with God's eternal purpose will make mountains and hills to become plains. He did not say because of prayers now. He is talking about, as the vision is clearer, the valley shall be exalted. The mountains and the hills they shall become plains.

The Almighty God shall make the vision brighter for His people. He will make the vision brighter and He will increase the burden of this coming glory, for God to lower His hand so that the thing can be faster than imagined. God said 'a quick work I will do'. Have you read that in your Bible? 'And I will cut it short in righteousness. This thing that looks too far away from us, God said I will cut it short. If it is something that is expected in the next fifteen years, I will shorten it to five years; I will shorten it to three days. Even that one depends on individuals, as individuals lay hold on the vision. Some persons see it, and they step into it. But for other persons, there are still questions in their hearts,

'Is this what the Bible is actually saying? Is this promise really for me? Is it not as somebody dies and then in the sweet by and by he enters into it? Is the promise not for after death?'

While these doubts and rounds of questionings are whirling round some people's hearts, others are quietly stepping into it. It is just as there are many here who are baptized in the Holy Ghost and there are many yet to be baptized in the Holy Ghost. In the same way, some will begin to step into the glory because they believe in it. Caleb said, Even when I was eighty, because there was a vision before my eyes I refused to

say I am eighty. I think like a forty year old man. I behave like a forty year old man. I do what a forty years old man does. Why? Because there is a vision before me. There is a glory before me.

Then Caleb brought the issue of the promise. He said, Moses, you will give this mountain to me, and to my off springs. That promise has kept me to be a forty year old man when I was eighty. Do you know what vision can do to a man? Do you know the vision that a man has can heal him. The vision that a man has can break him free from poverty. Your vision, your vision is what makes you. The Bible says as a man thinks in his heart so he is. A man is not bigger; he is no more successful than his vision.

What a man envisions and pursues, he lays hands on. However, there is a greater vision. That vision is why we are gathered here this weekend. That greater vision is to break forth into the glory of the new day. That vision is to experience a breaking loose from all the things which have held humanity in bondage.

Am I speaking above our heads? Are we together? Are we understanding? If you followed what I am saying you may not need to pray, but you will see things happen in your life. You believe me? You believe me? Now if you do not need to pray and you see things happening in your life, what of if we now join prayers to it? Can you see the difference? Do you have a reason to follow me now, to follow what I am saying, and believe what I am saying? This is not my word. You believe what I am saying is not my word? It is in the Bible. Do you believe this is God's burden? God wants us to be out of the earth, out of where we are; and God is not going to stop at anything until you see it before your eyes. We are going to see how determined God is about this issue as we go on.

I have said that to realize this God's vision God is going to increase the grace upon men to pray and pray it down. Number two, God is going to increase the revelation of His word as touching this matter. That is what we are reading in **Isaiah 40**. Verse **4**, as this vision increases,

40:4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

All the rough character, all those things that are halting in our lives, the ministry of the word will correct them. It will sharpen our vision, as we begin to see something bigger than, 'This is my enemy', or 'That is my problem', when you see a vision that is clearer before you, you will not see somebody who is your hindrance or your enemy.

You will see a goal that must be pursued; and that you are not going to turn back until you have entered in. You will discover that you have no time for many things that you have time for now, you understand?

If suddenly the brazenness of the light of this word comes upon us we will discover that we have no time for so many things, because there is no enough time to pursue this vision..... It requires that you put all your energy into it. It requires that you invest all that you have into it. You will therefore find out that there is nothing left to start to have bickering or to fight one brother or to fight one sister over. There is no time.

Remember that angel in **Revelations 10** who put one leg on the land and one leg on the sea, and raised his right hand and swore by the living God. What did he say? He said there is time no longer. What I am saying to you this evening I can assure you, there is an urgency of the Spirit that accompanies it. There is time no more.

There is no time to put oil on any idol in your life. All the energy we have we invest on this matter. Everything we have, all ourselves should be invested in this matter. The energy we have to fight anybody we should recover those energies quick, quick and pursue this goal and the Lord will help us in Jesus name. He says in verse **5**,

40:5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

40:6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field:

40:7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

40:9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

40:10 Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for Him; behold his reward is with him, and his work before him.

Now he goes to verse **11** and say for God to pursue this,

40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather his lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Malachi 3. You know as we are here this evening, we are different personalities. There are those who will hear a word and it triggers something in their spirit and they jump! Right away, a new man is born out of them. But for some people, it is like what is this brother saying? Is that what we want this evening? For such people, follow me to **Malachi 3.** Are we there together? Verse 1 says,

3:1 Behold I send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come saith the LORD of hosts.

3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like the fullers' soap:

Those are two dimensions of God's ministry, depending on your own personality. Do you know that God will not appear to everybody like the refiner's fire? Are we together? To some God will come like the fullers' soap because you are so simple hearted. You believe the word of God like a child, you imbibe it and follow it. But God needs additional measures for some of us. For those ones he would bring you and make you sit down and He would sit on you so that the word can enter your ear! So that you can see what God wants you to see; and that is part of God's love. Because you do not see what God wants you to see he would sit on you and become like the refiner's fire.

I do not need God to come unto me like the refiner's fire. Why, because I have obedient heart. I delight in what God wants. I take delight in the plan of God, in the program of God, so why will God come like a refiner's fire to me? God is not like that. Rather He will come to me like the fuller, eh? Isaiah said He will take away the transgression. He will pardon iniquity. Daniel said there will be an end of sin.

You know, as God opens your eyes to see the conditions of your life, and you are quick to cry to God and say, God set my soul free from these vanities of life, then God does not need the fire of the refiner to deal with you. He only releases the grace of the fuller to cleanse you and to make you stand where you should stand.

Remember I said God will stop at nothing to ensure that you are part of it. Even if you do not understand what I am saying tonight, if it is the word of God, and you will be part of it, God will stop at nothing to ensure that you are part of it. Are we together? If

you are a child of destiny with respect to what I am saying tonight, whatsoever God will do just like that governor, he said pull it down! Anything that God needs to pull down in your life, if He needs to pull down your business He will pull it down. You understand? That is the ministry of the refiner!

After you have seen what God wants you to see, then He will bring back the business. For instance if you are living unto yourself; you want God to give you breakthroughs so that you can consume it on your lust, then God will come and say,

“This is the business that has become an idol in your life. Pull it down!”

Then you now know how to pray. The business has taken so much hold on your heart that you have lost the power to pray. When God kicks the business before your face then you will know how to keep night vigil to call upon God! God would have accomplished something but God does not need to do that on you! Because you are obedient children. He will come to you like the fuller. He would bring the ministry of cleansing to you without you knowing that He is doing anything in your life. You would just see that with ease you are doing things that hitherto were difficult in your life.

This is because the promise goes with a grace. There is a promise, but there is a grace that backs it up. Without the grace we cannot have revelation into things that God has been sharing with us. There is a grace backing it up. Why, because it is God’s purpose; and it is God’s project and God must accomplish it. Whatsoever God needs to do to ensure it is accomplished, God will do it. So a grace is backing it up.

We are in **Malachi 3:3**.

3:3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

3:4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the former days of old, as in former years.

Isaiah 52. He says,

52:1 Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garment, O Jerusalem,

Look at the way God is addressing us here,

the holy city:

What God is seeing is the holy city. God is not seeing a defiled city. That means the purpose, the vision before God's eyes is raising men and women, a people of destiny; a people that He can look at and say, This is the holy city.

Now, God is saying awake, awake O Zion. It is not because we have come into that estate, but God is seeing beyond what we are now and he is addressing us by the character of what we are to become. He said, awake, awake O Zion, put on thy beautiful garments O Jerusalem, the holy city.

for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.

52:2 Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

52:3 For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourself for naught; and ye shall be redeemed without money.

Then somebody already read **Isaiah 60**. Arise and shine because this is the time to shine, but before then let us look at **Isaiah 63:1-6**. We shall see another dimension in which God wants to accomplish this vision. I said God was not going to stop at anything until this vision is accomplished. Remember in **Isaiah 62** God said for Zion sake I will not rest, for Jerusalem's sake I will not give myself peace. Look at **Isaiah 63:1-6**. Whatever you see in this passage is about you. You are in the center. It is because of you God is going to do what He said here.

63:1 Who is this that cometh from Bozrah? This that is glorious in his apparel,

The picture we are shown here is the picture of Esau. You know Esau symbolizes flesh, symbolizes our human frailties, and symbolizes our limitations in the flesh. God is saying where the ministry of the fuller and the ministry of the refiner's fire fail, then I will come in this dimension in **Isaiah 63**, because God must produce what He has promised.

travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

What did we read in **Isaiah 62**? We read about the fact that God will have no peace or rest until the righteousness and the salvation of His people are come with brightness that is getting brighter and brighter until the Gentiles are attracted to it.

God is now saying that if all the dimensions of ministry do not accomplish this, Myself I will step into it; because I know what I want to accomplish and I know how to go about it. He said who is this that comes from Edom, with dyed garments, from Bozrah? This that is glorious in His apparel, travelling in the greatness of His strength? I, that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. If God comes to your life and the conditions of your life could show that God has come into Edom. Or the conditions in your life could show that God has come to Bozrah. Then even though you are God's child, but because God must accomplish this purpose in your life, He does not mind if He stains His dress by the blood of the vine. Why, because God will stop at nothing!

So if you are stubborn and you are a part in this race then God will step into Bozrah. God will come into Edom. We should not know God in that dimension. It is better for the world outside there to know God in that dimension. But if God must produce that in you, you must manifest that glory. God will stop at nothing until..., and that is what He said. He said until the righteousness thereof is as the brightness; and then until the Gentiles are able to see the light of thy glory. He said,

63:2 Wherefore art thou red in thy apparel, and thy garments like him that treadedth in the winefat?

63:3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me; for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.

Now there is a dimension that if our lives reveals, manifests, or epitomizes what God calls Edom or Bozrah, then we can be part of the judgment of God in this dimension. However, the greater dimension of what is being said here is that God is going to deal with the circumstances around you and the nations around you because he must get the glory out of your life.

Do you know the Bible says that He will give lives for you? Life will go because God must produce this glory out of your life. It is a very serious matter. God is ready to destroy the nations around you. If God is ready to destroy the nations around you, why will He not destroy the sicknesses and the diseases around you to ensure that your life indeed manifests what He has envisioned, what His purposes are all about?

63:4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart,...and the year of my redeemed is come.

You are in the centre of God's purpose.

63:5 And I looked, and there was none to help, and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

63:6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drink in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

Now **Zechariah 12** touches on the grace that God will release at this time to help us along so that we are able to walk into the reality of the vision. I will read verses **7-10**.

12:7 The LORD shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah.

12:8 In that day

and this is the day,

shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.

12:9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

What are those nations? They are the circumstances in our lives that are a kind of an attack against us, all the challenges around us; the challenges in our lives. God said the hour is now. I shall come in that day and I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against my people.

12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplication: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

12:11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

What is important here is that a grace will be poured forth, a grace to supplicate. As the vision is getting brighter so the Lord will release greater grace to supplicate that the hands of God may be lowered down.

Revelation 8 from verse **1** is lending a weight to this that God is going to release grace at this time; much, much grace to help us along. This is grace to pray according to God's purpose; grace to pray according to God's plan. God is also going to release strength that is commensurate that will be able to lower God' hand down upon His people.

8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

We said in **Isaiah 40:2**, that there is going to be increase in the ministry of the word that touches on the purposes of God at this time. Now, for that ministry to be effective we can see in verse **2**, for the seven trumpets speak about the last message that ushers in the glory we are talking about, and that will usher God's people into that glory. It is the message of perfection. It is the message of the Lord's Day. It is the message of the glory of God. Now, for that message to come with fullness of the power that is able to let go and release the glory that we are speaking about, God will do something that we see in **Revelation 8**. What will God do?

8:3 Another angel came and stood at the alter,

That alter is the alter of golden incense. There will be men and women who are able to see this vision very clearly, who are going to so consecrate themselves that they will be one and the same with the alter of golden incense. Their lives will be so separated unto God that they standing side by side with the alter of golden incense are one and the same entity. Those men and women are those that God will empower with another dimension of grace. They will be empowered with another dimension of grace. That grace is to pray, is to pray; and to intercede and to intercede; and to supplicate, and to supplicate like **Zechariah 12** said that a grace will be revealed, a grace to supplicate.

8:3 Another angel came and stood at the alter, having a golden censer, and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden alter which was before the throne.

Men and women who are able to see the vision of God's purposes very clear in their minds in this hour... They will consecrate themselves to that purpose to such an extent that in their hands will be golden censers. You know men gather in night vigil to pray all manners of prayers now.

However, God says there will be men and women whose purpose is clear. Whose vision is straight, who know there is a purpose in the mind of God and who know they have to sell everything they have, to pursue it; and they are empowered to carry a censer. They are therefore given much incense of prayer. It is an empowerment. It is a grace that God lowers to empower His people with vision of God's glory to pray, and pray until they have prayed through.

Now, where does it start from? It starts by praying yourself out of the circumstances of your life, because you cannot give what you do not have. You want to offer deliverance to the world around you. Deliver yourself first. Ask God, Give me empowerment to pray myself out of the circumstances of my life. The time has come when you do not have to wait until a brother lays hand on you. The time has come to be angry in your soul about the conditions in your life.

Somebody once preached and said that a stark mad man on the street, have moments when they are normal. That brief moment when a stark mad man is normal he can pray himself out of that condition.

I believe that those who can catch the vision of Gods purpose will pray themselves out of their conditions because they will be angry at their condition. Because their conditions are hindrances to God's purposes! It is not because they cannot cope and bear with the condition, but that condition is a reproach to the glory we are talking about. That condition is a reproach on the name of the Lord, so they will become angry!

The Lord will fill our stomach with holy anger! At what time you become angry at your condition at that time you get deliverance. It is possible to be enjoying the situation because people are sympathizing with you, so you are not angry. But at what point you cease to enjoy the sympathy of those who are sympathizing or empathizing with you; at what point you cease to enjoy attention, at that moment, your deliverance begins. Some people enjoy attention. They know that I have this problem. I know he would stop at nothing until he prays for me; you enjoy attention! But God wants you to get angry at that condition. Become restless, not because you cannot cope, not because you do not know how to suffer affliction with the people of God, but the matter is, this issue is an hinderance between you and what God is talking about.

This night God will see you through and you will no longer be at rest with the conditions that do not agree with the purposes of God in your life. Those who are living victorious lives, were they born with seven heads? Are you a grandson or a granddaughter to God, or are you a direct child?

I do not know who you are, or what you are. As for me, I am a son of God, a direct child! I know what passion I have for my children. If I have passion for my children how much more God having passion for me because I am a direct child! But because we are enjoying some attention, we go to God pleading, ‘God, why don’t you.... I am praying again concerning...’ Be angry!

“God, fill me with holy anger! I can no longer dwell in this land. It is a strange land.”
Psalms 137. By the rivers of Babylon, they that carried us captives required of us one of the Lord’s songs; but this is a strange land. So we dropped our guitars. We refuse to sing the Lord’s song in a strange land.

Recognize that it is a strange land. This day the Lord will set you free from every condition that is a contradiction to the promise of God’s purpose being realized in your life. The purposes of God are eternal and they are bigger than any other purpose in your life. Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE MANIFESTATION OF HIS KINGDOM (FRANCIS EBUTA BISONG)

We are talking today about the kingdom of God – the light of the kingdom. Good enough the Lord has been very gracious; He has released tremendous blessings, diverse gifts, and the power of the Holy Spirit. So we can address our minds to look at the word of God and consider what the Lord is saying to us in accordance with the theme of this conference: It is about **understanding the times, the Lord's kingdom and His day**. That is the burden of the Holy Spirit, that we understand and be participants or partakers of the Lord's kingdom and the Lord's Day.

So many things are taking place on the earth at this time. It is a dynamic world. In the realm of the spirit, things are going on. In the realm of the natural, there are changes in the cosmos; and big changes are determined upon the whole world because power is indeed changing hands. The kingdoms of this world are becoming the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ. Our hearts and our minds, therefore, need to be very fruitful with respect to the kingdom of God.

To many, the kingdom of God is in the future, maybe in the sweet by and by. Or the kingdom of God is somewhere in a distant planet. But the book of **Isaiah** says, we shall behold the land that is far off. We shall step into that land and begin to experience the glory of a supposedly distant land. That glory is actually being brought to us. If we do not understand, we may begin to walk contrary to the kingdom; or become passive on-lookers, carried away by the river of time.

I do not want to be a passive onlooker in the river of time. There is a mighty current sweeping everything across its path. Nations-states cannot even stand before this river. The Roman Empire could not hold any longer. It collapsed before the river that came forth from Jerusalem. From the Upper Room came forth a river on the day of Pentecost. That river dissolved the Roman Empire and broke it into pieces. That river is also dissolving every other empire; and at the end of the day, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be exalted above every other mountain or hill. All people and all

nations shall flow into it. However, God has not appointed us to be passive onlookers at the dynamic changes taking place; and if you step on the wrong track you could be swept by the current and thrown into places you will not love to be. However, because you are a partaker of the kingdom as an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ, you have the right to the throne of David, and a right to the land that God promised Abraham because the seed of Abraham will possess the gates of the gentiles.

There is one who is the righteousness of David's king. We will be talking about that one this morning. He is the righteousness of David's king. This means, He is the righteousness of God. He is also the contact Son to David's throne. They all knew Him as the Son of David, but how come David called Him Lord? He is both the Son of David, and David's God. As David's God He is the righteousness; and as David's Son He is the contact Son to the throne of David which is still available to God's people.

Now the kingdom of God is not future, neither is the kingdom of God past. This principle is very important. The kingdom of God has taken root upon the earth. This kingdom has been installed and the king has been enthroned. He now sits upon the throne of David to rule and to order it with justice and with righteousness from this time even forever, for the zeal of the Lord of host will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:7. A child has been born to the house of David, even Jesus the Christ. He died and was raised again from the dead now installed as king upon the throne of David. Acts 13:23, 29-34.

So His kingdom is a present reality and all that we require is the opening of our eyes, the opening of our minds and understanding to become partakers of the kingdom. The kingdom also is progressive. It is in phases. There is a present phase. Phase one of the kingdom is actually from Jerusalem (the upper room on Pentecost day) to the first resurrection. If you are not part of phase one, you cannot be part of phase two. Phase one is designed to run for two thousand years. After two days He will revive us. Hosea 6:2a. This phase entails submitting to the leadership of the Holy Spirit unto the glorious resurrection. Phase two is designed to operate for a thousand years. On the third day He will raise us up and we shall live in His sight. Hosea 6:2b. It deals with ruling and reigning with Christ in the millennial age. These are phases of the kingdom, and you need to understand how that concerns you; how you can relate to the kingdom and be a bona fide partaker and participator of the kingdom; so that the glories of these times will not pass you by.

Salvation to the Lord who sits on the throne

The above quote is often made in our praise and worship. The question is, is it just a figment of the imagination or a reality, a living truth in your spirit; a living truth in your heart and in your mind; that you praise Him who now sits upon the throne? If you understand that, you will begin to experience the power of the risen Christ. You will begin to experience in your body the fact that He is raised from the dead and sits upon His throne. If you understand that, you will not be bound by circumstances because you are a citizen of the kingdom of God subject to the laws of the kingdom.

Since this kingdom is bigger than any earthly kingdom, you are not bound by the decrees of the Medes and the Persians. You are not bound by the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; or any constitution anywhere on earth. Although you respect spiritual authorities, they have limits, they have boundaries, but you are a bona fide representative of the King who rules upon His throne. If He rules upon His throne (air pure hearts), we take matching orders from this King; and with Him we will begin to see the kingdoms of this world give way to become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ.

You see there is no regime in this country that has no' life span defined by prophecy. There is no government on earth whose powers and life span have not been defined by prophecy, the prophetic word. If that is so it means it is the Lord Himself who sets up kings and dethrones them. We must understand this to know that the political atmospheres as well as the economic situations around us do not define who we are. Your employment situation does not necessarily define you, nor do the social conditions around you define who you are. If you are defined by your environment and limited by your circumstances, then you are yet to understand that you take matching orders from a king who sits and rules upon His throne (your heart). If He is in charge then the circumstances do not control you. You are rather making good of the situation around you and using His authority and life within you as a spring board to experience the glory of God.

It is important to let faith take root in your heart so that together with this King you can begin to see God's program fulfilled upon the earth to you. Despite the fact that we the kingdom, this kingdom not seem like a mirage. Sing about some, who consider to be in the future sing about it, and sometime get weary and tired of singing about something that never is actualized in their experience. But that is not the way God

designed it to be. He wants you to experience, and be a partaker of the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of heaven is at hand was the message of John the Baptist.' When He whom John spoke about came to the scene, He also continued with the message 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' We had thought that the kingdom was going to be fulfilled when He whom John talked about appeared. But when Jesus came to the scene, He continued the message of John and said the kingdom of heaven is at hand. All the parables He taught, and all the instructions and teachings He gave were about this same kingdom. When He arose from the dead, He said, to His disciples now go and wait in Jerusalem for that kingdom which I told you about. He called that '*the promise of the Father*': Acts 1:4 the promise which He made to the twelve tribes of Israel. Acts 26:6-7

On account of that promise the twelve tribes were instantly serving God day and night, hoping that He would be raised from the dead. He said to His disciples wait for the promise. This is the kingdom I have been talking about. All prophets have been talking about this kingdom. Go, wait! One hundred and twenty waited. On that day the Christ took up His throne in Jerusalem. Oh glory, He took up His throne in Jerusalem in the hearts of men and women. This is the word of the Lord. Do you understand that He has taken up His throne? We can prepare our hearts to be His dwelling place, a home for the presence of the Lord that He might move, through you and me. That He might reign over our circumstances. That He might reign over our lives; that He might reign over our nation. That He might reign over the world because He has all power.

Now, let us turn to **Isaiah 32**. I said this kingdom is in phases. He took up His throne, phase one; and when every rule and all authority have been completely subject to God, a people will experience a resurrection like unto His in their bodies and then will commence phase two of that kingdom. But there is one snag: you will not be made to rule over ten cities if you have not ruled over one. If you have been faithful over a little, if you have been faithful over a pledge or deposit of the inheritance in your life, then you qualify to rule over ten cities. (The realm of fullness and abundance of divine government in your life)

If we are able to manage our bodies, if we are able to manage unrighteous mammon, then, we will manage true riches. But if we are unfaithful over unrighteous mammon of this present time, who will commit into our care true riches? These are very important principles of His kingdom.

There are so many things that can be said about it, but we will say as much as the Lord will have us say. The principles are very important to guide our walk with Him so that we can experience the power of His kingdom within and without us.

Isaiah 32:1 Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.

In the days of Isaiah it was a prophecy concerning the future. This king, without any shadow of doubt is speaking about Christ in His many-member sons, the Body of Christ. A king shall reign in righteousness and princes, the king's sons, shall rule in judgment. As He rules we rule. That is the essence of the kingdom of God in the church age. As He rules, as King 'reigning in righteousness', we His on account of the outflow of His life within us princes do rule in judgment, i.e. administrating our affairs and that of the life of others through a proper understanding of the mind of the Spirit.

32:2 And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind....

First, He reigns in righteousness. Moreover, 'The sceptre of His kingdom is a right sceptre.' This is so important because that is how He rules. He has a sceptre, and He reigns in righteousness. If the princes rule on the account of His reign, they must draw their inspiration from His own reign. It is the same sceptre. He cannot be wielding the sceptre of righteousness and the princes are wielding the sceptre of strife. It does not work that way. It is the same sceptre. When this prophecy is fulfilled verse two is realized. A man shall be as a hiding place from the wind. Christ ruling in His many-member body, the church shall be to the world as a hiding place from the wind, the winds of adversity. That simply means you are not at the mercy of the elements when you understand the reign of Christ in the earth, because Christ in you, the reigning Priest, and you in Him exercising the judgments of God shall produce an effect on the earth. The effect is that you in Him and He in you become a hiding place, not only to you, but to those under the influence of the administration of His reign through you.

32:2 and a covert from the tempest:

Winds, storms are blowing. Of course, the prophecy has indicated that we are in such perilous times! Tempestuous moments, all kinds of terrible, terrific winds of judgments are blowing across the world, blowing across political, economic and financial systems causing them to collapse like packs of cards. You are designed to be as a covert from the tempest.

32:2 ... as rivers of water in a dry place....

That is wonderful. Spiritual dryness is going to be a thing of the past when Christ the Messiah rules on the earth. Those that hear you, those that experience the reign of Christ in and through you shall have rivers of water in the dry place.

32:2 as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

In a land blighted by sin, in a land scorched by the sun, i.e. smitten by day; in a land scorched by the moon, i.e. affliction by night, in the time when the powers of darkness are marauding about, scorching the earth, you and I are rivers in a dry place. Has He not said, that out of the bellies of them that believe shall flow rivers of living waters John 3:38? He said that. So I am a river in a dry place.

So I cannot, like Lot, choose my inheritance in the well- watered plains of Sodom. I go where the Lord sends me. He could choose the driest ground upon the earth, I will be glad to go there. I have no problem. If the Lord said to me today "Resign your appointment; I have an appointment for you in Burkina Faso", I will say, "Dear Lord, I thank you for counting me worthy of such wonderful honour.' Is it not wonderful to be a messenger of the great King? I have been hanging around the corridor even when I sensed no call. I hung around the corridor and said, "Lord, I'd like You to call me and if you do, I will be very glad."

If He tells me, "Come", I will be glad. So what is my problem? But for Lot, he had no call Abraham had the call. Lot only followed so he chose the well- watered plains of Sodom and pitched his tent there. You know he was captured. He became a captive to the Sodomites, and he suffered the loss of all things. He was saved as by fire.

But if rivers of living waters flow out of you, O glory be to God! Wherever this river flows healing occur and trees of life appear. That is Christ's reign over His people. He can reign over you, and when He reigns over you, you are not a creature of your environment, created by circumstances, defined by circumstances, under the circumstances of apparent lack, like when your employer refuses to pay, wrinkles will not appear on your face.

There is something within. It is called the rivers of life. Every lame is made to walk. The blind are made to see. The prison doors do open when the river begins to flow. You in union with the King are the rivers of water in a dry place and the shadow of a great rock in the blighted weary land. But remember, this occur when He reigns in righteousness.

Let us go to **Jeremiah 23:5**.

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous branch

So it is about a promise to David called *the sure mercies of David*. To him was given the promise of a son to sit on his throne. To him was the promise of an eternal throne.

and a King shall reign and prosper, (Jeremiah 23:5)

Simple. The King that sits upon David's throne is Christ in His body the Church, and when that throne was taken up in Jerusalem, it was meant to prosper and flourish upon the earth. That is why no darkness ever so called could quench what had taken place at the Upper Room. We are here because there was an experience two thousand years ago. That experience is destined to take the whole world. It is the kingdom of God.

It comes with some great power, dunamis, great authority. And I tell you the Lord wants to begin to confer upon your consciousness the right to reign, so that by the power of God you can begin to take on circumstances and line them up to the will of God. You can take cues, marching orders from the Lord and bring the power and the kingdom of God to bear on circumstances.

I believe the power of God is being brought to bear on our nation Nigeria. No matter what anybody wants to say or perceive or think about Nigeria, this country cannot go down the drains; because a people of authority who understand kingdom principles are here upon the surface of this earth. The powers of darkness will not determine the future of this country; neither will the ruling party define the destiny of Nigeria. No parliament, no senate will define the destiny of Nigeria. No bloody men in bloody cults will define the destiny of this country. The kingdom belongs to Jesus. He is Governor among the nations. We better believe it.

Christ rules upon His throne, my heart and your heart so that the will of God will be done upon the earth. Say, Thy kingdom come O Lord, Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven Matthew 6:10. The heaven rules, therefore he rules. West Africa shall know the visitation of God! Africa shall be washed by the blood of Jesus. Idolatry shall be broken off from Africa. Africa shall know the liberating power of the Holy Spirit because the kingdom of God has been born. The kingdom will flourish forever, and ever, and ever!

Jeremiah 23:5... and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth...

The Place of His authority is not just in the heavens, in the invisible realm, no! He shall execute judgment and He shall execute justice in the visible realm , the earth. Sometimes you come into a situation and there is a grieve in your heart. There is a burden in your spirit. There is a sigh over certain situations in your environment, in your nation, or in the place where you work. This simply means that you are to take responsibility charge over the situation. When you experience that anger in your spirit, that simply means God has an assignment for you and you can do something about it.

Resting Evil

Somebody said you can resist evil in three ways. Number one, you can resist it in your heart. You can detest it. You can grieve about it. You may not have enough courage to speak but right in your heart you detest it or simply disagree. Those who can resist it in their heart can at best, pray. You can pray that things will change around you.

The Lord said to Ezekiel, Put a mark upon those who cry and sigh over the abominable things in Jerusalem. (Ezekiel 9:4) At the second level, you can deal with evil by speaking about it beyond the confines of the heart. Beyond the safe corridors of your heart, you can begin to speak.

The more courageous ones can go with their hands confront evil and deal with it. Either way, evil must be confronted in Nigeria because the Lord is causing people to grieve about it. There are certain sons of His who will be given the opportunity to do certain things in the physical realm, and through them, change will begin to occur. Nigeria shall change in the name of Jesus.

The Lord who is in charge will begin to throw up things, situations and circumstances that will be favourable to the emergence of some of His children. As that word indicates “there are some who are gifts to the church, and others who are gifts to the nations”. Do you understand that? some people here are gifts to the nations.

I have always been interested in being a gift to the church and that is what I have been working at. However, God is also making me understand that beyond the church, the nation shall be impacted. Wait a while. You will see what God will do in this nation Nigeria for His glory. He will do mighty things. Among His people, there are gifts to the nations, and they shall function in the nations of the earth bringing solution to problems that have defied solution. They got the solution. The carnal church has been part of the socio-economic problems of this country. Thousands, nay millions, flock every Sunday to church services in Nigeria. In the southern parts of Nigeria you find a lot of commissioners and permanent secretaries-'government people going to church. A

lot of them are in cults. What a terrible mixture! What confusion! But I believe God is raising for Himself an incorruptible seed that will do the right, and will bring to bear the kingdom, the authority of God upon the earth.

But the principles of His reign will be well understood. They shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

23:6 In his days Judah shall be saved.

When this King rules, in the days of His reign in the two thousand years of earth history where His ruler ship will be experienced by the consecrated class, by the first fruit, by those who have received Him as their Lord and Saviour, in His days, Judah shall be saved. Judah is power of praise. The Judah Company praises with outstretched hands. The Lord will pour out mightily the Spirit of praise and worship upon His people. As a matter of fact, it is a principal sign of victory; it is a principal sign because He is enthroned in praise, for thousands and thousands stood before Him and ministered unto Him. Daniel 7:10.

You know what that means, when thousands upon thousands are involved in the worship of Him then His power is manifest in the congregation; for He is glorious in holiness and fearful in praises. In the Old Testament days when they began to toast and celebrate His greatness, the Lord moved into the camp of Assyria and in one night one hundred and eighty-five thousand Assyrian soldiers were killed, not with sword but by the power of praise, “for His mercies endure forever.” 2Chronicles 20:22-24.

With the high praises of God in our mouth and with the two edged sword in our hands we shall bind kings with chains. Nobles shall be bound with fetters of iron. This honour have all His saints Psalm 150:6-9. But only by the eye of faith can you see the Lord reigning in majesty and in might; and with the same eye of faith you begin to enter into His praises. Some wait until they see miracles with their two eyes before they praise God. Some wait until circumstances change before they begin to praise God. That kind of praise is not deep. Miriam did that. They crossed the Red Sea and she took the tambourine and all Israel took up the song,

“Sing ye to the LORD,
For He hath triumphed gloriously;
The horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea.
And they sang and they gloried and rejoiced before the LORD.” Exodus 15:20-21

Then they went three days without water. They came to Marah, the water was bitter; and they murmured Exodus 15:23-24. Is it not a contradiction from those who praised so powerfully because they saw the miracle? Now they went three days without water, from the same mouth of praise came grumblings, came murmuring, and they were sad. This is not the kind of praise that God is talking about. He is talking about those who have faith in the fact that He is in charge. He is in control, who is joined with Him by a covenant of love, by a perpetual covenant that cannot be broken.

These ones enter into His praises and celebrate Him day and night. In addition, of course because they have entered into the Most Holy place, He begins to show Himself strong on their behalf. He begins to go before them to do mighty things in the earth. The ministry of worship and the ministry of intercession are the two things from the Holy Court that gets into the Most Holy place. When the High Priest takes the censer in the middle court into the most Holy and put his incense of prayer into it with the coals of fire from the alter which then when mixed with the incense produces a cloud. The Lord says I will appear in the cloud. He indeed appears in the praises of His people to lead them on, to show them the way and to give them light. Judah shall be saved. May you and I begin to experience salvation. As we begin to draw from this principle we will not wait until precious times like this as we are in conference to have an effect. But we will begin to experience salvation in our daily lives.

...In His days....

These are the days when this King is reigning, Judah shall be saved. Do you know why the Lord gathers us like this from time to time? Because there are very important things He has to do on the earth. There are very important things He has to say, that He needs to wait until we come together as a body and then He can say very critical things about His people.

There are so many things that our gathering can produce. A lot has been channelled, which is good. A lot of out-pouring in dealing with situations and circumstances and needs; we appreciate those out pouring. That is not going to be the permanent feature of our gatherings, because when these situation and circumstances have been resolved, or largely resolved, then the higher burdens in the mind of the Lord will begin to be fulfilled.

You know in a meeting like this we can take that serpent in the desert and break it into pieces. We can speak to the Arabian kingdom and dry up the oil there. The Lord can

take us into realms that deal with His judgments upon the earth because we are to execute judgment and justice in the earth. In the end, the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ. There is a company of people, the Melchizedek order, coming into worship. You know what that means, with spiritual maturity, having beards and oil upon their heads, needing no healing line. Do You understand? You know what they will be doing? Look at the book of **Revelations**.

All the judgments come in the midst of worship and praise as angels bring forth the incense upon the censers. They all come from the temple of the Lord the judgments that dissolved the entire Roman empire, that broke Papacy into pieces, that is going to destroy the present kingdoms of this world will come from the temple of God., the temple of praise and worship and prophecy.

That was what they experienced in the tabernacle of David. It was about giving thanks, recording, and declaring all that God is saying in the world. Eight priests around the ark, eight priests were required to minister before the ark. At this stage in the divine economy ministry seem to have gone beyond the brazen alter and the brazen laver. Actually the tabernacle of Moses tells us about the church in preparation. The tabernacle of David on the other hand tells us about the church in operation; because in Moses' tabernacle the priest had to progress in ministry from the outer court to the most holy touching every furniture in the tabernacle administering forgiveness of sin at the brazen alter, and also administering cleansing in the brazen laver. He administered insight by the Holy Spirit in the lampstand, and the bread of His presence in the table of shewbread.

Here in David's tabernacle on the other hand, the priests just gathered before the ark and ministered. You know what it means to minister before the ark? It means that principles of other experiences have been wrought in your life and so you minister before the ark of the covenant of God upon the earth day and night. In the ark is the appearing of the kingdom and the communication of all that the Lord intends to do in the world. That is where God is taking us into. Here we begin to operationalise the kingdom of God.

“...and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is the name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

Now, this is about the new covenant. This prophecy we have read in Jeremiah is about the new covenant, about Christ reigning through the sceptre of righteousness in the administration of the new covenant. It is beautiful, it is powerful. Let us read Hebrew 8:10 then we make some comments about the administration of righteousness.

8:10 for this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a god, and they shall be to me a people:

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8:11 and they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, know the lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

8:12 for I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which is old is ready to vanish away.

We are told that he shall reign in righteousness, and he shall rule in justice. The Lord said to me a few weeks ago that **His ministry is righteousness and His glory grace.** We have so many things to say about the ministry of God. If you checked the concordance and see how he ministered, it is righteousness. If you even read Isaiah 11 it is the same principle all over the Scriptures. His ministry is righteousness; that is, He ministers to bring us into right relationship with Him. There is no other way He ministers, but in righteousness.

Then when we talk about the sceptre of His kingdom, it is a sceptre anchored on righteousness, a right sceptre. The authority of the kingdom of God is to bring men into right relationship with the king. But first of all He brings the church, the first fruit company into right relationship with him. No matter the circumstances, no matter the situation, when God comes ministering, He ministers in righteousness.

A king shall reign in righteousness! Isaiah says that. Jeremiah confirms that. All Scriptures confirm the same principle. And speaking of His new covenant ministry, He says, I make a covenant with the house of Israel. In that covenant, I will put my laws in their minds and write them in their hearts. I will take the initiative to put my laws in their minds. That is the administration of the new covenant and that is the place of the Holy Spirit upon the earth to impress in men's hearts the righteous judgments of God to cause the laws of Almighty God to be engraved in the hearts and minds of men and women.

“I will put my laws in their minds; I will write my laws in their hearts. I will be to them a God; they shall be to me a people.” Remember, He died for the church that He might cleanse her with the washing of water by the word. He took an impure company of people while they were yet in their sin. He died. He made them alive together with Him. When He was raised from the dead they were also raised with Him although in sin, not yet born again, but raised with Him. And He is busy relating to them to bring them into righteousness. I will put my laws in their hearts. I will write it in their minds. I will be to them God. That is the new covenant.

Where did we have this other form of ministration of condemnation? It has no place in the new covenant. It belongs to another age, the age of the law. That age is past. That age was brutally suppressed and broken into pieces. It passed with great pains. In fact, he said there should not be left one stone upon another in this magnificent temple that shall not be destroyed. In 70 AD a Roman general came into the scene and broke in pieces the temple. Your house is left unto you desolate, completely in ruins. **That age is abolished, never to be brought back.**

But this is a new age. Paul calls it **the dispensation of the grace of God**. He says, 'if you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God'.(Eph 3:2) What a wonderful dispensation, and you cannot be relating to God in this very age of grace as if you are relating to an Old Testament High Priest! It says this Priest is designed to function not according to the law of carnal commandments contained in ordinances.

But this Priest ministers by another power, the power of an endless life. That is the sceptre of the kingdom. It is the right sceptre, the power of an endless, inexhaustible life. Every sin in this hall and in the whole world can be cleansed seventy times seven times in a day! That is the power of an endless life; that is the new covenant. It is like when the sun is out in its brightness, somebody lights a candle stick in the broad day light! This will be considered totally. That is how the law is to grace.

The Sun of righteousness has arisen over the horizon with healing in its wings, and no candle wax ministry of legalism can hold anymore; in this time when the Lord has arisen to show Himself strong on behalf of those who look towards Him.

It is a wonderful thing! He says His glory is grace. Glory has to do with the weightiness of a matter that means the exceeding weight of God. If you want to measure God, if you want to put God in a balance and see how much He weighs and if you can say that He is exceedingly heavy in such tangible mass that no scale can contain, then know that that weight is grace. That is the way God expresses His weight upon the earth. It is such a heavy weight no priest can stand under it. They all collapse before the glory of His grace. It is so heavy. A company of people shall arise upon the earth ministering in righteousness and ministering from the ordinances of grace.

Wherever this river flows, there will be healing. There shall be no more hurts because the glory of the Lord and of the Lamb are in it.

The curse shall be broken from the face of the earth; not by the ministry of condemnation but by the ministry of grace, by the glory of grace that flows from the presence of God. May the Lord open our eyes to understand that in that grace will come deep fear and reverence before God. The greatest expression of holiness shall come from an understanding of grace.

Sometimes good ministers, good pastors will say, “Do not allow the people some liberties; they will go out of control. Let us impose some restrictions so we can keep them in check.” You cannot keep anybody in check. This thing is in the heart of man. It is the power of God's grace that will deal with the root of evil and burn it off before God. No more ministry of condemnation can survive in this hour. The sooner we capture it and we begin to flow in it the better.

For, I will be merciful to their unrighteousness. Now, verse 11 says, and they shall not teach everyman his neighbour, and everyman his brother saying know the Lord. For all shall know me. What is it that will cause all to begin to know Him? What is this revelation of the Almighty God that will catch the attention of men and women and cause them to desire to know Him? All shall know me, in what sense?

For I will be merciful (Verse 12),

It is the revelation of the mercy of the Lord that will cause hearts to submit to Him. They will submit to His righteous judgments. They will submit to all that He is, His holiness and everything within Him. They will submit to them when they see the mercy of the Lord. I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins, and their iniquities I will remember no more! They are thrown in the depth of the sea, completely forgotten. Prophet Micah saw that in Micah 7:18. It is connected with the reign of the King. It is consistent with the principles of His reign in the earth.

7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy.

7:19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

7:20 Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy of Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

It is in accordance with the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It is consistent with the sure mercies of David. Even though he sins says the Lord, I will chastise him with the stripes of men but my mercy I will not take away from him. We are told He is the contact Son to David's throne, the connecting point to the throne of David. We are candidates for mercy in this final hour. We will not only receive mercy we will minister mercy and compassion in all the earth. The curse shall be taken away from the face of the earth.

Only a revelation will bring us into that. The mind cannot comprehend that. The mind will ask all kinds of questions. The mind does not even understand that our little hearts not fully sanctified cannot understand grace. You know what? He is just; and that is why He is a justifier. The epitome of His grace or His justice is His ability to forgive men of sin. What makes God holy? Some say, {God is so terrifyingly holy He cannot see evil! Evil will grieve Him'. To others, the holiness of God is because He is of such purer eyes that He cannot see evil.

Do you know what makes Him holy? His ability to forgive me makes Him holy. That is why I bow before His throne. That is why His name must be ministered to. His ability to forgive sin is the hallmark of His holiness. He is just because He is the justifier. When He justifies, that justification he administers makes him just. Do you understand? If He does not administer justification then He is not holy. If He is not capable of forgiving errors and sins then He is not holy. But then, He forgives.

You know what? Love is such a powerful thing. If you do a man so much wrong and all he has for you is love and forgiveness, you will dread that man. You will dread him. Try it a little bit on your wife, you will win her! It is serious. Love is a powerful force. It is the strongest force in the universe. It can cut mountains into two. It can walk on the sea. It is the nature of God. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3: 16) Amen. The sons of God will have to change their attitudes and in their mind set, and their understanding about the kingdom. May the Lord help us.

Let us go back to Hebrews:

8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

The entire age of the law has decayed and has waxed old, and has vanished away. It says like vesture He would fold them up and they shall be changed. But His years fail not. So He will continue to relate to us, to bring us into right relationship with Him. Whether He rebukes, whether He forgives, any how He does it he will train us. He will chastise us. But the purpose, the grand purpose, is to bring us into a right relationship with him. His ministry is righteousness and His glory is grace.

Let us turn to Jeremiah 23. Let us visit it again and see if there is something to pick from there before we move on.

23:6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

So when this king is installed upon His throne how are we going to relate to Him? We relate to Him by His name. Whatever you call Him is what He is going to be to you. So Jeremiah says when this king is installed to rule upon His throne (of our hearts), then we are going to call Him 'The Lord our Righteousness'. When He becomes your righteousness, when you no longer have the righteousness which is your own measured by your own scale, by your own weight, when you no longer have the righteousness, which is in the law, but the righteousness that comes by faith in Him the Redeemer, then He becomes your righteousness.

You know that it is a humbling experience for all humanity! When all that we have, all that makes us thick, all graces we exhibit and manifest are due Him. When He is the source of everything, and every gifting, every blessing that we have, every resource, come from Him. If all that you have is what God gives you, what do you have that did not come from Him? You would lay everything at His disposal. That is why in the early church it was easy for them to achieve much. No man said the thing he owned was his. There was no partitioning, or territorial spirit. Even in the realm of spiritual gifting, there is no gift that is yours. All are ours, you are Christ's and Christ is God's.

So there is a dying to individuality. The Lord is enthroned, because He is our righteousness. Individualities are dissolved. The tendency to hold down ours withers and we begin to blend in the unity of pure Love as we look to Him who is our righteousness. If the Lord has dealt so wonderfully with you, you cannot look at any other human being with the condescending look; with a holier than thou attitude because there was nothing you had that was yours. This King is the Lord our righteousness.

Have you begun to call Him by that? That is His name. When this King appears in the horizon of your heart you shall call Him my righteousness. When you begin to call Him my righteousness your worship will be different. You will bow before Him in silent prayer. You know, a prayer that you cannot utter any wish, but you are only grateful, you only reverence, you only fear before him. When you arise, you arise like a man that God made humble; God has made great; God has empowered.

Living waters can now flow out of you in compassion to the rest of the world. It is powerful. It is great! May God help us to come into this place. In this great river may we go beyond the ankle depth. May we enter into that place of our walk with Him where He is river to swim in. What a river of grace, flowing to the nations, bringing deliverance. May God so enlarge my heart to walk in the glory of His grace. It says, the law came from Moses; but grace and truth came from Jesus Christ. We beheld His glory; the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace, full of truth.

Psalms 45:1 says, my heart is inditing a good matter; I speak of things which I have made touching the king:

This is about Christ the King and His people the church. My tongue is the pen of a ready writer. 45:2 Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lip: therefore God hath blessed thee forever.

45:3 Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty.

45:4 And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

45:5 Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the people fall under thee.

45:6 Thy throne O God, is forever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

45:7 Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

That is confirmed in **Hebrews 1:8**.

1:8 But unto the Son he saith, thy throne O God, is forever and Ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

1:9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

On account of this verse 10 says,

1:10 And, thou, lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundations of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands;

1:11 They shall perish; but thou remains; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;

1:12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

There is a lot packed into these Scriptures. His throne is forever. The authority by which He administers that throne is righteousness, it is the right sceptre. Those who are beneficiaries', who are heirs with Him in His reign, must first have the righteousness administered in their hearts to qualify them to rule and to reign with Him. He will not permit unconsecrated hearts to share in His reign, to share in His throne.

Remember some of His disciples saw some guys who were doing some things that were not too pleasant to them. They felt that they should call fire from heaven to devour them. He said you do not know of what Spirit you have. That is not the mark of my reign. That is not the sceptre of My kingdom. You know what? He must wash our hearts thoroughly. He must enable us to stand in the righteousness of God. We must have the ability to stand right in relation to Him. Through the ordinances of His mercies we obtain righteousness. When we are standing right with Him, we can administer the same principles. He does not permit any to share in His throne if we are not anchored upon this fundamental principle of His kingdom. The sceptre of his kingdom is righteousness.

Now, righteousness is not a weakness. It is such a powerful force on the earth and it has the power to deal with situations and circumstances. It is the greatest ministry that will open up unto us from the depths of divine mercies. From the

bowels of mercies shall ministry (rivers of living waters) flow. Out of the belly of them that believe shall flow rivers of living waters; and these rivers issue forth from a heart that has been dealt with by the righteousness of God. The rivers minister all that God is without any coloration of human channels.

A stream cannot be cleaner than the channels it flows through. When you say a river is murky, a river is dirty; it is because the channels are dirty. If the fountain is pure and the channels are impure it will carry the filth of the channels and administer the same. There are certain things we minister. It does not come from the throne of God. Although the pure water comes from the throne, but it takes on the channels of our character, and our personalities and our inclinations, and doctrinal dispositions and so on; and these things are ministered as living truths. **But He showed me a pure river proceeding from the throne of God and from the Lamb. That water that is coming from God the Spirit and from the Lamb slain in the centre of the throne is the water that will be carried to all peoples of the earth as part of His kingdom reign.**

Now, look at verse 2 of Psalms 45. Grace is poured into thy lips this sceptre of the kingdom shall be released from the lips of men and women. The sceptre of His kingdom (righteousness) is the right sceptre. This sceptre shall be released from the lips of men and women. It is that sceptre that will dissolve the kingdoms of this world to make way for the kingdom of our God and of His Christ. it is powerful. The Lord will introduce us into a speaking ministry. Gracious words are going to flow out of our mouths .Grace is poured into thy lips therefore God has blessed thee forever,

“Thy arrows are sharp in the hearts of the king's enemies. Therefore, the people fall under thee.” These arrows are words that will flow forth out of the mouth of them whose hearts God has made righteous.

“Gird thy sword upon thy thigh....” These are instruments of spiritual warfare; instruments of the administration of the divine kingdom; grace poured from the lips; arrows sharp in the hearts of the King's enemies, therefore the people fall under Him. Psalm 45:3

Now, the righteousness of the kingdom is anchored on justification. You cannot exercise that righteousness until you know justification. Righteousness is right standing with God. Justification is to be declared righteous, to be declared right from the Father's point of view. He says the righteousness does not say who shall go up to heaven to bring Christ down. Let us turn to the book of Romans 10. Let us

be a little bit deliberate about how we become partakers of this righteousness because it is the sceptre of his kingdom. He reigns in righteousness and there is no way we can reign with Him until we are one with this principle of the Lord. We read from verse 6

10:6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh in this wise, Say not in thine heart, who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

10:7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) 10:8 But what saith it?

Now the big lesson to learn from this is this: that righteousness speaks. Righteousness is to be declared. It speaks. The righteousness acknowledges that He is risen from the dead, and He sits on the throne; and that your faith in His resurrection makes you justified. When you constantly exercise faith in the finished work of Christ you stand in the grace of justification and you are enabled to minister justification, to minister righteousness; because we are to rule with Him and we are to reign with Him. Righteousness does not say who goes to the grave to bring him up. What is that righteousness that will rule with Him, what does it say? THE WORD IS NIGH THEE,

The word is not something you cram from the book. The word is not a verse of Scripture. 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, without Him was nothing made that was made. In Him, in this Word was light; and the light was the light of men. The light shineth in the darkness. The darkness did not comprehend it. That eternal Word became flesh to dwell among us. They called Him Jesus, which means He shall save His people from their sin. He is the word of righteousness.

He is Christ in the soul. He is Christ the Lamb slain. He is Christ, risen from the dead. That is the Word, and that is righteousness. That is the power of this kingdom. The lamb slain, and the one risen who is now the Lion of the tribe of Judah is what broke the Roman empire down. That is the word that is the word of salvation. That is the word near you. It is not a verse of Scripture. It is the incarnate one slain. It said, He was offered, given, offered for my offences; raised for my justification. That is the word. The one offered for my offences, and

rose for my justification. If I can grasp that in my spirit, if I can understand that in my mind that He has been raised for my justification and that because He is raised everything that was buried with Him is completely taken care of. That will mean I have triumph over everything that was buried with Him.

Every sin of mine was placed on Him and he was offered on the cross. He who knew no sin became sin that I might become the righteousness of God. I do not qualify to rule with Him until I become the righteousness of God. Do you understand? I cannot share in His reign or be a partaker of His kingdom until I become the righteousness of God. So, He who knew no sin was made sin, offered for my offence. Sickness was buried with Him. Disease was buried with Him. Sin was buried with Him. Death and the power of death to hold me were buried with Him. Then He triumphed over all that in resurrection. Faith in that which God did in raising Jesus Christ from the dead, justifies me.

Do you know what it means to be justified? You are free from everything that was buried with him. You are released. None of the things buried with Him has power over you anymore. That is the power of resurrection. Raised for my justification, and justification is the beginning of our work with Him. Being justified by faith in His resurrection we have peace with God. We stand in justification to experience sanctification and glorification. There is no sanctification and glorification without justification. So you must stand in justification to experience glorification. If you fail to stand in justification you are in sinking sand of self righteousness and it can lead us to nowhere.

What shall it say? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart. This sceptre shall flow forth from your heart to your mouth for grace is poured into thy lips; and your arrows are sharp in the hearts of the King's enemies, therefore the people fall under thee. The hallmark of His throne is because a people of righteousness shall begin to speak from the heart that has been justified. His righteous works within them shall become the authority by which they will triumph over death and every circumstance that has held man bound, and will execute His own justice in them. It is so important. It is in thy mouth, and in thy heart. That is the word of faith which we preach.

10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved

If you believe in your heart that He was raised from the dead, if you are able to get this fact of resurrection into your heart you shall be saved. That means if your heart has the understanding that every sin of yours has been completely razed, when He was raised from the dead. It was a victory over any sin that ever was and that will ever be. If you can get that into your heart you shall be saved.

So we concentrate in believing with our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, knowing in our hearts that every failure, every weakness, every limitation of man, Jesus overcame and you overcame with Him when He was raised from the dead. Get that into your being. There is no force on earth that can withstand you. Nothing in this world can withstand you. That is the power of resurrection. And that is the power ordained to flow from your heart through your mouth to bring forth salvation not only to you but to those around you. May we have a revelation of this salvation that God is talking about.

For with the heart man believes unto righteousness, the sceptre. We said the sceptre is righteousness. So how do you get hold of the sceptre? With the heart you believe unto righteousness; and with the mouth, confession, declaration is made unto salvation. So salvation is between the heart and the mouth. Now we shall know so deeply, and we shall obtain resurrection power from our heart knowing full well that our sins are forgiven, that we are positioned with Him. Speaking that which we believe by faith may the spirit of faith take a hold on us, may our hearts be stabilized by the faith of God. And may true faith in our hearts released by the spoken word be the sceptre that will go forth to conquer and to rule. May the Lord quicken us as we learn to walk in the reality of this.

So righteousness speaks, springs from believing in the heart that God raised Him from the dead, standing and acting upon the grace of justification is our authority. So we have an authority to exercise in the earth. **This authority is standing and acting on the grace of justification.** When we walk in the light of this reality we live in the resurrection. **Romans 8:1** say the law of the Spirit of life makes us free from the law of sin, and of death.

I believe Jesus the crucified one, Jesus the resurrected one, Jesus the ascended Lord, Jesus the one enthroned will be so real inside us. With that consciousness we will confront our enemies and they will be small. He prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies. He anoints our heads with oil and our cup runs over. When this cup begins to run from our belly, surely, goodness and mercy, they flow from within us. Our cup shall run over. Our cup shall minister goodness and mercy unto our being. For the resurrection is the fulfilment of the sure mercies of David.

They begin to flow from us, it is a river of life. I tell you brethren, there is no situation, no enemy that can stand before that. God intervenes, He saves.

Sometime ago, we received terrifying news in Calabar such as we have never heard before. What was the news about? A dear sister in our midst who has been a blessing to us as a body, was travelling home from Calabar, driving alone in her car and somewhere in Akwa Ibom she was kidnapped! I had been hearing about kidnapping as some far-fetched, dream world phenomenon that happened only to people far away. I found it hard to take in, There were more questions than answers. We have no other instruments. We have no other sceptre but these principles. So we sent text messages to the brethren. The brethren gathered and we began to pray. As we began to pray the counsel from the unknown deep began to flow forth. We must stand in that place of justification.

There is never a need in the world that the solution is not planted somewhere within your heart and your mouth.

If you get this thing into your heart, and if you then say it with your mouth you shall be saved. That principle has stabilized planes when they are about to crash. You shall be saved. It is such a powerful thing. The mind cannot comprehend it but the Lord will expand it to come into kingdom reality and kingdom authority.

As we began to pray, the Lord opened the eyes of one who said, 'a hand came in, pulled something out and the word release was heard.' That is what we heard the Father say, and all we say is 'Release.' And there the Lord gave us some details about what to pray for and how to pray. Certain things were shown and we prayed specifically. We made contact with the family and said, 'By tomorrow!' We said that on the strength of the word. I said, "By tomorrow, she shall be released. Send men to look for her. She will be free." Of course, the uncle told me a lot later. He did a lot. They were completely confused. There was a corpse on the ground already. Their youngest born in the family had died in the US and was being brought home. A meeting was holding to arrange the burial, then our sister another member of the family was kidnapped. What an embarrassment and confusion!

I said the word of the Lord came to us saying release and the word release has been declared, and she shall be released. Exactly Monday evening the kidnappers called her uncle gave the location where they were to come. Of course the place was so dangerous they could not get there that night. They agreed to roll over till the next day. So it rolled over. She actually came back on Tuesday. She should have come

back the same Monday. Technically speaking, in the spirit it was settled on Monday, and so it was settled.

The principles are the same. No instrument, no satellite, no search light; we did not know who else to connect. I understand MTN can use their gadgets to locate the kidnappers' positions. We did not have all that. The only sensible thing was to pray. And God answers prayers!

The principles are the same. God is able. Just get this word of the resurrection of Jesus in your heart. If you believe it in your heart and speak it with your mouth you shall be saved. Nothing shall stand against this word of salvation.

We possibly cannot exhaust this burden now, but let us take a few things, just dropping the principles without detailing out the explanations. He is called Jesus Christ. Christ is the anointed one that breaks the yokes and sets the captives free. When He came to this world, he was preaching about the kingdom. Before he departed he asked His disciples, "Who do men say I am?"

They suggested many things, what they heard men say. Some say you are that prophet. Some say you are Elijah. But He said, "Who do *you* say I am?"

Peter by revelation said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". That is a great revelation. You are the anointed one that breaks the yokes and set the captives free. You are the one that removes the burden from the neck, and the shoulders of your people. If you told a Jew that, he would think immediately of a military general, a mighty one who would appear to the Roman Empire, take on the formidable Roman army, conquer them and deliver them from the yoke of the Romans. That was their image of the Christ. Peter said, "You are the anointed one that breaks the yokes of foreign nations over Israel and set the captives free."

Jesus said flesh and blood did not reveal this to you but My Father has revealed this to you. You are Peter, a stone. Upon this rock of divine truth I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I give you the keys of the kingdom, **for in that revelation lays the keys of the kingdom.** If you understand that I am the anointed one that breaks the yokes and sets the captives free therein lies the keys of the kingdom. What so ever you bind on earth, with the consciousness, with the understanding of this principle, is bound! What so ever you is loosed is loosed. And then he said something very curious. He said,

"Tell no man that I am Jesus the Christ."

Keep quiet! Hold your peace. Tell nobody. Why would such a revelation be hidden? Such a revelation that liberates, why should it be hidden? The ministry of the Christ begins when I am raised from the dead, so tell no man that I am Jesus the Christ until I am risen from the dead. He began to speak about the things pertaining to His death. Peter, the same person who had the revelation, said, No Lord, it shall not be you. You shall not die. He said,

"Get behind Me Satan, because you are preventing the ministry of the Christ from being revealed to humanity."

So Jesus the Christ, the breaker of the yokes, the one that sets man free, began at His resurrection. **Matthew 16**, let us catch a little glimpse of that. He said in **16:27**, 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.

16:28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the son of man coming in his kingdom.

He will die. He will be raised from the dead, and then the ministry of the Christ begins when He comes into His kingdom. That was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. But first, there was a resurrection. The resurrection clearly says all man's enemies, sin and death have been overcome. The gospel, what we call the good news is to announce to the world that Christ is risen from the dead, and therein lies the salvation of man.

To set this gospel in operation, He descended on the day of Pentecost in the hearts of one hundred and twenty men and women. On that day of Pentecost all kindred and nations were gathered, from Libya, from Cyrene, from Ethiopia down from Africa, from Greece, Persia, Babylon, all nations under heaven were represented. And there the one hundred and twenty were declaring the wonderful works of God that He is risen from the dead. He is now enthroned. He is sitting on the throne of David. And he will begin to administer His kingdom through forgiveness of sin.

We cannot get into the details of all these now. But as Jesus the resurrected Lord is preached and as men believe, they shall obtain forgiveness of sins. They shall obtain cleansing. That is the kingdom being born in the hearts of men and women.

So the Holy Spirit's out pouring is actually the coronation of Christ as the king over the earth. When he was enthroned the Scripture says He obtained from the

Father the promise of the Holy Spirit. And He poured out that Holy Spirit to us. You know what the Holy Spirit is doing? The Holy Spirit takes of His death and resurrection and administers it to us. He says when the Spirit of truth is come He will take of me and show it to you. All that the Father has is mine. The Holy Spirit will take of the Father and reveal it to you. The Holy Spirit will make the death of Jesus Christ so real. The Holy Spirit will make His resurrection so real beyond the figment of imagination. The Holy Spirit will impress these in our hearts. That is the meaning of **Hebrews 8**. "I will take My laws and write it in their hearts and in their minds and I will forgive their sins and iniquities. I will be merciful to them and

their sins I will remember no more, 'is the work of the Holy Spirit, to make the death and the resurrection of Christ so real because that is the basis of the kingdom of God. That is the gospel that is preached.

Let us go to Psalms **107:1**.

107:1 Oh give thanks unto the lord, for He is good: for His mercies endureth forever.

Remember His resurrection, according to Acts 13, is a fulfilment of the promise made unto the fathers. It says the promise made unto the fathers, God has fulfilled it to us their children, in that He has raised Jesus Christ from the dead. For he obtained from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit and has given it to us. This is exactly what He said in the Psalm. It is the mercy promised to the fathers. Did He ever promise something to David? Did He promise something to Abraham? He fulfilled it in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the fulfilment of the mercies to the fathers.

So His throne is actually the throne of mercy – the throne of grace. Psalm 107:1 says 'Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good: for His mercies endureth forever.

107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

107:10 Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron;

107:11 Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the Most High:

107:12 Therefore, He brought down their heart with labor; they fell down, and there was none to help.

107:13 They cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distress.

107:14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.

107:15 Oh that men would praise the lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men

107:16 For He hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

This scripture was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. 'Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men. He has broken the gates of brass and cut the bars of iron in sunder'.

To understand this Scripture, link it up to **Psalm 24**. In verse 7 it says,

24:7 Lift up your heads oh ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

The King of glory came in to the hearts of men on the day of Pentecost. The gates were lifted up; the everlasting doors of unbelief were lifted up; and the Christ came to dwell in the midst of His people. The ministry of the Christ is to break the gates of brass, and to cut the bars of iron.

All that has afflicted man, symbolized as the book bound with seven seals, is to be loosed, until man, bound by seven seals, is completely free by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has come to enforce the victory of Calvary. For when He said it is finished, you cannot add to the work of redemption; you cannot subtract from it. On the Cross, it is finished. But the victory that has been finished is to be accomplished in your life; and that is the place of the Holy Spirit.

The outpouring of the Holy Ghost is so critical to the kingdom of Jesus Christ upon the earth, because through the Holy Spirit the yokes are broken. You can experience the mercies of the Lord revealed in the resurrection of Jesus when you exercise faith in His finished work; and the Holy Spirit is to take all the parables of Jesus, all the teachings of Jesus, and impress it upon your heart and your mind. 'I will put my laws in their hearts, I will impress it upon their minds, I will be to them God, and they shall be to Me a people'. That is the key of David. With that key, every door is opened, and everything that is supposed to be shut down is shut down.

We need to come to the authority of the Church, because our King now reigns; our King now sits upon the throne. From henceforth expecting, until all His enemies are put under His footstool. For Paul says 'the God of peace shall put Satan,

shortly, under our feet.' It is consistent with the promise of the Seed. The Seed of the woman will bruise the head of the serpent. Glory be to God. And that Seed is Christ, the enthroned One, who now sits upon the throne. A song says, salvation be unto our God who sits upon the throne. Not 'who will sit', who now sits upon the throne. Salvation be unto God, we can say that in this planet earth. Salvation be to the Lord who sits upon the throne, and to the lamb forever and ever. No nation can stand before the decree of the sons of God, who have this key in their hands - the key of David. They open, no man can shut. They shut down, no man can open. We are not going to be terrified in this world. We are going to understand the power of the Christ who now dwells within us. Hallelujah. He is risen from the dead, no more to return to corruption. On this wise He says, 'I give unto you the sure mercies of David'. The Holy Ghost will lead us into all truth. He will lead us into all truth: the truth of redemption, the truth of His glorification, and the truth of Divine operations. God will enlarge our understanding to cause us to know that we are heirs of God, and we are joint heirs with Christ. Thus, we can begin to function in the authority. It says "the sceptre of Your Kingdom is the right sceptre." In Psalm 110:2, it says,

110:2 The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.

The rod of the strength of the Lord is the spirit of His mouth. He says that the evil one shall be revealed, in **2 Thessalonians 2**. But the Lord will destroy him with the Spirit of His mouth. We shall learn to speak. This breath, the Spirit of His mouth shall destroy the anti-Christ, and with the brightness of His rising. We read in Isaiah, He says, for Zion sake I will not hold my peace, for Jerusalem sake I will not rest until the righteousness goes forth as rightness. There is a righteousness yet to go forth. There is a standing in justification yet to go forth out of our spirit. There is knowledge of the Lord yet to go forth like brightness. The righteousness is dimmed by all kinds of doctrinal notions, misunderstandings, sins and not fully coming into consciousness. But the righteousness shall go forth as brightness. The righteousness shall go forth as brightness. And the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. With the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with mouth man speaks unto salvation.

So the righteousness shall go forth as brightness. Faith in the resurrection shall be increasing in these last days. And our declaration standing on the faith of Christ shall be so pronounced in these last days that judgment shall be administered. Look the kingdom of God is critical. It is the kingdom of God, when brought into full

operation that, will administer the judgments. The kingdom people will administer judgments to the world. It is the church that understands authority.

For God says He will judge the world through you and I. We shall judge angels. So there must be a kingdom understanding that Christ is 'enthroned. The kingdom is not future. The kingdom is not past. The kingdom is your revelation of Christ. That He is the Christ, the breaker of the yokes, the one that opens the seven seals and sets man *free!* For the Lamb in the midst of the throne is the breaker of the seals. When the Lamb opens the book, things began to happen. Who opened the seal? The Lamb, the Saviour of the world. We need to understand the things that flow from His death and resurrection. He will bring us into the knowledge of the grace of God, bringing salvation.

This is new creation reality, phase one of the kingdom. We shall come first to an understanding of His installation. He is installed. We shall now begin to move into the conquest. This conquest is the inner conquest. We shall pull down all rule and authority. Every imagination in our minds that run contrary to the redemption He has provided is to be pulled down within us. And, of course, as we continue to draw from the Holy Spirit to overcome, He says, he that overcomes I will grant that he sits with me on my throne, as I overcame and I sat on the father's throne. This shall culminate in the resurrection of the dead and take the world into another phase.

Now, there shall also be the visible manifestation of the kingdom. For now he kingdom is within. It is the life of consecration, the life of inner transformation and the dominion that springs from such transformation. As we begin to understand His death and resurrection we begin to have the power to bind kings and nobles with fetters of iron. We begin to control our environment. We begin to determine in a measure the destiny of our nation. We begin to determine in reasonable dimension the future of our children and families, and our environment.

We are no longer held by circumstances because the Lord has flowed out of our belly. It says, it springs up unto eternal life. It springs up unto everlasting life. That means it keeps springing until we are birthed into the fullness of the light that is in Jesus. If we had been faithful over little we shall be faithful over much. If we are able to rule over one inner kingdom we shall rule over ten cities. The Lord will begin to bring us into this consciousness and then we will begin to move in kingdom power, breaking the darkness all around us, casting devils out. So many things will begin to happen in the church and in our world.

God needs to bring us to a knowledge of what He is doing. There is an establishment or installation, there is the conquest, and then there is a possession. The saints shall possess the kingdom. The saints shall administer judgment. In **Psalms** it says we shall administer the judgment written. This honour has all the saints.

The Lord has called us to be partakers of this kingdom realities through our knowledge of Christ the slain one and our faith in Christ, the one raised from the dead for our justification. For righteousness flows and in righteousness we shall execute judgment, for the sceptre of the kingdom is righteousness.

You will not understand righteousness until the Holy Spirit comes in to begin to open your eyes to the righteousness of God. Then you can begin to wield the sceptre. The Lord will send the rod of His strength out of Zion. A people, a brave army, a people that can speak the word of God, but first they have the word within them and the word flowing like a river will take possession of their vocal organs. It will come out of their mouth.

If you believe you shall speak, and salvation shall be onto the Lord who sits upon His throne and onto the Lamb forever, and ever, and ever.

CONCLUSION

It is not something that can get matured in one day. It is not a principle that can be understood by pressing a button. We need to reflect and meditate upon it. His ministry is righteousness. His glory is grace. By righteousness He administers the kingdom. It is His authority of His kingdom. If you fail in it, if you cannot connect to that righteousness, you collapse. You cannot stand. You lack understanding in grace. But if you can stand in ok justification, then you can experience the resurrection. As indicated yesterday, a people in the righteousness of God, are in the resurrection. And that is true, if you are in the righteousness, you are in the resurrection.

When you are in righteousness standing and trusting only in the merits of the saviour, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ begins to break free, make you free from the law of sin and death. The law of sin and death has put some marks over you; some terrible marks that no crying can remove. **Only** the law of life can cancel the workings of the law of sin and death. **The law of sin and death may have defined your age limit. But only the law of life can break that barrier set over you and make you free.**

So we need to stand consistently in the merits of the saviour.

Song: There is no condemnation To those in Christ Jesus Who walk everyday in the Spirit of the Lord For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus Has made me free, has made me free From the law of sin and death.

That is a powerful law; sin and death. The soul that sinneth shall die. But there is a law that breaks the power of earth's gravity and cuts off the power of the law of sin and death. It brings you into the reality that is called the law of the Spirit of life. If you grasp that law, the kingdom authority is yours.

To the son He says, Your throne a God, is forever and ever. He says, Sit down at my right hand until I make all thy enemies thy footstool. You know what that means? The Holy Ghost in my heart bringing to my consciousness the death and the resurrection of Jesus makes me, gives me the ability to bring every challenge that would arise in my world under my footstool. That is the kingdom. The keys are in your hands. *The keys are in your hands.* Let us grab those keys.

When we move round the world either as individuals or as a corporate body of people upon the earth, the powers of this world shall be broken into pieces. **My brethren, we can bring this kingdom authority to bear on our nation Nigeria.** We can bring this kingdom authority to bear upon the circumstances of our lives that bind us. We can bring a change on our world. We can bring these principles to bear upon the whole of Africa. We shall see the King in all His beauty. May the Lord quicken us, and bring us to the daily understanding of this. May the Spirit of revelation expand these principles to us, until there shall be no more curse, because the throne of God and the throne of the Lamb are in it. Rivers of living waters are flowing from your belly. The stammering lips shall speak plainly. He who is blind shall see. The lame shall begin to reign. The dead shall rise.

God is glorified. We can enjoy His wonderful praises and worship. We shall see, He shall take us into His deeper places. The entire world shall return to the Lord, for He is the Governor among all nations. India shall submit to the authority of this King. China shall be broken into pieces to acknowledge the authority of this King. Saudi Arabia shall be broken into pieces, and the oil wells confiscated and dried up by the authority of this King. The power of idolatry will be broken in our world. He is King of kings; and He is Lord of lords. The armies that are in heaven followed Him upon white horses. His name is called The Word of God Revelations 19:13-14. With the high praises of God in their mouth; with the two edged sword

in their hands, they shall bind kings with chains, nobles they shall take on with fetters of iron. "This honour has all the saints." Psalm 149:6-9.

The Church shall bind Satan for a thousand years. A kingdom people shall bring the millennial reign upon the earth. He shall reign forever. Let Him begin to reign in my life. The greatest way we acknowledge His reign is to reverence and worship Him as the installed King. We shall begin to see Him express himself in our midst in wonderful ways.

CHAPTER NINE

THE TWO DAYS

(BRO. HOPE OVWAH)

Our Father and Our God, the great God of the heavens, creator of the ends of the earth, the Lord, the Sovereign one, we thank you for the great abundance that you have poured out upon us in these five days. Lord, our hearts are made glad by the things you have spoken to us, by the things that you have blessed us with. Thank you for the events in our lives that will answer to the many sided blessings wherewith you have blessed us.

And now Lord God Almighty, we pray thee that you might refresh our minds with the things you have taught us and grant unto us by the power of your Spirit, that we might be able to see and relate to them in these few minutes of the ministry of Your Word. Lord God Almighty, we ask that you might outpour your spirit upon us. Anoint our minds, anoint our hearts to receive your words, and keep your words ever before our view, that by your Word, we might be quickened unto life. In Jesus name Amen.

Well, if you would turn in your bibles to Rev.1:7-12. We would be taking these verses and considering them in the light of the things that God has already spoken to us, of the things that the Holy Spirit is bringing to our minds, respecting the theme of this conference. I would that you particularly take note of Vs 9 and 10.

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

*12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned,
I saw seven golden candlesticks;*

These 6 verses set out clearly the issues that the Holy Spirit is quickening to us respecting the time and season we are in. Of Course we do know that it is very important that we should see things from the divine perspective. What is God doing? What is God saying? How may we relate to these things? And of course, even though the theme is a very broad one, it comes straight to us, making us see that God wants us to be partners with him at this time of the end.

In verses 9 and 10, we find the two main parts of this year's convention. If we are to do true justice to the things contained in these verses, it definitely would take us some hours. But it is just important for now, for us to look at the main thoughts...

First we are to understand that there are two days... The 1st day, a short day has a beginning that is revealed in scriptures and has a predicted end that is also taught in scriptures.

Two days. The first is called man's day. Then you have another one, the second day. Not second in the order in which they occur, for that is the Lord's Day. It has no beginning and no end. And the things that spring up from the light of that day of the Lord are behind every activity of God, not only in creation, not only in redemption, for redemption covers the history starting from the fall of man till we have a new heaven and a new earth for the day of the Lord progresses into the ages of the ages, of which things we cannot now speak particularly.

The next thought is that the Lord's Day which is behind all of the activities of God will destroy the day of man and save man. Man's day will come to an end and the Lord's Day will shine forth from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. Amen. God's day will rule and anything and everything both animate and inanimate that do not line up with the Lord's Day shall be destroyed, cut off from the face of the earth.

In verse 10 says John said he was in the spirit on the Lord's Day... Of course the day is not a 24 hr day. If we understand what we began to say that the day of the Lord began before man was created, before creation and run in and through eternity, it never ends. Its beginning cannot be traced in scriptures because its beginning is in God. We cannot talk of the ending as something that expires because its end is in the person of God. He says *...I am the beginning and the end...*

There is the Lord's Day. John says he was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. There is a condition to be in; a condition God wants all of us to be if we are to partake of the Lord's Day and if we are to be instruments in his hands for the overthrow of man's day.

Closely associated with these two days are 2 things which in the 2nd verse and again in the 9th verse we see John talking about. Two things which relate to and derives from one of the days and have something to do with the second day.

2. Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

The Word of God unveils God. It makes the majesty and Glory of God to be seen and the things that proceed from Him. It also unveils man. It unveils man in His fallen state. Even though we are given insight into what man was from before the fall, it unveils man from the time of His fall. So, the Holy God and the degenerate man; those are the subjects contained in the Word of God here, Whenever you meet these two terms, the one separated from the other. The Word of God is that which by the spirit and by the letter of the Word conveys to us the Majesty the Glory and the Holiness of God in the one part and the fallen condition of man in the second part.

Then the testimony of Jesus Christ is the tool of God. It relates to redemption, is for redemption. Man's day brings to calamity and troubles, man has had continued to have his day for 6000 years. It has been a tale of woes; from one woe to the other and everything is heading up to disaster everything is heading up to a collapse. So we can talk about man's day. But God's day will prevail and triumph. God will dip his hand into man's day and take out of it, that which responds to him.

Psalm 76:10 says the remainder, which which fails to yield itself to God will be destroyed. So when he talks about the testimony of Jesus, what is brought before us is the redemption that is in Jesus Christ; tells us God's solution. We see His majesty and we see fallen man. That fallen man cannot come near this awesome e God. His story is ended. Then comes Jesus, laying hand upon the father and laying hand upon man. As it is written, God was in Christ Jesus reconciling the world unto himself.

The testimony of Jesus tells us that there is the tool of God by the means of which he intervenes in human history and severs man from the ruin he is bringing to himself. Mans problem is mans knowledge.

The testimony of Jesus has to do with redemption. It is God's solution. God's day will prevail at the end of the day by the Testimony of Jesus. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit behind all prophecy, and it is the content of all prophecy and it is the driving force of the fulfillment of all prophecy. The testimony of Jesus is for redemption. By it God dips his hand into man's day and saves man and destroys his day. The day of man shall pass. Man has had his day for 6000 years, but we are given insight into the day of God which may be hidden but it is always there because it predates the day of man and continues after the day of man is taken out of the way.

Two things set in sharp contrast. The Word of God showing things as they really are and the testimony of Jesus showing the power and commitment of God, dipping his hand into humanity and taking out of man the things that destroy him and saves man and begins to perfect this man in his image and likeness

If The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy the divine solution to human crises, then we are to understand that there is a people of that testimony, that there is the minister of that testimony. In John 15:26, we are told the Holy Spirit is the principal witness and in verse 27 we see we ourselves are co-witnesses with him.

As God moves to bring man's day to a close and to elevate man and bring him to his day that has always ruled. The sovereignty of God has always been at work. Even in man's day God weaves the events that have taken place according to his own will. Man may play out the acts, but the determinant is God. Amen

We see that God's day will prevail and bring forth his kingdom and install it over all creation. We are saying there are a people of the testimony. The testimony of Jesus and by these people God does his work. In verse 9 we are told the character of persons who are to be associated with God in the outworking of his purpose as he brings man's day to a close and as he introduces his day. There we see principal elements.

Because God is a God of measure, the things that will live in his sight and abide and abound in his day, must correspond in all material respect with the things that are revealed in His Word. We find John is a servant of God, a type of us. In beginning part of verse 9

I John, who also am your brother, and companion...

Whatever is said of John is said of a many-membered body, who will partner with God in this last hour. How may we serve him, how do we walk in assured

understanding and be involved in what the master is doing? How can we see some events in the world and differentiate between the superfluous and that which is the main grain of the divine dealings with man? It is the man who answers to the things that are said of John here who is taken and is involved with God

First we understand that God's servant is many-membered body. God never uses one man. The day of one man ministry is over. Why because God is speaking expressly that he is about to reveal his day. Remember that Gods day has never ceased to be.

When John says *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day*. a casual reader will think which day is the Lord's day? Some may labour strenuously to say it is Saturday, or even better name, Sabbath day... between the end of Friday and into Saturday. Others will say the New Testament has changed it to Sunday! But, the Lord's Day is a reality beyond man's sight except aided by the Holy Spirit.

It means that John was admitted into the sphere of God's dealings respecting how he will bring about the close of man's day and install his kingdom over all creation. The Lord's Day is not a day.

Here, as set out in scriptures, day is *hemera*... has a 3 part to its meaning... three things which combine to give the full view of what God wants us to understand. First, it means the *light of understanding*. In the Lords day the Lord will pour forth principles respecting righteousness, respecting the things that are pleasing with him; things that are in harmony with the Holy God and how that the mature of God will be planted all over the earth. That is what Isaiah 11:9 means.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

The earth shall be peopled with men and women who have come to the moral and spiritual expressions of God in His image – for character and in his likeness – for power and glory. Amen

So in this last hour, God is shining His light of understanding so much that things that used to be hailed and celebrated among men so much are beginning to loose colour and this will only intensify. There was sovereign move upon the heart of someone to seek counsel with a brother about moving into full time ministry and when the brother shared, he lost the appetite for starting his own church/ministry because of the principles of life streaming from the day of the

Lord, and made his see that that order of things will definitely be brought to ruin!
Amen

In Zachariah 13: the time will come when the things we are seeing the TV now respecting prostitution for money in the coursts of Pentecost... not physical adultery, rather – the cultic practice when nmen do all sorts of things in the church systems of men to make merchandise of men. A time comes when the light of God’s day is so bright that men will drop this.... A previously paid to be prophet declares that he is not a prophet anymore and never was. Many people will change jobs, drop their titles... as the light continues to shine, man’s day will continue to shine till it passes into oblivion. see I Corinthians 4.

Second part of the word day means *judgment*. When John says he was in the spirit on the Lord’s Day, expanding it to contain these first two thoughts can be put this way... *I was in the spirit and admitted to see a typical day of judgment and the principles of truth that God uses to judge, he will not judge man unless the that which is according to his will are made manifest.* The evil will all the more be evil because standing before it will be the truth as God intended it to be.

For example, the principle of the emerging church, emerging from the ruinous works we see in the denominations is bringing forth a strong witness in the nations. Many see what is happening... some time ago a minister wondered whether we wanted to drive them from work. Indeed many will be driven out of their jobs.

Rev 1:10 can be read and understood to mean that the Lord by a special operation of the gifts of the Spirit admitted John into the spheres of the heavens to behold God’s activities on a typical day of judgment of the Lord and the emphasis is manifesting principles of truth by means of which he will judge his people

Chapters 2 and 3 simply are a summary of the things that are pleasing in the sight of God and the things that he condemns. As you run through the seven letters, it will be clear what is pleasing in the sight of God and what is not as to morals, as to doctrines and to practice and what is not acceptable in the sight of God. Not the final judgment but highlighting principles of truth by means of which God will judge the church and judge the world. Amen. Hence you find 8 times in the two chapters, the Spirit of God says repent. What you are to repent from is clearly stated. Each letter in clear statements we are told what to repent from.

The third meaning is time duration known to God during which he seeks to execute judgment and prepares a people who will be instruments of outworking

that judgment for that work by showing them what he wants to accomplish in their lives.

Few readings to capture these 3 thoughts: Light of Understanding, Day of Judgment and time duration during which these 2 activities are executed.

In I Cor. 3:13-15. The word day is used in connection with judgment at the very end of time, when things in their ultimate picture shall be shown.

3:13 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.

3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

What day shall declare it? The day of the Lord when the bright shining light of God's word and will empowered and actuated by the anointing of the spirit begins to take hold of the church world then works that are to be discredited will be made manifest and those to be praised will be made manifest. When the light is dull men celebrate the things that are condemnable. The whole world is rushing in a mad frenzy round about greedy trees that present themselves as green trees...solution messiahs, many that do not have their beginning in God, having a field day!

If they ask the government of the day for the men of God in the land, none here will be picked and even if we present ourselves, none will be allowed into the first level of security screening. No title, no name... You are not known, but you are known. The bible talks about the hidden ones and those who have eyes to see in the dark world are plotting against the evil ones. There are continual battles because there is a band of people in this land who are saying a decisive NO to all the fake things that Satan is displaying in the church world! And they know that their doom is come because of this band of people.

The day shall declare it... not good English... By grammatical construct, Day is a phenomenon without voice, so how shall it declare it? Not the day as man understands it. *It shall be revealed by fire.* Tempting fire shall test every man's work of what sort it is. Fire of the brilliant light of God's will, will burn up man's work and suddenly men realize that they have been serving another God not the living God, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth!

The Word day means that the brilliant light of understanding of that which is in the will of God will be poured down mightily in measures before untold and we are in the brink of it! We may not be convinced and we will not be the first, looking at ourselves. Gideon of old did that. God's men are not persons who have confidence in themselves. They will stand upright before the crowd, but in the spirit, they are leaning against God saying Lord help me!

Even when the fullness is to be brought forth and all of human kind is of one lip meaning only, which means only the light of God's word will prevail on the earth, we shall still see the spirit of prophecy sing... The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty!

We sang a song in the beginning...

O Zion, O Zion that bringeth good tidings Get thee up into the high mountains Jerusalem, Jerusalem that bringeth good tidings Get thee up into the high mountain Get thee up be not afraid...

Why does it say be not afraid? Because there can be fear of the uncertainty... if it seems God will not defend us when we challenge the forces boldly and open in the name of the Lord, what will happen? All these musings might still be there in some measure, but the song of the Lord will come to bring assurance to our hearts. Amen

I Cor 4. Paul was saying something (also 1 Cor 2:10-16)

4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Faithfulness cannot be experienced expect according to the will of God. Not the way the work is done, not the zeal that is manifest, but rather whether is it according to the pattern that the will of God shows. The will of God revealed is crucial to measuring faithfulness Then also

4:3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

The Word judgment here is day. *Of man's day*. The summary of the beauty of the elevated mind of man cannot contain things that are adequate to judge a servant of God. He looks into his life and judges himself daily in the light of what God reveals.

4:4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

Even when I think I am all okay and have the disposition to perfection, yet only God can and Only God has the final sentence in that. There is interplay between *judgment* and *day* here, the word is *hemera*.

We have said the 3 things contained in the Lord's Day. The 2nd and 3rd chapter of Revelation contains things that a local assembly can use to judge themselves. The third element in the word *hemera* is translated judgment.

Rev1:19 says

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

All of these things show three divisions to the time duration

Whatever follows from the second chapter to the 22nd chapter of revelation gives us so much to know and understand both of the Lord's day and of his kingdom. We cannot go into all of that but notice this, the things which thou has seen (of things which are past), the things which are, and the things which shall be here after. Do you get it? Now, the light of God's day when it breaks in will make you to know where you are standing today.

It can show you the past but more importantly, it shows you today in God's prophecy and then points to what will come forth tomorrow. Amen. Of course it says "write this in a book ". It is not going to be a vague thing! We shall not just suddenly transit from this present hour into the fullness! It is not possible! He will make known to us the things that belong to our judgment, our cleansing, our purification, the crystallization of the Christ nature in us, our perfection, and our glorification.

These things are subject which will find an entrance into the ministry of the word at this time of the end. Remember if you will cast your mind to the book of exodus, the revelation of God's day in that time of history is a type of the revelation of God's judgment in this final hour. But notice! The first 3 plagues fell both on the Egyptians and the Israelites alike, the 3rd been in measured degrees, but whatever happened in Egypt happened in Goshen until the covenant produced a difference

Even so, the beginnings of judgment have startled many both in the kingdom and out of it because when God come with a view to installing His kingdom, nothing that is not according to his manner will be tolerated. So in this time of the unveiling of the lord's day, character will be tested, what things in our lives that are not according to his will shall be brought out clearly, distinctly. And the power of the blood will be made manifest, the power of the word will be made manifest as God brings us to be suppliants at the throne of grace and as we cry out unto him. The blood which we have used and seemed to have no power (because we don't have a revelation and entrance into it) will suddenly come forth to purge us old habits that have made slaves of us, and deliver us and set us free, as it did some days back. I want you to say AMEN. PRAISE the name of the Lord.

Is he going to judge the world? Yes! But the things he will judge in the world, he will not allow in his church. God is no respecter of persons Amen. So we will be able to see where we are now and where things are heading to.

In closing, may I draw you attention to the 9th verse. I will like for you to know he says, "Write in a book" twice in one chapter. He says "*write these things in a book*" then in several places, "*write, these things are faithful and true*". Why does he say this?

When a thing should be the subject of man's mind, and he can just forget, He (the Lord) says "write it, look at it And he can just forget. He says write it, look at it and look at it again and keep looking at it until the meaning of it captures your heart, Amen. And there shall be plenty of writing and the pen of God's hand will dipped in the ink of God's spirit and God shall write a new nature into our lives in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I searched my spirit and desired to know that which should be emphasized at this time. Because man is in partnership with God and the events must be as God and man execute them or carry them out and because of the nature of man and the tendency to flagging in zeal, you cannot say two days more but the Lord must walk his work in the man who sometimes flag in his zeal in other to steady him, Amen.

It is important to know that the measures of God must be found in a people who are to be instrument in his hand so he says in the 11th verse

...I heard the voice behind me

Of whom is this said? Apostle John how old has he been in the lord 65 years, a man who knew Christ in the days of his flesh and after who slept and laid his head

upon the bosom of the lord Jesus, a man who has lived with eternal life for 65 years of him it is said "I heard the voice behind me" this means at that point in time this ninety something years old man who have not known anything in the past 65 years save doing the will of the Lord was not filled with the meditation of how the word of God will advance; he probably must be looking at his circumstances; ah look at me here, but for the grace of God wild beast would have come to eat me up. He was thinking of himself and his circumstances and to that extent he was not fully available for what the Lord will do so when the Lord will sound his trumpet he is not hearing him as something he is viewing from before him but he was hearing the voice from behind him.

Oh may the Lord help us in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. How sweet it is to hear it before us or to be by our right hand or even by our left hand but behind is a reflection of a lowering of our zeal and enthusiasm for the kingdom and the song writer says

"Christian seek not yet repose, hear thine guardian angel say, thou art in the midst of foes, watch and pray. Pray for thine unguarded hour...."

Yes, unguardedness many times describe man's day, man's activity. I am talking about the man in Christ but he is God's partner and God must wait for him and so God takes him by a storm. He was not prepared for it and so God sounded the voice from behind him. Amen. May the voice of God come to you, Amen. Say with me "oh Lord, speak to me even if you have to stay behind me." Halleluiah. It is good that the picture of us is shown in John. He was not thinking. It is just that he has been habitually schooled in certain things and that helped him. Oh May the Lord help us. We cannot take the kingdom to ourselves in full procession except the things described in verse 9 are true of us

Tribulations indicate events that do flow from faithfulness to God. Paul has testified that all that will live a godly life in Christ Jesus who have a passion of a God's glory and look to how the things concern God in every matter, the bible says they shall suffer persecution and persecution not only from likely quarters but also from unlikely quarters even from among the house. So if you will live a good life in Christ Jesus, you will suffer persecution. It may come from among your friends and you must maintain a disposition for the events of their grieving you in the spirit or doing something may not be an act that the Lord charges against them but may be an event God allows and even provokes to test how much of the dying to the flesh has taken to your life.

So we watch the event of each day from a two fold stand point not just what is happening but what does all of this things mean? And it helps you to be large hearted to the one (provoking). Because each time we excel when tested by all kind of situation we have an advance in the spirit communicated to us, Amen.

So it says “I John who am also your brother...” whatever is seen and manifested through me, you can do so; we are brothers under the same calling, your companion in tribulation. Then it says two things: “...in the kingdom and patience of Jesus”. The kingdom talks about the supernatural character of this kingdom, the moral excellence is implied. The ability to bring the sweet influences of the Lord upon others is implied. In the word kingdom, strength, power, glory, grace are implied.

But when it comes and says the patience of Jesus Christ, what its meant there is the life of consecration. John was saying “I live in utter consecration unto God, I have the sign of the supernatural in my life, and I am an expression of the Christ life to a measurable degree” so may God work these things into our lives in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The patience of Jesus Christ says “I will not rule and lord it over man now, seeking an advantage over them, wanting to be king over men now” Paul says “you have reigned as kings without us, you are prospering, but we God’s servants are decreasing. Go ahead, rule oh ye kings” but he says, “how I wish that you were really ruling that we might rule with you” the patience of Jesus Christ tells us that the time to seek honors from men is not now, and that the true spirit of discipleship requires us to really die to the flesh.

The patience of Jesus Christ is the summary of the spirit of consecration. It is saying “I know what is coming ahead, I live for the day to come and not for the day that is now I live for the day of Jehovah not for the day of man” that is the meaning of the patience of Jesus Christ. And in Revelation 3:10 it comes out very brilliantly.

Jesus said, “because you have kept the word of my patience (the doctrine detailing how you ought to live your life now in the light of the day to come), I will also keep you from the day of trialsome event that shall come to trouble all the world” so would you want to be preserved from hurt in the judgment that have already begun? Keep the word of his patience.

The judgment principles have highlighted how you can be free. Do not say (for instance), Calabar is prone to earthquakes, I will not reside in Calabar, I will go to Ibadan. God is making nonsense of man’s knowledge of geography. When the

judgment of God are in the earth, no place will be spared, and your safety is not in human head calculation but in keeping the word of his patience, because the promises given

“because you have kept the word of my patience, I also will keep you from the day of trials”

Let us read Rev 3:10, but we will take the reading from verse 7. This is the letter of Christ to the church in Philadelphia.

Here it says, we don't have to be so great in numerical count or in the eyes of man to stand approvable in the sight of God, and it tells of their earnest desire to live lives pleasing in the sight of God, and God says, “I know thy works”. And three elements are tested: Faith, Hope and Love, always in all of the letters. When he has done so in 2 Thess 1:3, he calls it the patience of hope, because you hope for the kingdom; that blessed hope. It imposes on you certain constraint, it gives you a lifestyle in the which you are living not for the now but for the day to come, Amen

How I wish we can talk about where we are now, and what things are coming our way. That is the essence of ourselves. “Behold he cometh”. There is an approaching day. How near is it? We would be able to tell. But where are we now? We should be able to tell. But all that will become a matter not of mere conjecture, but an inward knowledge when we live in the sphere that is describe here of the apostle John.

We are reading Rev 3:10 and know the provision for preservation from the judgments that are coming from God. They are not mindless events, they are directed assaults at the pride of man, and at the foundations of this present system that must collapse. They are directional judgment and the things that are judged, whosoever houses it in his person shall also meet the judgment. Let us lift our voices loud and clear and read verse 10 and when we have done that say “Lord, I would that this might speak of me now and always, that I keep the word of your patience, that I live in the light of your day, the day that is approaching” amen.

“Because thou has kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell (meditate, gravitate, their members are upon the earth, all fleshly ones whose members dwell on the earth)”, but you are dwelling in heaven if the spirit of the word of his patience has laid hold upon you in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Father we thank you, we have felt our way through your word, here a little, there a little. We have tried to take in the things that you are saying to us today. Now Lord, you are saying to us the judgment has begun, the many pronged attack at the base of wickedness and degeneration in the world. Lord it suppose to be a happy time for all of us your children but Lord God almighty, there is puzzle and perplexity in every place. Lord, connect us properly with the spirit of consecration. May that which john says of himself and of other include us as well so that we may be able to say with john, "I also who I am your brother and companion in experiences that are induced by faithfulness knowing the kingdom, its power, its glory, its supernatural character and walking and living daily in the light of the day to come. Father we ask for help so that we may see clearly the day that is coming. Lord God almighty for as much as those who must be instruments in your hands using the tool of redemption and with the testimony of Jesus in this last hour, to speak relevantly to human situations, Lord God help us help, help us dear Lord.