

CHAPTER ONE

LIFTING UP THE HEAD

BY KOLA ADEGOKE

We want to start out by considering the burden ***Lifting up the Head***.

Let us read some Scriptures quickly. We first read from the book of **Malachi 4:1-2**.

4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch,

4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Now we read again the book of **Luke 21** where the Lord Jesus Christ was declaring the events of the time of the end and the activities that shall be visible on the earth at the time of His return. I will read from verse 25.

21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distresses of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

21:26 Men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after these things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of Heaven shall be shaken.

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

The emphasis is on the next verse.

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

And we say “**AMEN!**”

The Closing Days of the Church Age.

Now, the book of **Malachi 4** happens to be the last chapter of the last book of the Old Testament, and therein the Lord spoke His mind concerning the days that shall close the age of the Church. The Prophet saw in the spirit, *a day*. However, we have to know that when the Prophet saw ‘a day’ in the spirit he did not see the 9th of April! No.

He saw *a period in the calendar of God*, when certain activities shall crystallize upon the earth; and definite aspects of redemptive work shall be accomplished. So all the series of activities and the period they are crystallized are referred to by the prophet as ‘a day’.

He said: “the day cometh.”

But what shall characterize that day? The day shall be HOT. That day shall burn as an oven. Another characteristic of that day is that it is a day that shall consume every stubble, i.e., all combustible materials!

But the Bible tells us that as hot as the day shall be, a people shall be spared from the heat of the day.

Now who are the people that shall be spared from the heat?

He said “... *you that fear my name*”.

What shall happen? “*The sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings.*” That word “*healing*” in this scripture, is a word that is translated “**solution**”. It is also a word that is translated “**medicine**”. So many translations of that word “healing”.

The Lord showed the prophet the things that will take place at the closing days of this age. And the Lord also showed the prophet what would be the result and effect of the heated atmosphere. There is no person who would not admit that the atmosphere is being heated up. So many things are taking place at a very fast pace.

The leaders of the nations are trying their best to grapple with and see what solutions to bring to bear upon the dire situation. Within the past six months, i have been quite amused at the panic in the world economic system. If anyone was told about three, four or five years ago that a time will come when not just a nation but that there will be ripples of economic earthquake all over the nations on the surface of the earth, it would be almost unbelievable. But we are seeing it before our eyes; and these things have been *prophesied* a long time ago.

Fear

We are seeing tensions mounting, particularly among the world super powers. So many things are happening and one resultant effect to all these activities and events is that there is a four-letter-word that is sweeping across the nations of the earth. And you know what this word is?

F-E-A-R!

This four-letter word is sweeping across the face of the earth. And the Lord Jesus Christ, in Luke 21 spoke about it; because He had already seen the times that we are in and He knew that this time would come. So what did the Lord do? The Lord did say in Luke 21:25 that at this time, many things will be taking place and at such a fast rate that the hearts of many shall fail them for F-E-A-R!

We are already witnessing and seeing fear all over the earth; and fear shall increase in the nations of the earth.

Fear shall become a very significant phenomenon among men. But the Lord said in Malachi 4:2

“But unto them that fear my name the sun of righteousness shall arise...!”

Beloved brethren, as the world is looking at the events and watching the events; and because the events are affecting them and many are dying out of fear, we have only one thing to do: ***fear*** the Lord!

As we fear the Lord, the bible says that the Lord Himself, *as the Sun of righteousness* shall arise upon us.

He will overshadow us.

He will bring us solution, even in the midst of the heat.

The Lord has this character of making His people aware of events before they come to pass. If events come and overtake the people of the Lord then something is wrong. He said: “... *surely the Lord God will do nothing but He reveals His secrets unto His servants the prophets.*”(Amos 3:7)

Now the Lord at this time of the end, is raising ***a prophetic body***; a body of people that are loyal to Him; a body of people that desire Him, that have God as their only goal and agenda. These ones ***fear*** the Lord.

The ***fear*** in Malachi 4 speaks of *reverence*; while the ***fear*** in Luke 21:26 speak of *dread*. The two are different. When we walk in reverence before the Lord, we have no need to dwell in dread or in fear.

Beloved, these things are not just far away. They are coming so close. I'm sure any company that is going to make a public offer now for people to invest in shares will be very, very careful, knowing that already many people have been seriously wounded.

There is fear everywhere!

Many don't even know where to invest their money now!

Do I invest in shares? There have been problems and there may still be problems there.

Do I take my money to the banks? They too have problems. Many banks have closed down. There are rumours more banks may still shut down. Whatever is going around; i want you to know that there is this four-letter word in the hearts of men.

F-E-A-R!

But brethren, you have no portion with fear.

I say, you have no portion with fear!

You don't have any reason to fear. Once we fear the Lord, live in reverence of Him, no matter what is going on, it is well with our souls, because the Lord is the Lord of the *day*.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever.” (**Hebrew 13:8**)

My brethren, whatever is happening now or may happen in the mind and imaginations of men should not affect us, and should not put us in a cage. Our God is a God of *now*. He is also the God of the future. Blessed be His holy name.

Divine Information

Now at this time that the world is at a precipice, at this time that the Church seems not to know where to stand, (because we discover that the events of these times are creeping so much and are affecting both the sea and the earth), at a time such as this, brethren, a people of the Lord must have the *word* of the Lord.

If you look at the Scriptures, God has never left Himself without a witness. And there must of necessity be a people who are not overtaken by panic and who will not operate in frenzy. What makes the difference is that they have the mind of God. They know the mind of God. Now if you have information about an event, you are very likely to be at an advantage over those that don't have the information.

Brethren we have the information by the light of the Spirit and by the word of God. And all that the Lord is asking of us is that we make good use of the

information that He has given us.

Also, as the Lord gives us light from His presence, we are to stand and make a bold declaration to the Church and to the nations of the earth and let the people know this is what the Lord is saying. This is the declaration. This is ‘thus saith the Lord’

In the book of **Acts 27**, we see this at play when Paul was in the middle of the sea. He was travelling as a captive with other prisoners. We remember how there was a heavy storm on the sea. The Bible tells us that for fourteen whole days men refused to eat! Not because there was no food but they lost their appetite. And why did they lose their appetite? They lost their appetite because death was steering them in the face. For fourteen days they were in the midst of a great ocean and the Bible tells us that any hope of being saved was lost!

But I bless the name of the Lord because, in the dark period, Paul, a servant of God stood up and said:

“Look, don’t be afraid. Nobody is going to die.

Because there stood by me an angel of the Lord, to whom I belong and He has told me that the worst that is going to happen is that the ship shall be destroyed but no soul shall be lost. Therefore be of good cheer, because I believe God. What God has said to me shall surely be.”

Brethren we must hold on to the word of the Lord for this hour. What the Lord has said to us will surely be. The things that our eyes see, the things that our ears hear are not superior to the word of the Lord. We must take the word of the Lord as being supreme.

It also came into play when in the calendar of God; it was time for David to be made king over the nation of Israel. In the crisis and uncertainty of the situation then, it was time for the mighty men of David to make him king.

The Bible says something very interesting about a tribe in Israel. We see this in **1 Chronicles 12:32:**

12:32 “And of the sons of Issachar who had the understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...”

So even at such time, the Lord did make a provision among the twelve tribes, for a tribe to have grace to understand the times. And not only to understand the times but also to know what Israel ought to do.

The Prophetic Tribe

Amidst the fears and terrors in the nations, amidst the confusion that we can see in the visible Church world, we have to know that God has a peculiar tribe in His house (Psalm 87:1-2).

God has a people in His house that of necessity must have an understanding of the times. Not only an understanding, but also to know what to do.

This prophetic, spiritual movement (declaring the uncompromising word of the Lord, to restore sanity and order in the church) must take its place at this hour and make certain clear and bold declarations, not of our own but as the Spirit of the Lord has made known unto us.

There are certain things that of necessity must take place. But one of the advantages of prophetic grace upon a people is that the Lord will give us an understanding of the specifics. And when people are moving here and there, we shall be stable because we have the word of the Lord.

In **Matthew 24**, Jesus Christ said when they shall say unto you ‘here’ or they shall say unto you ‘there’, don’t go after them. Brethren those who are in the light are never shaken in the day of trouble. They are not shaken, not because they don’t see the trouble but they esteem the word of the Lord above the trouble. Now, when we stand by that word of the Lord, the seas and the waves shall obey that word of the Lord.

So the tribe of Issachar were men, sensitive to the mind of God for their time. In the church today, there are men who have understanding of the times. And this understanding will become clearer and brighter as we open ourselves to the prophetic Spirit. One of the things that we all that are open to God shall take from this meditation is that we shall come away with light. We shall have the word of the Lord. So, when certain things are happening we will not be superstitious like everybody else. There is a way people get naturally superstitious and we are already seeing it. There are many events that are happening that are actually not ripe yet. But men are giving so many superstitious explanations to them.

In **Matthew 24**, Jesus Christ said “...*and you shall hear of wars and rumours of war*”. He said: *the end has not come yet*. Because another phase must still take place before the final end sets in.

Brethren, we must be very much keyed into the Spirit of the living God for accuracy and precision.

One of the things that differentiates a prophetic people from other people, is that a people that are prophetic are ‘keyed’ to the Spirit of the living God and are not

operating by what they hear or what they see. They have precision and accuracy. And there is such a grace with God to give unto His people.

As we proceed unto the main body of the end time events, and as we take heed to be in the spirit, the Lord is going to cause us to be at an advantage over many that are around us.

How will the advantage come? By reason of the light of His word. May the Lord help us to open our minds to the Spirit of the living God! And may the Lord cause so much of prophetic grace to rest upon us!

Listen brethren, this prophetic grace will manifest in diverse ways at this convention. It will manifest as servants of God minister through the various chapters of this bible. Every chapter will be focusing on particular aspects of the general theme: *understanding the times*.

Many of the ministers will be speaking, not necessarily what they planned to say, but what the Spirit prompts them to say from the womb of the Spirit.

Brethren we cannot afford to grope in the dark. We have the light of God! We have a spiritual atmosphere that is already to our advantage. All we need do is open ourselves to God and make the best of this atmosphere.

Men and women at this convention shall receive the hand of the Lord upon them and bring forth the word of the Lord.

Five objectives of the 2009 convention ministrations:

As i waited upon the Lord concerning this convention ministration, there were five things that the Lord summarised in my spirit that we should expect from this convention ministrations.

As i look through these five things, i discover there will be no person who shall go through these messages and not have a portion to take out.

1. The Lord will cause His people to have an understanding of the times we are in and the things that lie ahead:

Whenever God causes His word to come forth, He has a purpose. God is not a purposeless God. He is not just sounding the trumpet for the sake of making noise.

God does not waste resources.

God will achieve this purpose by lowering His prophetic hand upon His ministers. He will cause us to have an understanding of the times we are in.

There are many things that are happening that are given wrong interpretations. But the Lord will cause us by His prophetic grace to have the right interpretation. We shall have an understanding of the times we are in; and we shall also have information from the Lord of the things that lie ahead.

2. The Lord will cause us to have knowledge of what we ought to do:

It is one thing is to have awareness and a good appreciation of things going on in the spirit; but yet, it's another thing to be able to have the knowledge of what to do. There are many people that have reasonable appreciation of what is going on, but lack the knowledge of what to do. For example, an average person that is used to investing knows that the atmosphere of investment has been bad for some time now. That is information and is understanding. But an additional grace the Lord shall give to us which is required is "**what do I do?**"

If the Lord helps you and blesses you with a contract, with a lump sum of money at your place of work, or if you are sent to go for a course and you come back with some money, you may ask, do I keep it under my pillow? Or do I go and dig the ground and keep the money there? The Lord will give us an understanding. Not only an understanding. He will give you knowledge of what

to do. You will have awareness; because the light of God shall be upon your heavens. It shall not be with you as it is with those who do not have a covenant relationship with God.

3. The Lord will give us a refocusing:

He will cause our attention to be shifted, not negatively but positively. Now if you consider generally the dealings of God with His people, there are times the Lord desires to say a thing or give a direction; but the people of the Lord are dull of understanding. We see an illustration in the book of Hebrews. Paul was writing unto the Hebrews church and as the Lord desired to unveil His mind to them there was a seal, there was a blockade. He could not go far.

The Lord will help us such that we will be able to understand what the direction of the Spirit of God is.

For every dark period, there is always light available (**Zachariah 14:7**).

The Lord will give us light. The Lord will cause us to have a refocusing. Now this refocusing, I see it, as I meditated will be as a mercy for us as a plural Church. By the grace of God this spiritual movement has been on for about 20 years as a visible expression in this nation. But the Lord God almighty will give us a refocusing. Probably there are certain things that we have been doing that we should now do differently. Man, naturally, is used to routine. An average man does not like change. But one of the things we must conquer at this time is being rigid. We must be flexible to the Spirit of the Lord. Amen!

4. The Lord at this convention will empower His people to live above the present and coming storms:

The Lord said He will empower **you** to live above the storms.

You may not be able to do much whether some storms will come or not. Not only will they come, some are already here! You may not be able to do much about preventing some storms; but you can do *everything* about being swallowed up by the storm. The Lord said we shall not be swallowed up by the storm.

And what is the Lord saying as we gather at this convention?

He is saying there is an ***anointing*** going on with the coming ministrations these few days, which will empower His people to rise above the storms of these times.

Truly we shall hear and see many houses becoming desolate. But when you hear what happens to others, it does not mean it will happen to you.

In **Psalms 32:6 -7** the Lord says *“in the floods of many waters it shall not come nigh you.”*

Why?

“The Lord shall be your hiding place. And He will surround you with songs of deliverance”.

The Lord is on our side, brethren. He is here to empower us to live above the storms. And this empowerment can come through divers’ ways: by the gift of the Spirit; by an awareness of the Spirit, etc.

The Lord will empower individuals.

The Lord will empower assemblies.

There are some of our assemblies that will be transformed by the power of these ministrations! You shall not emerge out of this convention and begin to look at the weather; or begin to consider mundane and inconsequential things. The Lord will release fire on the ministrations of His servants! The Lord will set us on fire. And by that power of this fire, the Lord will empower us to rise above the storms of these times.

5. The Lord says He will intervene in the affairs of His people:

There will be an intervention of God in the affairs of His people and in this the Lord said that He will deal with the difficulties in the lives of His people. He will deal with negative and contrary issues. He will deal with problems and symptoms associated with the end time flood.

The Lord said that there shall be a visitation upon us.

I don’t know how many of us have been weeping. Hold your handkerchief because the Lord is going to dry your tears. The Lord said **the experience of these ministrations will be like going to Shiloh**. All other ministrations you have heard over the years will be like going to Shiloh over the years. However there is going to be a difference this time around. This time around you are going to leave with your **Samuel!** It shall be so unto us in the name of the Lord Jesus!

Garment Of Praise

So brethren we must ensure that we are not bowed down.

Let our heads are lifted up.

Luke 21:28 says when you begin to see all these things taking place, (some of them will take place near you, in your extended family, peradventure; some of them will take place at your office; some people will get sacked) but my brother, my sister if you get to the office and you get a sack letter because your company has closed its doors you know what you should do? Lift up your hand and praise God!

If this brook, from which you are presently drinking should dry up, then the widow of Zarephath is awaiting you!

It happened in the days of Elijah. I am sure Elijah must have wondered: **“God, You led me to this brook, what is happening?”**

All you need to do is to lift up your hands and praise the name of the Lord.

Brother, sister the Lord will help us.

One of the empowerment we shall receive is that we shall have **the garment of praise**. We shall be able to praise the Lord when seemingly negative things are happening. The reason is because the Lord will ensure that the valley of Baca becomes a well! The valley of Achor shall become a door of hope. All these things the Lord will do for us in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Psalm 110.

Psalm 110 is a prophetic psalm by David. It is a psalm of the Kingdom of God. It is a psalm prophetically declaring the mind of the Lord concerning His Messiah, the people of the Messiah; the things the Lord will accomplish through the Messiah and the people of the Messiah at the time of the end. It says:

“The Lord said unto my lord, sit thou at My right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool”.

110:2 The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion.

The rod of God’s strength speaks of **you and me**, a people who have opened themselves and given themselves up to the Lord without holding back. Now the rod of God’s strength speaks of people who are God’s instruments in bringing His eternal purposes to pass.

God Is Tied To Man

You know there are many things that God had purposed. And one mystery about God is that He will make use of a *man* to accomplish His purpose. He has not tied Himself to *any particular man*. But He has tied Himself to man. That is why David in **Psalm 8** said:

“What is man that you are mindful of him? And the Son of man that You so visit him?”

Brethren God has tied Himself to **me** and to **you** especially at this time in His purpose; and because we are tied to the purposes of God we shall be **preserved**. In the days of the fire we shall be preserved.

In the days of the storms we shall be preserved. The Lord said even if you have reason pass through the fire it shall not burn you. (**Isaiah 43:2**)

I know as I am ministering this word now some are passing through fire and others are passing through flood. But the Lord is saying unto you;

“By the time you come to the other side, the smell of the smoke shall not be seen upon you.” (**Daniel 3: 27**) This is because the Lord will ensure that He has accomplished His purpose in and through you.

Every fire experience for you shall be a stepping stone to glory!

We are tied to the Lord’s purposes.

At this time of the end verse **5** of **Psalm 110** says the Lord will be at our right hand.

One of the things you will arm yourself with as you go through these messages is that the Lord is *at your right hand*.

David said it. He said:

I have set the Lord always before me. He is at my right hand and so I shall not be moved.

Because of that my spirit will rejoice and my flesh will rest in hope.

God will not allow my soul to remain in hell. He will not give me over to torment.” (**Psalm 16: 8 - 10**)

If you are passing through any pain or torment, thus saith the word of the Lord: *“the Lord shall not leave (or abandon) your soul in torment.”*

He said further, *“and He shall not suffer His Holy One to see corruption.”*

Conclusion

Now the Lord is at our right hand. And because the Lord is at our right hand He would do these three things for us:

(1) **In verse 5:**

He would strike through the loins of kings.

The kings speak of all the things that make living a godly life difficult: those spirits, circumstances, events and even men that have set themselves in opposition to you. The Lord said because you are tied to His purpose (and this is the time to accomplish His great purpose upon the earth), He will strike through kings in the days of His wrath.

The Lord is angry at your adversaries for your sake!

The Lord is angry because of *what the enemy is doing in your life*, or is doing *against* you.

He said it in **Zechariah Chapter 1**: I allowed Babylon to just discipline my people a little bit but they went too far. I am going to break that rod called Babylon in pieces!”

The rod that has troubled **you**, the Lord said He will break it into pieces.

(2) He said in verse 7 He will drink of the brook in the way.

(3) He will lift up the head.

What does the Lord mean by saying that He will drink of the brook in the way?

There are so many things the Lord would do at this time of the end. And the Lord is raising instruments for accomplishing His purpose, the rod of His strength whereby He will bring the enemy under His foot stool.

The Lord is going to take an offering, a drink offering from our lives, every life that the Lord will pass through to accomplish His purpose.

He will require an offering from us.

The Lord will cap everything up by ensuring that our heads are lifted up.

Lifting up our heads means that **we are going to operate in triumph, in victory.**

Luke 2 says: “*When you see things come to pass then look up*” And also do what?

“*Lift up your heads.*”

Lifting up your heads means: **walking in victory**.

Brethren the three Hebrew children walked in victory in the midst of the fire! The Bible says that the king saw another person with them.

You shall not be alone in the days of your trials! No matter what is seen around us; even if, peradventure, you see the fire and the smoke around you, it is for a reason and only for a season. The Lord has said:

Unto those that fear My Name will the sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings.

(Malachi 4:2)

We have come to this holy convocation to be renewed, to be made strong. We have come to receive understanding and also encounter the light of the word of the Lord. Even if there are issues in our lives (because, to some, our issues are seemingly primary now); but the Lord will attend to those issues so that you can concentrate on the *Kingdom*, to which He has called you.

Praise the name of the Lord Jesus!

CHAPTER TWO
UNDERSTANDING TODAY IN PROPHECY
BY HOPE OVWAH

Times and Seasons

We will begin this message by taking a scripture reading from **Acts 1-8**. We are drawing attention to the last three verses: **6,7** and **8**. The key words around which our meditation shall be centered are found in the seventh verse. For a start, let us consider the two contrasting statements made by the Lord Jesus Christ. In verse 7, He says in effect “it is not in your power to know the **times** or the **seasons**. But as we see in verse 8 Jesus declares “you **shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you**”. This, taken contextually, indicates that a window of help into such knowledge is offered to the Holy Spirit baptized Christian. So let’s take the reading and progress with our subject: Understanding the times and seasons.

1:1 The former treaties have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began to do and Teach,

1:2 Until the day He was taken up, after that He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen:

1:3 To whom also He showed Himself after the passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God:

1:4 And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of me.

1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

1:6 when they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord will thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?

1:7 And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the *times* or the *seasons*, which the Father had put in His own power.

1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be Witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

In verse 7 we find two words, **times**, **seasons**, which are vital to understanding the burden of this meditation.

Now the word ‘*times*’ as used in this message, actually cover every thing included in the words ‘**times** or **seasons**’ as they occur in verse 7. However, these two words have their distinct if not separate meaning in the Greek text. After a brief introduction we shall have reason to look at these two words in

sufficient details.

Now we have previously noted that in verse 7, the Lord said only the Father has the exclusive authority with respect to the matters of the **times** and **seasons**. **“You shall receive power after that he Holy Spirit is come upon you” is not said in a rebuke of the disciples.**

Rather, as we shall soon demonstrate, He wanted them to see that their legitimate desire to know what Kingdom prospects were there for Israel can only be realized in becoming involved in His saving purpose.

The ‘power’ promised in the 8th verse relates to the ability to effectively function in the interest of and in harmony with God’s plans as set forth in the Holy Scriptures. His servants were to serve with good enough understanding of what lies ahead.

It is in this connection we are to understand what Paul is saying in **1 Thessalonians 5:1**

5:1 But of the times and seasons...

Notice he didn’t say times *or* seasons

...brethren ye have no need that I write unto you.

5:2 For yourself know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Now of course, we cannot but observe the import of what Paul is saying in these two verses. The several congregations that he and the other apostles ministered to had a working knowledge of the **times** and **seasons**.

These ‘**times and seasons**’ have been marked out by the Father with respect to the execution of the work of redemption in the Church and in the earth. He said: **“Yourself know perfectly that....”**

We should expect that this remarkable favour that the early Church enjoyed, God is pleased to bring us into. In other words, God desires that each one of us will have a vital, working understanding of the **times**.

When armed with such a knowledge we are able to make learned, well instructed choices in life, and we will be in a state of rest in the midst of a world that is already under great distress.

All men are excluded from the right to know divinely set times as indicated in verse 7 of **Acts 1**, for, as the Prophet of old declared it, no man can by searching find out God.

But when we are fitly filled with the Holy Spirit and are yielding to His

government over our lives we are admitted into rare favours. We are *then* granted access into the knowledge of the **times** and of the **seasons** as **they relate to our use of them in His service.**

In **Deuteronomy 29** it is said “**the secret things belong to God but things that are revealed belong to us...**”

The term ‘**times** and **seasons**’ as used in the Acts 1 and 1 Thess. 5 passages covers divine secrets held back by God and those things it pleases Him to reveal to the consecrated class, the Church.

Now let us get into the topic proper, **Understanding Today in Prophecy.** Let us first of all make clear what we mean by *today*. Of course we all know that today does not mean the 10th day of April 2009 or any other date whatsoever. What then is **today**? **Today** is that *period dating from our immediate past to our immediate future*. So it is a period of time, spanning years. Almost always, **today** in prophetic Scriptures carries the present tense language. When the Scriptures in a prophetic portion speak with the present tense it signifies the time of the end; the day we are living in.

So what is **today**? How may we define **today in practical terms**? It is the immediate past of the Church to the immediate future of the Church. A period covered by several years.

Tomorrow

Having defined **today**, it becomes necessary to define other division of ‘times’: **yesterday** and **tomorrow**. We will leave **yesterday** for a good reason: because of time constraint. But let us ‘consider’ **tomorrow**. What is **tomorrow** in prophecy?

Tomorrow, in prophecy of Scriptures, speaks of a period of time that sets in when **today’s** events are concluded. There are no events belonging to ‘**tomorrow**’ *that can occur* until those marked out for ‘**today**’ are concluded.

There is no ‘**tomorrow**’ in prophecy that does not come on the heels of events scheduled to under ‘**today**’. Even at the risk of repetition, may we hear it one more time? The events that belong to **today** are issues that of more pressing importance to the Church than many realize. When concluded, they call forth events of **tomorrow**. *This is most important.*

The Concluding Event of Today

Now what is the concluding event of today in prophecy? What are the *principal events* which if they take place **immediately** introduces tomorrow and empowers it to fully run its course to the end? We answer: *the birthing of the Man-Child and the catching of the Man-Child unto God (not unto the throne, but unto God) are the concluding events that end today.*

So 'today' takes its rise from the immediate past. Of course **yesterday**, loosely defined, will mean a **distant past**. Please note that whenever "we" or "us" is used in this message, the reference is to the Church of Jesus Christ. **The immediate past of the Church to the immediate future of the Church and the events scheduled for this time will keep running until the manifestations of the Sons of God sets in.** When that event takes place then 'tomorrow in prophecy' opens up.

Now let us take note of another thing of equal importance to our subject. All ought to understand that '**today**' as a period of time cannot be counted; it **can only be described**. You can not number the days that belong to 'today' but you can describe the events that belong to it. So, put simply, using a helpful example, we cannot analyze Scripture and come up with such statements as, 'It is remaining ten years, or seven years, or fifteen years or twenty years to the end of this age.'

'**Today**' is sets in an elastic time band. It is flexible in its reach. Known to God alone is the entire period it covers. We shall see why it is elastic. This season is not like '**tomorrow**' in prophecy. Tomorrow in prophecy is structured in an inelastic time frame. You cannot stretch it. Again, we shall see why it is so at some point in this message.

So you cannot estimate the days and say "**today** is April 10 that leaves us with five years two hundred and ninety days to the time '**today**' in prophecy will end." 'Today' is not a countable phenomenon. It can **ONLY** be described. In this respect, it is very different from '**tomorrow**' in prophecy. **Tomorrow** in prophecy can be both described and counted. You can by the Scripture tell its **length**.

When you say something is elastic it means it is stretchable. To say something is inelastic it means it is fixed. The fixity of time is something man's mind can relate to. The Scripture gives us details about that mostly in languages that are fixed. Not absolutely fixed but fixed enough to enable the Lord's people to speak of it 'particularly.

So we have this time frame in Gods dealing with the Church called today. We do know that **there are events in history of very recent past** that we can look at and say "We do not particularly know when today in prophecy started. But so

and so events having taken place, we know that we are in ‘today’s’ period, prophecy wise.”

Now as we continue the message, things will get clearer and clearer; but notice these two distinctions: The events that will bring this Church age to a close and bring the present world system of things to a close awaits *a very definite event in the Church*. And *until it takes place* the closing events in the predicted of history of mankind cannot set in.

When will today’s events be concluded? When the Church experientially has entered into what is called **the manifestation of the sons of God**. In prophetic language it is the *birthing* of the Man-Child and the *catching up* to God of the Man-Child. Rev. 12:5 refers. Note the phrases, ‘caught to God’, ‘and to the throne.

The one event that sets in at the conclusion of **tomorrow’s** events is the **catching up of the corporate Sons of God onto the throne**.

Today’s events are concluded at the manifestation the Sons of God. Tomorrow’s events will be concluded by the catching up of the corporate Sons of God to the **throne**. This ushers in another age. The age that sets in is called the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ. It is the installed Kingdom of Heaven and all the corporate Sons of God will be with Christ in His throne administering the nations. Amen!

Do we now understand what ‘today’ is? Do we now understand what ‘tomorrow’ consist of. Now lets move on a little bit.

Time Driven And Season Driven Churches

In God’s dealing with the Old testament Church, and again in His dealing with the New testament Church, and yet again in His dealings with humanity at large God employs very definite method. By an understanding of this, we can relate to issues in the Church, issues respecting the Old Testament Church, and in the nation of Israel now, and things happening in the nations.

Let us take a little bit of it. Now Israel as a nation in Old testament picture which we are more familiar with (before looking at the Israeli nation) - follow closely- Israel as a nation is an earthling reality. And the times and seasons respecting Israel as a nation is time driven not season driven. So the times are set in an inelastic time band. And events follow the times as set. The timing takes the lead. The events follow.

For example in reading of the feasts of the Lord you could have something like “the fourteenth day of the first month shall be a Passover.” Whether the people are ready or not when the day sets in it is Passover. The events are instructed by the time that sets in. for example, the first day of the seventh month on the religious calendar is usually the feast of blowing of trumpets. So when that day sets in, whether the people are ready or not that is the event that must take place. Whether the people are good or the people are bad, on the first day of the seventh month the trumpet must be blown. Are you understanding it?

So relative to the Church of the Old Testament and now to Israel as a nation prophecies respecting them are given in time frames that can be counted. You can count it. You can date it. You can look at it and say “the Lord said after this He would do this.” Every thing is fixed. It is time driven.

But not so to the Church. The Church is season driven. The events that belong to a given time frame that God has marked out in His own power, it is when these events are taking place that we can say that the time that God has marked out for them has set in.

For Israel prophecies respecting them are time dependent. When the time sets in the events described as belonging to that time period must take place.

Now, but on the other hand the Church is a heavenly reality. Mostly invisible. But as the days wear on, the Church is seen as New Jerusalem coming from heaven or from God out of heaven. It is becoming more and more visible as the days go by. The Church is a heavenly reality. It is a mystery. Now, prophecy respecting the Church which is a mystery is not time dependent.

You do not say “today is such and such a day so this is what is supposed to be.” We know that the Church world has tried and tried again to copy the Old testament Church. So you have Palm Sunday! And fifty days after Easter Sunday then you have Pentecost Sunday! And they try to simulate God’s dealing with the Old testament Church.

The Church is a mystery! And God is at work in her. The thing that belong to her are bound up with the wisdom and power of God. It is season driven. It is not time driven. And the events that are described respecting the church depend both on God and man. It is for this reason you cannot fix the time.

Oh may the Lord help us in the name of the Lord Jesus!

Now even though the events relating to God’s dealings with the church are season driven and not time driven, nevertheless, known to God are the time frames within which certain things must take place. Since it is depending upon

both God and man, therefore time must of necessity be flexible because of the variableness in man. However, the sovereignty of God allows Him to maintain things under firm control.

Let's move a little bit forward. What then is referred to by the word *times* especially in the passages we read from **Acts 1:7** and **1 Thessalonians 5:1**? The word **times** there means a time period known to God in which certain events must take place. When it is of the Israeli nation, this time period is declared. You can measure it . You can count it. He reveals it because it is an open reality. You can access it. So the time frame is given. And the event must take place. For example, if on the tenth day of the seventh month of the religious calendar of the children of Israel, it is raining, (remember it is always at the time of the latter rains that belongs to that period of time. The seventh month is normally attended with many harvest rains;) but if on the tenth day of the seventh month it is raining heavily, the High Priest must still go into the temple. He must press into the holy of Holies. He must carry out those activities described in **Leviticus 16** because that event cannot take place any other day.

So **time** when it relates to Israel is a fixed thing. For example if you are reading prophecies respecting the taking of Israel into captivity in Babylon, you hear the prophet announcing ahead of time, "seventy years are appointed unto thy captivity". That is the timeframe. And God makes all things work together to suitably dispose the people to satisfy their necessary conditions for the events of the deliverance of the nation of Israel from the captivity of Babylon.

So the timeframe is fixed and cannot be counted.

So now, we know what times are. They indicate divine timing, timeframe God has set in His own power. Except that for the church, it is not a time for you to count in numbers of days or years.

Seasons

What do we mean by **season**? **Seasons** are events relative to the redemption of God's dealings with His people, that are marked out by God to be fulfilled during that time-period. These events are fixed as they relate to the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. It is these events that assists us to know what time we are in and what time has not yet set in.

So the Church being a mystery is driven by events, driven by **season**. For example we have just said in the introduction to this chapter that we do know that **today** in prophecy will not expire until the manifestations of the Sons of God.

So let things begin to take place in the world. The closing of the Church age can not set in! For example we can not say the Church age will close on Wednesday because the event of the Man-Child being birthed has not taken place. And the manifestations of the Sons of God has not being done. So we can not say that other events relating to **tomorrow** will transpire so fast between today Friday and Wednesday next week to close **tomorrow** in prophecy when **today** has not been concluded.

Now we have said that the Church is season driven. That certain events that must take place that are marked out for the time period we call today, we should look unto God respecting those events and begin to apply ourselves towards them. In the second part of this chapter we would be looking at these event that are now due to be received by the Church and what we ought to be doing in respect of that.

Church Timing is God And Man Dependent

But before going into that I will like to talk about how long a given season will take since it is dependent upon both God and man. Probably I should take an example form the Old testament again and come back to what I just said. Now the feast of tabernacle will last from the first day of the seventh month till the twenty second day of the seventh month. The twenty-two day are appointed for that feast. When the twenty-second day is over it is the end of the feast of tabernacle. Both the events and the time are fixed. When the time sets in, the events must take place. And when the time runs out the event must end.

You cannot say “oh I didn’t eat Passover on the fourteenth day of the first. And I feel like eating it on the eighteenth day.” No! There can be no such luxury. The time is set. The event must happen at the set time.

Not so the Church. But why is it? It is because the timing is dependent on both God and man. Now lets take a little bit of more details respecting this. Because it depends upon man there will be flexibility. And because it also depends upon God He can interfere with man in such a way that he is favourably disposed to things that should take place in a given time frame so that Gods purpose may advance.

Let me quote a passage in the Old Testament. **Psalm 110:3** “Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thine power.”

So God makes the people, although it is elastic, He makes the people ultimately within the time frame in His own mind not made known to us He ensures that His people are in the right condition of heart and mind to receive all the events

belonging to a time frame and to be introduced to another time.

Three Classes Of God's People

Now in this respect we can classify the Lord's people into three distinct classes in relation to the working of God's program; not God's people in their fixed estates in the finished picture but God's people now. First let's read **2 Corinthians 6:1**. It says:

We then as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the Grace of God in vain.

So we are partners together with God. The events that are to take place depend upon God and us. We partner together with Him. And the extent to which we are responding to the Lord, or the extent to which we are influencing God's program to advance it or delay it depends on which of the three classes we belong to. And of course it is not a fixed class. You can move from one class to another, and yet to another. And it is dynamic. You can fall from one class to another.

Now what are those classes?

The called.

The chosen.

The faithful.

These are three classes. Now there are those that are *called* that are not *chosen*. There are those that are *chosen* that are not *faithful*. Let's use a more familiar term.

The called.

The elect and

The very elect.

The **called** is the general call to salvation in which we receive forgiveness of sins and the baptism of the Holy Spirit to work with God in daily communion. That is the blessing that comes to us to be called. Until you receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you do not belong to the class of the **called**.

“**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son**” is a message that is preached to the world. Those who believe, at the point of receiving the message become the **called**. There is none **called** that is still *unsaved*. The calling of God is not anything that has to do with a *person*. It is everything that has to do with the *Gospel*. You are not called until you *receive* the Gospel of Jesus Christ, *believe* it, *receive forgiveness of sin*, then you are the **called**.

The Bible said “For God so loved the world that **whosoever...**” The whosoever

is the world. Those who receive and are responsive to the message and give their lives to Jesus Christ become the **called**.

But the *Call* is only an introduction that is an impact thing at the point you are saved. As you continue to work with God there is another call called the *High Calling* of God in Christ Jesus. Just as nobody can be said to be the **called** who is in the world so also nobody can be said to be an **elect** who has not accepted the **High Calling** of God in Christ Jesus. Because you chose the call to come up the Heavenly Calling, to yield your life in consecration to Him and to draw upon His life, you are **chosen** to those favours that belong to that realm.

So the class of people who are mainly **called** but not **elect**, not **chosen** tend to be less spiritual, more worldly, more consumed by the passion of this world. And if all of the Lord's people are in that condition then the time in which God promises to do those things will *remain long drawn*. For God cannot do certain things until the conditions are right for Him to fulfil it. May the Lord help our understanding in the name of Jesus Christ.

But those who have accepted the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus they are the **elect**. They tend to be more faithful. Show me a man who is quickened to see that we are not merely saved to the forgiveness of our sins, and walk in health, deliverance, prosperity, preservation, all of which belong to the earnest of our inheritance, the down payment, but there **is a higher call**, there is a call to **“come up hither,”** and there is a **mark** which we must **attain** to win the prize; show me such a man and I will show you an **elect** of God.

Only those who are exercised under that **calling** tend to have a frame of mind and heart that is yielded to God. What is needed to demonstrate that we have accepted the call to come up to the throne, is that we **consecrate** our selves wholly to Christ and to the cause of the gospel. The **consecrated, expectedly**, are more **yielded** to the Lord in terms of true heart loyalty, moral bearing and singular devotion.

But not all who come to the high calling of God are **faithful** to their consecration vows. There are up and down experiences among the **elect** that shows that spiritual constancy is an issue many grapple with. In the process of time some break free from the things that hold them bound and take on permanently the spirit of faithfulness. *It is the faithful who by partnering with God labour for the fulfillment of God's purpose for the Church.*

Are you **called**? Yes, you are called or else you will not be reading this book. But if you are reading this book and you are not saved, give your life to Jesus Christ today! Have you received a quickening in your spirit respecting the **High Calling** of God in Christ Jesus? Do embrace it. And if you do, make sure to

open up to divine help which God sends in a commitment to all the **elects**. You will find your Christian walk more satisfying and entrance into the higher things of the Kingdom coming with greater ease. Put differently, if you are **faithful**, God will introduce you to those things that belong to the **faithful**.

What can be rightly inferred from the foregoing is that there are no fixed classes to which the redeemed are shared into either by incidence of birth or by some arbitrary or naturally determined rules. Any may reach higher and higher and come to the highest glory in Christ Jesus.

This is quite different from the Old Testament both in the order of divine service and the stratification of the worshippers into fixed classes. We will now take up an exemplification of the observation just made.

When the day of atonement comes blessing is sought for the whole nation by the High Priest who stood in a representative capacity. If he faithfully carries out the prescribed services on the day, it meant all Israel blessed. The reverse is the case if the priest faltered in any particular. Again, because the day marked out for it has come, the demanded for festal sacrifices are offered and all associated ceremonies carried out. This must be whether the Priest or the Israelites were ready for it or not. The Day of Atonement can neither come earlier nor later

Not so the Church. The promise is made to the individually faithful believer as borne out in each of the seven promises of Rev. 2, and 3. Also take note of **Hebrews 9:28** “**Unto them that look for Him shall He appear to again.**”

So the faithfulness of that arm of the Church that chooses the government of the Holy Spirit upon their lives make them more effective partners together with God in bringing about the realization of His purpose.

The Sovereignty Of God

We have discussed the variableness of man and how it introduces flexibility and elasticity into the time frame God determines for His Church. Now let us look at the subject of the sovereignty of God. What does God do to ensure, being sovereign that the events that He has marked out are executed within the given time frame? He had before time determined the course of the Church and set out the times and seasons thereof in His own power. Known to God from the foundation of the world are all His works. How does He accomplish...bringing His plan to victory and realizing His stated purpose?

He does so *by the outpouring of rain, the rain of the Word* enlightening His servants and engaging them to proclaim Christ in a fuller measure in line with

the word received. The revealed word concretely setting forth something of the promised glory begins to **birth a** cry in the hearts of the **faithful** class. The cry for more of the quickening power of the **Holy Spirit is an acknowledgement that none can come to higher heights in God any other way.**

A rain of God's *word* followed by a rain of God's *Spirit* **is the usual order of divine interventions in the ecclesia.** When the desired fruit arising from this level of visitation begins to show significant appearance oneness with the divine mind is progressively achieved. Rapid growth in grace results in those exercised under the outpouring. The heavenly Husbandman knows when the final rain is to be granted the waiting Church. The rain of God's *Life* will be given in adequate measures to lift the faithful to **incorruptibility and Life.**

God in doing these three things will complete in a people the work of perfecting them in the image and likeness of Christ. It has its' beginning with sending a rain of the Word. This in turn will generate a cry for the Spirit in the obedient. The process continues until the purpose of God is accomplished which will prove to have been realized within the earmarked time frame..

Time No Longer

What has been observed of the interface between the frailties of man and the almightiness of the sovereign GOD in the execution of His plans is exemplified in **Revelations 10:6&7.** Whenever there is a cry for the Spirit it is God urging His Church to move forward into something fuller and of greater glory. Conditions are spelt out and exceeding great promises are made to inspire the willing hearted to arise to the challenge. He will always be pleased to unveil the glories that will be the estate of life of those who ***choose to go all the way with Him.***

In **Revelations 10** we are introduced to One that has a weighty matter before Him concerning which He makes an oath. Things about this great Personage are revealed from verses **1through 5.** Then we read from verse **6.**

10:6 And swear by Him that liveth for ever and ever, who created Heaven, and the things that therein are, and the Earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer;

Although frail man is admitted into the outworking of the divine plan, there comes a time when delays are not entertained. This is because the patient years of God's work in the Church has yielded excellent crops of willing hearted men and women thrust out into His vineyard. Which means at this point in time He knows that He will have to move the Church into fulfilling His will. Yet not the entire Church for she is not all of one age.

Some of the congregations of God's people have only known Christ as the

Baptizer with the Holy Spirit. There are others who up until now all along have rejected the baptism with the Holy Spirit. In the journey to Life individual members of the Church are not at the same location and cannot possibly respond to the voice of GOD the same way.

For an individual in the Church that is saved and not yet baptized in the Holy Spirit for him this hour concerns issues bound up with Christ as our Passover. For another this season perhaps is Pentecost. For another this season is the Blowing of Trumpets. For yet another, the conquest of the soul is the critical issue. The Feast of Atonement has begun. And so for us individually we are at various levels of spiritual attainment. Now, prophetically for the advancing Church, it is the season of the latter rain or the Feast of Tabernacle But does this mean God is dealing with every believer at this level of things? No!

Experientially some are just knowing that Christ as our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us! Others know Him in holiness of life as our sanctification and sanctifier, helping us to live morally pure: living in victory over the allurements of this world. Some are still in the conflict stages with sin; Rising and falling. Some do not know anything about the supernatural realm. They are not yet baptized in the Holy Spirit. For these, the current season relate to things that the Church has experienced two thousand years ago.

The Church that has a significant number of persons in the faithful class is now the focus of the Most High. These, because they are **faithful**, are understood to be the very **elect**. May the Lord help our understanding in the name of Jesus Christ.

So He has sovereign control. He says there shall be time no longer. The phrase, **‘time no longer’ means** the Lord will no longer admit delays. In the execution of His program. There are things He does to urge the people forward. If you were following carefully in the reading of **Acts 1** you would find that the counsel of the Lord assisted the one hundred and twenty disciples that were waiting in the upper room to be in a condition to receive an event marked out for a particular time known to Him.

There have been a few cycles of Passovers and a few cycles of Pentecost in the time of Jesus’ earthly ministry. But the next Pentecost which Israel was celebrating in the physical way was to be a time of the fulfillment of that visitation. And so we hear: **“When the day of Pentecost was fully come.”**

So you will find in **Luke 24:49** that they should tarry in Jerusalem until they be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1 from where we read a couple of verses, the disciples were told to tarry. The instruction was given to them by a commandment from the mouth of Jesus

just before His accession.

In the same vein, when the time for a particular thing is due, the Spirit of God works favourably towards that class of people seen to be faithful. These have received the High Calling of God in Jesus Christ and are walking in obedience. In a given assembly all may be present when a word comes from the presence of the Lord only the faithful ones receive the word and by it eventually bring forth fruit unto God. When the word went forth, **“Tarry ye in Jerusalem! Do not depart until you receive the promise of the Father”**, 500 heard it but only 120 offered themselves in obedient response.

Furthermore, it is **the ministry of the prophetic word** that urges the faithful class to see and appropriately respond to what is coming. You find Paul in 1 Thess. 4 saying “when the trumpets sound then the *dead* in Christ shall be first to rise.” For they being *dead to the world and the world to them* are more rightly DISPOSED to **hear and understand**. After rising, they influence other persons to do the same. Oh! May the Lord help us in the name of Jesus Christ!

Would you at this time like to declare the following words in a commitment to live faithfully unto God?

“I will yield my heart to God. I will endeavour to belong to that arm of the Church that is partnering with God, in `executing His program. Amen.”

If the one hundred and twenty did not wait in the Upper Room, no doubt that day of Pentecost would have been held back for as long as it takes to get a people to arise in obedience to the command. Since the fulfillment of the promise must in this case be on the typical day of Pentecost, another cycle of one year would have rolled by. The Spirit of grace would have been urging the faithful to obediently submit to what God asked them to do.

We shall not bring delays to God’s work! We shall not bring delays to God’s work! I will not delay God’s work! There will be favour from the presence of God urging me on through spiritual enlightenment as to what the season is; the next thing due for the Church in His purpose. I desire to be part of that Church that has a significant number of persons are under the enlightening ministry of the Holy Spirit and are habitually faithful. I will not be a delay. I will be a facilitator by yielding myself always to doing the revealed will of God. Amen.

For of a truth if any holds back, such will slide `into another class. In discovering to us the finished picture of the Church the Scriptures reveal stratification. Respecting this, we see a woman, then a Man-child and finally there is the ‘Remnant of her seed class’. Amen! We told of the beast coming out

of the bottomless pit and vexing some, even overcoming them. He tries his infernal strength with another set of people and cannot overcome them. Oh what a testimony! **“..... They that are with Him are the called, the chosen, and the faithful.” Rev. 17:14**

All are Christians! But the beast is powerless against some and yet has power to vex others. You can choose the class you wish to belong to.

The proclamation made in Rev.10:6 that at some point in time there were not going to be delays anymore require us to ask a question. How is the Lord going to bring this about? We answer that the Lord does use the outpouring of the word and of the Spirit as one part of a twin approach. See for example Psalm 68:9-11. An effective ministry is seen going forth with great power in Rev. 10:7. This voice of the seventh angel is sounding from many vessels who have partaken of the agencies of the Word and the Spirit.

Let us take a reading of **Revelation 10:7** and re-establish the foregoing After declaring ‘time no longer’ He says next

10:7 But...

Indicating in what connection there will be ‘time no longer’. He says.

... in the days of the voice of the seven angel, when He shall begin to sound, the mystery of God (which is the Church) should be finished (that , perfected and prepared for the glorification as He has spoken it) as He has declared to His servants the prophets.

The angel is a many-member body. Of course we know this. A Spirit angel cannot preach the gospel. Nor is it a one man show. He did not say **“thy minister shall be willing in the day of thy power.”** What did He say? **“Thy people.”(Psalm 110:3).**

There has been a time frame allowed for the rod of His strength to go out. For the dealings of God over two thousand years have not just produced persons who are lovers of God and going as lone rangers into the world with a band of disciples to help. But the two thousand years has produced companies of people who are scattered given to the walking in the ‘due order’. All over the world are to be found local congregations who are collectively involved in the service of God. The Last Day prophet is not a one man show. In **Revelations 11** He says that it is a **candle stick**, relating it to the entire congregation of God’s people in His purpose.

Then He mentions in the same connection two **Olive trees**. From Zech 4, we may readily infer that these stand for those who have come to the estate of ministry. They shall be part and parcel the people that are to be revealed as **willing in the day of His power**.

So God does something to move His church forward. He said for Zion's sake I will not rest. But how does He bring it about in practical terms? He will pour forth the spirit of prayer on those who have begun to yield themselves. So He says I will set watch men upon thy walls who shall not rest day or night until Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth.

We are brought with partnership by the prophetic word. God will not suffer the prophetic word to go stale among us. So as long as the freshness of the prophetic word is there, God is dealing with us in mercy and compassion, This will continue to be in the name of Jesus Christ! Glory be to the Lamb of God.

There shall be no delays. Why? In the days of the voice of the seventh when He shall begin to sound, the program of God will be moved to completion. Blessed be the name of the Lord our God.

Practical Application

More things could to be said respecting what has been discussed. But I trust that we have good enough time to continue another day. But let's begin to bring home the message with practical application to our lives.

Now this becomes all the more necessary knowing that things relating to the Church are not cast in the frames that the unaided human minds can fathom. Unlike Israel of old, the Church is a mystery. When the Church age is over, we know what the program is like. It is time dependent. You can measure. When the church has been perfected in the image and likeness of God, you can by faithful recourse to the Scriptures tell what days that are coming and with a reasonable accuracy how long. You can count the years. You can count the sum of it. You can describe it. You can say this, and this and this will follow. Amen.

But the Church is a Mystery. It is a heavenly reality and the human mind cannot figure it out. We don't say "Oh, after two days, He will revive us. On the third day, He will lift us up. Therefore, since two thousand years of Pentecost has rolled by we are in the seventh day..."! (**Hosea 6:2**)

All those are just mere CONJECTURES! They don't hold water in the things of God. Praise the name of the Lord.

Signs Help the Church To Discern

We come to the next thought that derives from an understanding that the time frame of God's dealing with the Church are elastic. He has a sovereign control over it and can urge His work forward by pouring out His Spirit. But the Church as a receptacle of this outpouring must make the necessary sacrifice to fully profit thereby. Whereas, God has sovereign control the mere fact that we cannot number the days of the Church is a huge matter. When we are weak, God begins to do something to assist us.

So **signs** are introduced in the Church age to **assist the discerning** to understand what season has set in and what they should be doing. So closely associated with the fact that there is an elastic time band, **signs** are given to assist us to know the season we are in and to properly relate to them. Please turn with me to **Luke 21**. We begin the reading from verse **29**. So we don't have access to the day or hour, but we can have access to **signs** *which as we see them develop we know the day has set in*. And as we see them fully crystallize we know that the **hour** has set in.

"But of the day and of the time, no man can know. Not even an angel. Not even the Son of God. But My Father only,"(**Matthew 24: 36**), Jesus declared. But He gave us **signs** so when the day has set in even though you cannot mark and know with certainty the beginning of **the day** we can tell by certain characteristics that the day has set in. And as it progresses we can tell that **the hour** respecting some events has set in. May the Lord help us in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Sign Of The Trees

Did I say we should open to **Luke 21**? Run your eye from verse **29** to **33**.

21:29 And He spake to them a parable; behold the fig tree, and all the trees,

21:30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

21:31 So like wise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

21:32 Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away. But My word shall not pass away.

So signs are given to help us. 'Signs' adequately manifested enable us to appreciate that a particular season has set in.. Then men begin to seek Him after the manner indicated for that season.

But I want to look briefly at verse **29**. And then we shall zero in to one of the trees.

“ And He spake unto them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees”.

So using the figure of a tree, certain signs are given. *The fig tree is Israel as a nation.* We can watch Israel and by events transpiring in Israel we can tell something of a time that has emerged in God's dealing with the Church. Then we can look at the **vine of the earth**. The 'vine of the Earth' is used respecting the nations. Then we can look at the **Heavenly Vine**. These three **symbolic terms and the events they signify** assist us to understand aspects of God's dealings with the Church.

I will not be able here to talk about the fig tree; nor of the vine of the Earth because of time constraint. I will just draw a little attention to it. But we will be talking a little bit more about the **Vine of John 15**, the **Heavenly Vine**, the Church of Jesus Christ.

In the next few passages we will actually be zeroing in on the season that has set in for the Church.

But let us look at it with all attention . Come with me to verse **30**.

21:30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of yourselves that summer is now nigh at hand.

The seed is planted. Then the young tender plant grows up. And then it continues to grow until it becomes a full grown tree with great branches and much foliage. Oh yes, we are watching the trees as it began to grow before your very eyes. Now it is flowering. Before long, fruits will begin to form. So when you see it shooting forth, that is flowering, you can say that this tree that I have been watching, having come to this stage, I know that summer is nigh at hand.

So there are certain signs that God has given to us to help us to see what is now due in the Church.

We are going to take a great jump because I have actually crossed the borders of

time that I'm actually supposed to use.

It Is Harvest Time

Now we talk about the vine of the earth that we are introduced to in **Revelation 14**. Beginning from **verse 18** we read of the harvest of the vine of the earth.

Revelation 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle saying 'thrust in thy sharp sickle and gather the cluster of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.'

14:19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

Now so much is packed in there but this is social Babylon. It is the first to be judged. And the judgment has begun.

Now all the world in their key nations and their key leaders gathered recently in what you call the G-20 to think out a solution to the economic woes. But the Lord said let them think out a solution . He said let them continue but their wisdom will fail them. Something beyond them will happen. Why? Because it is a thing destined by God to take place. It is needed for social Babylon to be smitten at this time with great economic woes.

It is a very necessary event. If it is not smitten, the way of the Kings of the East will not be prepared. *'Harvest' is the nature of the season that we have come into* This is the season of harvest. The hour is just about breaking into the Church. And the preparation for it is that some signs must be given in the natural world.

When the resources that are funding certain systems begin to fail, people will have ears to hear. When the government of the day is ceasing to provide solutions to their citizens and the Church begins to highlight and declare that the Son of God gives a lifting up when man says there is a falling down. When the Church comes to lift men up, they will look away from their old leaders for all of them will fail.

I hope we will be able to talk about this someday to come. Many will look to the Church that has an effective ministry going. And He who is our desire

becomes the desire of all nations by the work of harvest.

So here is the *beginning* of the smiting of the River Euphrates and the drying up of the resources. River Euphrates is the supply system that maintains Babylon in place. That was the old Babylon. But the new Babylon is also supplied by her rivers. And in **Revelation 16:12**, you will find that this judgment comes ahead of other judgments, respecting the nations.

Let us just read that. I trust we will be able to quickly disengage from it and come to the main thrust of understanding the season that is here and what we ought to do. The Church must not be confused at this time. Our minds must be clear as to what our Father is doing. We must also intelligently partner together with Him as we see strategic partnership taught from **Revelations 14:14-17**. Even in this other passage in **Revelations 18-20** strategic partnership is taught.

Current World Events Result Of Prayers

The events that are happening in the world are because of our prayers. It is because of the decrees we make. So they couldn't be happening as though they were mindless events. No, there is a mind behind the events that are happening. Our Father is doing it. And it is not directed against you. You should shout for joy that the nations are quaking. He will bring them to their knees. But this indeed is the finest hour of the Church.

Two nations cannot be rising up at the same time. If the nations of the world are rising, the Church is not rising. But if the nations are falling, thus saith the Lord: "It is the time for the Church to rise". In Jesus name!

So what is happening is caused by 'me' so I can't complain. What should I rather do? Sing the LORD'S praise

**Great and marvellous are thy works
Lord God Almighty
Just and true are thy ways
Thou King of Saints!**

Sons and daughters of God don't complain about events. He will provide for us. In the ark is our safety, our provisions and our everything are made sure by God. And he will fill us with the spirit of faith.

It says, "*Do you believe this? Do you believe this? Do you believe this?!!*"

Brethren, it is not a complicated solution that will take you out of your struggle.

It is a simple solution. At the beginning Jesus was preached and you were saved. Now He will be preached again as your provider and you will know His provision! He will be preached as your deliverer and you will know His deliverance. From the onset to the completion of the Church the testimony of Jesus is what is making the prophets to speak. ***When we speak of Him, men get healed, men get blessed, and men get lifted up.! Amen!***

So we are the ones that are causing the problem to the world. The Church is a heavenly reality.

So don't go complaining with the rest of the world! If your job is taken away from you, a better one will come. And if you don't want to leave this job, say 'I don't want to leave,' and nothing can happen. **You are the salt of the earth.** *You* are making the world sweet so long as you are there. **You** are the reason your company or your establishment is there. If you leave they are in trouble. So they had better retain you. In the name of Jesus Christ!

So we are looking at this. Now there is social Babylon. There is political Babylon: the beast out of the sea. There is religious Babylon: the beast out of the earth. And there is economic Babylon, whose judgment in chapter **18**, is seen to be hooked up with political Babylon. So the governments of the day are not in control of the economic principle by which the nations do their businesses.

But the first place to be struck is social Babylon. It has economic expression as you see in one of the verses in **Revelation 18** but that is beyond the scope of this message.

All we want to show is that the vine of the earth if it has now begun to experience the first round of predicted judgment then the verses from verse **14** to **17** ought to be transpiring among us in the name of Jesus.

There are two harvests. We've read of the sour harvest. We can read up the sweet harvest from **Revelation 14:14-17**. This now is due for the Church. It will span several years. The harvest work will go on **UNDER THE LEAD OF CHRIST**.

We have just begun brethren. We have only started and the work is going to mount up with wings. In the name of Jesus Christ!

But let's go to **Revelation 6:12**. This passage should be read and understood in the light of what we have in **Revelation 14** and of the sixth woe of **Revelation 9** beginning from verse **13**. I Am just giving all these scriptures. We just want to

read one of them: **Revelation 16:12.**

16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great River Euphrates; and the water there of was dried up...

It is a supply system that maintains much of the doctrines of religious Babylon and the common belief system of the people. The idolatry of the people find expression in the ordinances of a backslidden Church system. But of that we will look at another day.

....that the way the kings of the east might be prepared.

Who are the kings of the east? *It is a figurative way of describing you and me.* We are called to be kings. We are kings now unto God. When the work of making us like Him is completed we will be kings of God. Now we are kings unto God, apprentices in His training. But they are said to be the kings of the east because the east is said to be the place of the rising of the Sun. We are breaking forth with new light in the name of Jesus.

So the phrase is not a reference to some kings from Russia, or from Czechoslovakia - there are now two countries of Czech and Slovenia - No! forget. They say some horses are being gathered somewhere north of Moscow with which ... forget about those thrash. Nothing like that!

The kings of the east are you and me. Amen!

And when the conditions are sour on earth it is an opportunity for the church. We fish in trouble water! And when the waters are troubled, the fish come calling in the name of Jesus.

But this is just the first round of visitation upon the economic system of this world. There will be more rounds. But brace up your mind. You will not be swallowed up. The events are coming from an intelligent God in response to the prayers and prophetic declaration of an enlightened Church. It is not as the people want it. It is as we want it and as God wants it. We are in control because God is in control. Blessed be the name of God.

Conclusion

We must round up. So there is a vine of Christ, the Heavenly Vine. And we can look at Him. But in spiritual symbolism you can move from one figure to another. And we are going to move from the figure of a tree. It has been planted. We've seen it, it's clear. It is planted. It begins to shoot out and become a tender

plant. And then it begins to grow. It becomes a full tree. All of it indicating the stages of growth. But when the branches have shot forth and it is flowering we can say summer is near at hand.

The next verse says “**likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass know ye of yourselves that the kingdom of God us at hand.**”

Now of course if you are reading **Revelations 17** it begins with a woman. He calls it a **city**, later it is a **beast**. So you can move from one prophetic figure to another respecting a given reality. And that is what we are going to do now.

The Woman Comes Of Age

We are moving from the figure of the vine as a tree to it as a **woman**. The prophetic sign-watch that God has given to us by means of which we can tell the mood of the Spirit and its reflections in the midst of the overcoming church is the **Sun Clothed Woman** of **Revelations 12**. What is said in those first two verses help us to **tell** what stage of growth we have attained to and what is now due.

Turn to **Revelations 12**. This woman is a tree. It is a vine tree. Amen!. But she is also a man with relation to the ministry she is fulfilling. But she is a woman in relation to the processes that God enables her to undergo before she becomes full term pregnant and goes into delivery.

12:1 And there appeared a great wonder (sign) in heaven.

We ought to call it a sign. This sign we are told will come as the trumpet sound goes off. (**Matthew 24:30 & 31**)

This sign in its beginning is as **the ten virgins** who took their lamps and went out of their hitherto religious enclave going out to meet the **Bridegroom**. But here it is seen as a woman in the heavens clothed with the Sun we are told, with crown of twelve stars and standing upon the moon.

12:2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

This is the **prophetic sign watch**; and as we look at her we will be able to tell when the unveiling of the sons of God is nigh..

She was once a little girl playing with sand. And when her mother was cooking real food she was cooking sand and playing with sand, right? And she grew up and left the sand stage and was using crayons and coloured pencil to paint

pictures. Then she started saying “A- B- C; 1- 2- 3” and keeps growing and then she is a little girl of ten years going for common entrance exams at the end of April. Then she kept on growing until she was a sissy of sixteen. She didn’t have breast. She may be thought as not having a husband. And she keeps growing; now... she has come to a stage when the knowledge of who her husband is has come to her and the bright shining light beaming forth from the husband. This is creating in her a desire for a new estate of life which is as a pregnancy. The pregnancy has moved from the first term, then the second term, to the third. Now giving birth is in view and because of her condition, a cry goes out. She is not crying anyhow; not like a goat that bleats whether it sees food or not. When a dog cries at night, you know there is a problem. But sometimes it cries and there is nothing to look at. But when a lion roars you know there is something. Is that not so?

So we are watching this woman. When she is playing *ludo* and going up and down aimlessly we know that the journey is still very far. But when now she is crying, saying “I want to be like you;” and her desires, her prayers, her worship, her confession are all to our effect, desiring to be one with Christ, we know something is happening! **The cry for the Spirit is a proof that this woman is spiritually healthy.** And she is yearning for a new expression. In the name of Jesus Christ!

If you were to listen to her cry, what is she crying out for? Nothing else but “**more of the Spirit.**” She knows that the Spirit is the **one solution** for all problems. If the corn comes, the wine comes, the oil comes, they are convertible graces by which they will be able to deal with the challenges of life. So they keep saying “**pour forth Your Spirit upon us Almighty God.**”

When this cry is in a man’s life, or in a local congregation, or yet in a spiritual movement, *she* is come of age! But when she is playing church it means she is still a sissy, a sixteen year old woman. She cannot be talking about birth pangs. May the Lord help us in the name of Jesus Christ!

For us as a Spiritual Movement we can definitely say something that the next stage Grace is prompting us to cry out for is properly defined in **Revelations 11:3 & 4**. That is the stage we are in. It is the stage needed to stand with the Lamb upon mount Zion with **two** names written: **the name of The Father:** which is the power with which we go out; and **the name of the Lamb** which is the sacrificial living it calls for.

As lambs, we go sacrificially to the people spending and being ready to be spent for the uplifting of the people. And having the name of the Father, we go with authority. We are going with the blessing of the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If this thing I am saying is taking place among us, then **Revelations**

11:3-4 are fulfilled. May the Lord help us in Jesus name.

The Church Is At Harvest

That is the due thing. He will clothe us. Come with me to **Revelations 11:3 & 4**. I am rushing through this. There are gaps to be found in the message only because we do not have time enough to move into them. But I trust by the grace of God we will be able to look at a few of these gaps to strengthen our understanding in the next chapter.

What is that work that is due now? We are to stand upon Mount Zion with our king, having two natures in us. The nature of the sacrificing Lamb and the grace for spiritual manhood, going forth in humble carriage but full of the grace and power of God to bring the nations to Christ because there are many in the nations that are destined for a place on the throne.

11:3 And I will give power unto My two witnesses.

We have witnessed for Him all these years but the Bible says **we shall prophesy again**. But prior to this new round of moving within the nation of Nigeria and outside this nation with the work of harvest, a clothing of grace and a divine provision shall be made.

Haggai 2 says, **“The silver is mine and the gold is mine”**; which means He will supply what we need to do the harvest work. In the beginning He said when you go, the labourer is worthy of his hire. But now He says when you go, take your purse with you. We shall have the capacity to do this work and the means to do it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. *We shall not go begging*. God is going to visit us. **Many of you will be custodians of divine wealth and monetary wealth** in the name of Jesus.

I thought you should shout Amen! I mean **you!** Does it not seem right that He is there with you in your finances?

“Then shall you return and discern between him that serveth his God and him that serveth Him not”! (**Malachi 3:18**)

We ascend to a mountain; beautiful for all situation! God can trust us with power. Because He knows we will not ruin ourselves by the touch of It . We are now not in the plain. Not struggling to ascend to the heights. We’ve overcome certain resistances; and we are in the mount of His holiness, beautiful for situation, the joy of all the earth. That is mount Zion! (**Psalms 48:1&2**) It speaks of spiritual height and moral rectitude. It speaks of a platform in which God is pleased to invest a body of people with grace and power to go forth and

proclaim Him in the nations.

That grace is setting in now. That grace is setting in now in the name of Jesus Christ! He said **“And I will give power to My two witnesses”**. We’ve been witnessing. It’s been great. It’s been glorious. But by reason of what is coming, the glory of the latter will be greater than that of the former. **“And in this place He will give perfection”**, saith the Spirit of the Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ.

“And I will give power unto my two witnesses and they shall prophesy”
And when He said **“In sackcloth”** it means they are still humans. Amen. But covered with great grace!

11:4. These are the two olive trees...

speaking of a body of people that have come to the estate of ministry. But He also said **“Two candle sticks,”** speaking of the congregation of God’s people. And we are told both the olives and the candle sticks stand for the God of all the earth. When the harvest work is in view, this is the tithe God takes. He is the God of all the earth.

Remember ,

Isaiah 54. Break forth to the left and to the right. Strengthen thy stakes. Stretch forth the curtains. For thou shall break forth to the right and to the left. For the Lord thy God is the husband. The God of all earth shall be called.

So when He says we are standing before the God of all the earth, He is talking about executing a mission that God has given us with respect to planting the knowledge of the glory of God all over the earth. And the glory of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Let us shout Amen!

That is where we are. The harvest work is it. The condition for it is on the mountain. There, two names have been seen upon our lives. They are the names of the persons who are overcoming. **(Revelations 3:12)** And now is the Father’s name first and the Lambs name second. The grace of power, ability to be effective as a ministry; and the character of the Lamb, self sacrificing, who does not take equality with God as a thing to be grabbed, but made Himself of no reputation.

May the Lord bless you and cause His face to shine upon you and give you

peace in the name of Jesus Christ.

You have been patient in reading. May the Lord reward you with deep understanding beyond what has been written. In the name of Jesus Christ.

Today's event must be concluded before we can talk about **tomorrow**. **Tomorrow** is not in sight. It is locked up. It is obscure. We can describe it and see, and tell the span of it and count it because the Scripture has given it to us, but it cannot set in until **today's** event is concluded.

Oh may the Lord help us in the name of Jesus.

You are **called**. Have you **chosen** to respond to the **High Calling** of God? That singular act makes you an **elect**; admitted to so much favour. Are **you** walking in **faithfulness** to the vows of consecration? Are your eyes on the throne, desiring oneness with Jesus Christ, then you are of the **very elect** class!

CHAPTER FOUR
VEHICLE OF KINGDOM ATTAINMENT IN JEHOVAH'S DAY.
BY: FRANCIS EBUTA BISONG.

Introduction

I trust and believe that the Lord will do us good in the course of this ministration. In the first chapter of this book, five things that the Lord will do were outlined.

These are:

- (1) The Lord will cause His people to have an understanding of the times and how to go ahead.
- (2) The Lord will cause us to have the knowledge of what to do. (3) The Lord will give us a refocusing and a shifting in vision. (4) The Lord will empower us to live above the storms.
- (5) The Lord will intervene in the affairs of His people.

I trust that from the divine shopping list of the above, the Lord will further advance His purpose in our lives. As we look into the topic “**Vehicle of Kingdom Attainment in Jehovah’s Day**”, I believe we are entering into the ‘day’ referred to in prophecy as ‘**Jehovah’s day**’.

Jehovah’s Day

If we may ask, what exactly is Jehovah’s day? I will refer us to the book of **Joel chapter 3**. Verse **16** which zeros in on the very focus of that day: *Jehovah’s day*, paraphrased, *is the day in which the heavens and the earth shall shake*. But the Lord shall be the confidence of His people and the hope of strength to the children of Israel.

Joel 3:16 The Lord also shall roar out of Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

If we take a little bit backward, from verse **9**, it says:

*3:9 Proclaim ye this among the gentiles; prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up:
3:10 Beat your ploughshares into swords, and your pruning hooks*

into spears: let the weak say, 'I am strong'.

3:11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord.

3:12 Let the heathen be weakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat for there I will sit to judge all the heathen round about.

3:13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down.

For the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision; for the day of the Lord is near in the mountain of decision.

3:15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

When the Lord roars out of Zion, (Joel 3:16), we begin to experience in a figurative sense, the eclipse of the sun and the moon, i.e. the failure of governments and control systems on the earth. The stars of philosophical thinking, postulations and prognosis shall withdraw their shining. All the intelligence systems shall begin to fail in Jehovah's day. The socio-political and economic systems of man will inevitably go out of control due to the burden of sin. In that day, the voice of the Lord will become more pronounced. Glory be to God!

He will begin to roar out of Zion. For **Zion** shall be the new philosophy of the land. Praise the name of the Lord. And men shall desire to have PhDs in issues that relate to **Zion**, *the kingdom of God, the authority of God on earth!* As we experience the failures, failures of the nation states and governments, the Lord will roar out of Zion (a people in union with Him) and utter His voice from Jerusalem (the church, the house of God). The heavens and the earth shall shake, but the Lord will be the hope of His people and the strength of Israel.

3:17 So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through Her anymore.

3:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine...

Glory be to God! It is said that *"the Lord shall make for all people a feast of fat things, full of marrow, of wine on the lees, well refined. And He will take away the covering cast over all nations"* (Isaiah 25:6&7), the lies that the nations have thrived under. He will take away the veil that is spread over all people. And as they take this **new wine**, this doctrine of the Spirit, this new instruction, this new philosophy of life (it is not new to the Zion class but it shall be new to the nations), as they begin to take this new wine death and decay in human

family shall be swallowed up in victory (**1 Corinthians 15:54**). It shall begin to arrest and bind the forces of degradation. So the mountain shall drop down new wine.

... and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

3:19 Egypt shall be desolation and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

3:20 But Judah shall dwell forever, and Judah from generation to generation.

3:21 For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed, for the Lord dwelleth in Zion.

Now that is the summary of Jehovah's day. So many scriptures speak about this day, but these few verses capture the import of that day.

The kingdom of man that was raised up in Eden at the fall and has prospered for these seven thousand years shall come to ruin. But as the kingdom of man is brought into ruin the Lord will be raising up the kingdom of God. He will begin to roar. He will begin to speak out of Zion, to bring about salvation unto the nations.

A Revelation

I like to share a revelation to support this thought. It was given on the 2nd of April 2009. I believe it connects very much to what the Lord is doing and what is going on now. Quite a vivid experience. I will try to recapture it in a few words even though it is quite lengthy. The summary is this:

I found myself sitting behind a ship. The ship had within it an inner enclosure (or house). I was not within the enclosure. I was without the enclosure at the back side of it, but still within the ship. Outside the enclosure is like a base with a platform. I was sitting there and just watching what was going on.

I noticed three men. And as I watched these three men I realized that they had a mission. And their mission was to destroy with fire through their weapons. Their weapons looked like guns. And I saw as if in a panoramic view that they had the capacity to bring into smothering ruin and ashes as if burned with fire whatever target they set at.

And as they moved along to accomplish their plan I moved along with them just to watch and see what they were going to do. I had no clear detail or clue as to what they were set out to do. But I realized suddenly that standing parallel to the ship where I was and where those men stood were two other ships. So there were three ships all in parallel lines or in alignment with each other.

And I soon realized that the two ships standing parallel to the ship that we were in, were actually industrial or manufacturing facilities although they looked like ships.

And it was conveying people, humanity to some destination. This was a ship meant to convey the human race, people, all humanity to some destination

I noticed that these men clearly had the mandate to destroy the two ships. And they commenced their operation. But as the destruction went on I saw that a link was provided between the ships being destroyed and the first ship where I stood and was observing from. This link was like a tunnel that linked the ship being destroyed and set on fire with the ship that I stood on. This tunnel was a safety valve, and a way of escape into the main ship designed for something that I will later explain.

I saw myself walking into the inner enclosure of the ship behind which I stood. I found myself walking into this enclosure (house) as the other two ships were set on ruin by the activities of these men. I saw that the door of this inner enclosure opened to me and I realized that it was *a ship like unto Noah's ark*.

But the interesting thing about this ark was that it was called "ONE BODY." That was the name of the ship, "ONE BODY". This was the enclosure of the ship.

The most striking feature about the experience was the love and oneness within that enclosure that the ship represented. It was a ship designed to convey all to life. I noticed that all that was going on in this enclosure was PRAISE, THANKSGIVING AND WORSHIP. Those were the principal activities going on inside this ship called "ONE BODY." Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship.

I had no doubt in my mind that this One body is the One body of Christ and this was the vehicle conveying all to kingdom attainment and reality. I realized that there were other persons behind me who were queuing up to get into the ship. It was clear that whosoever failed to enter this One body wasn't going to be part of the One body and cannot make it into the

kingdom.

**This is the vehicle or ship to the kingdom of God: the One body of Christ.
The ship Zion.**

I pondered a lot about this, and thought very carefully about the implication of the revelation to us as a spiritual movement.

Three Key Dimensions

Now there are four key dimensions of this vision that are important to note.

- (1) That destruction is determined upon the ship of business and that is the central ship that conveys all humanity to their Eldora do , their millennium of some sort. That is the hope of man. The ship of business. It appeared as an industrial and manufacturing facility. It conveyed all humanity to their destination. Now the ship of traffic, the ship of business is determined to be destroyed. The destruction has been concluded already. There are so many Scriptures that show this.
- (2) There is a company set to bring to ruin the present order of things, by whose woes or instruments of destruction Babylon shall be destroyed.
- (3) A link like a tunnel is available as a way of escape from the ship of business being destroyed to the ship of safety – Zion – Noah’s Ark, the One Body of Christ.
- (4) The only vehicle of safety through which all kingdom goals and attainments may be realized or achieved is the **One body** of Christ.

Now for the shortness of time, it would not be possible to dwell on all these four elements but we will say a few things about the first and third, then go into some details on the fourth.

The Civilization of Cain

Now there have been so many prophecies about the last day, about the determined ruin in the sea of trafficking and business. It is so clear that God is bringing an end to the present order of things. He is actually closing up the age. There have been several messages in the past about the Collapse of Civilization. *Civilization* as we know it: the judiciary and justice system, the education system, the Economic system, the financial system, the political system, etc as known today are set for destruction.

These systems are rooted in the *Canaanites* civilization. I refer to **Cain**. The *off springs* from Cain. In Genesis 4, we were told that Cain went out from the presence of the Lord. In verse **16** of that chapter he **Went out from the**

presence of the LORD and produced a kind of civilization which has culminated to what we have today. **And he dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.**

So Cain dwelt in the land of **wandering** as he departed from the presence of the Lord. And there is a great **wandering** going on but thank God we are not called to wander about as vagabonds. *We are called out from Egypt and we are heading straight into the land of Promise.* As Cain left the presence of God, he began to wander. You see, whenever we are away from the presence of the Lord, we wander as vagabonds. Whenever humanity departs from God it gets into wandering.

“After Cain knew his wife, she conceived, bore Enoch; who built a City.” So we can see *the first city builder* here. **“And called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch.”** Man began to name things after themselves. *Self centered development* is an evidence of the kingdom of man.

4:18 And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael; and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech.

4:19 And Lamech took unto himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

4:20 And Adah bore Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and such as have cattle.

4:21 And his brother’s name was Jubal: he was the father of such as handle the harp and organ

4:22 And Zilah, she also bare Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in brass and iron: and the Sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.

4:23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zilah, Hear my voice, ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

4:24 If Cain shall be avenged seven fold, truly Lamech seventy and seven fold.

4:25 And Adam knew his wife again

Now remember that here is a civilization that sprang from the line of Cain. They built. The big builders! The things that make life thick. They invented iron and steel. They invented the harp and the flute and all instruments of music and entertainment. And here lies the great trafficking, the roots of the industrial and manufacturing facilities of the world. A glorious human scale civilization.

But it was as if God was bidding His time as the Canaanites were multiplying. And suddenly we are told that Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth. Seth means **appointed**. God had an appointment. It was like God was not impressed with the order of things in the Canaanite civilization. They were not what He could call His own.

4:25 And Adam knew his wife again and she bore a son and called his name Seth. For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.

4:26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name E'nos: then began men to CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD.

Praise the name of the Lord!

Destruction Determined

So we find out that this other civilization gloried in **themselves**. They had no thought of calling upon the name of the Lord. They were content with their music, their flute, their harp, their buildings; big empires, their industry, their cattle. Their everything! *And really that is the present order of things.* A civilization that does not retain God in its memory, does not regard God but only regard the works of their hands. **That shall come to a ruin.**

2 Peter clearly tells us that this is going to be set on fire. Let's check this up in **2 Peter 3:7- 13.**

3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

The world that we knew then, the world of Noah was overthrown with water. But this present heaven and earth that are now are reserved for *fire*.

3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise. . .

There will be a redundancy, an unwillingness of the present social systems to give way. That means the present control system shall resist their passing away. But the Bible says the heavens, the present set of rulers, the things that control humanity shall pass away with a great noise.

... and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, ...

The customs, the social norms and systems that organise the human society the way we know it shall melt with fervent heat.

... the earth also. . .

Cosmos, not *terra firma*, not the physical earth, the cosmos, the human system.

. . . and the works that are therein (fleshly and mental artifacts, works, civilization, etc) shall be burned up.

If this prophecy is true, then we better readjust ourselves.

3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of person ought ye to be in

All holy conversations and godliness,

3:12 looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heaven being in fire

Shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise,
Praise the name of the Lord! *We are a people of promise!*

“... look for new heaven and new earth wherein dwelleth righteous”.

About two decades ago, precisely 1990, the Lord said to me, just before the millennial dawn social systems will collapse and there will be a new evolution of light and knowledge. Which will require a thousand years to come into full maturity. So there will be a new system that will replace the old system. So we are in for a big, big change. This new system will be founded on the knowledge of the glory of God that will fill all the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Route of Escape

But the destruction of the present heaven and earth is really not the core burden of this message. It is foundational, because as the destruction went on there was a tunnel, there was a link to the ship. A connecting link from the ship of business to offer escape from this industrial and manufacturing concerns that is shepherding humanity to destructive ends. This route of escape fashioned like a tunnel speaks of a ministry that will shepherd humanity from the plain of destruction (the ship of business and industry, manifest in self centered living) to the place of safety and life, even the ship Zion, the One Body of Christ.

Remember the *beast that came out of the sea. (Revelations 13:1)* That is the sea of business of this world, of trafficking and self centered living. And there are two dimensions to this sea. We have the **inner sea** and the **outer sea**. And the Lord said *we must cross the inner sea before we can cross the outer sea.*

There is no death or any threat outside there that can hurt or stop you if you have dealt with the death **within** (i.e. on the inside). So every trafficking and commercialization, living for profit, according to the worldly principles that is on must be dealt with. **James** says from where cometh wars? **It comes from the inside. (James 4:1)** From whence cometh all the greed and all the economic logic we call market forces? They are all from human greed. Right from the inside. That is the sea of the beast that must be dried up.

So we must cross the inner sea and then we will confidently deal with the external or outer sea.

One thing that is very interesting about the mission of these men, I believe, has to do with what we were told about the **Called**, the **Chosen** and the **Faithful**. This answers to the company of these three men that will bring to ruin the present order of things.

The Ship Zion

I believe the Lord wants to direct our attention to the **ship of Zion**. The ship likened to **Noah's ark**. Just imagine what Noah's ark should stand for in a drowning world, in a world that was on the path to ruin. That was the comfort zone, and place of safety in a world that was on its way to ruin.

But the interesting thing is that this ark is referred to as The One Body. And we really need to rethink our ideas about how we can truly make it in the day of God. As I said the most striking thing about this One Body as I got in there was love and oneness within the enclosure. And then the next thing was praise, worship and thanksgiving.

The Body Of Christ

Let's explore a little bit about this vehicle of safety- The Body of Christ. Let's turn to Ephesians **4:4**.

4:4 There is one body. . .

Really never two. You know, the ships that seemed to convey humanity to their destinations were *two*. That's the duality in the human realm. But the ship that moves men to the kingdom of God is one. There is no duality about this one body. And of course there are so many philosophies in the world today. Each claiming to have some solution to human problems. And there so many religions and so many values systems and so many ethical systems, all moving towards some destination. Some promised land. But it is not going to get any one there. There is no hope.

But here we are told there is one body. Never two. And we just have to address our hearts and our minds to that One Body.

4:4 . . . And one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling.

4:5 One Lord. . .

There are not two Lords. So when we gather to worship Him we are worshipping just one Lord.

. . . one faith, and one baptism

4:6 One God and one Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.

4:7 But unto everyone one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

**4:8 wherefore He said, when he ascended up on high,
he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men.**

All these within this one body. So the only way to understand these, is in the context of One body. Every diversity we have is just within this one body.

4:11 And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelist; and some, pastors

And teachers;

4:12 for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of

Christ.

4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith. . .

Remember we have got to *come*. We all will come into the unity of the faith.

. . . and of the knowledge of the sons of God, unto a perfect man,

Which is the one man, the many membered man, the mature man in Christ.

. . . Unto the measure of the stature of the fullness Christ.

4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of man.

So the different shades of opinion called the wind of doctrine are all activities and manipulations of crafty men. This is the product of fleshly canal thinking, the realm of reason or head knowledge wherein we could be carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men. That is the way it is in the present church system.

...and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive
God will indeed purge His Church and really cleanse us from craftiness.

4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

Now look at verse 16,

4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together...

The whole body! The body of Christ in Asia, the body of Christ in America. The body of Christ in Africa. The body of Christ in Nigeria. The body of Christ in the remotest village. The whole body, fitly joined together.

...and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to their effectual working in the measure of every part...

Hallelujah! In the measure, in the capacity, in the gifting of every part.

...maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Praise the name of the Lord!

That is really, really powerful. Now, verse 3 says:

4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

Let's read a few scriptures about this one body, then we can begin to reflect on the meaning, the implications of these things. For in times like these, I believe the implications are very serious. **1 Corinthians 12:12,**

12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

12:13 For by the spirit are we all baptized into one body...

But we really can't imagine two bodies under a natural human head, so the notion of two bodies or separated bodies should just be dismissed. As some have said: it is just a figment of imagination.

...whether we be Jews or gentiles, whether we be bound or free: and we have been all made to drink into one spirit.

12:14 For the body is not one member but many.

Therefore the foot cannot say to the hand "I have no need of thee;" or the ear say to the eye "I have no need of thee." now verse 25 says:

12:25 That there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care one for another.

Let's turn to **Colossians 3**, verse 10 says:

3:10 And we have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him.

3:11 When there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies...

Put it on. We've got to put that on in Jehovah's day. It's the safety valve today.

...kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering

3:13 forbearing...

So we put on these in order to enable the *coupling*. These are the things that enable us to connect with the other man.

...one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfection.

3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Praise the name of the Lord.

Body of Christ Not Confined

Now, what Lord is saying is to be practiced in every clime and place. It is not limited to our little fellowship. The grace of forgiveness and reconciliation is not confined only to those within our fold. Because in the minds of many the body of Christ is the little cocoon we call house fellowship or maybe “*This way.*” Or “*Spiritual Movement*”

There are diverse implications for the kind of things I am saying. And it fits very properly into the plan of God. Now Ephesians tells us in chapter 3. Verse 16 says:

3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel.

Fellow heirs of the same body! And that’s the mystery Paul was talking about in verse 3.

3:3 How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery (as I wrote afore in few words,

3:4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

3:5 which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of man, as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the spirit.

And the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body. You know, the division between Jews and Gentiles was really deep; a strong one. It was bigger than the division we have between cultures and ethnic groups today among the Gentiles. If God could reconcile Jews and Gentiles in one body, through Christ’s death and resurrection, there is no reason why the divisions we find today amongst men and within the body of Christ cannot be reconciled in Him. Jesus’ blood is strong enough to erode the division between Jews and Gentiles and can reconcile bond and free. You know people are always conscious of status: you know this royal thing ; blue blood and slave divide; bond and free, etc. Now this one body destroys that gap. Cultures disappear, the barriers between nations and peoples, tongues and tribes, ethnic groups and professional groups, and any kind of grouping even doctrinal ideas or whatever that you have of God, begin to disappear and become insignificant in the one body of Christ.

We do sing that wonderful song that there is something about that name. That wonderful name. You know what that means when we call Him Saviour, that songwriter says, “then we call Him by His name”. So when we pray in the name of Jesus, we are talking about the One who died and shed His blood. And that is powerful, and that unites all of us in the One body of Christ.

As I have said this is *beyond those of your fold*. But *all* that belongs to God, of any **shade** or **colour**. We must begin to put on the bowels of mercy and bonds

of love and unity, even the heart of God.

Now the glory of God cannot be revealed except through this one body. **The ark of God is conveyed by eight priests.** It is not to be *dragged along by one person*. If the Lord should release all His glories to us of “*this way*” and “*this persuasion*” and we retain the same attitude we have about people, it will dissipate, be destroyed and amount to nothing. The new wine will in fact waste!

We Must Love Everyone Christ Died For

The Lord cannot release Himself with our present frame of mind. So we must **undergo** change and we must initiate it. We don't have to wait for the guys out there to start it. We must initiate that change. It says.

122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, lets go unto the house of the Lord.

122:2 Our feet shall stand within thy gates, o Jerusalem.

122:3 Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:

122:4 Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

So we must begin to ascend to the unity of pure love. Fundamentally, the love of God must be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. **You must love every one that Jesus died for.** You must be tolerant to everyone, every single human being. And not just *mental love* or *superficial love*, or *some hypocritical pretentious love* to drag them to your fellowship .NO!

We must indeed have a *new heart*. There must be a new wine skin for the new wine. **It's the Cart for the New Call.**

Psalm 133 says:

How beautiful it is when brethren...

I didn't just say “*when brethren of this way.*” but

... when brethren dwell together in unity.

Now this calls for change of attitude to be expressed towards those within and toward those without. You see, we have to first start practicing it toward our nearest neighbours, those within. There must be a change of attitude and of course all this ego is a product of human pride. Some “holier than thou” attitude about a brother not doing too fine. The love of God constrains us. The love God

shed abroad in our hearts will cause us to draw close enough to lift up. Not to expose or ridicule. I mean something just has to take place in all of us

The Church Transcends Time And Space

In a divine dialogue, the question posed to me was, “**Who is the Woman**”? The response from the divine Spirit was that, “**She is the composite woman of all ages whose service must from time to time be inspected to ensure it conforms to the divine standard of acceptable service**”.

The definition of this Woman, the Church, from the divine perspective is that she is composite. She is the totality (transcending time and space) of God’s dealings with His people, The Church (the Composite Woman). She transcends *time* and *space*. So the church of God, the One body of Christ is not the church in 2009. It includes the church of God everywhere and in all dispensations, who are only handing over the baton of divine dealings and victories to successive generations. One church, one body of Christ on earth. **And if there is any knowledge from the past relevant to us, we stand on the heels, and on the shoulders of the labours of the past.**

And we must be connected with all that is God, i.e., all His people in time and space. Is it really possible to be a part of the body of Christ and really despise any? Can you despise Martin Luther and be part of the body of Christ? You can’t even despise William Branham and be part of the body of Christ. **You can’t despise anyone who has stood in the place of God,** whether of your doctrinal persuasion or not, We are all connected to that one body.

There is something that has been passed on that is for the benefit of the whole church that we must use. So unless we are one with all that God has done in the past, all that God is doing now, and all that God will yet do anywhere, regardless of geographical boundaries, we cannot really get it.

So what is important is that *God is at work*. And we can begin to link up with that which God is doing. It will assist tremendously our priesthood. Remember there **is a tunnel, a link** between the ship of business and Zion. But our attitude could represent *a closure* in the tunnel to make sure nobody escapes from the ship of business. That is not the will of God! It is not His will that any should perish. But it is His will that all should come to repentance. **(2 Peter 3:9)**

And we must have this attitude, this mind set focused on touching God and really connecting with anything, idea or person that will open us up to God. That is the essence of our priesthood. The schism and the divisions internally

are the **breaches** to Zion. If God allows us to enter into Noah's ark with all these breaches the ark will begin to **leak**! You understand? And the waters of the flood will come in.

Thank God the body of Christ is not the **exercise book of any church**. Hallelujah! It is not **the register of any church** or any group. The scripture says "**they are written in heaven**" (Hebrews 12:23). They are known of God and born from above. Hallelujah!

I shall be one with whoever belongs to God! I shall connect my heart to any that belongs to God, ANYWHERE! And we must begin to have that mystical connection, the union of the body of Christ. All that belongs to Him.

One Shepherd, One King

Now we are promised in restoration that there shall be one shepherd and there shall be one king over them. Let's turn to **Ezekiel 37:16-24**.

37:16 Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it for Judah, and for the

children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions.

37:17 And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thy hand.

37:18 And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, will thou not shew us

what thou meanest by these?

37:19 Say unto them, thus saith the Lord God: behold I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

37:20 And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

37:21 And say unto them, thus saith the Lord; behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

37:22 And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.

37:23 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their

transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

37:24 And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe My statues, and do them.

Now that is the promise of God in restoration. There will be a coupling of the one body. We remember when they began to come back from Babylon, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin began to come into the land and the Lord said in restoration that He will not be talking of two bodies anymore, but one body.

Now this means a lot. And we must go into some changes as I have said to get this through. We will come to say a few more things about this. We can't go through all scriptures about the oneness that we must all have. But thank God Jesus died for us. He died for all. He shed His blood. His love is being shed in our hearts and we must align ourselves to the things that pertain to His interest in the Earth.

The Unfaithful Stewards

Now we have these unfaithful servants who beat and fight themselves. **(Matthew 24:48-49)** The Bible says they shall be appointed their portions with the hypocrites. **(Matthew 24:51)** When we occupy we are to get involved in the things that pertain to God's interest **(Luke 19:13)**. But the unfaithful servants will smite themselves, and beat themselves, and struggle over doctrines; struggle over territories; and struggle over things - all kinds of things. We cannot catalogue them. They are so many. The things that divide the people of God are fully expressed in the denominational church system. We are seeing a measure of that among our little fellowships. And thank God the Lord is saying this has to go. ***There is just one body and the ark of Noah is the one body of Christ.***

I believe that if we all come together, having had the love of God shared abroad in our hearts, and if we all submit ourselves to the work of God, to link us up to Him who is our Head in all things, we shall begin to experience the ***victories***, the victories of Christ for His people.

Divine Oneness

Remember, the glory that we look for can only be revealed when we are one. That is the prayer that Jesus made in **John 17**. And I think it is important for us to consider that. In **John 17** we pick a few glimpses of that.

17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are mine.

17:10 And all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine and I am glorified in them.

17: 11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as we are.

17:21 That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee,

That's very serious. We cannot imagine a division between the Father and the Son. They are one. Jesus Christ was one with God. It was perfect unity, perfect oneness and if He prayed that they may be one as thou Father are in Me and I in Thee, can you imagine that oneness between your spirit and the Spirit of God? When we are in such deep communion with God, such deep fellowship with God, we do not entertain any distraction or disturbance. And if you are really connected and having a sweet communion with God, in fact, children, spouse and all that may distract, even if they are legitimate, all such things must be kept away. If you are a real spiritual man and you are drawn into His presence you normally shut out every other thing and connect with this divine love of God. That is the oneness that Jesus was talking about which was expressed in His whole being - spirit, soul, and body. He was one with God in mind. He was one with God in His heart. He was one with God in His ways.

But at least we, with our hearts, we first can have the connection with God, and then that union or oneness can flow over the realm of our soul, and over our lives.

Now, this kind of oneness with the father God is the oneness that is implied in our relationship with those connected to God. This includes the oneness between brother and brother, between brother and sister, between sister and sister, between Christians wherever they are, and whatever may be the shade of doctrinal opinion provided they have the same Spirit, or are the father's own through the new birth. Jesus says **“that they may be one as Thou Father are in Me and I in Thee. That they also may be one in Us”**. The oneness within ourselves (Horizontal oneness) is connected with the oneness we have in Him (Vertical oneness). So we cannot claim to be one in Him when we are not one with ourselves. Because when you are connected to God, you suddenly want to reconcile with every other person. Praise the name of the Lord.

Initiate Reconciliation

As a matter of fact when I came out of this revelation, I had another, and in this

second one, I found myself trying to reconcile with persons and brethren, not of this persuasion. And I saw some of them rebuffing. They were not responding. I found myself making efforts right there. And I came out with the consciousness of the need to strive towards unity and reconciliation, even where negative attitudes may be expressed by others.

So *we must initiate this*. We must seek these guys out and connect with them. We must strive towards oneness because, the glory of the Lord is going to rest mightily or entirely on that.

Now look at it:

17:21 ...that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me

17:22 And the glory which thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

17:23 I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one;

Not managing unity. Perfect unity is implied.

...and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved

Me.

17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.

17:25 Oh righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent Me.

17:26 And I have declared unto them Thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

These are deep words. They are not jokes. In fact the reason why I believe the Lord is bringing this to us at this stage in our development is *that something has to be done very significantly amongst us*. **This company of priests must have the priestly heart, must have the priestly mind, must have the priestly attitude without which this glory that we all look to cannot be revealed anywhere.**

And of course **John 17** clearly shows it. It connects the glory of God to the oneness of the people of God. However God will process that which is left for Him to do. But we must begin to look to that which is His divine interest, to that which is God's interest in the Earth. We must begin to look beyond ourselves, and begin to open up to God and to others. I believe so many tremendous things will happen. There will be **revelation** because we are rooted and grounded in the love of God. And we will begin to grow up from that

perspective into all things. In fact they are the depth of spiritual ministry.

God's Power Versus God's Love

I remember I had an experience once in an encounter with the Lord in the place of prayer; some scriptures flashed through my mind: **How the Lord anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and power. He went about doing good, healing all that were oppressed of the devil.** I was caught up after these impressions and began praying very fervently for the *power* of God. Of course we all need the power to experience that fullness of the release of the divine power for ministry. And as I was doing that, I had quickening from an unknown deep within. Something pulled me up into a realm, it was the realm of the *love of God*. I stopped praying for the power, and I said **“Oh Lord, Oh Lord I don't bother about the power any more. I want this Love. Get me immersed into Your love.”**

And then I had the understanding that **the love of God is greater than the power of God; and the power of God is *within* the love of God.** That is where it lies. What happens is this. Sometimes as we begin to expect power the **mind** seizes the initiative, the mind takes over and we probably begin to desire power for power sake. That's when the mind takes over the initiative. *But really the power of God is rooted in the love of God.* We've got to know the love of God that passeth knowledge and then be filled with all the fullness of God!

It's something the Holy Spirit will work out in our hearts. It's something we have to open up to God to do. But great changes will begin to take place in the Church world as we get into this ark of safety. I just believe that it is the oneness we have with others that will stabilize us. If you read about the prophecy that was referred to as found among the papers of the late Charles Price, it said all the waiters of this visible breaking forth must be bound together in the **unity of pure love**. That was the concluding statement of the prophecy. Glorious prophecy about the glorious Church. That is if you are waiting for this visible breaking forth you will wait in the unity of pure love. That is the change we must go through to come into this place.

Praise And Thanksgiving

Praise, thanksgiving and worship were depicted as the life within the enclosure, Zion, the One Body of Christ. I believe that as we get one with God and one with ourselves we become thankful, we cease from complaining and grumbling when we become thankful, we break free of the limitations of our lives. Ministries will then be released towards divine ends. It will affect, and impact significantly on our fellowship. It will impact significantly on the burden of the Lord on our hands.

Love Breeds Intercession

There is protection, power, safety and all Godly attainments when we begin to walk in the love of God. Because, of course, intercessions are unhindered when we are connected with the love of God. It is the connection we have with God that enables us to pick up burdens in the mind of God to intercede for saints in different places and circumstances. The Lord can even put a burden in our heart for saints in distant places undergoing crises. And because we are connected to the love of God, we become part of the new Jerusalem State, this glory of God on earth. There is no breach; there is no reproach among us that will not be taken up or dealt with because things are taken care of when we begin to turn ourselves to walk charitably and walk in the love of God.

So we must readdress the sacredness of the body. Let's just pick one example from the great intercessors. We have the examples of Moses and David. In **Psalms 74**. The body is sacred. Now David prayed. He said:

74:1 Oh God why has thou cast us off forever? ` Why doth Thy anger smoke against the sheep of Thy pasture?

You remember that Moses also came to this point when God purposed to destroy the people in **Exodus 32** Moses said “**Lord why is your anger burning against your people whom you brought out?**” It was the heart of an intercessor rooted in deep love and empathy that enabled the cry in David's heart. Here David said “why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture”?

74:2 Remember thy congregation which thou has purchased of old...

...the rod of thine inheritance, which thou has redeemed, this mount Zion, wherein thou has dwelt.

74:3 Lift up thy feet unto the perpetual desolations; even all that the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary.

I see it was from a burdened heart, from a heart really lifted up to God for Zion. It says “**For Zion sake I will not rest. For Jerusalem sake I will not hold my peace, until the righteous therefore go forth as brightness and her salvation as her salvation as a lamp that burneth.**”(Isaiah 62:1) It says “**Ye that watcheth over Zion keep not silent. Give Him no rest till he establish and makes Jerusalem a praise on the earth.**”(Isaiah 62:6&7)

Only hearts transformed by the spirit of God, hearts that have the Spirit of God shed abroad, hearts that have been taken over by the Lord can persevere for Zion's sake, can stand in the gap until the woes are passed over.

So something must happen to all of us. I believe the glory of God is within this

release of love among the Lord's people. David said **Lift up thy feet unto the perpetual ruins, even all that the enemy has done wickedly in the sanctuary.**

Ensigns For Signs

74:4 Thine enemies roar in the midst of thy congregation; they set up their ensigns for signs.

We can't be detailed about this. We don't have the time but it's really wonderful to look at how David was praying for the church. We are seeing their own ensigns for signs. That is the problem we have in the Church system. Men's ensigns, the banner of man, religious champions are put up for signs. So what is our attitude? We, like David can intercede for the sanctuary when we have the right heart.

"Thine enemies roars in the midst of the congregation" these occur when we have ministrations and preachings of all kinds and all kind of things **that don't come from the throne.** It is the enemy roaring in the midst of the congregation. In the assembly of the believers we see the enemy roaring. And they set up their ensigns, their banner for signs and for directions. They set up what approximates to the interest of their *stomach* for signs.

74:5 A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees.

74:6 But now they break down the carved work therefore at once with axes and hammers.

Spiritual axes and hammers are breaking down carved works of the Lord.

74:7 They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled by casting down the dwelling place of Thy name to the ground.

74:8 They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land.

74:9 We see not our signs...

There is no more any prophets: neither is there any among us that knoweth how long.

74:10 Oh God, how long shall the adversary reproach?

This is the prayer from the heart of an intercessor. This is the prayer of one in whose heart the love of God has taken over.

... shall the enemy blaspheme thy name forever.

74:11 Why withdraw Thou Thy hand, even Thy right hand? Pluck it out of Thy bosom.

74:12 For God is my king of old, working salvation in the midst of the Earth.

There is a burden. There is something that will begin to cause us to begin to

pray for the Church and for the congregations of God in the land. If this change does not take place in us we cannot come into this mode where we can be burdened for Zion's sake, where we can be concerned for the house of God. We ought to be concerned, for unto whom much is given, much is expected.

The Lord has shown us many things about His plans and purposes, and without the right heart, we will **misuse** them. We will use them to smite one another, and bully people around for being so stupid; not being able to comprehend prophecies, nor to understand the things of God. But you see, we are the *priests* of God. We are a royal priesthood. A holy nation. A peculiar people to show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. **(1Peter 2:9)**

Now David prayed for **intervention** in the house of God. *We are going to begin to pray for intervention in the Church of God, in the congregation of God.* As the Lord begins to put this new kind of attitude in us, then He prepares us to connect and be effective in all that He wants us to do.

I really know that these few thoughts could pass across a great burden in the heart of God. Now, anyhow we look at it, let us ask the Lord to help us. How the love of God in our hearts towards each other translates to safety and preservation may not be fully comprehended. It is left to God to work out the details. But our safety, our preservation *is the heart of love that we have towards one another.* When we do that, when we begin to adopt each other as our own, as the scripture says, .. “let not every man take care of his own things. But let each take care of the things of the other” **(Philippians 2:4)**. As we begin to do that, *there isn't going to be any lack any more in the house of God.* There is going to be full supply. Because every joint will supply. There wasn't lack in the early church. They had enough love to sell their properties and bring the proceeds for distribution. *That's a tough one in our possessive and materialistic culture today.*

New Kind Of Investment

The working of divine love is going to lead to new kinds of investments, new kinds of relationships. Really, the ship of business is being destroyed. We know, we have seen the signs of the destruction of commercial Babylon, of materialism manifest in the industrial and manufacturing facilities of the world. The heart of materialism is being dealt with across Europe, United States and the big Asian powers. We here in Africa are not feeling the impact significantly because **he that is down fears no fall.** Only our big men are feeling it. I'm sure God is helping some brethren who are affected. He is giving the ability to absorb what is going on.

But what kind of investment should we begin to make? These thoughts will change the way we do things. You know Jesus says **“do not make for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break in to steal.”(Matthew 6:19)** If God blesses you and increases you, invest in things close to the heart of God. You may invest in a business that may not give you 100% profit but a business that touches the needy and the helpless, that solves people’s problems, and impacts significantly the poor and needy in society. Such investments approximates closer to the heart of God. You may sow in the lives of people, in the things of God, in education, health and basic needs of the poor, in the things that connect to God and make people appreciate His love, beauty and goodness. If you lend to the poor the Bible says you lend to the Lord. **(Proverbs 19:17)**

There is a new kind of attitude and relationship that will begin to touch the world. In fact *the secret to eternal life is love*. Longevity is not in avian population, the population of birds, trees and the animals. Because of the desire for longevity, there are all kinds of researches to understand the secret of long life. And they are studying the fishes, birds and all biological life forms to perhaps decode the secret of life everlasting and break the bars of death. But the Lord made it known to me that the secret is **John 3:16:**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

There is a new kind of relationship we can begin to have with people when we begin to walk in the love of God! And I tell you, bars of death will begin to be broken, and we will begin to get into life eternal. Somebody said, and it struck me so much, **‘what you keep is your harvest, what you give away is your seed’**. And I said **‘hey, I don’t want a small harvest.’**

So it is not wisdom to continue to stockpile, keep and save for the rainy day. What you keep is your harvest. So if you want something to be your harvest, keep it. But we are expecting the harvest of glory. We will sow into the lives of men. We will bless people with our time. We will bless people with our resources. We will give out everything we own to promote and advance God’s interest. And we will have a thousand times in this life, and in the life that is to come. There will be no lack now or then. That is the fundamental principle of the new economic system. A system built on loving your neighbor as yourself.

But if you go the other way, i.e. investing in the ship of business and industry of this world, this is surely coming down and down will be all those that invest their all in it.

Conclusion

I will like to conclude here, even though there are more things to say concerning these issues. I pray that the Lord will admit us into this realm; to come into this One body of Christ. The most striking feature of this One body is **love and oneness**, and then **thanksgiving, praise and worship to God**. As we get into that, *healing* and *health* will be our portion. Long life and prosperity will be ours. Breakthroughs! Oh, glory be to God! Gift of glory from God! Indeed when you are ninety you will become thirty. God is going to change us. And we are going to walk in the love of God.

May the Lord quicken our hearts and minds to come into that place of safety and security in the age when the systems of this world are coming down. This is the only guarantee of our survival. I pray that we come to that realm where we can appreciate the import of the heart of God.; and where we can be relevant to God's plan for our time, reaching out to the other person, even those we call unbelievers. We must begin to look at them with the love of God to be able to bring them to God.

He did not come to judge the world. He came that through Him the world might be saved. He did not come to condemn the world. But He came that the world through Him might be saved. **(John 3:17)**

So our attitude to everything around us might change. May God cause His love to be shed in our hearts. And may we walk in the love of God wherein is the power of God. May we be quickened in our hearts and minds. In Jesus name we pray.

