The Gospel Subject-Indicating Colours by Hope Ovwah

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This Book presents the main outlines of the gospel message, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, using five subject-indicating colours. The colours are used to tell the Bible story and show us the way of salvation. Taken together, they show us how to be good and how to be great in the power of God.

Chapter One

GOD LOVES YOU AND WANTS YOU TO BE WITH HIM!



The most prominent of the five colours in this Book is gold. It is repeated at various points in the Book, because God's word, the Bible, has so much to say about it. What does this colour stands for? What message does it tell us?

First, the gold colour is used to represent God. Because gold is so precious, it is used to represent the nature of God. The essential character of God is love (I John 4:8). So, the gold colour particularly shows us that God loves us individually, whether we are white, yellow or black; whether we are tall or short; whether we are fat or slim. Whatever is your form; whatever is your colour, God loves you! God loves me! This is the first message that the Bible contains. It tells us about God's love; the nature of God. The gold colour also tells us about the place of God's residence, where He dwells. Wherever God is, we call heaven. But God chooses to dwell among His creatures also. So, God's presence in a man can cause him to have a heavenly experience. So, the gold colour depicts God's nature, which is love. It also tells us that God loves us and wants us to enjoy the glory of the heavenly life even while on earth.

God's love is the greatest thing. It is greater than what we can think or imagine. His love is towards everyone. He makes His rain to fall on both the wicked and the good. He makes His sun to shine everywhere. He is full of love.

And the greatest story in the Bible is that God loves me and God loves you. He wants us to enjoy His life. That life, when we receive it, is called heavenly life. As God is in heaven, whoever has His life is also living in heaven though he or she is physically here on earth. Jesus Christ, when he lived on earth showed us how it is possible for a man to be on earth and yet have the life of God (the heavenly life) in him. While on earth, he so much enjoyed the presence of God that it could be said that he was living in heaven at the same time (See John 3:13).

So, God loves me; God loves you. He wants us to be where He is, even now. He wants us to enjoy His life now. He wants to change our lives so that it becomes exactly like His. As the Bible puts it, He wants us to have the days of heaven upon the earth (Deuteronomy 11:21). This is the first part of the Gospel story and the gold colour fitly portrays it.. But this colour has more to tell us. We shall be looking at more of the nature and love God symbolized by the gold colour.



The gold colour indicates the subject of God, His sovereign majesty, His Life and His love for the human race. Specifically, it shows us that God not only wants us to have life but to have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Therefore, the colour points to God's desire for us to experience His life, the heavenly life to the fullest degree!

In the Bible, we are told that the street of the heavenly City is made of gold (Revelation 21:21). That heavenly city illustrates the glory of the heavenly life which is to be fulfilled in all those who receive God's love. All those who receive God's love now are to be like that City (Mathew 5:14). That is what God has prepared for all those who receive His love and love Him in return. God wants us to have the fullness of the heavenly life! He wants us to have eternal life in its full expression. Think of it. It is most wonderful to come into such an estate.

We are going to learn more about this wonderful life that God has reserved for us when we meet this gold colour again later in this Book. But the first message is simple: God loves you and He wants you to enjoy His life in full measure! This is His thought towards you and me. And this is the wonderful story the Bible has to tell us.

Chapter Two

SIN SEPERATES FROM GOD AND BRINGS DEATH



The indicated colour on this page is black. It immediately tells us that something is wrong, there is a problem. And what is the problem? God loves us so much and desires for us to enjoy the fullness of the heavenly life. However, He cannot give that life to man in his natural state. Man by nature is a sinner. He lives contrary to God. The Bible says that man's heart is deceitful and wicked (Jeremiah 17:9).

Thus the indicated colour, black, tells us of sin. It properly symbolizes bad things we do and the awful habits we often display. Sin separates man from God and prevents him from enjoying God's life. Man cannot enjoy God's love to the fullness and express His life because of sin. Yet the heavenly life is so wonderful, so full of glory. Sin not only separates us from God and prevents us from enjoying His life; it also gives us a lot of pain. Beyond the individual level, sin also dominates the world. The indicated colour, black, reminds us of the evil things we see in our world: sicknesses, diseases, fear, hunger and famine, failure and hopelessness, violence, destruction and death. Sin brings ruin; it leads to pain, sorrow, crying. And ultimately, it brings death (Romans 6:23). These terrible things are not in the heavenly city, which the gold colour represents (Revelation 21:4). They are not part of the heavenly life God desires for us.

How did sin come? This is a very important question. To answer it, you must ask yourself, 'how did I come into this world?' Who created me? The answer is that God created you. You came through your parents. Your parents gave you the life you now have. But your parents themselves were given life by their own parents. And your grandparents were given life by their own parents too, that is, your great grandparents. So, on and on the lineage goes until we come to our first parents, Adam and Eve.

The Bible teaches that our first parents, Adam and Eve passed a nature of sin to all of us (Romans 5:12). Your parents passed a life of sin to you through the process of human reproduction. But it was not their fault. They couldn't help it, because that was all they had. They themselves had received the nature of sin from their own parents. In turn, the parents themselves received it from their own parents too. Read again Romans 5:12.

The nature of sin, which causes the human race to live contrary to God, came through our parents. The persons who brought sin into the world are Adam and Eve, our first parents.

David in the Bible realized this at a point in his life. He had just committed adultery and murder. And he wondered why he, a person that claims to love God, could have done such terrible things against Him and against his fellow man. He just could not understand what came upon him. And God made him to see why it was possible for him to do such. God showed him he had the nature of sin. And David began to cry to God and said... Yes, it is true. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me (Psalm 51:5). The truth is that we were all shapen in iniquity and conceived in sin from our mothers' wombs!

So, we are using the symbol of the black colour to indicate ALL of mankind are sinners because we were born into sin. We got the nature of sin from our parents. And even little children do many naughty and bad things. But it is our parents that gave us that nature of sin. And it is Adam and Eve, out first parents, that passed that character to the entire human race. That is why the Bible says that *all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. There is none righteous, no, not one* (Romans 3:23; 10). Because of sin, man cannot, unless changed, abide in the goodness and love of God. Man, unchanged, cannot enjoy the heavenly life.



However, there is more to sin than just the things we do. Yes, the issue of sin is *not merely, what we do*. Sometimes even when we have not done outwardly anything sinful, our hearts' unclean thoughts betray us. The Bible says that every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart is evil continually (Genesis 6:5). Another passage says that man's heart is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). It is capable of imagining and creating all kind of evil things. That is why there is so much wickedness and evil in the world today. Out of man's heart comes evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts and all manner of wickedness (Matt.15:18, 19).

You may recall that in your childhood days, you did some bad things not learnt from anyone. It could even be as small as stealing candies. You most probably denied committing the act. You lied because of the fear of punishment. Let us consider that the things we think in our hearts can be worse.

We now understand that there are two sides to the matter of sin: the first is the things that we do that are not in harmony with God. The second is who we are by nature. We are sinners by nature. And the thoughts of our hearts prove it, even when we do not do any sinful act! The human hearts, until changed, is black with sin, terrible in the sight of God.

The Bible shows that the nature of sin in man is a very strong binding force. It holds a man in its full grip. It makes us to do things which even we ourselves may not like. It is like a bondage. This is why Paul cried out in Romans 7:24, 'O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?' All of us are carrying about a body of death because of the power of sin in our blood. And no man can save himself from these chains no matter how hard he tries.

Yet, God loves us and wants us to experience His love. Therefore, something much more powerful than sin came upon man's dilemma. God in His love for the human race introduced the way of escape from sin. We are then able to enjoy God's life. That life is as heaven on earth.

Chapter Three

THE PERFECT SACRIFICE FOR SIN



The colour-indication here is blood red. It immediately reminds us of man and human blood. If something cuts your hand now, blood will come out and it will look like this colour. Here, the red colour shows us that for sins to be forgiven and for the effects to be taken away, there must be a blood sacrifice, Without the shedding of blood there can be no remission for sin (Hebrews 9:22). The Bible calls the use of blood for dealing with sin and its effect an ATONEMENT (Leviticus 17:11).

In the world, some people try to find solutions to the problems caused by sin by making blood sacrifices. They kill animals and shed all kinds of blood. But God's solution for forgiveness of sin and deliverance from its power and effects is just. It requires the sacrifice of a corresponding life like what man lost through sin. That is the meaning of this passage we read in the Bible, *thou shalt give life* for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe (Exodus 21:24-25).

Life for life! This is why it is not possible for the blood of animals to take away man's sins (Hebrews 10:4). Adam fell from the estate of life given him by God. What is required to take away man's sin is the sacrifice of human life corresponding in every sense to what Adam had before the fall. It must be a man that is perfect, one who has not experienced sin like us. Such a person must be of the human race but not having the nature of sin. Only the blood of such a one, offered in sacrifice, will be able to wipe out man's sins and deliver the human race from all of sin's effects. It must be life for life!

You must have started wondering, how can this be possible? Well, to man, it was absolutely impossible. It was a completely hopeless case, because the entire human race was born into sin. So, God, because of His love for us and His unwillingness for us to perish, had to intervene. He had to provide for Himself a Lamb for sacrifice (Genesis 22:8).

How did God provide for such a great deliverance? This red colour is an indication of what God's provision entailed. It is the story of a man like no other, who came into this world, having taken up the human nature to deliver us from sin and reconcile us back to God, This makes possible for man to enjoy the heavenly life. His name is JESUS CHRIST. Note that Jesus Christ was not from Adam. Otherwise he would have been a sinner like us and would not have qualified to save us from sin. Who then is Jesus?

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is God who took on the form of a man in order to offer that life in sacrifice for us (John 1:1, 14). In this sense, he was the Son of God, just like Adam when he was created (Luke 3: 38). This is why Jesus Christ, as a man, is called the second man, the last Adam (I Corinthians 15:45, 47).

The Bible tells us the story of these two great men, both created in God's image and likeness: the first man, Adam, and the second man, the human Jesus. Both men are very great before God and their lives have effect on the entire human race. The first man, Adam, brought sin and death into the world and passed the nature of sin to us through our parents. The second man, the Lord Jesus came to recover that which was lost through sin (Luke 19:10) and to reconcile us back to God and His purpose for creating us. God in Jesus became man for one purpose: to deliver us from our sins and all of its effect, so that we can enjoy the life of God to its fullness!

Jesus is God's gift to us, His creation. He was given to us out of love so that we might be saved and become what God created us to be. *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 (John 3:16).



The blood-red colour points out the fact that Jesus Christ offered his blood in sacrifice for us when he was crucified on the cross of Calvary. How did Jesus save us from sin? One may ask. First, he became human. Then, he lived as a perfect man. For thirty years, he lived a holy life. The Bible says he was holy, harmless, not defiled, separate from sinners (Hebrews 7:26). Even though he was a man like us and showed us the love and compassion of God while he was on earth, he proved that he was different from us. Sin was not in his nature. God Himself testified of him when He said 'this is my beloved son in whom I am very pleased to dwell' (Mathew 3:17).

And so, for the remaining three and a half years Jesus lived on earth, he demonstrated the fullness of

God's life, the heavenly life, because God, the Father, was with him (Acts 10:38).

But it was not enough that Jesus will be a good and great man on the earth. For us to be saved, that perfect human life must be offered in sacrifice to make atonement for us. Without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sin and deliverance from its punishment. If Jesus had not offered his blood in sacrificial death, there would have been no opportunity for us to be delivered from the bondage of sin and death.

Why is blood so powerful and why must it be shed to secure forgiveness of sins and deliverance from sin's penalties? Because the life of the flesh is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11). Blood is life! If you shed the blood of an animal, the life is gone. The same thing is true of man. That is why God commanded His people under the Old Testament never to eat blood (Leviticus 17:14). He told them blood is sacred; its' use is restricted to atonement. For this reason, He allowed them to offer the blood of animals, *typically*, in atonement for their souls so that He can continue to show them mercy.

But, as we mentioned earlier, it is really not possible for the blood of animals to deliver man from his sins. God was only using those animal sacrifices to show that blood sacrifice is required for deliverance from sin. He was also indicating by means of those sacrifices that there would be an **ultimate blood** sacrifice.

Yes, those animals sacrificed under the Old Testament pointed to Jesus Christ as a man. Jesus is the true Lamb of God that took away the sin of the world! (John 1:29). God specifically required that the animals must be without any fault for the sacrifices to be acceptable to Him (Exodus 12:5; Leviticus 1:3, 10). This was to show that Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God will be a perfect man, without sin or any human defect.

So, Jesus Christ offered his life for us through the shedding of his blood. He suffered and died like a criminal on the cross. But it was God's plan that he should be killed in that manner so that his blood can be available for us. All we like sheep have gone astray, every man according to his own way, but God laid on him the iniquity of us all. It pleased God to bruise him and to make his soul an offering for our sins (Isa 53:4-6, 10). We, as sinners, were condemned to death but he died in our place. He was crucified for us! (I Cor. 5:7). And because his life was so pleasing to God, he was raised from the dead by the Spirit of the Father. He is now a living Saviour, a glorious High Priest who is able to save us by His life (Hebrews 7:25).

What a great story! We can talk on and on about Jesus. He is the Prince of peace, the Lord of Lords, Sovereign. He lives through eternity. And He says *I*

am the way, the truth, the life, the door (John 14:6; John 10:7). We can talk about Him and His works more and more!

Chapter Four

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

Look carefully at this colour. It is white, just like snow! It tells us something that happens when the blood of Jesus comes upon a man's heart. Remember, we were born into sin and formed in iniquity from our mothers' wombs. We came into this world with the nature of sin. Our hearts are black. But the blood of Jesus Christ, the power that flows from His life, is able to totally change our hearts and make it brand new.

That is the exact reason why his blood was offered in sacrifice for us. It was to save us from the power and effect of sin. He says to us in Isa 1:18, *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.* Jesus can give you a new heart if you come to him.

Jesus died for me; I believe he died for me. I know the blood of Jesus Christ can wash away my sins and take away the problem of sin in me. And when he washes my heart; it becomes whiter than snow.

Yes, when the blood of Jesus washes your heart, the greatest miracle on earth takes place. Your heart in the sight of God becomes whiter than this page. That is what the blood of Jesus does! It makes you the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). God no longer sees you as a sinner by nature, but as one that is righteous. The blood of Jesus gives you a new status, it makes you a new man. It changes you from being a sinner to being a saint. The bad things we have done are forgiven us, wiped away by the blood. Then the power of sin over our hearts is broken.

So, this first white page tells us what happens when the blood of Jesus comes upon our hearts. It frees us not only from the sinful acts we do but also from sin inside our heart, that very nature that Adam passed on to us through our parents. Our hearts are made whiter than snow.

Remember, no man that is born of Adam can save himself from sin and its effect. It is only the power of God that can deliver us from sin and death, which is the ultimate consequence of sin. And that power is released through the blood of Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus is God's power to save us from sin and all of its punishments. No one can save himself. All must come to the cross; all must come to Jesus. All must know that Jesus Christ died for them. Nothing else can take away your sin but the blood of Jesus.

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus Oh, precious is that flow That makes me white as snow No other fount I know Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee; Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure, Save me from its guilt and power.

Not the labour of my hands Can fulfil Thy law's demands; Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow, All could never sin erase, Thou must save, and save by grace.

Nothing in my hands I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling; Naked, come to Thee for dress, Helpless, look to Thee for grace: Foul, I to the fountain fly, Wash me, Saviour, or I die. Yes, there is a double cure for us in the blood of Jesus Christ. It washes away all the bad things you have done and delivers from that feeling and burden of guilt in your heart as well as the penalties you are supposed to suffer. The blood of Jesus delivers from the consequences of sin: pain, sorrow, sicknesses, bondage and death. More than that, the blood delivers from the very nature of sin so that sin no longer have power over you (Romans 6:14).

Many blessings become yours when you receive Jesus Christ into your heart. Your sins are washed away, you become a friend of God. He admits you into His presence to fellowship with Him. There is no more curse, no more punishment for sins because Jesus by himself in his own body has borne all the curses and punishment for you (I Peter 2:24). You have peace with God and right to life and life's blessings (Romans 5:1). Healing from all infirmities, deliverance, health, favour and prosperity are all yours when you allow Him to come into your life. His death on the cross freely secures all these for you.

Will you come to the fountain of the blood of Jesus today? Will you be free from the yoke and bondage of sin? You can accept God's sacrifice; His provision for your redemption: the blood of Jesus Christ. Believe the good news. Jesus truly died for you. Ask him to wash you clean from the nature and practice of sin by His blood and you shall experience the saving power of the Almighty God who love you and gave Himself for you.

We shall now see more of how the blood of Jesus carries out the work of transforming our hearts and bringing us into the full enjoyment of the heavenly life. The white colour indicates not only the effect of our washing in the blood of Jesus but also draws our attention to the person and work of the Holy Spirit. He always comes into the believing convert on the heels of the soul-cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus was on earth as a man, he promised that after his death, he will come back to be with all those that believe on him. He will be with them forever. He said when he comes back to them; he will do great things in their lives. He will, over time, transform them to become like him, He will teach them and lead them into all that God, the Father wants for them (John 14:15-31). He fulfils this promise by giving the Holy Spirit to live in all those who believe in him. The Holy Spirit who indwells the believer is none else but the Spirit of the glorified Christ. Glory be to His name.

When Jesus died, he arose from the dead; that is why we call him a Living Saviour. The Bible teaches that He is a Life-giving Spirit (ICorinthians15:45). He is also immortal, which means that He can be in every place at the same time by His spirit. This was not possible when he was a man but it is now a reality of His glorified estate, by the right hand of the Father exalted. He neither has the limitation of humans nor of any other created being. He is an immortal Spirit and inheres Life. He depends on nothing for His existence. Rather, He upholds the animate and inanimate creation. GLORY!

Therefore, when Jesus rose from the dead, He sent His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) into all that believe on Him to give them power to live a heavenly life on earth, to live as children of God, to become all that God has destined them to be.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12, 13)

Yes, the believer receives power (ability, capacity) when the Holy Spirit comes into him: power to be good (the Spirit enabling this inwardly), power to be

great (the Spirit upon the believer in Baptismal experience). Yes, power to do exploit in the name of the Lord, power to walk with God and be all He wants you to be (Acts 1:8). This power is given only to those who have believed on the name of Jesus; those who have been born-again because they have been washed in his blood, those who are born of God.

Remember, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the glorified Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. When Jesus was raised from the dead and glorified, He sent his Spirit into the hearts of all those that are washed by his blood (Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:15). The Holy Spirit is the same Jesus coming to live inside of us. He gives us power to live in the goodness of the heavenly life now. So, the blood of Jesus Christ must wash your heart before the Holy Spirit can come in. The Holy Spirit does not go where the blood of Christ has not entered. But once you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and ask him to wash you clean by His blood, the Holy Spirit can now come in.

Have you obtained from Jesus the soul cleansing power of his blood; are you washed in the blood of the Lamb of God? Are your garments now spotless and white as snow? Remember the white page. It shows what the power of the blood can do and what happens when Jesus comes to live in us by his Spirit. Is Jesus Christ living in you now? He will always come in if you ask him to. You can say to him in the words of this song

Into my heart, Into my heart Come into my heart, Lord Jesus Come in today, Come in to stay, Come into my heart Lord Jesus

Yes, everyone must come to the point of making this critical decision; to allow Jesus Christ to come into his or her heart to live and reign. There is no other way that man can live in the sight of God. You can cry out to him: Lord Jesus, wash me clean from my sin, make me new; save me! And you can be rest assured that if you did it with a true heart, he will come to you. Why, because he promised to do so (John 6:37). So, let's take that song again and again until the meaning of it takes hold of our hearts.

And whenever you are having your bath, you will remember that just as you are washing your body, that is how Jesus washed you clean from sins and came to live in you who was once a condemned sinner, making you His friend. And there is a song that expresses this mood which you can easily learn and sing to yourself and others. It says When I take my bath, I think about the Lord. how he washed my sin away; let me tell you more. He lives in me; I live in him. He is my savior, lord and God. He lives in me; I live in him. He is my savior, Lord and God;

And you can repeat the last stanza again and again in a joyful mood,

He is my saviour, Lord and God; He is my saviour, Lord and God...

Yes, when you receive him, he will come and live in you. But you must also go into Him and live in him. How will you do this? That is the story of the next subject-indicating colour we are going to examine. But the very first thing is that he must come to live in you. And when you are teaching your littles ones this song, you have to express it, even in a dance. The joy that Christ has come into your heart because you believe in him should show. That is how it is with all who receive him into their hearts. He gives them unusual peace and joy (John 16:22, 33). **Chapter Five**

GROWING AND SERVING



When Jesus comes into our lives by the Holy Spirit, He empowers us to live in Him. And when we live in him, we continue to grow in His nature. The colour on this page is green. It reminds us that His indwelling life grows us up. When you look out of the window you see the vast vegetation, everything is green, speaking of life. Anything that has life must grow. The colour green reminds us of life and that living things grow.

His life in us is the power that enables us to grow in Him. And his life in us is full of the capacity to make us grow in his nature. As we live in him, we grow. What that means is that we become more and more like Him in his character and glory. We take on more and more of the heavenly life, God's life.

As a child of God, one that is now born again, God commands you to grow (2 Pet 3:18). God desires

that you grow up into Christ in all things (Ephesians 4:15): in the knowledge of Him, in His character and in His attributes. His attributes include love, wisdom, power and justice. The Bible also speaks of the fullness of the stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). This is the final measure of growth that the Lord wants to bring all believers into. Yes, God desires that you should become exactly as the Lord Jesus Christ and that you see Him face to face (1 John 3:3).

How do living things grow? We are taught in school that for man and animals, it is through food (feeding) and exercise; and for plants, it is through a process called photosynthesis. Plants receive light and energy from the sun, which then convert into food for growth. Even the food which man and animals eat to grow comes from the energy stored up in plants, which was received from the sun.

Now, the Lord Jesus Christ is revealed as the Sun of righteousness (Malachi 4:2; Psalm 19: 4-6; Revelation 1:6). He is full of life. In Him is the fountain of life, and only in His light can we receive energy to live and grow (Psalm 36:9; John 1:4). So, you must go to Him and into Him daily, if you want to live and grow. (I Peter 2:4). You must make him the source of your life, your friend, your desire. It is only when you come into Him and abide in Him that you can grow to become like Him; an exact image of Him (John 15:4). Without Him you can do nothing!

When you gave your life to Him, you asked Him to come into your heart. But now that He has come into your heart, if you must become what He wants you to be; if you must realize the purpose for which He came into your life, then you also must go into Him in fellowship of prayers, worship and communing with the Word; abiding in Him. There is a song that expresses this desire. It goes as follows.

Into you lord, Into you lord, I come into you now, Lord Jesus, I come in today, I come in to stay, I come into you now, Lord Jesus.

Yes, to grow and have an increasing measure of the heavenly life, you must come into him every day. How do I go into him? one may ask, once again. There are two things. The first is reading, studying and meditating on the word of God which is revealed to us in the Bible. The second is fellowshipping with the Lord in prayers, in praises and worship.

The Bible says as new born babies (children of God who are now born again) we should desire the sincere milk of the word of God (I Pet 2:2). Just as little babies desire the milk from their mother's breast and crave for it, doing everything to get the mother's attention; you must also crave for the word of God. The entire word of God, the gospel, is like our mother (Galatians 4:26). You must do everything to drink from her milk every day because that is what will keep you alive and make you grow well.

Without reading your Bible and meditating on God's word every day, you cannot grow as fast as you should. You will be like a child that is not well fed, having kwashiorkor. The new man, the life of Christ inside of you, will be very lean and there will be no strength to overcome the challenges of this world. You will find yourself falling into temptations and not able to follow the Lord Jesus Christ faithfully.

But how do you start reading, studying and meditating on the word of God? You can start with what is being taught you in the church. Go over the messages, read the scriptural passages and meditate on them. Ask the Holy Spirit living in you to give you understanding. If you are able to get the audio or video recordings of the messages, listen to them again and again. Make your own notes, just as you normally do in school when you are going through what the teacher taught you in class. Take important notice of the things the Holy spirit will teach you or speak to you in instructions. As you do this daily, you will experience tremendous growth! Then the second element: prayers, praises and worship. When we pray, praise and worship God, He envelopes us with His presence. He covers us with His glory. We are shown in many parts of the Bible that God's presence and glory is revealed and great things are accomplished when God's people pray, praise and worship Him in spirit out of the depths of their hearts (2 Chronicles 6:13; 20:21, 22; Acts 4:24-31; 16:25-26).

God wants us to pray always, without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18). He also wants us to praise Him at all times and to worship Him continually (I Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 5:19). Our prayers, praises and worship are ever acceptable to God because of what Jesus Christ has done on the cross (I Peter 2:5).

Yes, to grow in Him and enjoy more and more of the heavenly life, we must cultivate the habit of praying, praising and worshipping Him daily. In the world it is said that worship is food for the soul, which is true. So, you see everybody, including children, putting on earphones, listening to all kinds of music which affect their souls. But you can choose a different path, the path that leads to more and more of the heavenly life. Rather than give your soul to worldly music, listen to songs of real praise and worship to God from men and women who are born again and living holy lives. Then you can also sing your own song of worship to God. Whichever way you sing it, He hears you and receives it, if it comes from a heart fully yielded to Him. Yes, you can make melody in your heart to the Lord continuously (Ephesians 5:19).

One aspect of prayers that can make us grow so fast is praying in the Holy Spirit. One of the things the Holy Spirit wants to do in our lives is actually to help us build up a life of effective (powerful) prayers. He helps our weaknesses and take over our minds and hearts when we allow him to pray using our mouths. This happens when we speak in tongues. The Bible says also that when we speak in tongues, we build up our spirit man and stir up the gifts and operation of the Spirit in our lives (1 Corinthians 14:4). Learn to pray often in the spirit by praying in tongues regularly, and also pray in your everyday language based on your understanding of the will of God as revealed in His word.

There is a song used by teachers of children, which remains ever relevant. It reminds us of God's call for every believer to grow and of the first two things that we need to do in order to live in Him and grow. Read your Bible, Pray every day Pray every day, Pray every day Read your Bible Pray every day If you want to grow If you want to grow If you want to grow Read your Bible, Pray every day If you want to grow

To grow in Christ each day, I read my bible and pray.



The first green colour showed us the first things we need to do in order to live and grow in Him. Reading, studying and meditation on God's word along with keeping the devotions of prayers, praise and worship. The word of God dwelling richly in our hearts, makes us strong in the Lord and in the power of His victorious work on the cross (Ephesians 6:10). Our spiritual muscles are built up. Also, in the place of payers and worship, we receive more of the supply of the life, graces and power of the Holy Spirit (Philippians 1:19; Acts 4:31).

Both of these (the word of God, prayers, praises and worship) constitute the spiritual food we must eat and air we must breathe in every day. But remember, it is not only food that makes a child to grow. There is also the place of exercise. No matter how much food a child eats, he cannot walk if he does not practice to walk, if he does not stand up and take the first step. So also, practice, exercise and training are important in our spiritual growth.

This second green colour reminds us of this. It says 'if I must grow in Christ, I must not only live in Him, I must also put into practice the things He teaches me and also tell others about Christ. If I do this, I will increase even more in the knowledge of Christ and in the heavenly life'. So, there are two vital spiritual practices and exercises one must continually do in order to grow into the fullness of the heavenly life. First, you must practice the word of God. You must not be somebody who only hears God's word, but somebody that hears and do (obey) (James 1:22).

Learn to obey all aspects of the word of God. Whatever you learn from the Bible as you read study and meditate, submit your heart to God who empowers obedience. All those who have given their lives to Christ are called to obedience (I Peter 1:2) because the Holy Spirit in us gives us power to be able to obey all of God's word. Even our Lord Jesus Christ when he was on earth as a man practiced total obedience to God, even when he had to suffer so much (Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 5:8). We are all children of obedience by the power of the life of Jesus Christ in us.

Secondly, let the word of God be in your mouth at all times. Speak about it to yourself, when you are going out, when you are at home; when you wake up, when you are going to bed; speak the word of God, declare it over yourself. It shall make you to prosper and to be very successful in everything you do (Joshua 1:8). Then speak the word of God to others; tell your friends and others around you about lesus. Tell them of His love for them; His works on the cross. Tell them of the kingdom of Ask God to make you effective as you God. witness Christ to others. This is one of the reasons why the Holy Spirit came into your life (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit that came into your life when you believed on the Lord lesus Christ will enable you to do all these things; not only to live and grow in Christ, but also to preach Christ and help others to grow in Him. Let us be faithful In Jesus's mighty name; Amen!

Chapter Six

FOUR ULTIMATE REDEMPTION BLESSINGS-I



We are back to the subject-indicating gold colour we started with. In the beginning God created... everything began with God. And when Christ comes into your life, He is taking you back to God. He says, *I am the way, the truth and the life. No man* comes to the Father but by me (John 14:6).

That is how the Bible introduces its message. We are shown the beginning in Genesis I and 2, then in the last few chapters (Revelation 21, 22) we are shown how through redemption all things are brought back to the Father and they take the form He ordained them to be in His eternal plan.

The gold colour, at this point in our meditation, tells us more details of the several blessings that God has prepared for us who love and obey Him. The understanding of what God has reserved for us in Redemption blessings will now engage our attention. We obey him when we allow the Holy Spirit to grow us up in the heavenly life. So, the colour shows the blessings that will in the finished picture crown a faithful walk with God.

Of course, you must never forget that great beginning when Jesus Christ came into your heart. It was the beginning of a great miracle, the greatest miracle on earth. That encounter with God made you His child and brought you into His blessings. That beginning of your salvation is a very memorable event which you should always remember. And there is a song that captures the joy of that experience and the need for you to keep it always before you. It says

Oh, that day I remember that day I will never forget that day When Jesus washed my sins away When Jesus washed my sins away

Yes, what a day that was! Yes, what a day that always proves to be! You should never forget that day when Jesus came into your heart to live in you by His Spirit, the day He made you His child and qualified you to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit. For you, it was the beginning of days (Exodus 12:2), the beginning of a journey into Christ, a journey to Life. But then, this gold colour says there is much more that God has prepared for you; much more beyond the blessings you now have by the Holy Spirit. It shows that God's plan is actually to make you (and others who have believed on Jesus Christ and are part of His body) exactly like Him. Remember, the subject-content of the gold colour, at the beginning, had to do with presenting God, His nature and the glory of the heavenly life. Here, it indicates that God wants to give that same nature and *a fullness of that glory to you*.

This is the greatest story that can ever be told. That we who were condemned sinners, without God and without hope in this world (Ephesians 2:12), should be washed in His blood and not only made perfect in His sight, but lifted up high above all other creatures to become an expression of God, the Creator. What a great story! The Bible calls commitment of God to the performance of it as streaming from abundance of grace (Romans 5:17), extreme love, unlimited mercy!

However, to attain to that estate where you become one with Him in that glory, you have to be growing and you have to overcome all things that stir up and promote the operation of the fatal law of sin and death. Oh yes, we must keep at this overcoming grace. What do you overcome? All things that make up what the black-page materials signify. You must overcome everything that seeks to separate you from God's love in Christ Jesus; and labours to prevent you from always longing to become more like Him.

Let us look at this carefully from another angle. The Bible talks of the early and the latter rain. They are used to show two levels of a series of blessings that the Lord Jesus Christ gives to us when we believe on Him (James 5:7). When we became born again and the Lord came to dwell in us in the person of the Holy Spirit, it was the Lord giving us the early rain. With the early Rain comes a host of privileges and blessings that are both exciting and indicative of more to come. Rightly seen, the early rain leads us in the preparation for the latter rain.

The early Rain outpouring on the believing convert God did not require him to make comprehensive preparations. In other words, in the release of the early rain, Jesus Christ, as it were, did all the preparation for us. Somebody came and preached the gospel to us and we gave our lives to Christ. By that we were qualified to freely receive some aspects of the blessings of redemption (forgiveness of sins, gift of righteousness, healing and deliverance, freedom and liberty from all oppression, favour and prosperity, peace and friendship with God and many more). In addition, the Holy Spirit came to live in us and to give us the power to live as the sons of God. All these things become ours automatically. You do not need to do anything extra to have them. You only need to receive them by faith. But it is not so with the latter rain. To receive the latter rain, you have to prepare yourself. There are things you must do and there are things that must be found in you to qualify you to receive the blessings that comes with the latter rain.

What are the blessings that come with receiving the latter rain and what are the things you must do to receive the blessings? Well, we will talk about them in summary sketches. But first, we should ask, what is the latter rain? We answer by saying that the latter rain is a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ coming to us in His full glory (Hosea 6:3; James 5:7, 8) just as the early rain is the Lord lesus Christ coming to us in the person of the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Lord to us in the latter rain (in the fullness of the glory of His person) is the power that will bring us to the same glory with Him, and we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1)ohn 3:3; Philippians 3:20-21; Titus 2:13). For this, we must prepare ourselves; you must prepare yourself; you must be living an overcoming life. You must be growing and becoming more like Him in His moral excellence.

Every time you are being taught the word of God; it is to enable you prepare for the latter rain. The first rain (the coming of the Lord to you in the early rain) teaches you about Christ, makes you to receive Him into your heart, gives you forgiveness of sins, gives you the Holy Spirit, and also gives you the responsibility to grow in Christ each day. It teaches you to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts (all those bad habits and evil desires that trouble the children of this world, like fornication, bad films, pride and arrogance, uncontrollable desire for money, indecent dressing, wild parties, and all manner of sexual perversions) and that we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world (Titus 2:11,12). If you are following Him in this manner, yielding to the teachings of the Holy Spirit in the early rain, living in Him, growing in Him, and serving Him, then you are, in every sense, preparing yourself for the latter rain.

In order to receive the blessings that come with the latter rain, you must follow on to know the Lord (Hosea 6:3); you must prepare your heart; you must sow the word of God into your life. In addition, you must remove from your life the things that the Lord does not approve; you must be found seeking the Lord, longing for Him, desiring His appearing (Hosea 10:12; Hebrews 9:28).

A song reflects this call to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord as the latter rain. It is sourced in Hosea 6:2-3. It says

After two days He will revive us. On the third day He will raise us up After two days Death hold is broken On the third day He will restore, Then shall we know, If we follow on to know the LORD His going forth Is as the morning Then shall the lame leap The weak shall be made strong And He shall come to us As the latter rain.

Remember. Just as the Holy Spirit came to us, invisibly and entered into us, by living in Christ every day, we are preparing ourselves for Him who is coming again, not in flesh and blood as He came when He took on human nature, but in the glory of Deity, in the glory of the life He now has. We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

However, the emphasis on the importance of preparation must not be taken for granted. We repeat: One must be growing in Him, living an overcoming life. You must crystalize more of His nature and moral beauty.

There are four dimensions of blessings associated with the Latter Rain. The Lord Jesus Christ administers these blessings to deserving persons. We can call them four ultimate redemption blessings. Why do we call them redemption blessings? Because they are part of what He secured for us who believe on Him in this Age through his death on the cross. The Lord Jesus Christ, our High Priest, administers them.

Why do we say they are ultimate blessings? It is because these aspects of the blessings of redemption come at the end of our salvation experience, at the end of a faithful walk with God, at the time of the Lord's return.

The four ultimate redemption blessings bring us to the fullness of the divine nature. They make us to be like the Lord Jesus Christ in His glorified estate. So, each of them is signified by the gold colour. The consideration of every one of these blessings is covers the remaining part of this Book.

Chapter Seven

FOUR ULTIMATE REDEMPTION BLESSINGS: BECOMING A LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT



The first of these four ultimate redemption blessings is that the deserving person is made a life-giving Spirit, a life-giver. Just as the Lord Jesus Christ gives us life, you will be able to give life to others.

You are already experiencing a measure of this. Wherever you go, because the life of Christ is in you the Holy Spirit gives you power to preach Christ. When you preach Christ, people receive life. The life in you is able to bring increase to people because it is the life of Christ. So, we often sing a song which says

There is a river of life flowing out of me. It makes the lame to work and the blind to see It opens the prison doors and set the captives free There is a river of life flowing out of me.

This is true of every believer who has received the Holy Spirit and is having a growing experience in Christ (John 7:38, 39). He is able to minister the life of Christ to others in some measure. That life in us not only blesses others, but it also increases us in God's attributes (John 4:14). So, we sing again

Spring up, O well Within my soul Spring up, O well And make me whole Spring up, O well And give to me That life abundantly

And as we have more of His life, there comes a point when He makes us life-giving Spirits, just as He is. You will be able to create life and give life to creation. As God the Creator is, so you will be a life-giver as well. The first Adam gave you his nature and you were born a sinner, so will Christ, the last Adam, give you the fullness of his nature and you will become a life-giving Spirit. This is the first of the four ultimate redemption blessings that bring us to the fullness of God's plan.

Yes, God is making us divine. The divine life is the highest form of life that any creature can have. It is

higher than the life of angels (angelic spirits). It is a form of life that fully expresses God. Take careful note, God is not divine. He is Deity. But divinity is a creation of God to express Him in unlimited capacity. So whatever express God is called divine. He is making us fully divine, to bear the fullness of His image and likeness, to become like Him and be able to express Him *in service* to the rest of creation in an unlimited way. And one of the things associated with that is that He will make us lifegiving Spirits, just as He is. As we have borne the image of Adam, the earthy, we shall also bear the full image of Christ, the heavenly (1 Corinthians 15:49).

Chapter Eight

FOUR ULTIMATE REDEMPTION BLESSINGS: BECOMING INCORRUPTIBLE

The second of the four ultimate redemption blessings, is that you are going to be made incorruptible (I Corinthians 15:53). You will have an incorruptible life. Do you know what that means? It means ageing will cease. When this sets in, a man of say, 100 years old, will look like a man of 30 years.

In the Bible, the ageing process is called the bondage of corruption (Romans 8:21). It is a process that leads to physical death. The human body and faculties become weaker and weaker until they can no longer support life. It is a bondage because this death process has a very powerful grip over man. Man can never escape from its hold except something else that is more powerful comes in. Presently the entire human race is subject to the bondage of corruption. Even we that are Christians and have the Holy Spirit living in us are still subject to the dying process (Romans 8:23). Day after day, we feel the frailty and weaknesses of the present human body, which is subject to death. But incorruptibility is one of the promises of God to them who believe in Jesus Christ and faithfully follow Him.

Yes, the gospel offers incorruptibility to the believer because Jesus Christ by His death on the cross abolished death (2 Timothy 1:10). When somebody becomes incorruptible, he doesn't grow old. He grows wiser, full of love, but he doesn't grow old. He never ages, and so he never dies. If you don't age, you can't die.

This is the kind of life that spirit angels have. They have an incorruptible life, they do not age. They are kept in youthfulness eternally by the life that flows from God's presence. So, if you see a spirit angel today and see the same angel in another 1000 years, he will have the same youthfulness and life, but he would have grown in wisdom and knowledge.

Therefore, incorruptibility, the never to grow old estate, is the second ultimate redemption blessing that we will be brought into if you are faithful to Christ and you allow the Holy Spirit to grow you up in His image and likeness. Let us cry out to God to obtain help in this direction. The Bible teaches that it is possible for someone to come into this blessing while still here on earth (I Corinthians 15:53). Praise the Lord!



Chapter Nine

FOUR ULTIMATE REDEMPTION BLESSINGS: BECOMING IMMORTAL



This gold colour subject-indicator, in this discussion, represents immortality. It is the third of the four ultimate redemption blessings that the Lord will give to all those that love Him at the time of His coming.

Immortality is a very special possession. We are told in the Bible that only the ALMIGHTY GOD, the Creator, who revealed himself to us as Jesus Christ, has immortality (I Timothy 6:16). No creature has that kind of life, not even angelic spirits. A hymn come to mind here, it is commonly sang in churches and in many Christian school gatherings. It is inspired from what is written in I Timothy 6:16, and I Timothy I:17 among other Bible passages. It says Immortal, invisible, God only wise In light, inaccessible, hid from our eyes Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light. Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might Thy justice like mountains, high soaring above Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small In all life Thou livest, the true life of all We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree And wither and perish but naught changeth Thee

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight All praise we would render, o help us to see 'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee

Yes, He alone has immortality. But then, we find something in the Bible that blows the mind. That is, God has planned to give the same immortality, not to Spirit angels, but to the children of men, those of us who are called in Christ Jesus. God made this offer through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 1:10). When you believe the gospel and receive Jesus Christ into your heart, included in God's purpose for you is the call to immortality. Shout Halleluiah! That is the love of God. He does not keep Himself from us. The wonder of it! He makes us like Himself, Deity excluded. He is Deity but what He makes us is divine. Always remember, divinity is not the same thing as Deity. We can never become Deity, but He will make us fully divine, having a life far above that of Spirit angels, able to represent and manifest Him in all of His attributes. Angelic Spirits in all of their rankings are not divine, they occupy a lower estate of life, but God is making us (the body of Christ) fully divine.

So, God alone has immortality. No creature has it. Angelic spirits are incorruptible; they do not age or die, because they are kept in life by the immortal One, the Lord God Almighty. But they are mortal and can die or be destroyed. It is the Almighty God, who alone is immortal that keeps creation alive. Remember the hymn above. Somewhere in the third stanza, it says ... To all life Thou givest, to both great and small. In all life Thou livest, the true life of all. Yes, He is the true life of all, the light that lightens every creature (John 1:9). If for any reason a creature is disconnected from God, the fountain of life, darkness will take over and the creature will start to lose life and eventually die (even if it takes thousands of years), because no creature is immortal.

So, what is immortality? There are two important things we need to know. First, it means to have life in oneself, not dependent on anyone or anything for

existence. The Immortal One has life in himself and that life is not exhaustible. He gives out life to all creation and sustains all things, visible and invisible, in life. Yet He does not faint nor get weary; He is not exhausted because life is inherent in Him (John 5:26; Isaiah 40:28). Remember again the hymn... unresting, unhasting, silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting... Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of days. Almighty, victorious. Halleluiah! The one that is immortal can never die or be destroyed or reduced in any way, because he has life in himself.

Secondly, the immortal One can be present everywhere at the same time without losing life. He can be in different places at the same time and there will be no loss of glory or virtue. That is how it is now with the Lord Jesus Christ. He can be everywhere at the same time and wherever He is, He is the same person, full of life and glory. He does not need to travel to be in a place. He can reveal His presence at any place at any point in time and at various places at the same time as the occasion demands. He did not have this capacity when he was on earth as a man, he could only be in one place at a time. But He now has immortality.

Yes, God will make us immortal. Now as humans and mortals, we cannot be in more than one place at a time. And to be in a place, we will need to travel to go there. It is either we travel by air or by road or by sea. But we must travel. Angelic Spirits also need to 'travel' to get to a place they need to be, except that the mode, manner and speed of their movements are quite different from those of humans. But the Almighty God does not travel; He does not go nor come. He can be everywhere present at the same time and in the fullness of Himself. Glory to His name forever!

So, we are very limited in our capacities now. But God will give us immortality. It is a promise in the gospel of Jesus Christ. And if you are faithful and growing in Christ, the promise will be fulfilled for you.

Immortality will allow us to be wherever we want to be without travelling and to be present at many places at the same time without losing life. Just the mere thought of wanting to be in a place, and in less than a second you are there without any limitation, because of the presence of so much life. And somebody will say, Hey, I saw you in Lagos yesterday, you came to our fellowship. At the same time, another person will say you were with them in New York yesterday. And yet another group of persons will send a message that you visited them in Berlin at that same hour and they were tremendously blessed by your presence.

But we have to first prove that we are worthy of the latter rain. Remember, the first rain, the early rain, is the teachings of the Holy Spirit. But the latter rain is the Lord Jesus Christ coming in His glory. And when we see Him, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).

Chapter Nine

FOUR ULTIMATE REDEMPTION BLESSINGS: PRIESTS UNPON THE THRONE



This final aspect of the message that the metaphor of the gold colour incorporates speaks of the fourth of the ultimate redemption blessings. It represents a particular attribute of God, which is royalty. God is king, He is Ruler, He is sovereign over all creation. His authority can never be contested. His kingdom has been from everlasting and continues to everlasting.

But through Jesus Christ, God is raising up a kingdom of Priests and Kings, a royal Priesthood (I Peter 2:9). The persons called unto this kingdom will be made kings; they will sit with Christ in His throne (Revelation 3:21). Put in another way, they will each have thrones (Revelation 20:4). That means they are going to be rulers, governors over all of God's creation, including angelic spirits.

But there is more to it. They are not only going to be kings; they are also going to be the priests of God. Jesus Christ is now the glorified High Priest, but these people, including you and me, if we are faithful to Him, will be Priests with Him, serving under Him in the same office.

Why are we going to be made priests? It is because there is a particular work of reconciliation that is to be carried out in the interest of God at the time when the kingdom shall commence its rule. The human race is going to be fully reconciled to God's purpose for creating man. Satan and all of his demons, sin in all of its workings and the effects of sin, including death, are to be finally destroyed, along with all those among the human race who will not submit to the authority of God through Jesus Christ. A great plan to rework the earth and reconstruct the human society (the way the world is organized) will unfold at the beginning of the next age. This will be in addition to teaching such of the human race, who open their hearts to the sovereign rule of Jesus Christ, the true knowledge of God. The Bible says the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14).

The Bible teaches that this work will take a thousand years of teaching and instructing the human race in the knowledge of God. They will be empowered to break away from all the evil habits they inherited from Adam and the ones they took on through the influence of Satan, the god of this present world (Ephesians 2:2; Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:4). Kings and Priests of God installed for the coming age shall carry out this assignment.

That is the function of a Priest, to reconcile men back to God. A priest is one that can come to God and then come to man. The priest is required to connect people to God because people, unaided, love to do their own things. But God loves them and wants to fulfil His purpose for them.

God had raised up priests before under the Old Testament. These priests, however, did not have the power to fulfil God's purpose for the human race. They were humans, and like all others, were subject to the limitations of sin and death. Therefore, that whole arrangement failed (Hebrews 8:8). The New priesthood is going to be made up of divine Spirits who will also have life in themselves (they will have immortality) (Hebrews 7:17, 3). No problem will be impossible for them to handle.

The Bible describes the royal priesthood that shall be operating in coming age as a NEW HEAVEN, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (Revelation 21:1, 2; Mathew 10:7) because they will operate from the spirit realm. But their influence will be visible and mighty upon the earth. By their rule and reign, they will bring about a NEW EARTH that totally reflects righteousness. So, as the Bible says in 2 Peter 3:13, we are awaiting new earth new heaven and a wherein а righteousness dwells. Heaven is for rulership, heaven is government (Daniel 4:26; Genesis 1:14-18). We as Kings and Priest along with others, who will be assisting us in that kingdom, constitute THE NEW HEAVEN. Then the new earth is the remaining of the human race (who shall remain humans on earth) now turned over to God, living in a new world system that is founded on the pure knowledge of God and righteousness, a world where there is no more sin, and sorrow and pain and death (Revelation 21:3-5).

Yes, a royal priesthood, priests sitting on thrones, That is part of what God is raising up. Now, we are **priest unto Him** (Revelation 5:8-10), learning to worship and serve Him as we preach the gospel and show His love and compassion to others. But all those are part of our necessary training; we must go through them to be prepared. But the real work that God has for you as His son will commence when you are raised up as a king and priest on the throne. And He will do this in all who are faithful to Him.

It is a great privilege indeed for God to call anyone to sit with Him on His throne. Persons who were once lorded over by the devil should be elevated to a placement in Christ as Priests and Saviours is mind blowing. However remember, for the early rain, much of the work was done for us by God and others. However, for the latter rain, we must choose and manifest the life of obedient submission to God in all things. Not all who claims to believe on Jesus Christ receive these four ultimate redemption blessings, because to receive them, One must prove worthy of them by living for Christ. You must overcome to receive them (Revelation 3:21).

Who is an overcomer? An 'overcomer' is a believer who overcomes every problem of life that wants to stop him from loving God, becoming like Him and doing what God wants him to do. He is able to do this because he is growing in Christ. "Him that overcomes, will Christ will make a life-giving Spirit; He will also make him incorruptible", Then He will make him immortal, and He will grant him to sit with Him in His throne to reign as king and priest in the Kingdom.

And the wonderful thing about all these is that God is not waiting until you die before He will give you these redemption blessings. Because the time for them to be given is now, He has shown in the Bible that while we are yet physically alive, if we are growing and living an overcoming life, at a point in our walk with Him, He will raise us up into the fullness of the divine estate (I Corinthians 15:51). The Bible even points to the fact that God will undertake to keep some alive to receive these ultimate redemption blessings while they are yet in this human body (I Peter I:5). You can be one of such! Me too. It all begins with allowing Him to come into one's life. Thereafter, desire God's help in making and sticking to a decision to live in Him and for Him.

Will you not rather live for him and be immortal? The glories of the ultimate redemption blessings really ought to inspire all believe consecrate themselves to Christ all the way. When you set them as a sure hope before you, it will influence your entire life, making it well pleasing unto God (I John 3:3). You will not be double-minded or practice secret sins. You will not be found in certain situations that God does not like. Your life will be straight and focused; it will be like a transparent glass. You will not be serving him for money and other things you can get in this world. Your life will give Him pleasure and satisfaction.

Yes, if we are going to make it to the best that God wants for us, our eyes must properly focus on His coming as the latter Rain. Then, these four ultimate redemption blessing that will be ours when He appears.

Let us draw upon the ministry of the Holy Spirit to prepare ourselves for His coming and be found approved in His sight; worthy of the inheritance. Just like we can with joyful memories, individually recall the day that the Lord saved us and came into our life, even more so we must you set our eyes in joyful expectations of the day of His coming as the latter rain. That is the meaning of this song, which you should now sing as we bring this meditation to a close.

Oh, that day What a day that day shall be I will never forget that day When I shall see Jesus face to face When I see Him face to face

May the reader now call on the God of all glory and grace to cause this song to be real in his or her life? I earnestly long for this unique experience for self and for all those that love His name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen and Amen.