

**KEY STATEMENTS
FOR
THE 2020 MEMORIAL DAY CONFERENCE**

We need to see the world situation as the indicator of God's move on earth and the vision of world history from Christ's ascension to the end of this age;
we also need to work together with the Lord to spread
the truths of the Lord's recovery as a preparation for His coming back
and to persevere in prayer, while discerning "the signs of the times."

We need to see a spiritual vision of the throne of God
as the center of God's administration throughout the universe
and realize that the sovereign God has the full capacity to carry out what He wants
according to the desire of His heart and according to His eternal economy,
as He is ruling over everyone and everything.

Today the way to become vitalized is to answer God's call
to be His overcomers, His dispensational instrument, to turn the age;
an overcomer is a vital person, and a vital person
(one who is living and active) is a praying person.

The marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion
of God's New Testament economy, which is to obtain for Christ a bride, the church,
through His judicial redemption and by His organic salvation in His divine life;
the Lord's recovery is for the preparation of the bride,
who is composed of all His overcomers.

The 2020 Memorial Day Conference

May 22-25, 2020

GENERAL SUBJECT:
**A TIMELY WORD CONCERNING
THE WORLD SITUATION AND THE LORD'S RECOVERY**

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**Outline of the Messages
for the Memorial Day Conference
May 22-25, 2020**

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A TIMELY WORD CONCERNING
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Message One

**The World Situation as the Indicator of God's Move on Earth,
the Vision of World History from Christ's Ascension to the End of This Age,
the Spreading of the Truths of the Lord's Recovery
as a Preparation for His Coming Back,
and Persevering in Prayer, While Discerning "the Signs of the Times"**

EM Hymns: 784

Scripture Reading: Acts 5:31; 17:26-27; Dan. 2:31-45; Rev. 6:1-8;
4:1-2; 1:10-11; Col. 4:2; Matt. 24:3-14, 32-34

- Acts 5:31 This One God has exalted to His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
- Acts 17:26 And He made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, determining beforehand their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling,
- Acts 17:27 That they might seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, even though He is not far from each one of us;
- Dan 2:31 You, O king, were watching, and there was a single great image. This image, large and its brightness surpassing, stood opposite you; and its appearance was frightful.
- Dan 2:32 Concerning this image, its head was of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its abdomen and its thighs of bronze,
- Dan 2:33 Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.
- Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
- Dan 2:36 This is the dream; and we will tell its interpretation before the king.
- Dan 2:37 You, O king, are king of kings, to whom the God of the heavens has given kingship, power, and strength and glory.
- Dan 2:38 And wherever the children of men, the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky dwell, He has given them into your hand and has made you ruler over all of them. You are the head of gold.
- Dan 2:39 And after you another kingdom will arise, inferior to you; and there will be another kingdom, a third one, of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.
- Dan 2:40 And there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters everything; and like iron that smashes all these, it will crush and smash.
- Dan 2:41 And in that you saw the feet and the toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom will be a confused mass; but there will be some of the firmness of iron in it, for you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay.
- Dan 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be fragile.
- Dan 2:43 And in that you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay, they will be mixed together through the seed of men, but they will not cleave to one another, even as iron does not mix with clay.
- Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.
- Dan 2:45 Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king

what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.

Rev 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying like the sound of thunder, Come.

Rev 6:2 And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he who sits on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer.

Rev 6:3 And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, Come.

Rev 6:4 And I saw, and behold, another horse, a red one, went forth; and to him who sits on it, to him authority was given to take peace from the earth, and that men should slay one another; and to him a great sword was given.

Rev 6:5 And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, Come. And I saw, and behold, a black horse; and he who sits on it had a balance in his hand.

Rev 6:6 And I heard as it were a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying: A choenix of wheat for a denarius and three choenixes of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.

Rev 6:7 And when He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, Come.

Rev 6:8 And I saw, and behold, a pale horse, and he who sits upon it, his name is Death; and Hades followed with him. And authority was given to them over the fourth part of the earth to kill with the sword and with famine and with death and by the beasts of the earth.

Rev 4:1 After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these things.

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

Rev 1:10 I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,

Matt 24:3 And as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, When will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming and of the consummation of the age?

Matt 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them, See that no one leads you astray.

Matt 24:5 For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and they will lead many astray.

Matt 24:6 And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for it must happen; but the end is not yet.

Matt 24:7 For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Matt 24:8 All these things are the beginning of birth pangs.

Matt 24:9 Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be hated by all the nations because of My name.

Matt 24:10 And at that time many will be stumbled and will deliver up one another and will hate one another.

Matt 24:11 And many false prophets will arise and will lead many astray.

Matt 24:12 And because lawlessness will be multiplied, the love of the many will grow cold.

Matt 24:13 But he who has endured to the end, this one shall be saved.

Matt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Matt 24:32 But learn the parable from the fig tree: As soon as its branch has become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near.

Matt 24:33 So also you, when you see all these things, know that it is near, at the doors.

Matt 24:34 Truly I say to you that this generation shall by no means pass away until all these things happen.

I. We need to be in our spirit so that we can be men on earth with God's heart, men to whom heaven can be opened to see the vision of God concerning the destiny of the world—Rev. 1:10; 4:1-2; cf. Gen. 28:12-17; Ezek. 1:1; Matt. 3:16; Acts 7:56.

Rev 1:10 I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

Rev 4:1 After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these things.

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

- Gen 28:12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.
- Gen 28:13 And there was Jehovah, standing above it; and He said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and to your seed.
- Gen 28:14 And your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.
- Gen 28:15 And, behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will cause you to return to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.
- Gen 28:16 And Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, Surely Jehovah is in this place, and I did not know it.
- Gen 28:17 And he was afraid and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.
- Ezek 1:1 Now in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth of the month, while I was among the captives by the river Chebar, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.
- Matt 3:16 And having been baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him.
- Acts 7:56 And he said, Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

II. The world situation is the indicator of God's move on earth—5:31; 17:26-27; Dan. 2:31-45:

- Acts 5:31 This One God has exalted to His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
- Acts 17:26 And He made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, determining beforehand their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling,
- Acts 17:27 That they might seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, even though He is not far from each one of us;
- Dan 2:31 You, O king, were watching, and there was a single great image. This image, large and its brightness surpassing, stood opposite you; and its appearance was frightful.
- Dan 2:32 Concerning this image, its head was of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its abdomen and its thighs of bronze,
- Dan 2:33 Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.
- Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
- Dan 2:36 This is the dream; and we will tell its interpretation before the king.
- Dan 2:37 You, O king, are king of kings, to whom the God of the heavens has given kingship, power, and strength and glory.
- Dan 2:38 And wherever the children of men, the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky dwell, He has given them into your hand and has made you ruler over all of them. You are the head of gold.
- Dan 2:39 And after you another kingdom will arise, inferior to you; and there will be another kingdom, a third one, of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.
- Dan 2:40 And there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters everything; and like iron that smashes all these, it will crush and smash.
- Dan 2:41 And in that you saw the feet and the toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom will be a confused mass; but there will be some of the firmness of iron in it, for you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay.
- Dan 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be fragile.
- Dan 2:43 And in that you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay, they will be mixed together through the seed of men, but they will not cleave to one another, even as iron does not mix with clay.

- Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.
- Dan 2:45 Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.
- A. All the major events of human history have been arranged and matched by God for His move on earth; since God has a purpose to accomplish with mankind on earth, He surely has the sovereign authority to manage the situation in human history; as an example, for the spreading of His recovery and for the final stage of His recovery—the building up of the Body as the preparation of the bride—God has sovereignly prepared, preserved, and blessed the United States—Acts 17:26; 5:31; Rom. 12:4-5; Rev. 19:7.
- Acts 17:26 And He made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, determining beforehand their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling,
- Acts 5:31 This One God has exalted to His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- B. The entire world situation with its “birth pangs” is for the completion of the re-formation of Israel and also for the completion of the full delivery of the universal new man—Matt. 24:32-34; Mark 13:8; Dan. 12:1-2; Rev. 12:1-2, 5.
- Matt 24:32 But learn the parable from the fig tree: As soon as its branch has become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near.
- Matt 24:33 So also you, when you see all these things, know that it is near, at the doors.
- Matt 24:34 Truly I say to you that this generation shall by no means pass away until all these things happen.
- Mark 13:8 For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These things are the beginning of birth pangs.
- Dan 12:1 And at that time Michael, the great prince who stands for the children of your people, will arise; and there will be a time of distress, such as never occurred since there came to be a nation until that time; and at that time your people, every one found written in the book, will be delivered.
- Dan 12:2 And many of those who are sleeping in the dust of the ground will awake, some to life eternal and some to reproach, to eternal contempt.
- Rev 12:1 And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon underneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;
- Rev 12:2 And she was with child, and she cried out, travailing in birth and being in pain to bring forth.
- Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.
- C. The vision of the great human image in Daniel 2 is a vision of “what will happen in the last days” (v. 28); it is a prophetic illustration of the history of human government, sovereignly arranged by the Lord for the carrying out of His economy (vv. 31-35):
- Dan 2 be omitted
- Dan 2:28 But there is a God in the heavens who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the last days. This is your dream, even the visions of your head upon your bed.
- Dan 2:31 You, O king, were watching, and there was a single great image. This image, large and its brightness surpassing, stood opposite you; and its appearance was frightful.
- Dan 2:32 Concerning this image, its head was of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its abdomen and its thighs of bronze,

- Dan 2:33 Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.
- Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
1. The head of gold (vv. 36-38), corresponding to the first beast in 7:3-4, signifies Nebuchadnezzar, the founder and the king of Babylon.

Dan 2:36 This is the dream; and we will tell its interpretation before the king.

Dan 2:37 You, O king, are king of kings, to whom the God of the heavens has given kingship, power, and strength and glory.

Dan 2:38 And wherever the children of men, the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky dwell, He has given them into your hand and has made you ruler over all of them. You are the head of gold.

Dan 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

Dan 7:4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were plucked and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man; and a man's heart was given to it.
 2. The breast and the arms of silver (2:39a), corresponding to the second beast in 7:5, signify Medo-Persia.

Dan 2:39a And after you another kingdom will arise, inferior to you; ...

Dan 7:5 And there was another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and they said thus to it, Arise, devour much flesh.
 3. The abdomen and thighs of bronze (2:39b), corresponding to the third beast in 7:6, signify Greece, including Macedonia.

Dan 2:39b ... and there will be another kingdom, a third one, of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

Dan 7:6 After this I watched and there was another beast, like a leopard; and it had four wings of a bird on its back; and the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.
 4. The legs of iron and the feet partly of iron and partly of clay (2:33), corresponding to the fourth beast in 7:7-8, signify the Roman Empire with its last ten kings (2:40-44a; 7:7-11, 19-26; Rev. 17:7-13).

Dan 2:33 Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

Dan 2:40 And there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters everything; and like iron that smashes all these, it will crush and smash.

Dan 2:41 And in that you saw the feet and the toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom will be a confused mass; but there will be some of the firmness of iron in it, for you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay.

Dan 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be fragile.

Dan 2:43 And in that you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay, they will be mixed together through the seed of men, but they will not cleave to one another, even as iron does not mix with clay.

Dan 2:44a And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; ...

Dan 7:7 After this I watched in the night visions, and there was a fourth beast, dreadful and frightful and exceedingly strong; and it had large iron teeth; it devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Dan 7:8 I was considering the horns; then there was another horn, a small one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted from before it. And there were eyes like the eyes of a man in this horn and a mouth speaking great things.

- Dan 7:9 I watched / Until thrones were set, / And the Ancient of Days sat down. / His clothing was like white snow, / And the hair of His head was like pure wool; / His throne was flames of fire, / Its wheels, burning fire.
- Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.
- Dan 7:11 I watched then because of the sound of the great things that the horn was speaking; I watched until the beast was slain and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.
- Dan 7:19 Then I wished to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, which devoured, crushed, and trampled under the remainder with its feet,
- Dan 7:20 And of the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up, and before which three horns fell, even that horn that had eyes and a mouth speaking great things and whose appearance was greater than that of its companions.
- Dan 7:21 I watched and that horn waged war with the saints and prevailed against them,
Dan 7:22 Until the Ancient of Days came; and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.
- Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast will be the fourth kingdom upon the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms; and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.
- Dan 7:24 And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise, and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones; and he will subdue three kings.
- Dan 7:25 And he will speak things against the Most High and wear out the saints of the Most High; and his intention will be to change the times and the law; and they will be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.
- Dan 7:26 But the court of judgment will sit, and they will take away his dominion, so as to annihilate and destroy it unto the end.
- Rev 17:7 And the angel said to me, Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast who bears her, who has the seven heads and the ten horns.
- Rev 17:8 The beast that you saw was and is not and is about to come up out of the abyss and go into perdition. And those who dwell on the earth, those whose names are not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life, will marvel when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will be present.
- Rev 17:9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are the seven mountains where the woman sits
- Rev 17:10 And are seven kings: five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain only a short time.
- Rev 17:11 And the beast who was and is not, he himself is also the eighth and is out of the seven and goes into perdition.
- Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom but receive authority as kings for one hour with the beast.
- Rev 17:13 These have one mind, and they give their power and authority to the beast.
5. Although the form and appearance of the Roman Empire have vanished, the culture, spirit, and essence of the Roman Empire continue to exist today; at the beginning of the great tribulation (Matt. 24:21) the form and appearance of the Roman Empire will be restored under Antichrist (Dan. 7:12).
- Matt 24:21 For at that time there will be great tribulation, such as has not occurred from the beginning of the world until now, nor shall by any means ever occur.
- Dan 7:12 And as for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was given to them for a season and a time.
- D. The ten kings with their kingdoms, typified by the ten toes of the great image in Daniel 2, will be joined together under Antichrist, who will be the last Caesar of the revived Roman Empire; all of this will transpire in Europe—Rev. 17:10-14:
Dan 2 be omitted.

- Rev 17:10 And are seven kings: five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain only a short time.
- Rev 17:11 And the beast who was and is not, he himself is also the eighth and is out of the seven and goes into perdition.
- Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom but receive authority as kings for one hour with the beast.
- Rev 17:13 These have one mind, and they give their power and authority to the beast.
- Rev 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, will also overcome them.
1. The mystery of lawlessness is working today among the nations and in human society; this lawlessness will culminate in the man of lawlessness, Antichrist—2 Thes. 2:3-10.
 - 2 Thes 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition,
 - 2 Thes 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or an object of worship, so that he sits in the temple of God, setting himself forth, saying that he is God.
 - 2 Thes 2:5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I said these things to you?
 - 2 Thes 2:6 And now you know that which restrains, so that he might be revealed in his own time.
 - 2 Thes 2:7 For it is the mystery of lawlessness that is now operating, but only until the one now restraining goes out of the way.
 - 2 Thes 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord Jesus will slay by the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of His coming),
 - 2 Thes 2:9 The coming of whom is according to Satan's operation in all power and signs and wonders of a lie
 - 2 Thes 2:10 And in all deceit of unrighteousness among those who are perishing, because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved.
 2. Antichrist will be the power of Satan, the embodiment of Satan; he will persecute and destroy the people of God—both the God-fearing Jews and the Christ-believing Christians—Dan. 8:24; Rev. 12:17; 13:7.
 - Dan 8:24 And his power will be mighty, but not by his own power. / And he will destroy in an extraordinary manner / And will prosper and take action. / He will destroy mighty men / And the holy people.
 - Rev 12:17 And the dragon became angry with the woman and went away to make war with the rest of her seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus.
 - Rev 13:7 And permission was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority was given to him over every tribe and people and tongue and nation.
 3. Antichrist will demolish and desolate the temple of God and the city of God; he will cast truth down to the ground—Dan. 9:27; 8:12.
 - Dan 9:27 And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week; and in the middle of the week he will cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease and will replace the sacrifice and the oblation with abominations of the desolator, even until the complete destruction that has been determined is poured out upon the desolator.
 - Dan 8:12 And an army was given to him together with the daily sacrifice because of transgression; and he cast truth down to the ground, and he took action and prospered.
 4. Antichrist will have sharp insight to perceive things and will speak things against the Most High—7:8, 20, 25.
 - Dan 7:8 I was considering the horns; then there was another horn, a small one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted from before it. And there were eyes like the eyes of a man in this horn and a mouth speaking

- great things.
- Dan 7:20 And of the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up, and before which three horns fell, even that horn that had eyes and a mouth speaking great things and whose appearance was greater than that of its companions.
- Dan 7:25 And he will speak things against the Most High and wear out the saints of the Most High; and his intention will be to change the times and the law; and they will be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.
5. Antichrist will wear out the saints of the Most High; we have to resist and oppose the gradual, repeated, frequent, and daily wearing-out tactics of Satan—v. 25; Matt. 24:12; Judg. 16:16; Eph. 6:11-13.
- Dan 7:25 And he will speak things against the Most High and wear out the saints of the Most High; and his intention will be to change the times and the law; and they will be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.
- Matt 24:12 And because lawlessness will be multiplied, the love of the many will grow cold.
- Judg 16:16 And after she pressed him with her words every day and urged him, his soul was tired to death.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
6. Satan and Antichrist want the souls of men to be the instruments for their activities in the last age—Rev. 18:11-13; 2 Tim. 3:5; cf. Zech. 12:1.
- Rev 18:11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargo anymore:
- Rev 18:12 Cargo of gold and silver and precious stone and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of thiyne wood, and every vessel of ivory, and every vessel of most precious wood and brass and iron and marble,
- Rev 18:13 And cinnamon and amomum and incense and ointment and frankincense and wine and oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargo of horses and chariots and slaves and souls of men.
- 2 Tim 3:5 Having an outward form of godliness, though denying its power; from these also turn away.
- Zech 12:1 The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. Thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him,
- E. At His appearing as the God-cut stone, Christ with His overcomers—the corporate Christ—will strike the ten kings with Antichrist (Rev. 19:11-21), thereby crushing the great image from the toes to the head (Dan. 2:35).
- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
- Rev 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.
- Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
- Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
- Rev 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God,

- Rev 19:18 That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great.
- Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.
- Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

F. Before the crushing of Antichrist and the totality of human government transpires, the Lord's recovery must spread to Europe and be rooted there; Europe, in the consummation of the fulfillment of the vision concerning the great human image in Daniel 2, is more vitally crucial than any other country or race—the crushing of the two feet of the great human image will be the crushing of the entire human government—vv. 34-35.

Dan 2 be omitted.

Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

G. After coming to defeat Antichrist and to crush the aggregate of human government, the corporate Christ—Christ with His overcoming bride—will become a great mountain to fill the whole earth, making the whole earth God's kingdom; this kingdom will consummate in the New Jerusalem—the ultimate and consummate step of the divine history—Rev. 20:4, 6; 21:10.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

III. The first four seals opened by the Lamb-God give us a vision of world history from Christ's ascension to the end of this age (cf. 4:1-2; 5:1-14); they show us that immediately after His ascension (Mark 16:19-20) there has been a four-horse race continuing through the entire age of the church until Christ's return:

Rev 4:1 After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these things.

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

Rev 5:1 And I saw on the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

Rev 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?

- Rev 5:3 And no one in heaven nor on the earth nor under the earth was able to open the scroll or look into it.
- Rev 5:4 And I wept much because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look into it.
- Rev 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.
- Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
- Rev 5:7 And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne.
- Rev 5:8 And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which bowls are the prayers of the saints.
- Rev 5:9 And they sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
- Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
- Rev 5:11 And I saw, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and of the living creatures and of the elders, and their number was ten thousands of ten thousands and thousands of thousands,
- Rev 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who has been slain to receive the power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.
- Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea and all things in them, I heard saying, To Him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever.
- Rev 5:14 And the four living creatures said, Amen. And the elders fell down and worshipped.
- Mark 16:19 So then the Lord Jesus, after speaking to them, was taken up into heaven and sat at the right hand of God.
- Mark 16:20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the accompanying signs.
- A. The first seal consists of a white horse and its rider, signifying the spreading of the gospel—
Rev. 6:1-2:
- Rev 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying like the sound of thunder, Come.
- Rev 6:2 And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he who sits on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer.
1. The bow without an arrow signifies that Christ's fighting for the constitution of the gospel of peace is finished and that the victory is won; a crown signifies that the gospel has been crowned with the glory of Christ—2 Cor. 4:4.
2 Cor 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.
 2. *Went forth conquering* signifies that the gospel has been going forth with Christ to conquer all kinds of opposition and attack—Rev. 6:2.
Rev 6:2 And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he who sits on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer.
 3. The overcomers who preach the gospel of the glory of Christ become the riders of the white horse—Eph. 3:8-11; Rom. 1:1; Rev. 19:11, 13-14.
Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
Rom 1:1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

- Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
- Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- B. The second seal consists of a red horse and its rider, signifying the spreading of war—6:3-4:
- Rev 6:3 And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, Come.
- Rev 6:4 And I saw, and behold, another horse, a red one, went forth; and to him who sits on it, to him authority was given to take peace from the earth, and that men should slay one another; and to him a great sword was given.
1. *Red* signifies the shedding of blood, and a *great sword* signifies weapons for fighting.
 2. *To take peace from the earth* signifies that war is continuing on the earth; *that men should slay one another* signifies that people will fight one another—v. 4; Matt. 24:7.
- Rev 6:4 And I saw, and behold, another horse, a red one, went forth; and to him who sits on it, to him authority was given to take peace from the earth, and that men should slay one another; and to him a great sword was given.
- Matt 24:7 For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.
- C. The third seal consists of a black horse and its rider, signifying the spreading of famine—Rev. 6:5-6:
- Rev 6:5 And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, Come. And I saw, and behold, a black horse; and he who sits on it had a balance in his hand.
- Rev 6:6 And I heard as it were a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying: A choenix of wheat for a denarius and three choenixes of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.
1. A balance, a scale used to weigh precious things, being used here to weigh food signifies the scarcity of food; a quart of wheat, good pay for a day's labor, and three quarts of barley, also good pay for a day's labor (Matt. 20:2), signify the high price of food in its scarcity.
- Matt 20:2 And having agreed with the workmen for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.
2. *Do not harm the oil and the wine* (oil and wine are for man's pleasure—Psa. 104:15—and are always in short supply and become precious in famine) signifies the presence of famine.
- Psa 104:15 Even wine that cheers man's heart, / Oil that makes his face shine, / And bread that sustains man's heart.
- D. The fourth seal consists of a pale horse and its rider, signifying the spreading of death—Rev. 6:7-8:
- Rev 6:7 And when He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, Come.
- Rev 6:8 And I saw, and behold, a pale horse, and he who sits upon it, his name is Death; and Hades followed with him. And authority was given to them over the fourth part of the earth to kill with the sword and with famine and with death and by the beasts of the earth.
1. *Pale* signifies the color of the appearance of those stricken with the plague; Hades following Death signifies that Hades receives and retains those whom death has killed.
 2. Authority is given to Death and Hades over the fourth part of the earth to kill with the sword, famine, and death and by the beasts of the earth—cf. vv. 9-11; Luke 18:1-2, 7-8.
- Rev 6:9 And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and because of the testimony which they had.
- Rev 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Master, holy and true, will You not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?

- Rev 6:11 And to each of them was given a white robe; and it was said to them that they should rest yet a little while, until also the number of their fellow slaves and their brothers who were about to be killed, even as they were, is completed.
- Luke 18:1 And He told them a parable to the end that they ought always to pray and not lose heart,
- Luke 18:2 Saying, There was a certain judge in a certain city who did not fear God and did not regard man.
- Luke 18:7 And will not God by all means carry out the avenging of His chosen ones, who cry to Him day and night, though He is long-suffering over them?
- Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?

IV. The spreading of the truths of the Lord’s recovery will be a preparation for the Lord’s coming back to bring the recovery and restoration not only to Israel but also to the entire creation—Matt. 24:14; 28:19; 19:28; Isa. 11:9; cf. Rev. 5:6-8:

- Matt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.
- Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- Matt 19:28 And Jesus said to them, Truly I say to you that you who have followed Me, in the restoration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you also shall sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Isa 11:9 They will not harm nor destroy / In all My holy mountain, / For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah, / As water covers the sea.
- Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
- Rev 5:7 And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne.
- Rev 5:8 And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which bowls are the prayers of the saints.

A. Immediately after Christ’s ascension, these four things—the gospel, war, famine, and death—began to run like riders on four horses, and they will continue until Christ comes back—6:1-8:

- Rev 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying like the sound of thunder, Come.
- Rev 6:2 And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he who sits on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer.
- Rev 6:3 And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, Come.
- Rev 6:4 And I saw, and behold, another horse, a red one, went forth; and to him who sits on it, to him authority was given to take peace from the earth, and that men should slay one another; and to him a great sword was given.
- Rev 6:5 And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, Come. And I saw, and behold, a black horse; and he who sits on it had a balance in his hand.
- Rev 6:6 And I heard as it were a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying: A choenix of wheat for a denarius and three choenixes of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.
- Rev 6:7 And when He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, Come.
- Rev 6:8 And I saw, and behold, a pale horse, and he who sits upon it, his name is Death; and Hades followed with him. And authority was given to them over the fourth part of the earth to kill with the sword and with famine and with death and by the beasts of the earth.

1. The spreading, running, and racing of the gospel of the kingdom throughout the whole inhabited earth is the kernel of the divine history within human history—Matt. 24:14.

- Matt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

2. The gospel of the kingdom, signified by the white horse of the first seal in Revelation 6:1-2, will be preached in the whole earth for a testimony to all the nations before the end of this age, the time of the great tribulation.
- Rev 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying like the sound of thunder, Come.
- Rev 6:2 And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he who sits on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer.
- B. We are not preaching a partial gospel but the full gospel that encompasses everything from Matthew through Revelation—the gospel of God’s eternal economy to dispense Himself in Christ as the Spirit into His chosen ones through His judicial redemption and by His organic salvation for the building up of His Body in the local churches to consummate the New Jerusalem as His bride, His wife, for His eternal expression—1 Tim. 1:3-4; Rom. 1:1; 5:10; Rev. 1:10-11; 21:2-3, 9-11; 22:1-2.
- 1 Tim 1:3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things
- 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God’s economy, which is in faith.
- Rom 1:1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,
- Rev 1:10 I was in spirit on the Lord’s Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,
- Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.
- Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
- Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
- Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- C. Actually, the gospel includes all the divine truths; the entire New Testament is the gospel, and the New Testament as the gospel is typified by the Old Testament; thus, we may say that the gospel includes the entire Bible.
- D. God’s unique purpose in this age is to have the gospel preached so that the church as the Body of Christ might be built up to consummate the New Jerusalem—Eph. 3:8-11.
- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
- Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
- Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- E. May the Lord burden us to learn the divine truths of the gospel and to spread them everywhere for His recovery—Isa. 11:9; Dan. 11:32b-33; 2 Tim. 2:21.
- Isa 11:9 They will not harm nor destroy / In all My holy mountain, / For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah, / As water covers the sea.

- Dan 11:32b ... But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.
 Dan 11:33 And those with insight among the people will cause the many to understand; yet they will fall by sword and by flames, by captivity and by plundering for some days.
 2 Tim 2:21 If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.

V. In the present environment of the world, we need to devote ourselves to and persevere in prayer, while discerning “the signs of the times”—Acts 6:4; Col. 4:2; Matt. 16:3; Luke 21:24-36; Matt. 24:3-14, 32-34; Rom. 13:11-14:

- Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.
 Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,
 Matt 16:3 And in the morning, It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and gloomy. The face of the sky you know how to discern, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.
 Luke 21:24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.
 Luke 21:25 And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth anguish of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the billows,
 Luke 21:26 Men fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming upon the inhabited earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
 Luke 21:27 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
 Luke 21:28 And when these things begin to happen, stand erect and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.
 Luke 21:29 And He told them a parable: Look at the fig tree and all the trees.
 Luke 21:30 As soon as they sprout leaves, you see it and know of yourselves that the summer is already near.
 Luke 21:31 So also you, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.
 Luke 21:32 Truly I tell you that this generation shall by no means pass away until all things happen.
 Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall by no means pass away.
 Luke 21:34 But take heed to yourselves lest perhaps your hearts be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day come upon you suddenly as a snare.
 Luke 21:35 For it will come in upon all those dwelling on the face of all the earth.
 Luke 21:36 But be watchful at every time, beseeching that you would prevail to escape all these things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man.
 Matt 24:3 And as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, When will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming and of the consummation of the age?
 Matt 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them, See that no one leads you astray.
 Matt 24:5 For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and they will lead many astray.
 Matt 24:6 And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for it must happen; but the end is not yet.
 Matt 24:7 For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.
 Matt 24:8 All these things are the beginning of birth pangs.
 Matt 24:9 Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be hated by all the nations because of My name.
 Matt 24:10 And at that time many will be stumbled and will deliver up one another and will hate one another.
 Matt 24:11 And many false prophets will arise and will lead many astray.
 Matt 24:12 And because lawlessness will be multiplied, the love of the many will grow cold.
 Matt 24:13 But he who has endured to the end, this one shall be saved.
 Matt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.
 Matt 24:32 But learn the parable from the fig tree: As soon as its branch has become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near.
 Matt 24:33 So also you, when you see all these things, know that it is near, at the doors.
 Matt 24:34 Truly I say to you that this generation shall by no means pass away until all these things happen.

- Rom 13:11 And this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to be raised from sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.
- Rom 13:12 The night is far advanced, and the day has drawn near. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the weapons of light.
- Rom 13:13 Let us walk becomingly as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in fornication and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy.
- Rom 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.
- A. We need to realize that we are in the midst of “birth pangs” (Matt. 24:8, 32-34), that “the kingdom of God is near” (Luke 21:31), and thus, pray the last prayer in the Bible—“Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20); the entire Bible concludes with the desire for the Lord’s coming expressed as a prayer (cf. S. S. 8:13-14; 2 Tim. 4:8; Acts 26:16); Christ’s coming will be His presence (Gk. *parousia*) with His people (Matt. 24:3; Acts 26:15-16; Mark 13:8; John 14:21, 23).
- Matt 24:8 All these things are the beginning of birth pangs.
- Matt 24:32 But learn the parable from the fig tree: As soon as its branch has become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near.
- Matt 24:33 So also you, when you see all these things, know that it is near, at the doors.
- Matt 24:34 Truly I say to you that this generation shall by no means pass away until all these things happen.
- Luke 21:31 So also you, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.
- Rev 22:20 He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
- S. S. 8:13 O you who dwell in the gardens, / My companions listen for your voice; / Let me hear it.
- S. S. 8:14 Make haste, my beloved, / And be like a gazelle or a young hart / Upon the mountains of spices.
- 2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.
- Matt 24:3 And as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, When will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming and of the consummation of the age?
- Acts 26:15 And I said, Who are You, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus, whom you persecute.
- Acts 26:16 But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you;
- Mark 13:8 For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These things are the beginning of birth pangs.
- John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, he is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.
- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.
- B. We need to pray with the full realization of God’s view of human history by seeing that the gospel is speeded up and even maximized by war, famine, and death and by seeing that we need to gain God to the fullest extent to accomplish the goal of His divine economy—Phil. 3:8, 12-14:
- Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
- Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
- Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

1. After he rebelled against God, Satan was condemned and even sentenced by God, but in His wisdom and sovereignty, God has not yet fully executed His judgment on Satan; He still has given Satan a certain limited time to do something to meet some negative need in the fulfillment of His economy—Job 1:6-8; 2:1-6; cf. John 12:31.
 - Job 1:6 Then one day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, Satan also came among them.
 - Job 1:7 And Jehovah said to Satan, Where have you come from? And Satan answered Jehovah and said, From roving the earth and going about in it.
 - Job 1:8 And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.
 - Job 2:1 Then one day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, Satan also came among them to present himself before Jehovah.
 - Job 2:2 And Jehovah said to Satan, Where have you come from? And Satan answered Jehovah and said, From roving the earth and going about in it.
 - Job 2:3 And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, though you have moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.
 - Job 2:4 Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, Skin for skin! Indeed all that a man has he will give for the sake of his life.
 - Job 2:5 But stretch forth Your hand, and touch his bone and his flesh; and he will surely curse You to Your face.
 - Job 2:6 And Jehovah said to Satan, Here he is, in your hand; only spare his life.
 - John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.
2. The book of Job shows us that God, through Satan as an “ugly tool,” was tearing down Job in two ways: stripping and consuming; God’s stripping and consuming were exercised over Job to tear Job down that God might gain Job so that he might gain God more; our outer man is being consumed so that our inner man may be renewed day by day—Phil. 3:8-10; 2 Cor. 4:16-18.
 - Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
 - Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,
 - Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
 - 2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
 - 2 Cor 4:17 For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory,
 - 2 Cor 4:18 Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
3. Job’s sufferings were not God’s judgment but God’s stripping, consuming, and tearing down so that He might have a base and a way to rebuild Job with Himself, to make Job a God-man, a new man in God’s new creation—5:17; Gal. 6:15.
 - Job 5:17 Indeed, blessed is the man whom God corrects; / Therefore do not reject the chastening of the Almighty.
 - Gal 6:15 For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation is what matters.
4. It is through His stripping, consuming, and tearing down that God dispenses Himself into those who love Him and seek after Him—Job 10:13; Eph. 3:9; cf. John 3:6; Phil. 3:3.
 - Job 10:13 But You have hidden these things in Your heart; / I know that this is with You:

- Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
- John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,
5. God's purpose in dealing with His holy people is that they would be emptied of everything and receive only God as their gain; the desire of God's heart is that we would gain Him in full as life, as the life supply, and as everything to our being, which ultimately consummates in the New Jerusalem—Rom. 8:28-29.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
 6. The end of the book of Job tells us that Job eventually saw God; in the New Testament sense, seeing God equals gaining God; to see God is to be transformed into the glorious image of Christ, the God-man, that we may express God in His life and represent Him in His authority—42:5-6; 2 Cor. 3:18.

Job 42:5 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, / But now my eye has seen You;

Job 42:6 Therefore I abhor myself, and I repent / In dust and ashes.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
 7. The more we see God, know God, and love God, the more we abhor ourselves and the more we deny ourselves—Matt. 16:24; Luke 9:23; 14:26.

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Luke 9:23 And He said to them all, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and moreover, even his own soul-life, he cannot be My disciple.
- C. According to Solomon's prayer in 1 Kings 8:48, we always need to pray toward the Holy Land, typifying Christ as the portion allotted by God to the believers (Deut. 8:7; Col. 1:12); toward the holy city, signifying the kingdom of God in Christ (Psa. 48:1-2); and toward the holy temple, signifying God's house, the church, on the earth (Eph. 2:21; 1 Tim. 3:15):
- 1 Kings 8:48 And if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who have carried them captive, and they pray to You toward their land that You have given to their fathers, the city that You have chosen, and the house that I have built for Your name;
- Deut 8:7 For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;
- Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
- Psa 48:1 Great is Jehovah, / And much to be praised / In the city of our God, / In His holy mountain.
- Psa 48:2 Beautiful in elevation, / The joy of the whole earth, / Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, / The city of the great King.
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
1. Daniel prayed three times a day by opening his windows toward Jerusalem; through His faithful channels of prayer, God carries out His economy with His elect for Christ's coming—Dan. 6:10; Acts 2:42; 6:4.

Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to

his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.

2. God will listen to our prayer when our prayer to God is toward Christ, the kingdom of God, and the house of God as the goal in God's eternal economy; this means that our prayer should always be aimed at the interests of God, that is, at Christ and the church as God's interests on earth, for the fulfilling of God's economy.

Message Two
**Seeing a Vision of the Throne of God,
the Spiritual Scene behind the World Situation,
and Christ as the Center of God's Administration**

JL Hymns: 133

Scripture Reading: Dan. 4:17, 26, 34-37; 7:9-10; 10:4-21; Rev. 1:4-5; 4:5; 5:6

- Dan 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills and sets up over it the lowliest of men.
- Dan 4:26 And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.
- Dan 4:34 And at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, / And His kingdom is from generation to generation;
- Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, / But He does according to His will in the army of heaven / And among the inhabitants of the earth; / And there is no one who can resist His hand / Or say to Him, What are You doing?
- Dan 4:36 At that time my reason returned to me; and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and my splendor returned to me; and my counselors and my lords sought me out, and I was established in my kingdom, and surpassing greatness was added to me.
- Dan 4:37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and honor the King of the heavens, because all His works are truth and His ways justice, and because He is able to abase those who walk in pride.
- Dan 7:9 I watched / Until thrones were set, / And the Ancient of Days sat down. / His clothing was like white snow, / And the hair of His head was like pure wool; / His throne was flames of fire, / Its wheels, burning fire.
- Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.
- Dan 10:4 And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the great river, that is, the Hiddekel,
- Dan 10:5 I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz.
- Dan 10:6 His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.
- Dan 10:7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; instead, a great dread fell on them, and they fled to hide themselves.
- Dan 10:8 Thus I was left alone and I saw this great vision; and no strength was left in me, but my color turned deathly pale; and I retained no strength.
- Dan 10:9 Yet I heard the sound of His words; and when I heard the sound of His words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.
- Dan 10:10 And at that moment a hand touched me and sent me trembling on my knees and the palms of my hands.
- Dan 10:11 And he said to me, Daniel, man of preciousness, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand in your place, for I have now been sent to you. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.
- Dan 10:12 And he said to me, Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand this matter and to afflict yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.
- Dan 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days; but now Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I remained there alone with the kings of Persia.
- Dan 10:14 Thus I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the last days, yet the vision pertains to something many days from now.
- Dan 10:15 And when he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face to the ground and was dumb.
- Dan 10:16 And at that moment one who resembled the sons of men touched my lips; and I opened my mouth and spoke, and I said to him who stood before me, Sir, because of the vision my anguish has turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.

Dan 10:17 For how can such a servant of my lord speak with such as my lord? For as for me, just now there is no strength in me, nor has there been breath left in me.

Dan 10:18 Then the one who was in appearance like a man touched me again and strengthened me;

Dan 10:19 And he said, Do not be afraid, man of preciousness. Peace to you. Be strong, yes, be strong. And when he spoke to me, I received strength and said, Speak, sir, for you have strengthened me.

Dan 10:20 Then he said, Do you know why I have come to you? And now I will return to fight with the prince of Persia; so I go forth, and the prince of Javan is now about to come.

Dan 10:21 However I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who holds strongly with me against these ones except Michael your prince.

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

Rev 4:5 And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

I. We need to see a spiritual vision of the throne of God as the center of God's administration throughout the universe—Rev. 4:2; 5:1; Ezek. 1:26:

- Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;
- Rev 5:1 And I saw on the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.
- Ezek 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.
- A. As the sovereign One, God has the full capacity to carry out what He wants according to the desire of His heart and according to His eternal economy—Rev. 4:11; Dan. 4:35; Rom. 9:19-24.
- Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.
- Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, / But He does according to His will in the army of heaven / And among the inhabitants of the earth; / And there is no one who can resist His hand / Or say to Him, What are You doing?
- Rom 9:19 You will say to me then, Why does He still find fault? For who withstands His will?
- Rom 9:20 But rather, O man, who are you who answer back to God? Shall the thing molded say to him who molded it, Why did you make me thus?
- Rom 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?
- Rom 9:22 And what if God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known, endured with much long-suffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction,
- Rom 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,
- Rom 9:24 Even us, whom He has also called, not only from among the Jews but also from among the Gentiles?
- B. God on the throne is behind the scene ruling over everyone and everything—Isa. 6:1; 1 Kings 22:19:
- Isa 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the temple.
- 1 Kings 22:19 And Micaiah said, Hear therefore the word of Jehovah, I saw Jehovah sitting upon His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him, on His right hand and on His left.
1. Everything concerning the world situation is decided on the throne.
 2. Nothing can happen outside the rule of God's throne—Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6.

Job 1:6 Then one day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, Satan also came among them.

Job 1:7 And Jehovah said to Satan, Where have you come from? And Satan answered Jehovah and said, From roving the earth and going about in it.

Job 1:8 And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, Does Job fear God without cause?

Job 1:10 Have You not set a hedge around him and his household and all that he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his possessions are spread throughout the land.

Job 1:11 But stretch forth Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face.

Job 1:12 And Jehovah said to Satan, Here is all that he has, in your hand; only do not stretch forth your hand against him. And Satan went forth from Jehovah's presence.

Job 2:1 Then one day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, Satan also came among them to present himself before Jehovah.

Job 2:2 And Jehovah said to Satan, Where have you come from? And Satan answered Jehovah and said, From roving the earth and going about in it.

Job 2:3 And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, though you have moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.

Job 2:4 Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, Skin for skin! Indeed all that a man has he will give for the sake of his life.

Job 2:5 But stretch forth Your hand, and touch his bone and his flesh; and he will surely curse You to Your face.

Job 2:6 And Jehovah said to Satan, Here he is, in your hand; only spare his life.

C. The book of Revelation is a book of God's administration, unveiling the throne of God for the divine administration—4:2; 5:1; 6:16; 7:9; 8:3; 21:5:

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

Rev 5:1 And I saw on the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

Rev 6:16 And they say to the mountains and to the rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits upon the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb;

Rev 7:9 After these things I saw, and behold, there was a great multitude which no one could number, out of every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes and palm branches in their hands.

Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said, Write, for these words are faithful and true.

1. The throne in Revelation 4 and 5 is the throne of divine authority.
Rev 4, 5 be omitted.
2. Apparently, the throne is invisible and is not realized by man; actually, the throne is behind the scene ruling over everyone and everything.

D. The book of Daniel shows that all the kings and kingdoms of the world are under God's administration—7:9-10; 2:34-35:

Dan 7:9 I watched / Until thrones were set, / And the Ancient of Days sat down. / His clothing was like white snow, / And the hair of His head was like pure wool; / His throne was flames of fire, / Its wheels, burning fire.

Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.

Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
1. All human government from Nimrod to Antichrist has been and will continue to be under the ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens—7:9-12.
 - Dan 7:9 I watched / Until thrones were set, / And the Ancient of Days sat down. / His clothing was like white snow, / And the hair of His head was like pure wool; / His throne was flames of fire, / Its wheels, burning fire.
 - Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.
 - Dan 7:11 I watched then because of the sound of the great things that the horn was speaking; I watched until the beast was slain and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.
 - Dan 7:12 And as for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was given to them for a season and a time.
 2. God caused Nebuchadnezzar to know that he was nothing and that the mighty God, the Ruler over the kingdom of men, the One who gives the kingdom to whomever He wills, is everything—4:34-37.
 - Dan 4:34 And at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, / And His kingdom is from generation to generation;
 - Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, / But He does according to His will in the army of heaven / And among the inhabitants of the earth; / And there is no one who can resist His hand / Or say to Him, What are You doing?
 - Dan 4:36 At that time my reason returned to me; and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and my splendor returned to me; and my counselors and my lords sought me out, and I was established in my kingdom, and surpassing greatness was added to me.
 - Dan 4:37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and honor the King of the heavens, because all His works are truth and His ways justice, and because He is able to abase those who walk in pride.
 3. The entire world situation is under the rule of the heavens by the God of the heavens—v. 26.
 - Dan 4:26 And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.
- E. The ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens over all human government on earth matches the eternal economy of God for Christ to terminate the old creation for the germination of the new creation and to smash and crush the aggregate of human government and establish the eternal kingdom of God—2:37, 44; 4:17; Rev. 11:15.
- Dan 2:37 You, O king, are king of kings, to whom the God of the heavens has given kingship, power, and strength and glory.
 - Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.
 - Dan 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills and sets up over it the lowliest of men.
 - Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

II. Chapter 10 of the book of Daniel presents a vision of the spiritual scene behind the world situation:

Dan 10 be omitted.

A. In the spiritual world Christ is the preeminent One; therefore, in chapter 10 He is mentioned first—vv. 4-9:

Dan 10:4 And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the great river, that is, the Hiddekel,

Dan 10:5 I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz.

Dan 10:6 His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.

Dan 10:7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; instead, a great dread fell on them, and they fled to hide themselves.

Dan 10:8 Thus I was left alone and I saw this great vision; and no strength was left in me, but my color turned deathly pale; and I retained no strength.

Dan 10:9 Yet I heard the sound of His words; and when I heard the sound of His words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

1. The excellent Christ, the centrality and universality of God's move, appeared to Daniel as a man for his appreciation, consolation, encouragement, expectation, and stabilization.
2. The Christ whom Daniel saw is precious, valuable, complete, and perfect:
 - a. As Jehovah becoming a man, He is the centrality and universality of God's move to carry out His economy.
 - b. As the Priest, He is taking care of us, and as the King, He is ruling over us—v. 5.
Dan 10:5 I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz.
 - c. Christ appeared to Daniel in His preciousness and dignity, in His brightness for shining over the people, and in His enlightening sight for searching and judging—v. 6a-c.
Dan 10:6a-c His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, ...
 - d. Christ appeared in the gleam of His work and move and in His strong speaking for judging people—v. 6d-e.
Dan 10:6d-e ... His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.

B. The spiritual scene in Daniel 10 includes both good and evil spirits that are engaged in an invisible spiritual war—vv. 12-13, 20-21:

Dan 10:12 And he said to me, Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand this matter and to afflict yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

Dan 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days; but now Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I remained there alone with the kings of Persia.

Dan 10:20 Then he said, Do you know why I have come to you? And now I will return to fight with the prince of Persia; so I go forth, and the prince of Javan is now about to come.

Dan 10:21 However I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who holds strongly with me against these ones except Michael your prince.

1. While Daniel was praying (vv. 2-3), a spiritual struggle was taking place in the air between two spirits, one belonging to Satan and the other belonging to God.
Dan 10:2 In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three full weeks.
Dan 10:3 I ate no desirable food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, until the three full weeks were completed.
2. It is crucial for us to see that behind the scene a spiritual struggle is taking place, a struggle not seen with human eyes.

- C. As the struggles are taking place between the human governments, God is behind the scene managing the world situation—7:10.

Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.

III. Christ is the center of God's administration according to God's eternal economy—

Rev. 5:6; 22:1:

Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

- A. Christ in His ascension has been enthroned to execute God's administration, His governmental operation—Heb. 12:2; Rev. 3:21; 22:1; 5:6:

Heb 12:2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

Rev 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

1. The One sitting on the throne is not only God but also man; He is the Godman, the man-God, the mingling of God and man—Acts 7:56.

Acts 7:56 And he said, Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

2. After the Lord Jesus was crucified and buried, God resurrected Him and set Him at His right hand, making Him the Lord of all the universe—2:34-36; Phil. 2:5-11.

Acts 2:34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand

Acts 2:35 Until I set Your enemies as a footstool for Your feet."

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

Phil 2:6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

Phil 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

Phil 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Phil 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

- B. The enthroned Christ, the heavenly Administrator in God's universal government, is the worthy Lion-Lamb, the overcoming Redeemer—Rev. 5:1-14:

Rev 5:1 And I saw on the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

Rev 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?

Rev 5:3 And no one in heaven nor on the earth nor under the earth was able to open the scroll or look into it.

Rev 5:4 And I wept much because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look into it.

- Rev 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.
- Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
- Rev 5:7 And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne.
- Rev 5:8 And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which bowls are the prayers of the saints.
- Rev 5:9 And they sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
- Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
- Rev 5:11 And I saw, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and of the living creatures and of the elders, and their number was ten thousands of ten thousands and thousands of thousands,
- Rev 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who has been slain to receive the power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.
- Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea and all things in them, I heard saying, To Him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever.
- Rev 5:14 And the four living creatures said, Amen. And the elders fell down and worshipped.
1. As the Lion, He is the Fighter against the enemy, Satan; as the Lamb, He is the Redeemer—vv. 5-6.

Rev 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.

Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
 2. Because Christ has solved the problems of the rebellion of Satan and the fall of man, He is worthy to open the scroll of God's economy—vv. 1-7.

Rev 5:1 And I saw on the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

Rev 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?

Rev 5:3 And no one in heaven nor on the earth nor under the earth was able to open the scroll or look into it.

Rev 5:4 And I wept much because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look into it.

Rev 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.

Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne.
 3. The Lamb, the Redeemer, the One slain on the cross for our sins, is now on the throne, carrying out God's administration over the entire universe.
 4. We need to realize that the Lord of the universe is a man, the God-man, the man-God—Ezek. 1:26.

Ezek 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.

- C. In His ascension and enthronement Christ is the Ruler of the kings of the earth—Rev. 1:5:
 Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood
1. For Christ to be the Ruler of the kings means that He is far above the earthly rulers—Eph. 1:20-22; Phil. 2:9-11.
 - Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
 - Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
 - Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
 - Phil 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
 - Phil 2:10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 - Phil 2:11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
 2. The earthly rulers are not the real rulers; Christ, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, is the real Ruler—Rev. 19:16.
 - Rev 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
 3. Christ carries out God's administration as the Ruler of the kings of the earth by the seven Spirits of God burning before the throne of God—1:4; 4:5; 5:6:
 - Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,
 - Rev 4:5 And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;
 - Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
 - a. All the world rulers are under the flaming of the seven Spirits—1:5.
 - Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood
 - b. The world situation and international affairs are under the flame of the burning of the seven lamps of fire, the seven Spirits of God—4:5.
 - Rev 4:5 And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;
 - c. We need to realize that the seven Spirits of God are burning before the throne not only concerning the churches but also concerning the world situation for the churches—1:4-5, 11; 22:16.
 - Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,
 - Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood
 - Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.
 - Rev 22:16 I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright morning star.

Message Three
**The Universal History according to God's Economy—
the Divine History within the Human History**

RA Hymns: 972, 395

Scripture Reading: Joel 1:4; 2:28-32; 3:11-21; Eph. 3:16-21; 4:15-16; Rev. 19:7-9; 22:17a

- Joel 1:4 What the cutting locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; / And what the swarming locust has left, the licking locust has eaten; / And what the licking locust has left, the consuming locust has eaten.
- Joel 2:28 And afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh, / And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; / Your old men shall dream dreams; / Your young men shall see visions.
- Joel 2:29 Indeed even upon the male and female slaves / In those days I will pour out My Spirit.
- Joel 2:30 And I will show wonders in the heavens and on earth: / Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.
- Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, / And the moon into blood, / Before the great and terrible / Day of Jehovah comes.
- Joel 2:32 And everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah shall be saved; / For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem will be an escape, / As Jehovah has said, / Even for the remnant / Whom Jehovah calls.
- Joel 3:11 Hurry and come, / All you surrounding nations, / And be gathered. / There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!
- Joel 3:12 Let the nations rouse themselves and come up / To the valley of Jehoshaphat. / For there I will sit to judge / All the surrounding nations.
- Joel 3:13 Send forth the sickle, / For the harvest is ripe; / Come, tread, / For the winepress is full; / The wine vats overflow, / For their evil is great.
- Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes, / In the valley of decision; / For the day of Jehovah has drawn near / In the valley of decision.
- Joel 3:15 The sun and the moon grow dark, / And the stars withdraw their shining.
- Joel 3:16 And Jehovah will roar from Zion, / And from Jerusalem He will utter His voice, / And the heavens and the earth will shake. / But Jehovah will be a shelter to His people / And a stronghold to the children of Israel.
- Joel 3:17 Thus you will know that I am Jehovah your God, / Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. / And Jerusalem will be holy, / And strangers will pass through her no longer.
- Joel 3:18 And in that day / The mountains will drop down fresh wine, / And the hills will flow with milk; / And all the waterways of Judah / Will flow with water, / And a fountain will go forth from the house of Jehovah, / And it will water the valley of Shittim.
- Joel 3:19 Egypt will be a desolation, / And Edom will be a desolate wilderness, / Because of the violence against the children of Judah, / In that they have shed innocent blood in their land.
- Joel 3:20 But Judah will abide forever, / And Jerusalem, from generation to generation;
- Joel 3:21 And I will acquit them of their bloodshed that I had not acquitted them of, / For Jehovah dwells in Zion.
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,
- Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- Rev 22:17a And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! ...

I. In this universe there are two histories: the history of man, the human history, and the history of God, the divine history; the former is like an outward shell, and the latter, like the kernel within the shell:

A. We need to have a clear view of the divine history within the human history—Joel 1:4; 2:28-32; 3:11-21:

- Joel 1:4 What the cutting locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; / And what the swarming locust has left, the licking locust has eaten; / And what the licking locust has left, the consuming locust has eaten.
- Joel 2:28 And afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh, / And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; / Your old men shall dream dreams; / Your young men shall see visions.
- Joel 2:29 Indeed even upon the male and female slaves / In those days I will pour out My Spirit.
- Joel 2:30 And I will show wonders in the heavens and on earth: / Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.
- Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, / And the moon into blood, / Before the great and terrible / Day of Jehovah comes.
- Joel 2:32 And everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah shall be saved; / For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem will be an escape, / As Jehovah has said, / Even for the remnant / Whom Jehovah calls.
- Joel 3:11 Hurry and come, / All you surrounding nations, / And be gathered. / There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!
- Joel 3:12 Let the nations rouse themselves and come up / To the valley of Jehoshaphat. / For there I will sit to judge / All the surrounding nations.
- Joel 3:13 Send forth the sickle, / For the harvest is ripe; / Come, tread, / For the winepress is full; / The wine vats overflow, / For their evil is great.
- Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes, / In the valley of decision; / For the day of Jehovah has drawn near / In the valley of decision.
- Joel 3:15 The sun and the moon grow dark, / And the stars withdraw their shining.
- Joel 3:16 And Jehovah will roar from Zion, / And from Jerusalem He will utter His voice, / And the heavens and the earth will shake. / But Jehovah will be a shelter to His people / And a stronghold to the children of Israel.
- Joel 3:17 Thus you will know that I am Jehovah your God, / Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. / And Jerusalem will be holy, / And strangers will pass through her no longer.
- Joel 3:18 And in that day / The mountains will drop down fresh wine, / And the hills will flow with milk; / And all the waterways of Judah / Will flow with water, / And a fountain will go forth from the house of Jehovah, / And it will water the valley of Shittim.
- Joel 3:19 Egypt will be a desolation, / And Edom will be a desolate wilderness, / Because of the violence against the children of Judah, / In that they have shed innocent blood in their land.
- Joel 3:20 But Judah will abide forever, / And Jerusalem, from generation to generation;
- Joel 3:21 And I will acquit them of their bloodshed that I had not acquitted them of, / For Jehovah dwells in Zion.

1. The history of man, the history of the world, the physical, human history, is outward; the divine history, the history of God with man and in man, is inward; it is a matter of the mystery of the Triune God in humanity—1 Tim. 3:15-16:

1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.

a. Before Christ's incarnation God moved with men and among men; this was not His direct move to carry out His eternal economy for Christ and the church but His indirect move in His old creation for the preparation of His direct move in His new creation for His eternal economy.

- b. God's history is of two portions—the history of God *with* man, found in the Old Testament, and the history of God *in* man, found in the New Testament.
 - c. God's history in man began with the incarnation and continued with His processes of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension; Hosea 11:4 says that these are the cords of a man, the bands of love.
 Hosea 11:4 I drew them with cords of a man, / With bands of love; And I was to them like those / Who lift off the yoke on their jaws; / And I gently caused them to eat.
2. The divine history, the history of God in man, was from Christ's incarnation through His ascension to become the life-giving Spirit and then continues with His indwelling us through God's organic salvation of regeneration, sanctification, renewing, transformation, conformation, and glorification to make us the glorious bride of Christ—Rom. 5:10; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7-9.
- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,
- Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
3. This culminates in Christ as the Spirit, the processed and consummated Triune God, marrying the church as the bride, the processed and transformed tripartite man—22:17a.
- Rev 22:17a And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! ...
4. At the time of the Lord's coming back, there will be a meeting of two figures—Antichrist, a figure in the outward, human history, and Christ, the Figure in the intrinsic, divine history—2 Thes. 2:2-8:
- 2 Thes 2:2 That you be not quickly shaken in mind nor alarmed, neither by a spirit nor by word nor by a letter as if by us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
- 2 Thes 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition,
- 2 Thes 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or an object of worship, so that he sits in the temple of God, setting himself forth, saying that he is God.
- 2 Thes 2:5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I said these things to you?
- 2 Thes 2:6 And now you know that which restrains, so that he might be revealed in his own time.
- 2 Thes 2:7 For it is the mystery of lawlessness that is now operating, but only until the one now restraining goes out of the way.
- 2 Thes 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord Jesus will slay by the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of His coming),
- a. Christ will come back, descending with His overcomers as His army (Joel 3:11), to defeat Antichrist and his army (Rev. 19:11-21).
- Joel 3:11 Hurry and come, / All you surrounding nations, / And be gathered. / There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!
- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
- Rev 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.

Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.

Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

Rev 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God,

Rev 19:18 That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great.

Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.

Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.

Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

b. After the Figure in the divine history defeats the figure in the human history, the thousand-year kingdom will come, and this kingdom will consummate in the New Jerusalem—the ultimate and consummate step of the divine history—20:4, 6; 21:10.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

B. We need to consider whether we are living merely in the human history or living also in the divine history—1:11, 20; 12:11; 14:4b; 19:7:

Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

Rev 14:4b ... These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

1. We all were born in the human history, but we have been reborn, regenerated, in the divine history—John 3:6.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

2. If our living is in the world, we are living merely in the outward, human history—Rom. 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17.
 - Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.
 - Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
 - 1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him;
 - 1 John 2:16 Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.
 - 1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever.
 3. If our living is in the church, we are living in the inward, divine history—1 Cor. 1:2.
 - 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:
 4. As the enlargement of the manifestation of Christ, the church is part of the divine history within the outward, human history—1 Tim. 3:15-16:
 - 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
 - 1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.
 - a. In the church life God's history is our history; God and we have one history, the divine history; our God has a marvelous history that includes us; God's history has become our history because He is in union with us—1 Cor. 6:17.
 - 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
 - b. Whatever God has done, whatever He is doing, and whatever He will do in His history are all for our Christian life and church life.
- C. "Our living, our daily walk, our schooling, our job, and our business must be a part of God's history in His marvelous and excellent move on the earth today...We need to be one with God in His history, moving and energizing in His loving overcomers; that is, we need to be one with God in life, in living, and in our entire doing today on this earth! We need to write God's today's history!" (*Life-study of Joshua*, p. 3).

II. In the divine history what is being recovered today is God's economy, which is focused on the central work of God—to work Himself in Christ into His chosen and redeemed people, making Himself one with them for His expression—Eph. 3:16-17a; 4:4-6:

- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
 - Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
 - Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
 - Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
 - Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- A. God's ultimate move in His recovery to carry out His economy is to work Himself—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—into us and to become our life so that we may live Him out and express Him as His Body, the church—3:16-21; 4:4-6, 15-16.
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
 - Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

- Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,
- Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- B. God's economy is to make Christ everything, to make Christ the centrality and the universality, for the producing of God's increase, His enlargement, which is the church; the increase, the enlargement, of God is the fullness of God for His expression—Col. 1:18; 2:19; 3:10-11; Eph. 3:19.
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- C. In His economy God wants to work Himself into man to be one with us, to be our life, life supply, and everything, and to have us as His expression; thus, God's intention in His economy is to have a corporate entity, composed of God and man, to be His expression for eternity—4:4-6.
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- D. According to His economy, God will rule over the world, produce a situation for Israel to be His elect, gain the church as His mysterious people, and have the nations to be the peoples in the eternal kingdom of God; if we see this, we will know where we are, and we will know the meaning of our human life—2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 8:28-30.
- 2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
- Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.
- E. We need to have a clear vision of God's economy and be governed, controlled, directed, preserved, and protected by this vision; today in the Lord's recovery we must be strong and unshakable in the vision of God's economy—Acts 26:19; Prov. 29:18a.
- Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
- Prov 29:18a Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; ...
- F. God's ultimate move is to have Christ, the mystery of God, enter into us as our life so that

we may become His living members and form His Body, which is the fullness of the One who fills all in all—Col. 2:2; 1:27; 3:4; 2:19; Eph. 1:22-23:

Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,

Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

1. Those who live Christ, who live in the spirit, are the actual Body of Christ corporately; they are also the one new man in actuality, a new creation with a new living to express the Triune God—4:16, 24.

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

2. Eventually, the Body life will reach the reality of Romans 12, and this will be the preparation of the bride for the Lord's coming back—Rev. 19:7.

Rom 12 be omitted.

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

3. "Be burdened with God's ultimate move. Then you will see God's oneness with you, and there will be no problem with your living" (*The World Situation and God's Move*, p. 43).

4. "Rise up and stand for the Lord's recovery. This is the ultimate time for God to accomplish His purpose to bring the Lord back" (p. 58).

Message Four

Praying Persistently with God as Our Faith

MR Hymns: 783

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:20-24; Luke 18:1-8; Rev. 8:3-5

- Mark 11:20 And as they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots.
Mark 11:21 And Peter remembered and said to Him, Rabbi, behold, the fig tree which You cursed has withered.
Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered and said to them, Have faith in God.
Mark 11:23 Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says happens, he will have it.
Mark 11:24 For this reason I say to you, All things that you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and you will have them.
Luke 18:1 And He told them a parable to the end that they ought always to pray and not lose heart,
Luke 18:2 Saying, There was a certain judge in a certain city who did not fear God and did not regard man.
Luke 18:3 And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, Avenge me of my opponent.
Luke 18:4 And for a time he would not; but afterward he said within himself, Even though I do not fear God nor regard man,
Luke 18:5 Yet because this widow causes me trouble, I will avenge her, lest by continually coming she wear me out.
Luke 18:6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unrighteous judge says.
Luke 18:7 And will not God by all means carry out the avenging of His chosen ones, who cry to Him day and night, though He is long-suffering over them?
Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?
Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of the saints out of the hand of the Angel before God.
Rev 8:5 And the Angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar and cast it to the earth; and there were thunders and voices and lightnings and an earthquake.

I. In Mark 11:20-24 the Lord Jesus taught His disciples to pray by faith for executing God's will according to God's economy:

- Mark 11:20 And as they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots.
Mark 11:21 And Peter remembered and said to Him, Rabbi, behold, the fig tree which You cursed has withered.
Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered and said to them, Have faith in God.
Mark 11:23 Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says happens, he will have it.
Mark 11:24 For this reason I say to you, All things that you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and you will have them.
- A. When the praying one is mingled with God and is one with God, God becomes his faith; this is what it means to have faith in God—v. 22.
Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered and said to them, Have faith in God.
- B. Only prayers that are out of faith will touch God; without faith prayer is ineffectual—v. 23.
Mark 11:23 Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says happens, he will have it.
- C. Faith is believing that we have received what we have asked for—v. 24:
Mark 11:24 For this reason I say to you, All things that you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and you will have them.
1. According to the Lord's word, we should believe that we have received, not that we will receive.
 2. To hope means to expect something in the future; to believe means to consider something as having been done.

3. Faith is not only believing that God can or will do a certain thing but also believing that God has done that thing already.
- D. The prayer in Mark 11:20-24 is a prayer with authority; this kind of prayer is directed not toward God but toward “this mountain”—v. 23:
- Mark 11:20 And as they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots.
- Mark 11:21 And Peter remembered and said to Him, Rabbi, behold, the fig tree which You cursed has withered.
- Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered and said to them, Have faith in God.
- Mark 11:23 Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says happens, he will have it.
- Mark 11:24 For this reason I say to you, All things that you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and you will have them.
1. A prayer with authority does not ask God to do something; instead, it exercises God’s authority and applies this authority to deal with problems and things that ought to be removed—Zech. 4:7; Matt. 21:21.

Zech 4:7 Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain, and he will bring forth the topstone with shouts of Grace, grace to it.

Matt 21:21 And Jesus answered and said to them, Truly I say to you, If you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, it will happen.
 2. God has commissioned us to command what He has commanded and give orders to what He has given orders to—17:20.

Matt 17:20 And He said to them, Because of your little faith; for truly I say to you, If you have faith like a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.
 3. A prayer with authority is one in which we tell the things that are frustrating us to go away.
 4. The church can have such a prayer with authority by having full faith, being without doubt, and being clear that what we do is fully according to God’s will—6:10; 18:19-20.

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Matt 18:19 Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.

Matt 18:20 For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.
 5. Prayer with authority has much to do with the overcomers; every overcomer must learn to speak to “this mountain”—Mark 11:23.

Mark 11:23 Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says happens, he will have it.

II. In Luke 18:1-8 the Lord Jesus told the disciples a parable “to the end that they ought always to pray and not lose heart”—v. 1:

- Luke 18:1 And He told them a parable to the end that they ought always to pray and not lose heart,
- Luke 18:2 Saying, There was a certain judge in a certain city who did not fear God and did not regard man.
- Luke 18:3 And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, Avenge me of my opponent.
- Luke 18:4 And for a time he would not; but afterward he said within himself, Even though I do not fear God nor regard man,
- Luke 18:5 Yet because this widow causes me trouble, I will avenge her, lest by continually coming she wear me out.
- Luke 18:6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unrighteous judge says.
- Luke 18:7 And will not God by all means carry out the avenging of His chosen ones, who cry to Him day and night, though He is long-suffering over them?
- Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?

- A. The significance of this parable is profound, and we need to know God as He is revealed here—vv. 7-8.
- Luke 18:7 And will not God by all means carry out the avenging of His chosen ones, who cry to Him day and night, though He is long-suffering over them?
- Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?
- B. The widow in verse 3 signifies the believers; in a sense, the believers in Christ are a widow in the present age because their Husband, Christ, is apparently absent from them—2 Cor. 11:2.
- Luke 18:3 And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, Avenge me of my opponent.
- 2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
- C. Like the widow in the parable (Luke 18:3), we believers in Christ have an opponent, Satan the devil, concerning whom we need God's avenging:
- Luke 18:3 And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, Avenge me of my opponent.
1. This parable indicates the suffering we have from our opponent during the Lord's apparent absence.
 2. During His apparent absence, we are a widow whose opponent is troubling her all the time.
- D. While our opponent is persecuting us, it seems that our God is not righteous, for He allows His children to be unrighteously persecuted—1 Pet. 2:20; 3:14, 17; 4:13-16, 19:
- 1 Pet 2:20 For what glory is it if, while sinning and being buffeted, you endure? But if, while doing good and suffering, you endure, this is grace with God.
- 1 Pet 3:14 But even if you suffer because of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not be afraid with fear from them, nor be troubled,
- 1 Pet 3:17 For it is better, if the will of God should will it, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.
- 1 Pet 4:13 But inasmuch as you share in the sufferings of Christ, rejoice, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice exultingly.
- 1 Pet 4:14 If you are reproached in the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
- 1 Pet 4:15 For let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler into others' affairs;
- 1 Pet 4:16 But if as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name.
- 1 Pet 4:19 So then let those also who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls in well-doing to a faithful Creator.
1. Throughout the centuries, thousands upon thousands of honest and faithful followers of the Lord Jesus have suffered unrighteous persecution; even today many are undergoing unrighteous treatment—Rev. 2:8-10.
- Rev 2:8 And to the messenger of the church in Smyrna write: These things says the First and the Last, who became dead and lived again:
- Rev 2:9 I know your tribulation and poverty (but you are rich) and the slander from those who call themselves Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
- Rev 2:10 Do not fear the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison that you may be tried, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.
2. Our God seems to be unjust, since He does not come in to judge and vindicate; because of this situation, the Lord Jesus used an unjust judge to signify God, who does not seem to do anything on behalf of His persecuted people—Luke 18:2-6:
- Luke 18:2 Saying, There was a certain judge in a certain city who did not fear God and did not regard man.
- Luke 18:3 And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, Avenge me of my opponent.

- Luke 18:4 And for a time he would not; but afterward he said within himself, Even though I do not fear God nor regard man,
- Luke 18:5 Yet because this widow causes me trouble, I will avenge her, lest by continually coming she wear me out.
- Luke 18:6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unrighteous judge says.
- a. Our God is a God who hides Himself (Isa. 45:15), as the book of Esther indicates.
Isa 45:15 Surely You are a God who hides Himself, / O God of Israel, the Savior.
 - b. We need to realize that the omnipotent and omnipresent God whom we serve hides Himself, especially when He is helping us—John 14:26; Rom. 8:26.
John 14:26 But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and remind you of all the things which I have said to you.
Rom 8:26 Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
 - c. We cannot see Him, and apparently, He is not doing anything; actually, in a hidden way He is doing many things for us—vv. 28, 34; Esth. 4:14.
Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
Esth 4:14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from some other place, and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?
- E. The widow in the parable kept coming to the unrighteous judge and asking him to avenge her of her opponent; we ought to pray persistently for this avenging and should not lose heart—Luke 18:1, 3:
- Luke 18:1 And He told them a parable to the end that they ought always to pray and not lose heart,
- Luke 18:3 And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, Avenge me of my opponent.
1. When our Husband is apparently absent and we are left on earth as a widow, temporarily our God seems to be an unrighteous judge—v. 6.
Luke 18:6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unrighteous judge says.
 2. Although He appears to be unrighteous, we still must appeal to Him, pray persistently, and bother Him again and again, for He will carry out quickly the avenging of His chosen ones, who “cry to Him day and night”—vv. 7-8a.
Luke 18:7 And will not God by all means carry out the avenging of His chosen ones, who cry to Him day and night, though He is long-suffering over them?
Luke 18:8a I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. ...
- F. Revelation 8:5 implies the answer to 6:9-11 and Luke 18:7-8:
- Rev 8:5 And the Angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar and cast it to the earth; and there were thunders and voices and lightnings and an earthquake.
- Rev 6:9 And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and because of the testimony which they had.
- Rev 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Master, holy and true, will You not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?
- Rev 6:11 And to each of them was given a white robe; and it was said to them that they should rest yet a little while, until also the number of their fellow slaves and their brothers who were about to be killed, even as they were, is completed.
- Luke 18:7 And will not God by all means carry out the avenging of His chosen ones, who cry to Him day and night, though He is long-suffering over them?
- Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?

1. The prayer of the saints in Revelation 8:3-4 must be for the judgment of the earth, which opposes God's economy.
 - Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
 - Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of the saints out of the hand of the Angel before God.
 2. God's judgment upon the earth—casting fire to the earth—is the answer to the prayers of the saints with Christ as the incense—vv. 3-5.
 - Rev 8:3 And another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
 - Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense went up with the prayers of the saints out of the hand of the Angel before God.
 - Rev 8:5 And the Angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar and cast it to the earth; and there were thunders and voices and lightnings and an earthquake.
- G. "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"—Luke 18:8b:
1. Literally, the Greek words rendered "faith" mean "the faith"; this denotes the persistent faith for our persistent prayer, like that of the widow.
 2. The faith through which we were saved is the initial stage of faith; the faith that brought us into a life union with Christ is the linking faith—the faith that comes into us through our contacting the Triune God continually so that we may live by the Son of God—Rom. 1:17; Gal. 2:20; John 14:19.
 - Rom 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."
 - Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
 - John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.
 3. The linking faith is the divine requirement for the overcomers to meet Christ in His triumphant return—Luke 18:8b:
 - Luke 18:8b ... Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?
 - a. Linking faith is the Triune God moving in us to link us to His unsearchable riches—Eph. 3:8.
 - Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
 - b. Linking faith is the faith of the believers who have no trust in themselves; rather, their trust is in God—2 Cor. 1:9.
 - 2 Cor 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;
 - c. When the Lord Jesus returns, He will find a number of overcomers who are living by the linking faith and will regard them as treasures for His kingdom in the thousand years of His reign—Luke 18:8b; Rev. 20:4, 6.
 - Luke 18:8b ... Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?
 - Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.
 - Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Message Five
**Answering God's Call to Be His Dispensational Instrument,
His Overcomers, to Turn the Age**

MC Hymns: 894

Scripture Reading: Dan. 1:4-9; 2:17-19; 4:25-26, 32; 6:10-11; 9:1-4, 23; 10:11, 19; 11:32b; 12:3

- Dan 1:4 Children in whom was no defect, who were good in appearance, who showed insight in all wisdom, understanding in knowledge, and apprehension in thought, and in whom was the ability to stand in the king's palace. And he told him to teach them the learning and language of the Chaldeans.
- Dan 1:5 And the king appointed to them a daily portion from the king's choice provision and from the wine that he drank, and appointed that they should be brought up for three years so that at the end of the time they might stand before the king.
- Dan 1:6 Now among these from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
- Dan 1:7 And the leader of the eunuchs gave them names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; Hananiah, the name Shadrach; Mishael, the name Meshach; and Azariah, the name Abed-nego.
- Dan 1:8 But Daniel set his heart not to defile himself with the king's choice provision and with the wine that the king drank, so he requested of the leader of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.
- Dan 1:9 And God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the leader of the eunuchs;
- Dan 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,
- Dan 2:18 That they might request compassions from before the God of the heavens concerning this mystery so that Daniel and his companions would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.
- Dan 2:19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of the heavens.
- Dan 4:25 You shall be driven out from among mankind, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; and you shall be made to eat grass as bulls do and shall be wet with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills.
- Dan 4:26 And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.
- Dan 4:32 And from among mankind you shall be driven out, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; you shall be made to eat grass as bulls do; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills.
- Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously.
- Dan 6:11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.
- Dan 9:1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, a Median descendant who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans,
- Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by means of the Scriptures the number of the years, which came as the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, that is, seventy years.
- Dan 9:3 So I set my face toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.
- Dan 9:4 And I prayed to Jehovah my God and confessed; and I said, Ah, Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness with those who love Him and keep His commandments,
- Dan 9:23 At the beginning of your supplications the command went forth, and I have come to tell you, for you are preciousness itself. Therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.
- Dan 10:11 And he said to me, Daniel, man of preciousness, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand in your place, for I have now been sent to you. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.
- Dan 10:19 And he said, Do not be afraid, man of preciousness. Peace to you. Be strong, yes, be strong. And when he spoke to me, I received strength and said, Speak, sir, for you have strengthened me.
- Dan 11:32b ... But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.
- Dan 12:3 And those who have insight will shine like the shining of the heavenly expanse, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars, forever and ever.

I. Every time God wants to make a dispensational move, an age-turning move, He must obtain His dispensational instrument; we must be those who have dispensational value to God—Rev. 12:5-11; 1:20; Dan. 12:3; Matt. 13:43:

- Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.
- Rev 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place there prepared by God so that they might nourish her there a thousand two hundred and sixty days.
- Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon warred and his angels.
- Rev 12:8 And they did not prevail, neither was their place found any longer in heaven.
- Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.
- Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.
- Rev 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.
- Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.
- Dan 12:3 And those who have insight will shine like the shining of the heavenly expanse, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars, forever and ever.
- Matt 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

A. We need to consider what we are doing to bring in the next age; this is a special time, so there is the need of special Christians to do a special work—16:18; Rev. 19:7; 1 Cor. 1:9; Rev. 2:4-7; Col. 1:18b; John 17:21; 1 Cor. 14:4b; Eph. 4:16; Col. 2:19.

- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- 1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rev 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.
- Rev 2:5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.
- Rev 2:6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- Col 1:18b ... He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
- 1 Cor 14:4b ... but he who prophesies builds up the church.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

B. The principle of the Lord's recovery is seen with Daniel ("God is my judge"), Hananiah ("Jah has graciously given," or "favored of Jah"), Mishael ("Who is what God is?"), and Azariah ("Jah has helped"); "Daniel and his companions" were absolutely one with God in their victory over Satan's devices; they were men who turned the age of the captivity of God's people to the age of their return to the land of Immanuel for the building of God's house and

God's city for God's expression and authority—Dan. 2:13, 17; Isa. 8:8; cf. Rev. 17:14:

- Dan 2:13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his companions so that they might be slain.
- Dan 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,
- Isa 8:8 It will sweep through Judah; it will overflow and rise / Until it reaches the neck; / And the spreading out of its wings / Will fill the breadth of Your land, O Immanuel.
- Rev 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, will also overcome them.

1. In God's sight, an overcomer is a "man of preciousness," even "preciousness itself," a person whom God can use to turn the age—1 Pet. 2:7; Dan. 9:23; 10:11, 19.

- 1 Pet 2:7 To you therefore who believe is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, "The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner,"
- Dan 9:23 At the beginning of your supplications the command went forth, and I have come to tell you, for you are preciousness itself. Therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.
- Dan 10:11 And he said to me, Daniel, man of preciousness, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand in your place, for I have now been sent to you. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.
- Dan 10:19 And he said, Do not be afraid, man of preciousness. Peace to you. Be strong, yes, be strong. And when he spoke to me, I received strength and said, Speak, sir, for you have strengthened me.

2. Christ as the unique Overcomer includes all the overcomers; the unique Overcomer dwells in our spirit to make us His overcomers—John 14:30; Dan. 2:34-35; Rev. 19:7-21; 1 John 5:4, 18-19; Rev. 3:21.

- John 14:30 I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and in Me he has nothing;
- Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- Rev 19:10 And I fell before his feet to worship him. And he said to me, Do not do this. I am your fellow slave and a fellow slave of your brothers who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of the prophecy.
- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
- Rev 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.
- Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
- Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
- Rev 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to

- the great dinner of God,
- Rev 19:18 That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great.
- Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.
- Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.
- 1 John 5:4 For everything that has been begotten of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory which has overcome the world—our faith.
- 1 John 5:18 We know that everyone who is begotten of God does not sin, but he who has been begotten of God keeps himself, and the evil one does not touch him.
- 1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one.
- Rev 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

C. The Lord needs to raise up men who turn the age for the recovery of God's expression and authority; among fallen mankind God's expression is torn down and His authority is denied; Daniel and his companions truly allowed God to be expressed through them and were truly under God's authority—Gen. 1:26; Dan. 3:14-30; 4:17, 26; Rev. 22:1-2.

- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Dan 3:14 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, Do you, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, purposely not serve my gods nor worship the golden image that I have set up?
- Dan 3:15 Now then, if, at the time when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe, and all kinds of music, you are ready to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well; but if you do not worship, you will be thrown into the midst of a blazing furnace of fire in that very hour; and who is that god who will deliver you out of my hands?
- Dan 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, there is no need for us to give you an answer in this matter.
- Dan 3:17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the blazing furnace of fire, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.
- Dan 3:18 But if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods nor worship the golden image that you have set up.
- Dan 3:19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury and the countenance of his face was changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. He responded and commanded that the furnace be made seven times hotter than it was usually heated.
- Dan 3:20 And he commanded certain mighty men who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and throw them into the blazing furnace of fire.
- Dan 3:21 Then these men were bound in their shirts, tunics, and mantles, and other clothing, and thrown into the midst of the blazing furnace of fire.
- Dan 3:22 For this reason, because the king's word was so harsh and the furnace had been heated to an extreme, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.
- Dan 3:23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the blazing furnace of fire bound up.
- Dan 3:24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished and stood up in haste; he responded and said to his counselors, Did we not throw three men into the midst of the fire bound up? They answered and said to the king, Certainly, O king.
- Dan 3:25 He answered and said, Look, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not harmed. And the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.

- Dan 3:26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the blazing furnace of fire. He responded and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, servants of God the Most High, come out and come here. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire.
- Dan 3:27 And the satraps, prefects, and governors, and the king's counselors, being gathered together, saw concerning these men that the fire had no effect on their bodies and that the hair of their heads was not singed, nor had their clothes been affected, nor had the smell of fire come upon them.
- Dan 3:28 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him and changed the king's word and yielded their bodies that they might not serve nor worship any god except their own God.
- Dan 3:29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language that speaks something offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego shall be cut into pieces and their houses shall be made a dunghill, because there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.
- Dan 3:30 Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.
- Dan 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills and sets up over it the lowliest of men.
- Dan 4:26 And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

II. Daniel had companions with whom he was absolutely consecrated to God and separated unto God from an age that follows Satan—Dan. 1:4-8; 5:12, 22; 6:10:

- Dan 1:4 Children in whom was no defect, who were good in appearance, who showed insight in all wisdom, understanding in knowledge, and apprehension in thought, and in whom was the ability to stand in the king's palace. And he told him to teach them the learning and language of the Chaldeans.
- Dan 1:5 And the king appointed to them a daily portion from the king's choice provision and from the wine that he drank, and appointed that they should be brought up for three years so that at the end of the time they might stand before the king.
- Dan 1:6 Now among these from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
- Dan 1:7 And the leader of the eunuchs gave them names: he gave Daniel the name Beltshazzar; Hananiah, the name Shadrach; Mishael, the name Meshach; and Azariah, the name Abed-nego.
- Dan 1:8 But Daniel set his heart not to defile himself with the king's choice provision and with the wine that the king drank, so he requested of the leader of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.
- Dan 5:12 Because an excellent spirit and knowledge and insight, and the interpretation of dreams, the declaring of riddles, and the resolving of problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Beltshazzar. Let Daniel now be called, and he will declare the interpretation.
- Dan 5:22 And you his descendant, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this;
- Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously.
- A. All those who are used by God to turn the age must be Nazarites—voluntarily consecrated ones who are sanctified absolutely and ultimately to God—Num. 6:1-8, 22-27; Psa. 110:3; Luke 9:62; Phil. 3:13-14.
- Num 6:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

- Num 6:2 Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, When a man or a woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazarite, to separate himself to Jehovah,
- Num 6:3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar of wine or vinegar of strong drink, nor shall he drink any juice of grapes, nor eat fresh or dried grapes.
- Num 6:4 All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grape vine, from the seeds even to the skin.
- Num 6:5 All the days of his vow of separation no razor shall pass over his head. He shall be holy until the days are fulfilled for which he separated himself to Jehovah; he shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow long.
- Num 6:6 All the days that he separates himself to Jehovah he shall not come near a dead person.
- Num 6:7 He shall not make himself unclean for his father or for his mother, for his brother or for his sister, when they die, because his separation to God is upon his head.
- Num 6:8 All the days of his separation he is holy to Jehovah.
- Num 6:22 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num 6:23 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel; you shall say to them,
- Num 6:24 Jehovah bless you and keep you;
- Num 6:25 Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
- Num 6:26 Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- Num 6:27 So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.
- Psa 110:3 Your people will offer themselves willingly / In the day of Your warfare, / In the splendor of their consecration. / Your young men will be to You / Like the dew from the womb of the dawn.
- Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand on the plow and looks behind is fit for the kingdom of God.
- Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
- Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

B. Although Daniel and his companions were still very young, they stood up as an antitestimony, similar to the way that Antipas did in the church in Pergamos—Rev. 2:13.

- Rev 2:13 I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name and have not denied My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

III. Daniel joined himself to God's desire through God's Word—Dan. 9:1-4; Deut. 17:18-20; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 6:17-18; Psa. 119:11, 24:

- Dan 9:1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, a Median descendant who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans,
- Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by means of the Scriptures the number of the years, which came as the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, that is, seventy years.
- Dan 9:3 So I set my face toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.
- Dan 9:4 And I prayed to Jehovah my God and confessed; and I said, Ah, Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness with those who love Him and keep His commandments,
- Deut 17:18 And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write out for himself a copy of this law in a book, out of that which is before the Levitical priests.
- Deut 17:19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, in order that he may learn to fear Jehovah his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes and doing them,
- Deut 17:20 So that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers and he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right or to the left; that he and his sons may extend their days over their kingdom in the midst of Israel.
- 2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

- 2 Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- Psa 119:11 In my heart I have treasured up Your word / That I might not sin against You.
- Psa 119:24 Also Your testimonies are my delight; / They are my counselors.
- A. Daniel was not only a person who read God's Word regularly but also a person who was joined to God's Word:
1. When Daniel read from the book of Jeremiah that God had ordained seventy years of captivity for the Israelites and that after seventy years God would turn back to bless them, he immediately fasted and prayed; as soon as he touched God's desire through the Word, he joined himself to that desire—Dan. 9:2-3.

Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by means of the Scriptures the number of the years, which came as the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, that is, seventy years.

Dan 9:3 So I set my face toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.
 2. After Daniel read the book of Leviticus, he could no longer eat the unclean food (Dan. 1:8-21); after he read the book of Jeremiah, he could not help but fast and pray for the restoration of God's people (29:10-14).

Dan 1:8 But Daniel set his heart not to defile himself with the king's choice provision and with the wine that the king drank, so he requested of the leader of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Dan 1:9 And God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the leader of the eunuchs;

Dan 1:10 And the leader of the eunuchs said to Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink; for why should he see your faces being more morose than those of the children who are of your own age? Then you would bring guilt upon my head before the king.

Dan 1:11 Then Daniel said to the steward whom the leader of the eunuchs had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

Dan 1:12 Please test your servants for ten days, and let vegetables be given to us to eat and water to drink.

Dan 1:13 Then let our countenances be watched in your presence, as well as the countenances of the children who eat the king's choice provision; and do with your servants according to what you see.

Dan 1:14 So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days.

Dan 1:15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared better, and they were more fully fleshed than all the children who ate the king's choice provision.

Dan 1:16 Therefore the steward withheld their portion of the choice provision and the wine that they were to drink and gave them vegetables.

Dan 1:17 Now as for these four children, God gave them knowledge and insight in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Dan 1:18 Then at the end of the days when the king had said that the children should be brought in, the leader of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar;

Dan 1:19 And the king spoke with them. And among them all none were found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they stood in the presence of the king.

Dan 1:20 And in every matter of wisdom and understanding that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm.

Dan 1:21 And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king.

Jer 29:10 For thus says Jehovah, When seventy years are fulfilled for Babylon, I will visit you and establish My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think about you, declares Jehovah, thoughts of peace and not for evil, to give you a latter end and a hope.

Jer 29:12 Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you;
 Jer 29:13 And you will seek Me and find Me if you search for Me with all your heart;
 Jer 29:14 And I will be found by you, declares Jehovah. And I will turn your captivity and gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, declares Jehovah, and bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.

B. We must read God's Word in a spirit and atmosphere of prayer and touch God's desire from His Word; then we must immediately join ourselves to that desire; the Bible should affect our living, and we should be joined to the Bible—cf. Psa. 119:11, 15-16, 133, 140; 2 Cor. 6:14-18.

Psa 119:11 In my heart I have treasured up Your word / That I might not sin against You.

Psa 119:15 I will muse upon Your precepts / And regard Your ways.

Psa 119:16 I will take delight in Your statutes; / I will not forget Your word.

Psa 119:133 Establish my footsteps in Your word, / And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

Psa 119:140 Your word is very pure, / And Your servant loves it.

2 Cor 6:14 Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?

2 Cor 6:15 And what concord does Christ have with Belial? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever?

2 Cor 6:16 And what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, even as God said, "I will dwell among them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people."

2 Cor 6:17 Therefore "come out from their midst and be separated, says the Lord, and do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you";

2 Cor 6:18 "And I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty."

IV. Daniel was a man of prayer with an excellent spirit, a man living under God's rule in the reality of the kingdom of the heavens, the ruling of the heavens— Dan. 2:17-19, 28; 6:10; 9:1-4, 17; 5:12, 14; 6:3; 5:22-23; 4:25-26, 32:

Dan 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,

Dan 2:18 That they might request compassions from before the God of the heavens concerning this mystery so that Daniel and his companions would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Dan 2:19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of the heavens.

Dan 2:28 But there is a God in the heavens who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the last days. This is your dream, even the visions of your head upon your bed.

Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously.

Dan 9:1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, a Median descendant who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans,

Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by means of the Scriptures the number of the years, which came as the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, that is, seventy years.

Dan 9:3 So I set my face toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Dan 9:4 And I prayed to Jehovah my God and confessed; and I said, Ah, Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness with those who love Him and keep His commandments,

Dan 9:17 And now hear, O our God, the prayer of Your servant and his supplications, and cause Your face to shine upon Your sanctuary that has been desolated, for the Lord's sake.

Dan 5:12 Because an excellent spirit and knowledge and insight, and the interpretation of dreams, the declaring of riddles, and the resolving of problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be called, and he will declare the interpretation.

- Dan 5:14 Now I have heard about you that a spirit of the gods is in you and that light and insight and surpassing wisdom are found in you.
- Dan 6:3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself among the chief ministers and satraps because in him there was an excellent spirit, and the king considered setting him over the whole kingdom.
- Dan 5:22 And you his descendant, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this;
- Dan 5:23 But you have exalted yourself against the Lord of the heavens; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and of gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see nor hear nor know. But the God in whose hand is your breath and to whom all your ways belong, you have not honored.
- Dan 4:25 You shall be driven out from among mankind, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; and you shall be made to eat grass as bulls do and shall be wet with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills.
- Dan 4:26 And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.
- Dan 4:32 And from among mankind you shall be driven out, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; you shall be made to eat grass as bulls do; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills.
- A. The center of Daniel 6 is man's prayer for the carrying out of God's economy; man's prayers are like the rails that pave the way for God's move to go on; there is no other way to bring God's economy into fullness and into fulfillment except by prayer; this is the inner secret of this chapter.
- Dan 6 be omitted.
- B. The highest expression of a man who cooperates with God is in prayer; God carries out His economy on the earth through His faithful channels of prayer—Matt. 26:41; Acts 6:4; Eph. 6:17-18; Col. 4:2.
- Matt 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,
- C. Prayer is the lifeline in the Lord's recovery; the more Satan tries to frustrate our prayer, the more we should pray—Dan. 6:10, cf. vv. 4-9:
- Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously.
- Dan 6:4 Then the chief ministers and satraps sought to find a ground for accusation against Daniel from the perspective of the kingdom, but they could find no ground for accusation or fault, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or fault was found related to him.
- Dan 6:5 Then these men said, We will not find any ground for accusation against this Daniel unless we find something related to him due to the law of his God.
- Dan 6:6 Then these chief ministers and satraps came to prevail upon the king and said thus to him, King Darius, live forever!
- Dan 6:7 All the chief ministers of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors, have taken counsel together that the king should establish a statute and make firm an edict that anyone who makes a petition within the next thirty days to any god or man besides you, O king, shall be cast into the lions' den.
- Dan 6:8 Now, O king, establish the edict and sign the writing, so that it is not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot pass away.
- Dan 6:9 Therefore King Darius signed the writing, that is, the edict.

1. Daniel was a person living before God; he depended on prayer to do what man could not do, and he depended on prayer to understand what man could not understand—2:17-19; 9:1-4; 10:1-3, 11-13.
 - Dan 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,
 - Dan 2:18 That they might request compassions from before the God of the heavens concerning this mystery so that Daniel and his companions would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.
 - Dan 2:19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of the heavens.
 - Dan 9:1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, a Median descendant who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans,
 - Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by means of the Scriptures the number of the years, which came as the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, that is, seventy years.
 - Dan 9:3 So I set my face toward the Lord God to seek Him in prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.
 - Dan 9:4 And I prayed to Jehovah my God and confessed; and I said, Ah, Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness with those who love Him and keep His commandments,
 - Dan 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus the king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the word was true and concerning a great distress. And he understood the word and had an understanding of the vision.
 - Dan 10:2 In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three full weeks.
 - Dan 10:3 I ate no desirable food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, until the three full weeks were completed.
 - Dan 10:11 And he said to me, Daniel, man of preciousness, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand in your place, for I have now been sent to you. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.
 - Dan 10:12 And he said to me, Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand this matter and to afflict yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.
 - Dan 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days; but now Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I remained there alone with the kings of Persia.
2. Daniel's prayer was totally for God and not for himself; through prayer he afforded God the highest cooperation—9:2b; Jer. 25:11; Dan. 9:17; 1 Kings 8:48.
 - Dan 9:2b ... I, Daniel, understood by means of the Scriptures the number of the years, which came as the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, that is, seventy years.
 - Jer 25:11 And this whole land will become a desolation and a waste, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.
 - Dan 9:17 And now hear, O our God, the prayer of Your servant and his supplications, and cause Your face to shine upon Your sanctuary that has been desolated, for the Lord's sake.
 - 1 Kings 8:48 And if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who have carried them captive, and they pray to You toward their land that You have given to their fathers, the city that You have chosen, and the house that I have built for Your name;
3. Because Daniel was a man of prayer, he was acknowledged by God, qualified to be used by God, and capable of speaking forth the mystery of God—cf. Acts 6:4.
 - Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.
4. Daniel's prayer reached the highest peak; he asked God to do something for Himself; he prayed, "Now hear, O our God, the prayer of Your servant and his supplications, and cause Your face to shine upon Your sanctuary that has been desolated, for the Lord's sake"—Dan. 9:17.

5. Only a person like Daniel, who prayed to God single-heartedly with an age-turning prayer, can be used by Him to turn the age.

V. Daniel was a self-sacrificing person with the spirit of martyrdom—6:10-11:

- Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously.
- Dan 6:11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.
- A. Daniel's companions had a true spirit of martyrdom; they stood for the Lord as the unique God and against idol worship at the cost of their lives, being thrown at the command of Nebuchadnezzar into a blazing furnace—3:19-23.
- Dan 3:19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury and the countenance of his face was changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. He responded and commanded that the furnace be made seven times hotter than it was usually heated.
- Dan 3:20 And he commanded certain mighty men who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and throw them into the blazing furnace of fire.
- Dan 3:21 Then these men were bound in their shirts, tunics, and mantles, and other clothing, and thrown into the midst of the blazing furnace of fire.
- Dan 3:22 For this reason, because the king's word was so harsh and the furnace had been heated to an extreme, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.
- Dan 3:23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the blazing furnace of fire bound up.
- B. Daniel prayed at the risk of his life; the intention of the chief ministers and satraps was to destroy Daniel, but the intention of Satan, who was behind them, was to cut off the channel of prayer that God was using for the carrying out of His economy—6:4-24.
- Dan 6:4 Then the chief ministers and satraps sought to find a ground for accusation against Daniel from the perspective of the kingdom, but they could find no ground for accusation or fault, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or fault was found related to him.
- Dan 6:5 Then these men said, We will not find any ground for accusation against this Daniel unless we find something related to him due to the law of his God.
- Dan 6:6 Then these chief ministers and satraps came to prevail upon the king and said thus to him, King Darius, live forever!
- Dan 6:7 All the chief ministers of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors, have taken counsel together that the king should establish a statute and make firm an edict that anyone who makes a petition within the next thirty days to any god or man besides you, O king, shall be cast into the lions' den.
- Dan 6:8 Now, O king, establish the edict and sign the writing, so that it is not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot pass away.
- Dan 6:9 Therefore King Darius signed the writing, that is, the edict.
- Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously.
- Dan 6:11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.
- Dan 6:12 Then they came near and spoke before the king concerning the king's edict: Did you not sign an edict that anyone who petitions, within the next thirty days, any god or man besides you, O king, shall be cast into the lions' den? The king answered and said, The thing is certain, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot pass away.
- Dan 6:13 Then they answered and said before the king, Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, has not respected you, O king, or the edict that you have signed, but three times daily makes his petition.

- Dan 6:14 Then the king, when he heard the thing, was very displeased with himself and set his heart on delivering Daniel; and until the sun set, he made efforts to deliver him.
- Dan 6:15 Then these men came to prevail upon the king and said to the king, Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no edict or statute which the king establishes can be changed.
- Dan 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king responded and said to Daniel, Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.
- Dan 6:17 And a stone was brought and set over the mouth of the den. And the king sealed it with his signet ring and with the signet rings of his lords that nothing might be changed regarding Daniel.
- Dan 6:18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no entertainment was brought before him, and his sleep fled from him.
- Dan 6:19 Then the king arose at dawn at the first light, and went in haste to the lions' den.
- Dan 6:20 And when he had come near the den, he shouted to Daniel with a sad voice; the king responded and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?
- Dan 6:21 Then Daniel said to the king, O king, live forever!
- Dan 6:22 My God has sent His angel and has shut the lions' mouth, and they have not hurt me, inasmuch as before Him innocence was found in me; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.
- Dan 6:23 Then the king was very pleased concerning him, and he commanded that they take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and he was found completely unhurt, because he had trusted in his God.
- Dan 6:24 Then the king commanded, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel and threw them into the lions' den, them, their children, and their wives; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.
- C. Everyone whom God uses to turn the age is afraid of only one thing, that is, of offending God and losing His presence—3:17-18; 2 Cor. 5:9-10; cf. Psa. 51:11; Josh. 7:4.
- Dan 3:17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the blazing furnace of fire, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.
- Dan 3:18 But if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods nor worship the golden image that you have set up.
- 2 Cor 5:9 Therefore also we are determined, whether at home or abroad, to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him.
- 2 Cor 5:10 For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.
- Psa 51:11 Do not cast me from Your presence, / And do not take the Spirit of Your holiness away from me.
- Josh 7:4 So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled before the men of Ai.

VI. In order to be today's overcomers as God's dispensational instrument who turn the age, we must redeem the time; Colossians 4:5 says, "Redeeming the time," and Ephesians 5:16 says, "Redeeming the time":

Col 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are without, redeeming the time.

Eph 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

- A. One could translate the word *time* in these passages as redeeming the "opportunity"; we who are learning to serve the Lord must not let the Head have a sense that we are dull to His direction and numb to His leading; we need to allow the Lord to train our spiritual sense and our spiritual sight to sense the opportunities whenever they come and make the most of them.
- B. Of the days that the Lord has ordained for us, perhaps yesterday should have been the greatest day of our life, but we may have lived yesterday in an ordinary way; this is what it means to miss the opportunity; there is never a day without God's arrangement for us.

- C. Perhaps the Lord gave us a thought that we should seek out a certain person who could potentially be very useful to the Lord (cf. Acts 9:10-19; 22:12-16), but on that day we did not go, because we were afraid the weather was too hot, and we were too lazy.

Acts 9:10 And there was a certain disciple in Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

Acts 9:11 And the Lord said to him, Rise up and go to the lane called Straight, and seek in the house of Judas a man from Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying;

Acts 9:12 And he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him so that he may receive his sight.

Acts 9:13 But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many concerning this man, how many evil things he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem;

Acts 9:14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon Your name.

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before both the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

Acts 9:16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer on behalf of My name.

Acts 9:17 And Ananias went away and entered into the house; and laying his hands on him, he said, Saul, brother, the Lord has sent Me-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road on which you were coming-so that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight and rose up and was baptized.

Acts 9:19 And once he had taken food, he was strengthened. And he was with the disciples in Damascus for some days.

Acts 22:12 And a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well attested to by all the Jews dwelling there,

Acts 22:13 Came to me, and standing by, said to me, Saul, brother, receive your sight! And in that very hour I looked up at him.

Acts 22:14 And he said, The God of our fathers has previously appointed you to know His will and to see the righteous One and to hear the voice from His mouth;

Acts 22:15 For you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things which you have seen and heard.

Acts 22:16 And now, why do you delay? Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.

- D. One day we will face the Lord; perhaps we will regret the things in our life that now provide us with satisfaction; many times we have come short of God's will and have acted foolishly; we have not been faithful to live Christ, to grow Christ, to express Christ, and to propagate Christ in every respect for the building up of His Body—2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 25:21-23, 25-26, 30; Col. 1:9-10; Matt. 7:26; 25:2-3, 8.

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.

Matt 25:21 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

Matt 25:22 And he who had received the two talents also came and said, Master, you delivered to me two talents; behold, I have gained another two talents.

Matt 25:23 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

Matt 25:25 And I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the earth; behold, you have what is yours.

Matt 25:26 And his master answered and said to him, Evil and slothful slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not winnow.

Matt 25:30 And cast out the useless slave into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of it, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Col 1:10 To walk worthily of the Lord to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and growing by the full knowledge of God,

- Matt 7:26 And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them shall be likened to a foolish man who built his house upon the sand.
- Matt 25:2 And five of them were foolish and five were prudent.
- Matt 25:3 For the foolish, when they took their lamps, did not take oil with them;
- Matt 25:8 And the foolish said to the prudent, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.
- E. Daniel 11:32b says, “The people who know their God will show strength and take action”; this means that the people of God will open up new horizons; the more we know God’s will, the more we will seize the opportunities; those who know God will never live in a habitual way day after day—cf. Deut. 4:25 and footnote.
- Deut 4:25 When you have brought forth children and grandchildren and have ¹languished in the land, and you have spoiled yourselves by making an idol, the form of anything, and have done that which is evil in the sight of Jehovah your God so as to anger Him;
- Note 1 “The word (which is a rare one) implies ‘the loss of spiritual freshness, and the blunting of original impressions, produced by force of custom, or long residence in the same spot’ (Dillman).” (S. R. Driver)
- F. “We have seen how God has blessed Brother Witness’s work. His strong point is that he does not allow any opportunity to slip by. It is hard to find him missing an opportunity. Once the opportunity arises, he takes advantage of it”—speaking from Brother Watchman Nee on July 19, 1950 (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 55, p. 199).
- G. If our service is according to God’s will, one day will equal many days, but the days spent outside the will of God are not counted; outside the kingdom of God, no human beings are employed by God (Matt. 20:6-7); Nebuchadnezzar was satisfied with his own work (Dan. 4:30, 37b)—this is the principle of Babylon.
- Matt 20:6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing, and said to them, Why have you been standing here all the day idle?
- Matt 20:7 They said to him, Because no one has hired us. He said to them, You also go into the vineyard.
- Dan 4:30 The king responded and said, Is this not Babylon the great, which I have built up as a royal house by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?
- Dan 4:37b ... because all His works are truth and His ways justice, and because He is able to abase those who walk in pride.
- H. However, thank the Lord for His word of comfort, the words of Joel 2:25—the years that the locust has eaten will be restored to us; if we waste our days, ten years may be equal to one day, but if we redeem the time, one day may equal ten years.
- Joel 2:25 And I will restore to you the years / That the swarming locust has eaten, / The licking locust and the consuming locust and the cutting locust, / My great army / That I sent among you.
- I. Psalm 90:12 says, “Teach us then to number our days / That we may gain a heart of wisdom,” and 84:10 says, “A day in Your courts is better than a thousand”; the days in heaven are not counted by a cycle of twenty-four hours; God has a different way of counting days.

VII. Today the way to become vitalized is to answer the Lord’s call to be an overcomer; an overcomer is a vital person, and a vital person (one who is living and active) is a praying person—119:88, 159; Dan. 11:32b:

- Psa 119:88 Enliven me according to Your lovingkindness, / And I will keep the testimony of Your mouth.
- Psa 119:159 See how I have loved Your precepts; / O Jehovah, enliven me according to Your lovingkindness.
- Dan 11:32b ... But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.
- A. Our intention in forming the new groups is to have groups of overcomers; this is the reason that the groups are called the “vital groups”; the full-time training is also for the producing of the overcomers, those who are desperate to conquer the deadness of Sardis (Rev. 3:1), the lukewarmness of Laodicea (vv. 15-16), and the barrenness dealt with by the Lord in John 15 concerning the vine and the branches (vv. 1-8, 16).
- Rev 3:1 And to the messenger of the church in Sardis write: These things says He who has

the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are living, and yet you are dead.

Rev 3:15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.
Rev 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am about to spew you out of My mouth.

John 15 be omitted.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.

John 15:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes it away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

John 15:6 If one does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is dried up; and they gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

John 15:8 In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so you will become My disciples.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you.

- B. If we are going to be vitalized, we need to have close, intimate, and thorough fellowship with the Lord and with the seeking saints; we need the Lord to lead us to some companions, with whom we can labor, just as Daniel had three companions—Dan. 1:6.

Dan 1:6 Now among these from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

- C. Within today's church life (typified by Jerusalem), we must be the Lord's overcomers (typified by Zion); this is to be in the age of the overcomers according to the Lord's calling (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 20-21; 21:7); it is one thing to be in the church life, but it is another thing to be an overcomer in the church life (14:1-5).

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.

Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except he who receives it.

Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

Rev 2:27 And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;

Rev 2:28 And to him I will give the morning star.

Rev 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.

Rev 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

Rev 21:7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be God to him, and he will be a son to Me.

- Rev 14:1 And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.
- Rev 14:2 And I heard a voice out of heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harp-singers playing on their harps.
- Rev 14:3 And they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been purchased from the earth.
- Rev 14:4 These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.
- Rev 14:5 And in their mouth no lie was found; they are without blemish.
- D. We have to make a resolution to be the overcomers, the vitalized ones; an overcomer is one who overcomes anything that is replacing Christ or that is against Christ—Judg. 5:15-16; 1 John 2:18-20, 27.
- Judg 5:15 And the princes in Issachar were with Deborah; / And Issachar was true to Barak; / Into the valley they were sent behind him. / Among the divisions of Reuben / There were great resolutions in heart.
- Judg 5:16 Why did you sit among the sheepfolds / Listening to the pipings for the flocks? / In the divisions of Reuben / There were great searchings of heart.
- 1 John 2:18 Young children, it is the last hour; and even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come; whereby we know that it is the last hour.
- 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out that they might be manifested that they all are not of us.
- 1 John 2:20 And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know.
- 1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

VIII. As today's overcomers, we should be like the children of Issachar, "men who understood the times that they might know what Israel should do" (1 Chron. 12:32a); see Brother Lee's applicable experience on the next page.

On the eve of the revival in Chefoo, when the Japanese had invaded China and had made life in China, which was hard enough, to be even harder, Brother Lee wrote the following in his personal notes in Chefoo, 1942:

People on earth are suffering calamities, and the churches are in hardship; this is not the age of God's heart's desire but the age of God's procedures. God is using His procedures to fulfill His heart's desire. To turn from the age of procedures to the age of God's heart's desire, man must pray the age-turning prayer. Daniel was such a man.

The earth is suffering calamities because people on the earth do not want God and do not care for God's affairs. Therefore, if the saints are to pray to end the time of calamities, they must answer God's demands and care for God and His needs. Oh! These many calamities today should wake us up to no longer live to the earth! Oh! Today we should truly consecrate ourselves to answer God's demands on behalf of the church so that God may have a way to come in and to turn this age of procedures into the age of His heart's desire. (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1932–1949, vol. 2, p. 27*)

Message Six

The Preparation of the Bride

RK Hymns: 1229

Scripture Reading: Rev. 19:7-9, 11-21; 21:2

- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousneses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
- Rev 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.
- Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
- Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
- Rev 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God,
- Rev 19:18 That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great.
- Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.
- Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I. The marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion of God's New Testament economy, which is to obtain for Christ a bride, the church, through His judicial redemption and by His organic salvation in His divine life—Gen. 2:22; Rom. 5:10; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2, 9-11.

- Gen 2:22 And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man.
- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousneses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
- Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

II. The Lord's recovery is for the preparation of the bride of Christ, who is composed of all His overcomers—19:7-9; cf. Gen. 2:22; Matt. 16:18:

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.

Gen 2:22 And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man.

Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

A. All the overcomers will be the New Jerusalem as the bride of Christ for one thousand years in its initial and fresh stage—Rev. 19:7.

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

B. Eventually, all the believers will join the overcomers to consummate and complete the New Jerusalem in full as the wife of Christ in the new heaven and new earth for eternity—21:2, 9-11.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

III. The readiness of the corporate bride depends on the maturity in life of the overcomers—19:7-9; Heb. 6:1; Phil. 3:12-15; Eph. 4:13-15:

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,

Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

Phil 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you.

Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,

Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

A. In the New Testament the word *perfect* is used to refer to the believers' being full-grown, mature, and perfected in the life of God, indicating that we need to grow and mature unto perfection in the divine life—Matt. 5:48.

Matt 5:48 You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- B. We need to continue to grow until we are matured in the divine life to become a full-grown man, arriving at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ—Eph. 4:13.
Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- C. In order for the bride to be mature, her faith and love need to be fully developed—Titus 3:15:
Titus 3:15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in faith. Grace be with you all.
1. Faith and love are two inseparable, excellent virtues of the believers in Christ—1 Tim. 1:14; 2 Tim. 1:13; Gal. 5:6.
1 Tim 1:14 And the grace of our Lord superabounded with faith and love in Christ Jesus.
2 Tim 1:13 Hold a pattern of the healthy words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.
Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails anything nor uncircumcision, but faith avails, operating through love.
 2. Through faith we receive the Lord, and through love we enjoy the Lord whom we have received—John 1:12; 14:21; 21:15-17:
John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, he is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.
John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.
John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.
John 21:17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.
 - a. Faith is given to us by God that by it we may receive Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, and thereby enter into the Triune God and be joined to Him as one, having Him as our life, life supply, and everything—2 Pet. 1:1.
2 Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have been allotted faith equally precious as ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:
 - b. Love issues out of faith and enables us to live out all the riches of the Triune God with those who have believed into Christ with us in order that the Triune God may have a glorious corporate expression—Eph. 3:19-21.
Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,
Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

IV. In addition to being mature in life, the bride must be built up as a corporate person—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:15-16; Rev. 19:7; 21:2:

- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- A. God's building is the desire of God's heart and the goal of God's salvation—Eph. 1:5, 9; Exo. 25:8; 1:11; 40:2-3, 34-35.
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- Exo 1:11 So they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built storage cities for Pharaoh, Pithom and Raamses.
- Exo 40:2 On the first day of the first month you shall raise up the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting.
- Exo 40:3 And you shall put the Ark of the Testimony there, and you shall screen the Ark with the veil.
- Exo 40:34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle.
- Exo 40:35 And Moses was not able to enter the Tent of Meeting, because the cloud settled on it and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle.
- B. God intends to have a building in which God and man, man and God, can be a mutual abode to each other—John 15:4a; Rev. 21:2-3, 22.
- John 15:4a Abide in Me and I in you. ...
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.
- Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
- C. The principle of God's building is that God builds Himself into man and builds man into Himself—John 14:20; 1 John 4:15:
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- 1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God.
1. God's mingling Himself with man is God's building Himself into man.
 2. Man's mingling with God is man's being built into God—Eph. 3:17.
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- D. To be built up with fellow believers is the Lord's supreme and highest requirement of His faithful seekers—4:15-16.
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- E. Being built up with the fellow partakers of the divine life is the highest virtue of one who pursues Christ in God's eternal economy—1 Tim. 1:4.
- 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

V. The bride's wedding garment is of "fine linen, bright and clean"—Rev. 19:7-8:

- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- A. *Clean* refers to the nature, and *bright* refers to the expression.
- B. The fine linen with which the bride is clothed is "the righteousnesses of the saints"—v. 8:
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

1. Christ is the righteousness by which we have been justified by God so that we may be reborn in our spirit to receive the divine life—1 Cor. 1:30; Rom. 8:10:
 - 1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
 - Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
 - a. As our objective righteousness, Christ is the One in whom we are justified by God—3:24, 28; 5:1, 9; 4:25; 5:16, 18.
 - Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
 - Rom 3:28 For we account that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.
 - Rom 5:1 Therefore having been justified out of faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 - Rom 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified in His blood, we will be saved through Him from the wrath.
 - Rom 4:25 Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised for our justification.
 - Rom 5:16 And it is not that as through one who sinned, so also the free gift is; for the judgment was out of one offense unto condemnation, but the gracious gift is out of many offenses unto justification.
 - Rom 5:18 So then as it was through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also it was through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.
 - b. As our subjective righteousness, Christ is the One dwelling in us to live for us a life that can be justified by God and that is always acceptable to God—Matt. 5:6, 20.
 - Matt 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
 - Matt 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.
2. If we are to be found in Christ, we must fulfill the condition of not having our own righteousness but instead having a righteousness which is not our own—a righteousness which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith—Phil. 3:9.
 - Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,
3. Christ lived out of the saints as their subjective righteousness becomes their wedding garment—Rev. 19:8:
 - Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
 - a. The righteousness we received for our salvation is objective and enables us to meet the requirement of the righteous God, whereas the righteousnesses of the overcoming saints are subjective and enable them to meet the requirement of the overcoming Christ—1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 3:9.
 - 1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
 - Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,
 - b. The wedding garment in Matthew 22:11-13 signifies the Christ whom we live out and who is expressed through us in our daily living as our surpassing righteousness—5:20; Rev. 3:4-5, 18.
 - Matt 22:11 But when the king came in to look at those reclining at table, he saw there a man who was not clothed with a wedding garment,

Matt 22:12	And he said to him, Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment? And he was speechless.
Matt 22:13	Then the king said to the servants, Bind his feet and hands, and cast him out into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.
Matt 5:20	For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.
Rev 3:4	But you have a few names in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, and they will walk with Me in white because they are worthy.
Rev 3:5	He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
Rev 3:18	I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.

VI. For the presentation of the bride to the Bridegroom, the bride needs beauty—

S. S. 1:15-16; 4:1, 7:

- S. S. 1:15 Oh, you are beautiful, my love! / Oh, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves.
- S. S. 1:16 Oh, you are beautiful, my beloved; indeed, pleasant! Indeed, our couch is green.
- S. S. 4:1 Oh, you are beautiful, my love! / Oh, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves behind your veil; / Your hair is like a flock of goats / That repose on Mount Gilead.
- S. S. 4:7 You are altogether beautiful, my love, / And there is no blemish in you.
- A. In Song of Songs the lover and the Beloved both have beauty, and they appreciate the beauty in each other—1:15-16; 4:1-5, 7.
- S. S. 1:15 Oh, you are beautiful, my love! / Oh, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves.
- S. S. 1:16 Oh, you are beautiful, my beloved; indeed, pleasant! Indeed, our couch is green.
- S. S. 4:1 Oh, you are beautiful, my love! / Oh, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves behind your veil; / Your hair is like a flock of goats / That repose on Mount Gilead.
- S. S. 4:2 Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes / That have come up from the washing, / All of which have borne twins, / And none of them is bereaved of her young.
- S. S. 4:3 Your lips are like a scarlet thread, / And your mouth is lovely; / Your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate / Behind your veil.
- S. S. 4:4 Your neck is like the tower of David, / Built for an armory: / A thousand bucklers hang on it, / All the shields of the mighty men.
- S. S. 4:5 Your two breasts are like two fawns, / Twins of a gazelle, / That feed among the lilies.
- S. S. 4:7 You are altogether beautiful, my love, / And there is no blemish in you.
- B. Ephesians 5:27 speaks of the beauty of the bride, revealing that Christ will “present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.”
- C. The beauty of the bride comes from the Christ who is wrought into the church and who is then expressed through the church—3:17a.
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- D. Our only beauty is the shining out of Christ from within us; what Christ appreciates in us is the expression of Himself—Psa. 50:2.
- Psa 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, / God shines forth.
- E. “Your eyes will see the King in His beauty” (Isa. 33:17a); “the King will desire your beauty” (Psa. 45:11a).
- F. “You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners”—S. S. 6:4.

VII. The bride must also be a warrior for the defeating of God’s enemy—Eph. 6:10:

- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- A. In Ephesians 5:25-27 and 6:10-20 we see the church as the bride and the warrior; in

Revelation 19 we also have these two aspects of the church.

- Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her
- Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
- Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness
- Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;
- Eph 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,
- Eph 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in a chain, that in it I would speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
- Rev 19 be omitted.

- B. On the day of His wedding, Christ will marry those who have been fighting the battle against God's enemy for years; that is, Christ will marry the overcomers, who have already overcome the evil one—vv. 7-9; 1 John 2:14.

- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousneses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- 1 John 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.

- C. Christ will come as a fighting General with His bride as His army to fight against Antichrist at Armageddon—Rev. 19:11-21:

- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
- Rev 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.
- Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
- Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
- Rev 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God,

- Rev 19:18 That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great.
- Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.
- Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.
1. When Christ comes with His army, He will come as the Son of Man—Matt. 26:64; Rev. 14:14.
 - Matt 26:64 Jesus said to him, You have said rightly. Nevertheless I say to you, From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.
 - Rev 14:14 And I saw, and behold, there was a white cloud, and on the cloud One like the Son of Man sitting, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.
 2. As the Son of Man, He will need a counterpart to match and complete Him; this counterpart will be His bride—John 3:29.
 - John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.
 3. Because the Lord is the Word, His fighting will be the speaking of the word of God—Rev. 19:13:
 - Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
 - a. As the Lord fights, He speaks for God and expresses God.
 - b. The Lord's fighting at Armageddon will be a powerful speaking.
 4. The wedding garment—Christ lived out of us as our daily righteousness—qualifies us not only to attend the wedding but also to join the army to fight with Christ against Antichrist in the war at Armageddon—Matt. 22:11-12; Rev. 19:7-8, 14.
 - Matt 22:11 But when the king came in to look at those reclining at table, he saw there a man who was not clothed with a wedding garment,
 - Matt 22:12 And he said to him, Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment? And he was speechless.
 - Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
 - Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
 - Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

VIII. The corporate Christ, Christ with His overcoming bride, will come as a stone to crush the aggregate of human government to bring in God's kingdom—Dan. 2:34-35; Joel 3:11; Rev. 19:11-21; cf. Gen. 1:26:

- Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
- Joel 3:11 Hurry and come, / All you surrounding nations, / And be gathered. / There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!
- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

- Rev 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.
- Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
- Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
- Rev 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God,
- Rev 19:18 That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great.
- Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.
- Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.
- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- A. Whereas Daniel 2 speaks of Christ coming as a stone cut out without hands, Revelation 19 speaks of Christ coming as the One who has His bride as His army.
 Dan 2 be omitted.
 Rev 19 be omitted.
- B. Before Christ descends to earth to deal with Antichrist and the totality of human government, He will have a wedding, uniting His overcomers to Himself as one entity—vv. 7-9.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- C. After His wedding, the Lord will come with His newly married bride to destroy Antichrist, who with his army will fight against God directly—vv. 11, 13-15; 2 Thes. 2:2-8:
- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
- Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
- Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
- 2 Thes 2:2 That you be not quickly shaken in mind nor alarmed, neither by a spirit nor by word nor by a letter as if by us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
- 2 Thes 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition,
- 2 Thes 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or an object of worship, so that he sits in the temple of God, setting himself forth, saying that he is God.
- 2 Thes 2:5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I said these things to you?
- 2 Thes 2:6 And now you know that which restrains, so that he might be revealed in his own time.

- 2 Thes 2:7 For it is the mystery of lawlessness that is now operating, but only until the one now restraining goes out of the way.
- 2 Thes 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord Jesus will slay by the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of His coming),
1. The Lord Jesus, the Word of God, will slay Antichrist, the man of lawlessness, by the breath of His mouth—Rev. 19:13-15; 2 Thes. 2:2-8.
 - Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
 - Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
 - Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
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 - 2 Thes 2:7 For it is the mystery of lawlessness that is now operating, but only until the one now restraining goes out of the way.
 - 2 Thes 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord Jesus will slay by the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of His coming),
 2. Out of Christ's mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations—Rev. 19:15a; cf. 1:16; 2:12, 16.
 - Rev 19:15a And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; ...
 - Rev 1:16 And He had in His right hand seven stars; and out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword; and His face shone as the sun shines in its power.
 - Rev 2:12 And to the messenger of the church in Pergamos write: These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:
 - Rev 2:16 Repent therefore; but if not, I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war with them with the sword of My mouth.
- D. After crushing the human government, God will have cleared up the entire universe; then the corporate Christ, Christ with His overcomers, will become a great mountain to fill the whole earth, making the whole earth God's kingdom—Dan. 2:35, 44; 7:22, 27; Rev. 11:15.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
 - Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.
 - Dan 7:22 Until the Ancient of Days came; and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.
 - Dan 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; His kingdom is an eternal kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.
 - Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.