



Let us go on to perfection

*Revival Ministries Australia presents:
A series of teachings to lead the church
onto perfection.*

Paul Galligan

Let Us Go On To Perfection

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Session One

The Same Anointing

- That Jesus had

THE SAME ANOINTING

The anointing of God is essential to us as the people of God, the saints of the Most High God. Without the anointing of God we cannot do the works He calls us to do. Remember Jesus said in **John 14:12**,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”

Jesus was recognised by some as a teacher sent from God because of the works that He did. For example, in **John 3:2**, a man called Nicodemus came to Jesus and said,

“Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

The Bible says that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power. As a result of this anointing Jesus went about doing good and healing all those who were oppressed of the devil, because God was with Him. (**Acts 10:38**) Jesus Himself announced His commissioning with the anointing in **Luke 4:18-19**, when He took the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth, and said,

*“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
because He has anointed Me
to preach good news to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed;
to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”*

There are six expressions of the anointing that the Lord gave Jesus:

1. **To preach the good news to the poor.** This is the ministry of preaching. The gospel is to be preached to the poor in spirit [**Matt.5:3**]. We need an anointing to preach the good news so that people are saved. The practice has been to call Sunday morning sermons the preaching ministry, but the Word of God speaks of the preaching ministry as that which brings salvation [healing and deliverance] to the poor.
2. **To heal the brokenhearted.** There is an anointing from Jesus that heals our broken hearts. There is not one person in this world whose heart has not been broken. We need Jesus to mend our hearts. *“But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite heart”* (**Isaiah 66:2**).
3. **To proclaim liberty to the captives.** Natural man is held in captivity in their hearts to sin. It is only the message of the cross that can bring liberty to sinful man; that breaks the yoke of sin.

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4. **Recovery of sight to the blind, those who cannot see.** This refers primarily to the spiritually blind. Jesus said you must be born again of the Spirit of God to see the kingdom of God (**Jn.3:3**). He also said to ask Him for “eye-salve”, [the anointing] that we might see (**Rev.3:18**). Open the eyes of my heart, Lord!
5. **To set at liberty those who are oppressed.** **Isaiah 10:27** *“It shall come to pass in that day, that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil”*. The yoke of bondage to sin will be lifted off people; the yoke of the oppressor will be removed.
6. **To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.** This refers to the freedom ‘to return home’, to be released from captivity and debt, to come in to a time of blessedness and prosperity; in other words *“for every man to sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one to make them afraid”* (**Micah 4:4**). This picture is first mentioned in **1Kings 4:25**, and is the picture of kingdom fullness, safety and provision.

This is the anointing of God; this is the anointing God gave Jesus; this is the anointing that God has for His people to minister the gospel with signs and wonders.

It is Gods desire to give this same anointing to His people: to the body of Christ. The church is the body of the anointed one, which is to go about doing the things Jesus did.

Hebrews 2:10 *“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”* Jesus is leading many sons to glory. His anointing is to be given to His sons. The anointing is transferable! The same Spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in us (**Rom.8:11**).

The anointing is transferable

The anointing can be transferred to the next generation. Elijah had an anointing which was recognised by Elisha. Elisha desired the anointing. He was willing to go after the anointing and would not settle for anything less. He received a double anointing from Elijah, which remained with him to the grave. Even his bones were anointed (**2 Kings 13:21**).

A pure and undefiled anointing

The anointing that Jesus had was a **pure and undefiled anointing**, not a leprous anointing. Remember Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, who wanted to gain materially from Namaan’s healing. He received leprousy instead of the anointing (**2Kings 5:20-27**). We need to receive the anointing that Jesus had. Jesus received the Spirit without measure; *“For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.”* (**Jn.3:34**)

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The anointing flows from the head

The anointing flows from the head over the body (**Ps.133:2**). The anointing flows from Jesus, our head, over His body, the church (**Eph.1:22-23**). God's intention is for the whole body to have the same anointing as the head.

The same Spirit that rested on Messiah

Isaiah prophesied much concerning the coming Messiah, as in chapter **11:1-5**, and we are looking at **verse 2** to understand the anointing further. The Word of God says,

*“The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.”*

Sevenfold Spirit of God

This is the revelation of the sevenfold Spirit of God (**Rev.1:4**):

He is the Spirit of the LORD;
He is the Spirit of wisdom;
He is the Spirit of understanding;
He is the Spirit of counsel;
He is the Spirit of might;
He is the Spirit of knowledge;
He is the Spirit of the fear of the LORD.

In **Ephesians 1:17-18** the apostle Paul prays for the saints, *“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe.”* The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. He will bring revelation knowledge of the Word of God as we read it, and give us understanding; He reveals the mighty power of God in us.

Jesus promised the same Holy Spirit to us who believe in John 14:16-17,

*“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper,
that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom
the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows
Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*

The Holy Spirit is a Person

The Holy Spirit is the Person of God coming to us by His Spirit; we are to refer to ‘Him’ not ‘it’. We need to know Him and relate to Him as God in the Spirit. **The Godhead is presented in the Scripture as Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.** When Jesus introduced the Holy Spirit to His disciples, He referred to Him as ‘He’. We are to receive the Holy Spirit; He is God; He is the Lord (**2Cor.3:17**); He was in the beginning **Gen.1:2**, *“the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters”*.

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Every believer has an anointing

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.” 1 John 2:20

What is this anointing which we have received? In this study we will learn of the anointing; that it is the same anointing that was upon our Lord Jesus Christ.

Word meaning for anointing:

In the KJV the word ‘unction’ is used for ‘anointing’.

Greek ‘chrisma’ S.C.#5545 – an unguent or smearing, i.e. the specific endowment of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrew ‘mishchah’ or ‘moshchah’ S.C. 4888 – unction, from ‘mashach’ to rub with oil, to anoint; translated:- anointing, to be anointed, ointment.

A STUDY OF 1 John 2:18 – 27:

v. 18 *‘Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.’* The context of this teaching on the anointing is that the antichrist is coming. People are being deceived through false teaching, by false anointings!

v. 19 *‘They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.’* Jesus had warned His disciples this would happen and to beware of such ones. **Matt.24:4-5** *‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ, and will deceive many.”’*

v. 20 *‘But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.’* John has brought a warning that there are going to be many deceivers in the last days; many false preachers. BUT, he says, YOU have an ANOINTING and you KNOW ALL THINGS! What is the result of having an anointing? You know all things. This is revelation knowledge. [Greek ‘epignosis’ S.C.#1922]. Through the anointing you can know all things.

v. 21 *‘I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.’* The anointing will not lie; the anointing will reveal the truth to you. You will recognise those who are teaching in contradiction to the Word of God. If you have an anointing you will not be deceived. Search the Scriptures in the anointing and see if these things are true (**Acts17:11-12**).

v. 22 – 23 *‘Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also’.* Those who do not receive Jesus as the Son of God, do not have the Father.

v. 24 *‘Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.’* What have you heard? **John 15:7**, Jesus says *‘If you abide in Me, and My*

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words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.’ We are to have the Word of God abiding in us; this is the key to abiding in the Father.

v. 25-26 *‘And this is the promise that He has promised us – eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you’.* The promise we have in the Anointed One is eternal life.

v. 27 *‘But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.’* Jesus is the ‘anointed one’, and we are to abide in Him. In **John 15:4** Jesus said *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”* We will only bear fruit if we remain in the Anointed One and have His anointing remaining in us. The anointing teaches us, revealing the Word to us. In that hour you will know what to say for the Holy Spirit will speak through you (**Lu.12:12**).

WHERE DOES THE ANOINTING COME FROM?

2 Cor.1:21-22 *“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”*

It is God who anoints, and God who seals with His Holy Spirit. **Acts 10:38** *“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him”.*

Eph.1:13 *“you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”*

WHAT SORT OF ANOINTING IS IT?

Rom.8:11 *“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”* This is the same anointing that Jesus had. It is a resurrection anointing. It is an anointing of power, with mighty signs and wonders.

Eph.1:19-20 to know *“the exceeding greatness of His power ... the same mighty power by which He raised Christ from the dead.”*

WHEN DID JESUS GET ANOINTED?

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. **Luke 1:35** *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”* Jesus did not need to be born of the Spirit, but the Holy Spirit came upon Him at His baptism.

Luke 3:21-22 *“It came to pass that Jesus also was baptised; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased”, [also Matt.3:16&17].*

This was when Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit.

Immediately after this, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil. **Luke 4:1** *“Then Jesus being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned*

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from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.” In the wilderness Jesus had a battle with satan.

Jesus was empowered by the Spirit after this victory over the enemy. **Luke 4:14** *‘Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.’*

WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF JESUS BEING ANOINTED?

The fulfillment of the prophecy from **Isaiah 35:3-6** & **49:8-9** began to take place. Jesus demonstrated to the people that He was the one sent to fulfill the prophecy.

Matt.4:23 *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”* v.24 *“Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.”*

Jesus taught in the synagogues. He preached the gospel with mighty signs and wonders: with many healing miracles. He became known everywhere for the miraculous signs that accompanied His preaching. Many people were delivered from demons and great multitudes followed Him.

WHEN DID THE DISCIPLES GET ANOINTED?

The disciples were anointed by Jesus and sent out to minister in *“every city and place where He Himself was about to go”*, **Luke 10:1-12**. The disciples came back rejoicing saying *“Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name”*, **Lu.10:17**. This anointing that they received from Jesus enabled them to have authority over demons. But it was His anointing and His anointing could not remain with them; they needed to receive an anointing themselves from God.

In **John 16** Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit would only come after He had left them. *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you”*, **Jn.16:7**. This happened on the Day of Pentecost, **Acts 2:1-4**. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, they spoke in other tongues and were empowered to preach and perform miracles.

WHEN WAS PAUL ANOINTED?

In **Acts 9** we read of Saul’s encounter with the Lord on the road to Damascus. Saul acknowledged the Lord but he was not filled with the Spirit at that time. Three days later, a disciple named Ananias was sent to Saul by the Lord, to lay hands on him and commission him. This was when Saul was anointed. **Acts 9:17** *“And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said; “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”*

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WHEN WERE YOU ANOINTED?

On the day of Pentecost, after Peter had preached, many were convicted and asked, *“what shall we do?”* (Acts2:37). Peter said to them, *“Repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts2:38)

We are anointed when we receive the Holy Spirit. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power (Acts10:38); it is God who anoints us. The same anointing that God gave to Jesus, He wants to give to His disciples, to the church, so that we can do the *“greater works”* (Jn.14:12).

It is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit;

speak with new tongues!

But ask for more!

These signs will follow them that believe; signs of the anointing of the Holy One!

Heal the sick!

Cast out the devils!

Experience divine protection, divine provision!

Preach the Gospel!

Go into all the world!

Make disciples from every nation!

Teach the Word!

Session Two

Who are Apostles

and

What do Apostles do

WHO ARE APOSTLES AND WHAT DO APOSTLES DO?

WHO [or WHAT] IS AN APOSTLE

APOSTLE means a “sent one”, a special delegate, one commissioned for a particular task or role, one sent forth with a message. The key to apostolic ministry is that God calls the apostle, raises that person up, generally after many years of training and preparation, and sends the person to do the work of an apostle.

Three features of an Apostle: *{quote from Spirit Filled Life Bible p.1738}*

1. ‘One who has had a visible encounter with the resurrected Christ’. What does that mean? Paul the apostle never saw Jesus in the flesh but he had a visible encounter with the risen Lord on the road to Damascus. Likewise Stephen the first martyr had a visible encounter of the Lord as he was being stoned. My testimony is that the apostolic calling needs to be based on very clear encounter with the LORD, as there is much contending against this ministry.
2. ‘One who plants churches’. The apostle is the church builder.
3. One who functions in the ministry with signs, wonders and miracles. Every ascension gift ministry can expect to function with signs and wonders. The calling of the apostle should be confirmed by the Lord in this way, specifically. **Acts 2:43** – mighty signs and wonders were done by the hands of the apostle. **2Cor.12:12** *“Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.”*

The Lord calls people by name to be apostles

Apostles are empowered by the Lord to cast out evil spirits and to heal

Apostles are sent by the Lord to specific people groups

THE CALLING OF APOSTLES

In **Matt. 10** we read of the calling of the first apostles by the Lord Jesus Christ. The first calling we all receive is the call to follow Jesus; then comes the appointment to a specific ministry. Out of many who were following Jesus, God called the twelve to be apostles.

Mt.10:1 *“When He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.”* The signs of the apostle given by Jesus are power over unclean spirits and the ability to cast them out, and the ability to heal the sick.

In **Matt. 10: 2-4** Jesus names the ones who are to be His apostles. He called them by name. They were chosen by Jesus after a night spent in prayer talking to His Father. (**Lu. 6:12-16**)

v.5-6 The apostles are sent out by the Lord. He gave them specific instructions: to which people group they were to go, and where they were not to go.

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v.7-8. Speaks of what the apostles are to do. They are to *“preach the kingdom of heaven, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.”*

Mt. 10:9-15. Tell how they are to conduct the ministry. They were sent out by the Lord and were obedient to His instructions.

Apostles will be persecuted for the conduct of apostolic ministry

v.16-20. Persecution will come when people step out into a full on ministry for the Lord, even from family. The apostles were to expect persecution but not to fear it because the Holy Spirit would tell them what they were to say (**v.19-20**).

v.27-31. The apostle is to be prepared to lay down his life.

v.32-33. He is called to confess Christ before men; if you do this Jesus has promised to confess your name before the Father.

v.34-39. This will bring division and cause strife. *‘He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me’* (**v.38**).

He who receives an apostle receives the Lord

Mt. 10:40-42. There are rewards for those who receive an apostle. Jesus said [speaking to the apostles] *“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”* If you receive an apostle you receive the Lord (**v.40**). The Lord says this about no one else!

Twelve Apostles of the Lamb

The apostles had been with Jesus for some time before He named them. They had already had some training with Jesus. He knew them.

Rev. 21:14 In the New Jerusalem the walls of the city are built on the foundations of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb. The walls are made up of living stones. [**1 Pet.2:5**]

The church is built on the foundations of the apostle. **Eph.2:20**, *“Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”* The apostles, both the twelve and those who are given as ascension gift ministries, are foundational ministries upon which the apostolic church of the Lord Jesus Christ is built.

There are only 12 apostles of the Lamb. In **Acts 1:15-26** we read of a replacement being chosen for Judas; the qualifications for that replacement: **one who had been with Jesus from the day of His baptism with John to the day of His ascension** (21-22).

There had to be 12 apostles of the Lamb.

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THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

Matt.16:18-19. Jesus gives to the apostle Peter the keys of the kingdom.

Peter uses the keys:

In Jerusalem - Acts 2:17-41 Peter was the one chosen by God to stand up with the 11 and preach on the Day of Pentecost with the result that 3000 Jewish men were released into the kingdom. On that day Peter used the keys to open the door to the kingdom of heaven to those 3000 Jewish people.

In Samaria – Acts 8:14-17 After Phillip had preached in Samaria as a successful evangelist with signs and wonders, men and women alike had believed and been baptised, but had not received the Holy Spirit. The church in Jerusalem sent Peter and John, the two leading apostles, who laid hands on them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. Peter fulfilled his commission by using the keys to open up the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Samaria.

In Caesarea – Acts 10:30-46 Peter went to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile, to share the gospel and using the keys of preaching about Jesus, released the Holy Spirit to them. Then he baptised them in water. Peter opened the kingdom of God to the Gentiles.

Peter is used as a foundational apostle in three specific ways in the book of Acts to fulfill the Great Commission (Acts 1:8).

Paul, the apostle, has the same keys Peter had and used them.

He was given them firstly when Ananias was sent to heal him, see him filled with the Holy Spirit and baptised in water. Acts 9:15-16 we read the commission given to Paul by Jesus through Ananias *“he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel”*. When Ananias laid hands on Paul, he released to him the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

In Acts 13:1-4 Paul is sent out as an apostle by the Holy Spirit to do the ministry work of the apostle. Before that he is called a teacher. He is already recognised as having the ascension gift ministry of Teacher. The church met together *‘ministered to the Lord and fasted,’* then the Holy Spirit spoke to them *“Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them”*. The church then laid hands on them and sent them out.

In Acts 14:1-4 Paul and Barnabas begin to minister as apostles, preaching and teaching Jews and Gentiles alike, winning new converts and experiencing strong opposition. In v.3 we read that the Lord was *“bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.”* Signs and wonders follow the apostle!

In Acts 19:1-7 we see Paul using the keys of the kingdom of heaven to plant the church in Ephesus.

How did Paul use the keys in Ephesus?

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1. He preached Jesus to them.
 2. They were baptised in the name of Jesus.
 3. They received the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues and prophesied.
- These twelve men became the foundation stones of the church in Ephesus.

APOSTLES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Acts 2:38 *‘Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”’* Here we see Peter using the keys: calling people to repent, be baptised in the Name of Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-15 *‘Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.’* The apostle is used to release the Holy Spirit.

Acts 9:15-16 *‘But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”’* Paul the apostle was called and commissioned by Jesus.

Acts 10:1-44 Peter was sent by the Lord to the house of Cornelius, to Gentile believers. He preached Jesus to them, the Holy Spirit fell and he baptised the believers. Peter the apostle is founding the church.

Acts 13:4 *‘So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit ...’* It is the Holy Spirit who anoints and sends. Paul and Barnabas are sent out to do the ministry work of apostles.

Acts 14:21-23 *‘And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.’* Apostles plant churches, they strengthen the church, appoint and commission elders, (pastors). They are able to discern those who are to be raised up into leadership.

Acts 18:1-8 Paul visits Corinth and we see apostolic work happening: the church is being raised up and the word of God is being taught. This was the foundation of a strong church being raised up in Corinth which moved in signs and wonders.

Acts 19:1-7 We have already looked at this passage. Here in Ephesus foundations are being laid in individual lives and the church is being planted. The church in Ephesus also grew into a strong apostolic and evangelistic church with all the gift ministries operating.

MINISTRY OF AN APOSTLE:

1. Apostles are called by name and are sent by the Lord to go forth. Mark 3:13-19. v13, Jesus went up on the mountain and *'called to Him those He wanted'*. V.14-15, *'He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons'*.

Acts 13:1-4 records how the Holy Spirit identified Saul and Barnabas to be set apart and sent out.

2. Apostles are used to plant churches and lay foundations. In Acts 2, Peter the apostle lays foundations on the day of Pentecost when he tells people that they are to *'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'*

In Acts 8 the apostles Peter and John are sent to Samaria where Phillip has been preaching. They prayed for the new believers that they might receive the Holy Spirit, v15. Verse 17 *'Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit'*. The foundations are being laid.

Acts 10 records Peter speaking in the house of Cornelius. He preaches Jesus to the Gentiles, the Holy Spirit comes and Peter commands them to be baptized. The church is planted.

In Acts 19:1-7 the apostle Paul is used to establish the church in Ephesus. The disciples are baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Paul *'laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied'* (v.6).

3. Apostles are given power by Jesus to heal, cleanse, raise the dead and cast out demons. In Matthew Jesus sends out the twelve and commands them in v8 to *"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons."*

This is repeated in Mk. 3:15, where Jesus gave the apostles *"power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons"*. It is part of the great commission given to the apostles before Jesus ascended into heaven, Mk. 16:17-18 *"And these signs will follow those who believe in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover."*

Apostles preach the gospel with signs and wonders: Rom. 15:18-19, Paul is writing to the church in Rome, *"For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ"*.

A gospel without power is not a gospel at all!

2 Cor.12:12 *"Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds."*

4. Apostles are used by God to release the Holy Spirit. In Acts 8 Phillip went down to Samaria and preached Christ to the people. Many responded, believed and were baptised. v14-17 *"Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them who, when they had come*

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down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

In Acts 10 Peter preaches to the Gentiles in the house of Cornelius. v 44 *"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word."*

In Acts 19 Paul comes to Ephesus and meets a group of disciples and asks them if they have received the Holy Spirit. They replied *'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit'* (v.2). Paul opened up the scripture to them and then he *'laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied'* (v.6).

5. Apostles have authority from Jesus to bind and to loose. Matt.16:19 *'And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and what ever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven'.*

Matt.28:18 *'And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth'. Jesus imparted His authority to his apostles, Luke 10:19 'Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.'*

6. Apostles are called to prayer and ministry of the word. In Acts 6:1-4 a dispute arose between the Hebrews and the Hellenists (Greek speaking Jews) over daily distribution to the widows. The apostles decided to appoint 7 men who would oversee these needs. v2-4 *' Then the twelve summoned the multitude on the disciples and said, " It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

7. The ministry of the Apostle includes pastoring, feeding and tending, shepherding the flock. Peter the apostle was commissioned by Jesus to the pastoring role. Jn. 21:15-17 Jesus instructed Peter to *"Feed My lambs", "Tend My sheep",* and again to *"Feed My sheep".*

8. Apostles are to minister publicly and from house to house. (Acts 2:42-47) The early church was taught the *'apostles doctrine'* and they *'continued daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house'.*

In Acts 20:20 Paul is speaking to the church at Ephesus, reminding them how he proclaimed the gospel to them and *'taught publicly and from house to house'.*

9. Apostles are to declare the whole counsel of God. Paul as an apostle was able to say that he had not *'shunned to declare the whole counsel of God'* (Acts 20:27). Acts 2:42 speaks of the apostles doctrine which was taught in the early church. In Hebrews 6:1-2 six foundations are listed which have to be laid before the church can go on to maturity. These foundations are: repentance from dead works, faith towards God, doctrine of baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. The apostle is to call the church back to foundations, to ensure that they are properly laid. Unless

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foundations are properly laid, God is unable to release the greater depth of His word to believers.

James the Apostle declares the counsel of God to the council of Jerusalem. **Acts 15:6** *'the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter'*, then in **v13-21** he speaks the wisdom of God into the situation.

10. Apostles ordain elders. The apostles visited churches in different cities (**Acts 14:21**) then they *'appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed'* (verse 23).

Paul commissioned Titus to appoint elders, **Titus 1:5** *'For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you'*.

11. Apostles are to persevere and expect persecution and tribulation. **Matt. 10:5-15** lists the instructions Jesus gave to the twelve before He sent them out, then in **v16-26** Jesus warns them that persecutions are coming. In **2 Cor. 11:23-28** Paul lists the sufferings he has endured as an apostle. Jesus warns us in **Lu. 21:16** *'You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death'*. These warnings are repeated in **Mk. 13:9-13**. Jesus was rejected and persecuted. He told His disciples *'A servant is not greater than his master, if they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you'* (**Jn. 15:20**). The apostles in the early church experienced this persecution, **Acts 4:1-22**. Peter and John were arrested and put in jail, and commanded not to preach in the name of Jesus. Paul expected persecution and summed it up in **1 Cor. 4:9** *'For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men'*.

12. Apostles carry concern or burden for the churches. **2 Cor. 11:27-28**. In weariness, toil, sleeplessness, hunger and thirst, often with fasting. An apostle is like a parent watching over their children. By his letters it is apparent that Paul carried a deep burden for all the churches he had visited. **2 Cor. 12:14** *'Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children'*.

13. The Apostle is prepared to give all for the souls of the saints in the churches. The apostle Paul says to the Corinthians in **2 Cor. 12:15**, *'And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved'*,

14. The Apostle does all things for edification of those in the churches. **2 Cor. 12:19**, *'Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But we do all things, beloved, for your edification'*.

15. Christ proves Himself mighty in the ministry of the Apostle. **2 Cor. 13:3**, *'since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you'*.

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16. An Apostle lives and ministers by the power of God. Paul knew he had to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor.2:1-5, *'And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.'* Paul was dependant on the power of God that was within him, 2 Cor.13:4, *'For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.'*

17. An Apostle knows the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion (fellowship) of the Holy Spirit, 2 Cor.13:14, and is able to share that with others.

18. The Apostle knows the weapons of warfare and is able to use them effectively. 2 Cor.10:3-6, *'For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.'* An apostle is able to punish all disobedience.

19. Apostles are not to be compared with each other, or compare themselves with others. 2 Cor.10:12, *'For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.'*

20. Apostles know their sphere of ministry that God has appointed for them. 2 Cor.10:13, *'We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us, a sphere which especially includes you.'*

21. The Apostle facilitates the gospel going to the regions beyond. 2 Cor.10:14-16, Paul knows that he is called *'to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment.'* The Apostle is to obey the command that Jesus gave in Matt. 28:19-20, *'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'*

22. The Apostle can be used to expose false apostles. Paul exercised this discernment in 2 Cor.11:13, *'For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.'*

23. The Apostle is supported financially by various churches. 2 Cor.11:7-9, the apostle Paul states that he has received wages from other churches so he can preach the gospel *'free of charge'* to the church in Corinth. Apostles have a right to be supported.

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1Cor.9:1-18, Paul is pointing out to the Corinthians that those who preach the gospel should be supported, just as those who render any service have a right to receive remuneration. **v13&14** *'Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.'*

24. Apostles are also called to teach. In the Great Commission given by Jesus (**Matt.28:20**) the apostles are commanded to *'teach them all things that I have commanded you.'*

The apostles taught *'the apostles doctrine'* **Acts 2:42**. The apostle Paul taught in Corinth: **Acts 18:11**, *'And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them,'* in Ephesus: **Acts 19:9-10**, Paul *'...reasoned daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks,'* in Rome: **Acts 28:30-31**, *'Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.'*

Paul taught Timothy and instructed him to teach others, **2 Tim.2:2**, *'And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.'*

25. Apostles are sometimes abandoned. **2 Tim. 4:9-16**. Paul found that there were those who forsook him, those who sought to do him harm and those who resisted him.

26. The Lord upholds His apostles. **2 Tim.4:17-18**, *'But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.'*

27. Apostles must be disciplined in body/flesh. **1 Cor.9:27**, *'But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself would become disqualified.'*

28. Apostles must be temperate in all things. **1 Cor.9:25**, *'And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.'* They are to exercise self-control. **Eph.5:18**, *'And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.'*

Seven other characteristics of the Apostle. {One Lord, One Faith. W.A.C.Rowe. p248-9}

1.God gives the Apostle the ability or endowment of Leadership. **Phil. 3:17** *'Brethren,*

join in following my, example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern'. Paul is saying 'follow my example'. The Apostle is to live a life that is an example to others.

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2. **An Apostle walks with authority.** 2 Pet. 3:2 *'...that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior.'* Peter had been given specific authority by the Lord, but that same authority is given to all apostles by the Lord. The people of God should be mindful of the words that come to them through the apostle that God sends.

3. **An Apostle's life should be an exemplification of Grace.** Rom. 1:5 *'Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name.'* Grace is received through Jesus Christ. Rom. 12:6 *'Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them...'* Each one has received grace but there is a grace for the apostle, and the apostle's life ought to demonstrate the grace received..

4. **Comprehensiveness of Ministry in the Apostle.** I Thess.5:23 *'Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'* God is bringing the saints into this blameless perfection through the restoration of the five fold ministry. There is a comprehensiveness of ministry of the apostle to see the big picture and raise up the church.

5. **An Apostle is to walk in integrity of stewardship.** Acts 2:42 *'And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine...'* Just as the law of Moses governed the life of the Old Testament church, the apostles doctrine is what governed the life of the New Testament church. 1 Thess.2:4 *'But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.'* Apostles have been entrusted with the whole counsel of God.

6. **Enablement of Administration.** 2 Cor.11:28 *'...besides the other things, what comes upon me daily; my deep concern for all the churches.'* Paul the apostle has an administrative oversight for the churches. Acts 4:35 *'...and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.'* The early church *'shared all things'*. When they wanted to give of their excess they brought it to the apostles, and sought the counsel and confirmation of the leadership as to the distribution of the gifts.

1 Cor.16:1 *'Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also.'*

Titus 1:5 *'For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.'*

2 Tim.4:10-12, Paul is exercising his oversight by giving instructions to the saints.

7. **A Quality of Blending of the ministries.** Mature apostolic ministry often exhibits characteristics of all forms of other ministries. Eph.4:11 *'And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.'*

Paul demonstrated that blending of ministry. 2Tim.2:7 *'...for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle – I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying - a teacher of*

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the Gentiles in faith and truth.’ Paul preached the gospel as an evangelist, he taught the Word and he ministered as an apostle.

CONCLUSION

As one reads the New Testament, looking to understand who are apostles and what they do, one finds an abundance of material. So much of the teaching of Jesus is directed to apostles. Much of Paul’s writing is sharing about the ministry of the apostle. The Lord Jesus, the Head of the church, is restoring this gift ministry in the church worldwide. The final ‘setting in order of the church’ is taking place so that the Lord can release the last days revival in every nation. The river will flow, but not until the foundations are strongly set.

When the one hundred and twenty disciples gathered in the upper room after the ascension of Jesus into heaven, the Bible says, ***“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.”*** (Acts1:14) Out of the committed prayer Peter was led to replace Judas, the apostate apostle who had suicided by this time. The Lord was setting the church in order to receive an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit. And who is He setting in order? Apostles, the foundation ministry of the church. The Lord is showing us that the apostles have been set in the church (1Cor.12:28); they are first! They are the foundation ministry upon whom all else is built. Apostles must be received, for when the church receives an apostle they receive Jesus the Messiah and in receiving Him they will receive the Father God!

The last days mighty revival is beginning to flow in some countries already. Here in Australia it is time: time for apostles to be set in place so that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that will touch ***“all flesh”*** begins to flow (Joel 2:28); time for the river of God that flows from the throne of God (Rev.22:1), under the threshold of the east gate (Ezek.47:1), to begin to be channeled over the foundation stones set in place by the Lord.

Session Three

The Male Child

The Victorious Church

THE MALE CHILD THE VICTORIOUS CHURCH

Rev.12:1-6 *“Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labour and in pain to give birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew in a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.”*

It is obvious that the dragon is a representation of the devil, bent on destruction of the Child and the woman.

Who are the woman and the male Child?

Judges 13 is the record of God’s provision of a deliverer for the children of Israel through the miraculous birth and upbringing of Samson.

Ju.13:1 the children of Israel (i.e. God’s children) *“did evil in the sight of the LORD and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.”*

Thus a rebellious or disobedient people comes under oppression according to the will of God.

v.2 God introduces a particular family and names them – Manoah from the tribe of Dan, living in Zorah. He identifies their particular problem – they are childless (barren), a serious problem in their culture and a cause of great sorrow for them.

v.3 God shows His concern for them, visits them, and promises to solve this problem. *“The Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, ‘Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.’”*

Why would God want to help? What is special about this family that He expresses His concern for them and makes this promise to them? Something drew God to them.

He comes to them aware of their problem. It would appear that this family was a righteous, praying family who had grown up amongst the oppressed people of God, probably taught of the LORD, and most likely praying for a deliverer for their nation. Maybe they had never known freedom in their lifetime. But they knew the Word of God; they had of what God had done in Egypt!

Ju.13:4 God gives instructions to Manoah’s wife with regard to her own behaviour and also for the son she would bear. This son would be *“a Nazarite to God from the womb”* and *“he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”*

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He is to be set apart as holy to the Lord from birth.
He will be a deliverer for his people.

What are the laws for a Nazarite?

Num.6:2 *“to separate himself to the LORD”*

:3-4 *“he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, from skin to seed”*

:5 *“no razor shall come upon his head”*

:6 *“he shall not go near a dead body”*. It is sin that defiles us and causes death.

:8 *“All the days of his separation he shall be holy to the LORD.”* Awake or asleep, he is called to holiness.

Manoah’s wife is called to a time of holiness (**Judges 13:4**) and the son of promise whom she will conceive is to be holy from birth, and he will deliver the children of Israel from the oppression of the Philistines.

Judges 13:6-7 The woman reported accurately to her husband all that she had seen and heard. She heard clearly; she quoted accurately; she gave a good report to her husband. [Compare with Eve who drew her husband away from God. **Gen.2:6**]

v.8 Manoah believed her report and gave a godly response. He prayed. *“O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.”* Manoah obviously had a good relationship with God. He did not ask for confirmation. He prayed asking for more help.

v.9 *“And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field.”*

v.10 the woman went and brought her husband to meet the Man.

v.11 Manoah asked for confirmation and God identified Himself. *“I am.”*

v.12 Manoah made another godly response: *“Now let your words come to pass.”*

[Compare with Mary’s response to the angel who visited her. (**Luke 1:38**)]

Manoah asked for more guidance. He wanted to do things exactly as God required.

v.13-14 The Angel of the LORD repeats His instructions and adds: *“All that I have commanded her let her observe.”*

v.15-16 **Who is the Angel of the LORD?** There are various references to the Angel of the LORD in the Old Testament.

v.18-21 The LORD did a *“wondrous thing”*. He revealed Himself to Manoah and his wife.

[Compare with Jacob received a similar answer from the LORD when he asked the LORD for His name. (**Gen.32:29**)]

v.22-23 Manoah expresses his fear in having seen God; his wife reveals her faith in the LORD.

v.24-25 *“So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.”*

OTHER MIRACLE CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE

Isaac, Samson, and Samuel were all born to women who were barren. Samson and Samuel were born at a time when Israel would be in need of a deliverer.

John the Baptist was born to a woman when she was way beyond normal child-bearing age. He came as a herald announcing the deliverer to come from God – the promised Messiah.

Each was raised as a son of promise to deliver the children of God.

The promise of a male child

Gen. 3:15 God promises that the Seed of a woman would bruise the head of satan. This is a prophetic promise of the virgin birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The head speaks of authority. Adam and Eve had just given their God-given authority to rule on earth to satan. But in this verse, God is revealing that the Seed of the woman would destroy the authority of satan.

Remember the woman, the male Child and the dragon in **Revelation 12**.

THE AUTHORITY OF THE MESSIAH

Ps.2:2 God warns that there would be those who would stand against his Anointed.

v.6 God proclaims that He has *“set My King on My holy hill of Zion”*.

v.7-8 Jesus announces the authority that God has given to Him to have the nations as His inheritance, to judge and bring vengeance. This is an eternal decree.

Rev.2:26-27 Jesus quotes from **Ps.2** and gives this authority to the church that overcomes.

God gave this decree to Jesus who has given it to us.

“As I also have received from My Father.”

Ps.149:5-6 teaches how *“to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the written judgement – this honour have all His saints.”*

How? *“Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand.”*

Praise is the power of heaven. A praising people is a victorious people.

Ps.24:9 *“Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.”*

THE WOMAN

Rev.12:1 *“a woman clothed with the sun”*.

When Jesus was transfigured on the mountain, *“His face shone like the sun”*.

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(Mat.17:2)

Mal. 4:2 reveals Jesus as the Sun of Righteousness. The Son is clothed with the sun. He has the glory and His bride will also have that glory.

The Woman is the People of God

The woman corporately represents the Old Testament people of God, and the New Testament church. The book of Hosea is written to remind the children of Israel that the nation was to be as a bride for the Lord. The Old Testament people of God were chosen to bring forth a Messiah.

The New Testament church is called to be the bride or even the wife of the Lamb (**Eph.5:27**).

Abraham was chosen to bring forth the child of promise. Eventually, Mary brought forth the Messiah. Herod tried to destroy Him. (**Mt.27:7-19**, a fulfillment of **Rev.12:4**)

Rev.12:3 The dragon has *“seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.”* These heads, crowns and horns represent authority and war.

THE MALE CHILD

Gen.3:15 the Seed (Jesus) will crush the head of Satan.

Through Isaac, the child of promise, all the nations would be blessed.

Samson, Samuel, John and Jesus were given to deliver the children of God.

The devil tried to kill Jesus, but Joseph was warned and took the Child to Egypt to safety.

So the Child in **Rev. 12:5** *“was caught up to God”*, to a place of safety.

The child of God is a supernatural person, born of the Spirit and dwelling in heavenly places. Jesus was born of God, and the church is the body of Jesus Christ (**Eph.1:23**), of which Jesus is the head (**Eph.1:22**). The whole body is joined to the head (**Eph.4:16**), in one Spirit with the Lord.

When a person is born again he is caught up to heaven (**Col.1:13**), delivered from Satan, and seated in heavenly places (**Eph.2:6**), a citizen of heaven (**Phil.2:20**). There he comes *“to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect”* (**Heb.12:23**).

This person is a corporate person destined by God to grow into maturity:

Eph.4:13 *“till we all come to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”.*

This person is the church

This is the church joined to the head who is Christ Jesus. The male child is the church and God is taking the church to perfection. The church will rule the nations with a rod of iron through prayer and praise and intercession.

Such a church will be a victorious church! This church is seated in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (**Eph.2:6**). We are in the world but not of it (**Jn.17:16**).

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Rev.12:12 *“For the devil has come down to you, ... to the inhabitants of the earth”.*

Spiritually we are seated in the heavenly places far above all principality and power and every name that is named (**Eph.1:20-23**). Yes, the devil will attack us; the devil will seek to destroy us; but as we appropriate our authority and standing in Christ, we rule and reign in the earth. As we realise that we are truly citizens of heaven above and the One who has all authority in heaven and earth has authorised us to make disciples of all nations, we will exercise authority over the devil, pulling down strongholds and every high thing! It is the sons of disobedience who will suffer, and are suffering at the hands of the devil right now (**Eph.2:2**).

Rev.12:17 warns us that the devil will make war against us. Paul tells us in **Ephesians 6:10-18** to be ready, fully dressed and ready for war! Yes great beasts will arise out of the earth, *“But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.”* (**Dan.7:18**)

Session Four

*Restoration of
Tabernacle of David*

*Salvation
for the Gentiles*

RESTORATION OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

In **Acts 15:15-17** we read the words spoken by James the Apostle, [not one of the 12, but the brother of Jesus] as he addressed the Jerusalem Council.

“And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: ‘After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord who does all these things.’”

Acts 15:16-17 are almost a direct quote from a prophetic word in **Amos 9:11**. James is telling us that what Peter said about preaching the gospel to the Gentiles is confirmed by and agreed with what the prophet Amos had said. *“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old.”* Amos is speaking about the Tabernacle [or Booth, representing the royal dynasty] of David *‘which has fallen down’*. God is saying through the prophet that He is going to raise it up again.

The reference in Amos and in Acts is not a reference to the Tabernacle of David that housed the Ark of the Covenant, but it is more clearly a reference to the house of David. Some commentators and contemporary church leaders regard the restoration of the Tabernacle of David as being a reference to the tent that housed the Ark of the Covenant and the result of such interpretation has been the establishment of 24 hour houses of worship. While this is not a bad thing at all, it is not necessarily a fulfillment of God restoring the Tabernacle or Booth of David.

WHAT IS THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID?

1Chronicles 15:1 *“David built houses for himself in the City of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it.”* The Tabernacle of David is a tent that became a Tabernacle. A Tabernacle is more than a tent; it is a sacred tent. It became a Tabernacle when God indwelt it. It contained the Ark of God’s presence.

Chapter 15 is the account of David, the Levites and all the people bringing and accompanying the Ark of the Covenant from the home of Obed-Edom to Jerusalem.

1 Chron.16:1 *“So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God.”*

THE ARK HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY THE PHILISTINES

The Ark had been taken by the Philistines but had brought great trouble on them so they had sent it back to Israel and it had been placed at Kirjath Jearim. David wanted to bring the Ark to Jerusalem but did not obey God’s instructions as to how the Ark should be carried; this disobedience resulted in a man’s death. The Ark was then left in the home of

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Obed-Edom where it remained for three months, *“and the Lord blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had.”* (1Chron.13:14).

DAVID DESIRED THE BLESSING OF HIS PRESENCE

When David saw that Obed-Edom was being blessed he decided to bring the Ark up to Jerusalem. But this time he purposed to do it God's way, that is, with the priests carrying the Ark. David spoke to the Levites, told them to consecrate themselves so that they could *‘bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it’*, (1Chron.15:12). David gathered together all of Israel; he appointed musicians and singers who led in praise and worship to go ahead of the Ark. They also made sacrifices to the Lord as they carried the Ark to Jerusalem. The sacrifices represent ongoing repentance. This was also a time of great rejoicing and celebration as the LORD received their sacrifices and set them free. (1Chron.15:25-28)

WHERE HIS PRESENCE IS, THERE IS REVIVAL

The Ark of God's presence remained in the tabernacle that David erected for it for approximately 30-33 years*. This was a time of revival in the city of Jerusalem, because the presence of God was in their midst without a veil. The people of Israel could come and worship God. Praise and worship continued day and night. David, who was not officially a priest, went in and sat before the presence of the Lord and talked with God. (2Sam.7:18)

*[The revelation of God's presence in the tabernacle of David is a precursor to the revelation of God in Jesus Christ: God openly revealed; all the people could come to Him and be touched!]

AN OPEN REVELATION OF HIS PRESENCE

The Tabernacle of David was in clear contrast to the Tabernacle of Moses for which God had given Moses instructions on the holy mountain. The Tabernacle of Moses was a solemn place: there was no mention of music, no ministry of praise and worship and there was a formal order of service. The people could not get close to God; only the High Priest could go behind the veil into the Presence of God, once a year. At the time of the Tabernacle of David it is as though God allowed His Presence to be openly revealed to His people. All of Israel could experience the Presence of God. **There was revival!**

THE CHURCH OF GOD WILL BE BUILT

After David died, Solomon was allowed by God to build the temple and so the Ark was taken again and placed in the Holy of Holies, behind a huge veil and only the High Priest could go in there once a year. However the building of the temple speaks of the building of the church, the house of God, at the end of the age. Jesus, our High Priest has removed the veil through His flesh (Heb.10:19-20). The rebuilding of the Tabernacle of David precedes and enables the final building of the temple, that is, the permanent dwelling place of God in the midst of His people. David's Tabernacle was not the end

goal, but an essential stage that allows the process of God to take place. God's final purpose is to dwell permanently with His people. The temple of God will be built!

WHAT WAS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID?

1. The **Presence of God was openly revealed to the people**. David was able to praise and worship God and lead the whole nation of Israel to God.
2. It was the time of the **establishment of the kingdom of God on earth**. David was the earthly king, but God was there as David's God, the true King of Israel. David knew that he had received his kingdom from the King of Kings and the LORD of Lords

1Chron. 17 is about **God's covenant with David**. God spoke to David through the prophet Nathan and told him that one of David's seed would be established on the throne. **Verse 14** *'And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever.'*

David's kingship and David's kingdom is a type of the kingdom of God. David himself is a type of Jesus: prophet, priest and king.

WHY IS GOD GOING TO RESTORE THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID?

To answer this question we need to go back to the passage James quoted from in Amos and study the verses in **Amos 9:11-15**. James quotes from verse 11,

"On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old."

The next verses help to answer the question: why is God going to restore the tabernacle of David?

v.12 ***"That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name says the Lord who does this thing"***.

'They' refers to the people of Israel

'Edom' literally are the descendants of Esau. In the Greek Septuagint the word Edom is translated 'Mankind' and that is the meaning referred to in the New Testament. God is speaking of all the Gentiles that are called by His Name, that is all the non-Jewish people or non-covenantal-people; a person who has no relationship with God. But Israel is going to inherit the remnant of Edom, and all of the Gentiles called by His name.

v.13 ***"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it"***.

This is speaking of a harvest that is so great that the sower cannot keep up with it. As quickly as the seed is being sown, someone is treading grapes. The harvest is happening so quickly that hardly any growing time is needed. The plowman will overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes will overtake the sower. God is saying that at the end of the age there is coming a **quickenning of the harvest**. The Word of God is speaking metaphorically of the normal agricultural time seasons, showing that things will be

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effected supernaturally. The result of the harvest is *‘the mountains will drip with sweet wine’*. There will be plenty of new wine in the harvest and the hills will flow with it.

v.14-15 *“I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God.*’

The fulfillment of these verses in the natural is the restoration of the people of God of the Old Testament back into their own land. This literally happened in 1948. We are living in the days of the fulfillment of this prophecy. The context of God saying He is going to rebuild the Tabernacle of David is the context of harvest, set in the historical context of Israel returning to the land.

A principle of scripture is; **first in the natural then in the spiritual**. Natural Israel has been given back the land; the descendants of Jacob are back in the land. God’s word says they are going to stay there; *‘no longer will they be pulled up from the land I have given them’*. The historical context has been fulfilled. The spiritual context refers to the last days church of overcomers. Israel means ‘overcomer’ [the man who prevailed with God]. The context of the fulfillment of this prophecy concerning the Tabernacle of David is the end times, the time of the harvest and the restoration of natural Israel to the land.

THE CONTEXT OF ACTS CHAPTER 15.

Acts 15:1 *‘And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”’* Jewish preachers of the sect of the Pharisees came from Judea to the church at Antioch and preached law to them. This church was made up of both Jew and Gentile believers. This caused dissension and dispute among them, so they decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to talk to the apostles and the elders about this matter (**v.2**). On the way they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria where they shared about the conversion of Gentiles. This brought much joy to the brethren. They rejoiced in what God was doing among the Gentiles (**v.3**).

Acts.15:4 *“And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them.”*

v.5 *‘But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed [i.e. Pharisees who are now believers in Jesus, but are still bound by some of the law] rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”’*

v.6 *‘Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter’.*

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v.7 There was still much dispute among the group. Finally Peter [who had been chosen by God to take the message of the gospel to the Gentiles] stood up and addressed them all.

v.8-9 *“God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them [the Gentiles] by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.”* God looks at what is in the heart. God poured His Holy Spirit out on the Gentiles because He knew what was in their hearts. God did not judge them as the Pharisees did. Their hearts were purified by faith.

v.10-11 *“Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”* Peter is able to speak out of a very clear understanding of the scripture. He understood the gospel.

V12 Then it was time for Paul and Barnabas to speak. They testified to all the *‘miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.’*

The context of **verses 1-12 in Chap.15 of Acts** shows that many Gentiles were being saved in Antioch. God was pouring out His Spirit on them and performing signs and wonders in their midst. However the Judaistic preachers, who believe in Jesus but still hold to some of the Mosaic law, were teaching wrong doctrine to the church. When Paul and Barnabas discovered this, they decided to go to Jerusalem for a discussion with the apostles and elders to get this issue resolved. Paul and Barnabas have a testimony of what the Lord is doing among the Gentiles. Peter is able to confirm what God is doing among the Gentiles from his own experience in Caesarea, (**Acts10**). When Peter, Paul and Barnabas had finished speaking everyone became silent. They had been reminded of what God had done without the law; it was by faith alone.

v.13 Finally James, the brother of Jesus, addressed the gathering. He has a revelation of the prophecy from Amos.

Acts 15:14-15 *“Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written.”*

v.16-17 James then brings the quote from the book of Amos:

“This is what the prophet is talking about when he says ‘After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord who does all these things.’”

With what do the words of the prophets agree? In the context of this passage James is saying that God has taken a people for himself out of the Gentiles. God is fulfilling this prophecy because Gentiles are being saved. The restoration of the Tabernacle of David is primarily to do with the salvation of the Gentiles; it is about evangelism: preaching salvation in the Messiah, Jesus. It is not primarily about praise and worship; it is

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primarily about God being revealed in the Messiah, Jesus, and many Gentiles, all who are called by His name, being saved!

GOD'S SANCTUARY IN THE EARTH

God first established a sanctuary in the earth back in **Genesis 3**, when Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden of Eden. God placed cherubim at the east of Eden with a flaming sword [**Gen.3:24**]. Cherubim are always associated with the presence of God. The flaming sword represents the Word of God. The Word and the Spirit were there to guard the way to the tree of life.

After the flood Noah established a sanctuary for God by building an altar [**Gen.8:20**].

Abraham was called by God to leave his land and to travel to Canaan. When he arrived in the land he built an altar and called on the name of the Lord [**Gen.12:7**] This was a sanctuary, a place where he could meet with God.

Through out the Old Testament men built altars when they had had a visitation from God or when they needed to seek God.

When God met with Moses on the holy mountain, He gave Moses specific instructions about building the Ark of the Covenant, and the Tabernacle which was to be the sanctuary where the Ark was placed. For 1000 years the people of Israel had the Ark of the Covenant, then it was lost to them. There is no record of the Ark of the Covenant after the Babylonian exile from 586BC.

Once Jesus came, He became the altar or the sanctuary. The cross became the altar and Jesus himself was sacrificed on it. **John 12:32 Jesus said “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” v.33 “This He said, signifying by what death He would die.”** Jesus was speaking about being crucified on the cross.

When God first gave instructions about the Ark of the Covenant he told Moses that it had to be placed behind a veil. Only the high priest could enter behind that veil and this could only happen once a year. This was a very solemn and prayerful ministry. When God allowed David to place the Ark in an open tent there was continual praise and worship; there was a wonderful manifestation of God in the nation and access to God with no veil of separation for approximately 33 years. This open presence of God in David's Tabernacle is signifying the life of the Lord Jesus Christ who for 33 years openly represented God in the earth.

God says in the book of Acts that He is going to restore and is already restoring the Tabernacle of David. That restoration prophetically is in terms of harvest and the end of the age. It includes the restoration of Israel in the land, which we have seen take place: Israel has been reoccupied by the people of God.

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James the elder in Jerusalem says that the successful preaching of the gospel to the Gentiles that has been reported by Paul and Barnabas, is what the prophet was speaking of when he said that the Tabernacle of David would be restored.

WHY WILL THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID BE RESTORED?

Acts 15:17 *“So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name.”*

There is much talk about the restoration of the Tabernacle of David today. Most of that talk centres on the establishment of 24 hour worship centres. But for what purpose? When the apostle James spoke about the restoration of David’s Tabernacle he did not refer to the original Tabernacle from Samuel and Chronicles but he quoted from the prophet Amos. The context of the restoration of David’s Tabernacle is the salvation of the Gentiles, the fulfillment of the Great Commission, and this will be done by a people who know their God, who walk in the presence and power of the risen Lord.

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE END OF THE AGE?

In Acts 2:17 Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and said *“this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel; ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh...’”*

In Joel 2:28 the scripture says *“...I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh...”*. Peter was speaking at the beginning of the last days; Joel is prophesying about the last of the last days. The glory of the latter house is greater than the glory of the former house (**Haggai 2:9**). The former and the latter rain will come at the same time (**Joel 2:23**). There is to be a double outpouring at the end of the age!

The restoration of the Tabernacle of David prophesied in Amos and spoken of by the apostle James is going to be fulfilled at the end of the age. It is the time of the harvest; the time when the people of Israel are back in the land, never to be removed again; it is the time of the final generation when all things will be fulfilled.

The restoration of the Tabernacle of David refers to worldwide evangelism; the final coming in of the Gentiles; the times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled (**Rom.11:25**)! Then the faithful remnant of Israel will be saved (**Rom.11:26**) and the church will be complete (**Eph.2:14-16**).

Session Five

Tabernacle of Moses

Entering the Glory

THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS ASSUMES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE TABERNACLE

Hebrews chapter 9 refers to the Tabernacle of Moses, listing the furnishings in the Holy Place and the Holiest Place [Holy of Holies]. An understanding of the Tabernacle of Moses is necessary to understand the New Covenant and the redemptive work that our Lord Jesus Christ did through His death and resurrection. The Book of Hebrews, written to Hebrew Christians, assumes an understanding of the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle of Moses is a revelation of the triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and enriches our understanding of God's eternal purpose which He brought about in Christ Jesus (Eph. 3:11).

THE TABERNACLE FORESHADOWS MUCH TRUTH

Moses was a mighty man of God. In the Old Testament he stands as the most important figure because the law was given through him. The revelation of God to Moses was awesome, vast, deep and full of truth that was to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ and then in the life and experience of the church of Jesus Christ. The gospel of John acknowledges the greatness of Moses in God's purpose and revelation: ***"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (Jn.1:17).*** In the revelation of the tabernacle given to Moses, God was foreshadowing much truth that would come to fulfilment in Christ Jesus. Jesus Himself said, ***"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfil."*** (Mt.5:17)

THE LAW, THE TABERNACLE AND THE FEASTS

The LORD God made a covenant with Moses and the people of Israel at Mt. Sinai after their deliverance from Egypt (**Exod.19-24**). In this covenant, known as the Old Covenant or the covenant of the Law, there are three important component parts:

- 1 **the Law**, the Word of God showing us how to love God and each other;
- 2 **the Tabernacle** of Moses revealing the way of worship in spirit and truth;
- 3 **the Feasts**:
 - i. Passover, which included Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits,
 - ii. Weeks(Pentecost);
 - iii. Tabernacles, which included Trumpets and the Day of Atonement.

Leviticus 23 sets out the feasts of Israel.

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The Feasts reveal the progressive vision that the LORD has for His people, bringing His people into the fulfillment of His purposes.

ENLIGHTEN THE EYES OF OUR UNDERSTANDING

THE WAY TO THE FATHER

As we understand the Tabernacle we learn the way to come to God; we learn the way the high priest of Israel came into the Glory of the FATHER's presence.

ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE ARE HIDDEN IN HIM

The Tabernacle is rich in teaching and revelation concerning the Lord Jesus Christ and His church, ***"which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all"*** (Eph.1:23). Jesus opened the understanding of the two disciples on the road to Emaus to see Christ in all the books of the Old Testament. Many chapters of Exodus are devoted to the building of the Tabernacle. It was to be done exactly according to the pattern that God revealed to Moses.

THE CHURCH IS SEEN ENTERING HER GLORIOUS INHERITANCE

Likewise today the church of Jesus Christ is to be built exactly according to the pattern that has been revealed in the Scripture. Revelation of the glorious church that Jesus is preparing for Himself (Eph5:27) is found in the Tabernacle.

THE SPIRIT OF REVELATION

There is revelation of salvation, of justification, of the remission of sin through the shedding of blood.

There is revelation of sanctification and glorification.

There is revelation of water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism, of priestly ministry that is acceptable to the LORD and true worship of the FATHER in spirit and truth.

There is revelation of the anointing and ministry of the Holy Spirit, of the Table of the LORD, of prayer and intercession, of the priestly garments, the seven golden lampstands [see Revelation 1:20].

There is revelation of the triune God, of the ***"way, the truth and the life"*** (Jn.14:6), and coming the FATHER.

There are three divisions of the Tabernacle: Outer Court, Holy Place, and Holiest Place [Holy of Holies]; we meet Jesus in the Outer Court, the Holy Spirit in the Holy Place and the FATHER in the Holy of Holies.

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There are three precious things originally placed in the Ark of the Covenant: the tablets of the Law, the golden pot of Manna and Aaron's rod that budded; again the triune God is represented and deep truth is revealed.

There are cherubim, a mercy seat, the ark!

There is the golden altar of incense, the table of showbread, and the seven golden lampstands that burn oil.

There are priestly garments, a brazen laver [wash pool-basin], the brazen altar for animal sacrifice.

There were very strict regulations, rules and order of service.

A simple diagram of the Tabernacle set in its courtyard helps us to see the way to God as we approach Him from the world. Alternately one can follow the way from the Holiest of Holies to see how God comes to us. Both beginnings are only possible because of the blood that has been shed. God comes to us because He sees the blood on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant. We begin our journey by coming to the altar of sacrifice, signifying the cross of Jesus Christ, and offering up the blood of a lamb.

The person coming to God comes out of the world into the courts of God. One must enter through the gate; Jesus is the door (**John 10:7**). When a person begins to search for God the Lord will draw that person to Jesus. Jesus Christ came into this world to save sinners. Sooner or later every person is to hear the Gospel (**Mark 16:15-16**) and have the opportunity to be saved. When a person came into the courts of the Tabernacle through the east gate [the only entry], there was only one way to proceed. Directly before the seeker was the brazen altar where the blood sacrifice was offered for sin. This altar represents the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is in the courtyard [the Outer Court] but outside the house of God. Our journey has begun!

THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES

Ex.24:16-18 Moses was called into the presence of the LORD [YAHWEH or JEHOVAH]. Moses spent forty days and forty nights in the presence of God. He was in heavenly places.

Ex.:25:8-9 The LORD spoke to Moses telling him to **build a sanctuary**, so that **He could dwell among His people**. God has always desired to live with His people. It had to be built to specific instructions. The LORD gave detailed instructions to Moses about the construction of the tabernacle and about each item of the furnishings for the tabernacle. Chapters 25-30, 36-40 of Exodus detail the pattern and the construction of the Tabernacle.

The way into the Tabernacle is the way into the presence of God. The layout of the Tabernacle and its furnishings is a pattern laid out for us, showing us how to approach God, and revealing the Godhead [Father, Son and Holy Spirit] to us

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THE GATE

The tabernacle of meeting was set in a courtyard. To come to the Tabernacle, one had to come in by the gate. It was the only way to enter the courtyard. Thieves and robbers try and climb over the wall, but those wanting to come into the presence of God must enter by the gate. You come in the gate because you have a desire to meet with God. There is only one way to come in. Jesus said *"I am the door"* (Jn.10:7). He also said *"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (Jn.14:6). Jesus is the only way. He is the door. We are to enter the gates with thanksgiving and praise (Ps.100:4). We choose to come, with faith in our hearts.

*There is a way to come to God : it is through the door! It is through JESUS!
He is the only way!*

OUTER COURT , surrounding the tent of meeting [tabernacle], contained the altar of burnt sacrifice [offering] and the laver (Ex.40:29-30).

ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING

When we come in the gate we enter the outer court, and we come to the Altar of Burnt Offering (Ex.40:29). It was the place of sacrifice, where the burnt offerings and other sacrifices were made. The burnt offering of the lamb was made here (Exod.29:38). It was a brazen altar, made of bronze. Bronze speaks of judgement: God's judgement on sin. This is where the Priests sacrificed animals for the sins of the people.

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Heb.9:22).

This altar represents the **cross**. The only way to come to God is through Jesus, the sinless, spotless Lamb, who died on the cross for our sins; it is through His blood shed for us.

Heb.10:10 *"By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."* We meet Jesus at the Altar of Burnt Offering and ask for the forgiveness of our sins on the basis of His blood sacrifice (1 Jn.1:9).

BRAZEN LAVER

Once we have dealt with our sin, the next place we come to, still in the outer court, is the Brazen Laver. The Priests had to **wash in water** in the Brazen laver and put on clean clothes, priestly clothes, linen garments, before they could enter the Holy Place. For us this signifies water **Baptism**, dying to self, becoming a new creation in Christ Jesus (Rom.6:3-11). The first step after salvation for the new believer is water baptism, but even after we are saved we may still fall into sin so we go back to the cross, make our confession and are washed by the water of the word, which sanctifies us (Eph.5:26).

Heb.10:22 Our bodies are washed in pure water, the Scripture says. This refers to the washing in the Laver. *"We are washed, we are sanctified ..."* (1Cor.6:11).

Let the word of God wash over us. The word of God cleanses us (Jn.15:3).

The word of God renews our mind (Rom.12:2).

Gal.3:27 Baptised into Christ – putting on Christ; clothed with Christ!

After the Priest had washed, he had to change his clothes and put on linen garments. This speaks of righteousness. We put off our outer garments which are filthy robes [this speaks of the works of the flesh] and we have clean linen garments put on us.

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Eph.4:22-24 When we come to Christ we are to put off the “old man” who is corrupted by lusts, and put on the new man, in “true righteousness and holiness”.

Col.3:8-14 We are to put off all ungodly behaviour, speech and attitude, and put on the new man and the godly attitudes and practices of the new man.

Baptised in the Holy Spirit

It is not through works; there is no effort on our part. **Luke 24:49** says we are to be endued (i.e. clothed) with power from on high. This speaks of being clothed in the Holy Spirit. You can not enter the Holy Place without the Holy Spirit.

It is only priests who enter the Holy Place to minister to the LORD

HOLY PLACE

We are at the door into the Holy Place. In the outer court, God ministers to us by forgiving our sins, washing us clean and filling us with the Holy Spirit. We become priests of God, and as **priests of God we are able to enter the Holy Place and minister to God. We minister to God in the Holy Place.** The door into the Holy Place is the Holy Spirit, only those who are filled with the Holy Spirit are able to enter into the Holy Place.

Golden Lampstand

As we enter the Holy Place we come to the Golden Lampstand, which has seven branches. Seven speaks of completeness, maturity. In **Rev.1:13-20** we read of John's vision of Jesus in the midst of the seven golden lampstands. The lampstand represents the church. The church is in the Holy Place. (**1Cor.12:13**) **Jesus is found in the midst of His church.** When we worship we are lifted up into heavenly places and there is the Lord in the midst. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to us. Jesus is always central; always high and lifted up!

The lampstand was full of oil and the Priests had to trim the wicks every day, to make sure the light continued to burn brightly. The only light in the Holy Place came from the burning oil. Oil speaks of the Holy Spirit. We are to make sure we have plenty of oil; ***“be being filled with the Holy Spirit”*** (**Eph.5:18-19**). Enter into praise and worship. In **Matthew 25** there is the parable of the ten virgins. The five wise virgins had extra ‘oil’ with them.

The Holy Spirit teaches us about the Father and reveals Him to us. The light in the church comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit. The church full of the Holy Spirit is a church on fire. People will know that if you go to that church you will get healed, saved, delivered touched by God. The Church releases the light of God into the community. It cannot be hid!

The Holy Spirit brings enlightenment to our understanding: **Eph.1:17-18**. He lightens up the Word: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path” (**Ps.119:105**).

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Table of Showbread

Opposite the Lampstand is the table of Showbread. There were 12 loaves on the table, representing the 12 tribes. There was also a pitcher of wine. Bread and wine speaks of communion. Again we meet Jesus at the table of Showbread. All the people were represented before the Lord. We minister to the Lord at the table of Showbread by celebrating communion. Give thanks for Jesus, lift up the name of Jesus and minister to Him.

Showbread literally means “face bread” [S.C. # 6440 Heb.]. At the Table of Showbread, the face of God is revealed in Jesus Christ! (2Cor.4:6)

Jn.12:32 We are remembering His death on the cross. We are all priests so we are all able to minister to the Lord at the Lord's table. The bread also speaks of the Word of God, **Jn.6:48**, Jesus said *"I am the bread of life"*. We are to ‘feed’ on His word.

1 Cor. 10:16 *“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we bread, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”*

The word for communion is the Greek ‘*koinonia*’, translated ‘fellowship’. We fellowship together at the table as members of His body, the blood of Jesus Christ having cleansed us from all sin.

1 John 1:7 *“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

The Lord’s Table is in the Holy Place. We are not in the Outer Court at the altar of blood sacrifice. We have come through the cross to water baptism and risen in newness of life in the resurrection power of the Lord Jesus. We have been filled with the Holy Spirit and have entered the Holy Place, where we fellowship at the Table with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

Altar of Incense

We then come to the Altar of Incense. This represents **prayer, intercession and worship offered to the Lord.** We are now at a place where we can offer up prayers and petitions to the Lord. It is directly outside the veil. The priest put incense on the coals and the cloud of smoke rose up before God. God saw the smoke of the incense and received the offering of prayer and petitions. Our prayers rise before God as incense (**Rev.8:4**). He never fails to hear prayer offered to Him through faith in Jesus.

On the Day of Atonement the high priest came to this altar and took coals from it. He then put the incense powder on the coals causing much smoke to rise. Once he was enveloped in the smoke, the priest entered into the Most Holy Place completely covered in the cloud of the anointing. Prayer and praise, intercession and worship enable us to enter into the Most Holy Place. That's where we are coming to, into the presence of the Father, to perfection, maturity. When Jesus died on the cross the veil was taken away and we now have free entry into the presence of the Father.

HOLY OF HOLIES – MOST HOLY PLACE

The final part of the Tabernacle is the Most Holy Place. This is where the **Ark of the Covenant** was kept.

In the ark there were 3 things:

Let Us Go On To Perfection

1. The tablets of stone which represent the word of God the Father.
2. The pot of manna representing bread from heaven which speaks of Jesus, the true bread from heaven;
3. Aaron's rod that budded representing the power of the Holy Spirit.

The very presence of God is in the Most Holy Place, overshadowed by covering **cherubim**, their wings outstretched to cover the **mercy seat**. This is where God has promised to meet with us. (**Ex.25:22**). The cherubim are first mentioned in Scripture in **Gen.3:24**. They were eastward of Eden and a flaming sword was also there. In Ezekiel, 1 & 10, awesome visions of the cherubim are seen by the prophet. God's presence is covered by His cherubim. Maybe those are the wings we come under!

The mercy seat is the lid of the ark itself. This is the place where sin is finally atoned for. When the blood is sprinkled (**Heb.12:24**) on the mercy seat, all sin is taken away.

This was where the Priest went on the Great Day of Atonement to place **blood on the mercy seat** for the sins of all the people. **Heb.9:11-15** tells us that Jesus Christ came as High Priest and took His own blood into the Most Holy Place once and for all, making it possible for us to have access into the Father's presence. **Heb.9:23-24** Jesus entered into heaven itself. In heaven above today there is a mercy seat and the blood of Jesus is on the mercy seat. We are only able to come into the Father's presence because there is blood on the mercy seat. (**Heb.10:19-22**), and that blood has sprinkled our hearts from an evil conscience.

Because the blood is there we can enter the Holy of Holies and worship the Father. When we come into the Father's presence all we can do is fall on our faces in worship.

THE TABERNACLE IS A REVELATION OF THE TRIUNE GOD

In the outer court we meet Jesus, and He fills us with the Holy Spirit. Jesus and the Holy Spirit take us into the house of God and we learn to minister to the LORD, at the Lampstand and the Table. Then we proceed the Golden Altar of Incense, coming ever closer to the Father. Under the Old Covenant, the altar of Incense was as close as the priest could come, outside the veil. However, **Heb.9:4** places the golden altar within the veil. The King James version says the golden censor, but the Greek word is altar. Something has changed! The veil has been removed [rent at time Jesus died]. We are to come boldly into His presence (**Heb.4:16 & 10:19**).

THE WAY TO THE FATHER

We begin by coming in the gate, entering with thanksgiving and praise.

We choose to come. We come through Jesus.

We come to the cross, giving thanks that the shed blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Confess our sin and receive His cleansing.

Read the word; pray scripture; let the word wash over you.

It is always the will of God when you pray the word of God.

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Put on the robes of righteousness.

Let Us Go On To Perfection

Become clothed with power from on high [receive the Holy Spirit] and enter in to the Holy Place.

Get filled with the Holy Spirit again as you minister to Jesus at the Lampstand. Make sure there is plenty of anointing oil. Worship Jesus.

Come to the table of Showbread and remember Jesus again. Thank Him for your salvation and fellowship with Him at the table of communion. Lift up Jesus.

Enter into deeper intercession and worship, bring all your deep needs. **Rom.8:26** *"The Spirit making intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."*

Come boldly before the throne of grace, entering into the Father's presence to fall before Him in worship.

THIS IS THE WAY WAY TO MATURITY

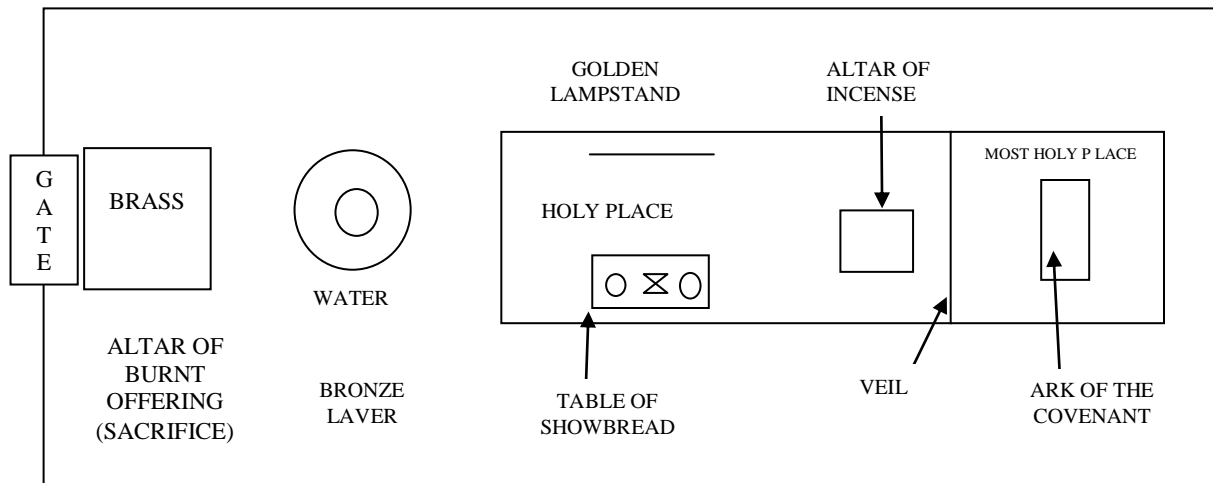
We get saved in the outer court. We are babes. We repent, turn from sin, put our faith in God and get water baptised. Begin reading the word. Receive the Holy Spirit.

In the Holy Place we are growing up, youths. Progressing from the milk of the word to the meat of the word. Learning the doctrines of Christ. Learning to minister in the anointing, sharing regularly in communion, taking authority in prayer and learning our place in Christ Jesus.

This prepares us to go on to maturity. We enter into the Holy of Holies and meet the Father. The anointing in the Father's presence is so much stronger. The Lord is preparing us to be able to live in the Father's presence. John says that fathers are those who know Him who is from the beginning. Under the law only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies once a year but since Jesus has become our high priest forever we are now exhorted to enter boldly the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **Heb.4:16**.

Let Us Go On To Perfection

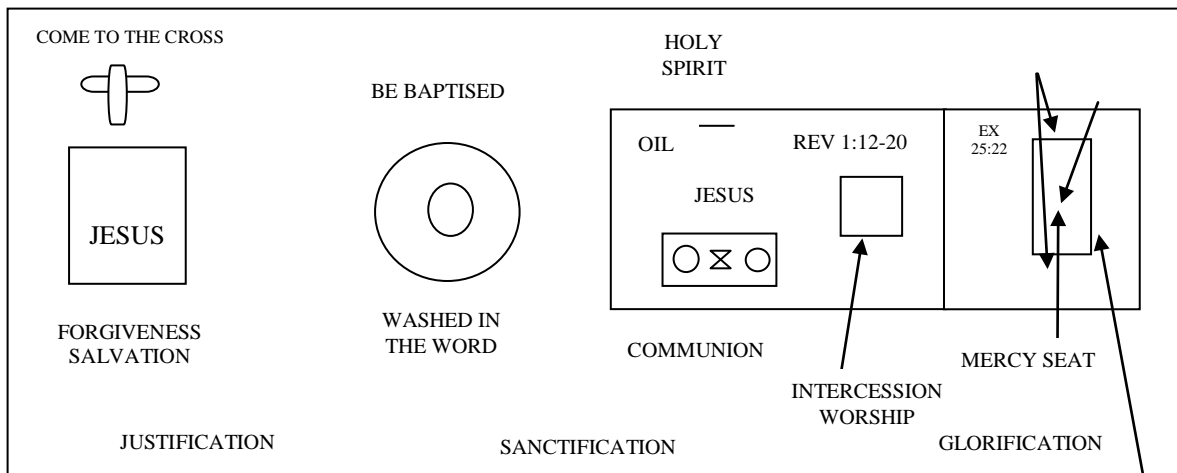
TABERNACLE OF MOSES



IN THE OUTER COURT
WE MEET JESUS

IN THE HOLY PLACE WE
MEET THE HOLY SPIRIT

IN THE MOST HOLY
WE MEET THE FATHER



OUTER COURT MINISTERS
TO US

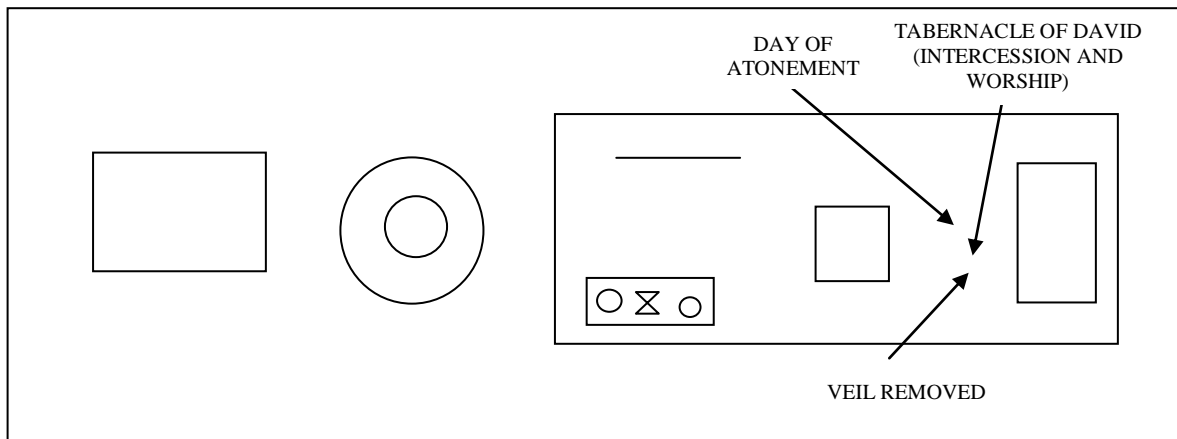
HOLY PLACE WE MINISTER
TO GOD

IN THE ARK - TABLES OF
STONE, MANNA, AARON'S
ROD

PASSOVER

PENTECOST

TABERNACLES



CHILD

YOUTH

MATURITY

Session Six

*That Great Day of the
Feast*

*The Feasts of Israel in
fulfillment*

The FULFILLMENT of the FEASTS OF ISRAEL

Chapter 23 of **Leviticus** records the Feast of the Lord. These feasts were given to the children of Israel by the Lord.

v.1 *“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.”*

Lev.23:4 *“These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.”* The feasts were to be a holy convocation, that is, a gathering together of the people. All the people were expected to participate in the feast.

PASSOVER

The feast of Passover was celebrated to remind the people of what happened on the night before they left Egypt. **Exodus 12** records the instructions God gave to Moses for the Passover. Every household was to make a sacrifice of a male lamb, without blemish. They were to take some of the blood of the lamb and put it on the doorposts and on the lintel of the house, and they were to eat the flesh of the lamb on that night. They were to eat the lamb, dressed and ready to leave, because the next day they were to march out of the land of Egypt.

Ex.12:12-13 *“For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt; both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”*

This was the first Passover.

Jesus fulfills Passover as the Lamb dying on the cross. His blood is the blood that saves us and protects us from the evil one.

Lev.23:5 Passover was to be celebrated on the fourteenth day of the first month.

PASSOVER {14th day of 1st month} --- UNLEAVENED BREAD {15th day for 7days} --- FIRSTFRUITS {8th day or day after the 7th day of Unleavened bread}

HOW MANY DAYS WAS JESUS IN THE EARTH AFTER HE DIED?

The first day and the 7th day of Unleavened Bread were special sabbath days. Understanding the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread and the special sabbaths that were part of Unleavened Bread is necessary to understand how Jesus fulfilled His own Word that

“even as Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights so shall the Son of man be in the earth for three days and three nights” (Mt.12:40).

The adoption of Easter by the Catholic church historically has clouded the church’s understanding of Passover. Jesus could not have died on Friday afternoon and risen again on Sunday morning if He was to be in the earth for 3 days and 3 nights. There had to have been two sabbaths in a row: one for Unleavened Bread, followed by the normal Sabbath.

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FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

v.6 The Feast of Unleavened Bread was to be part of the Feast of Passover. It was to commence on the fifteenth day of the first month and to be celebrated for seven days. During these seven days the people were to eat unleavened bread. In the Scripture 'leaven' suggests sin. Passover is fulfilled in the life of the believer when we get saved. We accept Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sin. Once we are saved we need to put all sin out of our lives, fulfilling the spirit of Unleavened Bread. The first Passover happened when the Israelites came out of Egypt. Egypt for us represents the world, and Pharaoh represents satan. When we get saved we are to come out of the world, out of satan's kingdom, and to turn away from all sin.

This is the fulfillment of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

Lev.23:9-14 This was a one day feast at the beginning of the cereal (wheat / barley) harvest. They were to go into the field and gather the ripest sheaf of grain, bring it to the priest, who was to wave it before the LORD. This was to be done on the morning after the Sabbath. To see the fulfillment of this we need to look at

Matt.28:1 *"Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb."*

Jesus was the Lamb without blemish who was our burnt offering to the LORD. On the first day of the week, on the morning after the Sabbath, Jesus had risen. He became the firstfruits, the first to rise from the dead. He is the **'wave offering'**.

The **Feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits** have been fulfilled in the life of a believer when they are saved, have turned away from sin and have been baptised. We experience the resurrection of the dead when we go through the waters of baptism, (**Rom.6:3-8**). We identify with the death and resurrection of Jesus. Peter teaches that *"baptism now saves us [not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God], through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."*

He goes further and shows us that we are baptised into Christ

"who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him." (**1Pet.3:21-22**)

Salvation is the fulfillment of Passover in all aspects of Passover, that is, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits as well. Jesus said,

"He who believes the gospel and is baptised will be saved"(**Mk.16:15-16**).

When we are saved by faith and go through the waters of baptism we have received the fulfillment of Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits.

FEAST OF WEEKS: [PENTECOST]

Lev.23:15-22 This feast was to be celebrated 50 days [seven sabbaths plus one day] after Passover. The people were to bring a grain offering to the LORD. They were to offer bread with leaven in it. There was also to be a sacrifice, a burnt offering to the LORD. In every feast a burnt offering was made. This represents Jesus who became the sacrificial offering. **Jesus and His atoning sacrifice on the cross are central in every feast.**

The first Pentecost happened at Mt. Sinai

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[Pentecost means fiftieth in Greek. The name Pentecost appears in **Acts2:4** for the first time, for Pentecost was known as the Feast of Weeks in the Old Testament, based on the Hebrew text.]

The children of Israel came to Sinai, to the holy mountain to meet with God, 50 days after the Passover in Egypt. God came down on the holy mountain and there were signs of His presence. There was thunder, fire, the earth shook and the LORD blew a trumpet.

God gave the law on tablets of stone at the first Pentecost.

When the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2**, there was wind and fire and they began to speak in other tongues. **The law was written on men's hearts.** At the first Pentecost 3000 people were killed because they did not heed the coming of the LORD to give Moses the law (**Exod.32:28**). At the second Pentecost 3000 people were saved because they received the Word gladly (**Acts2:41**).

How is this feast fulfilled in our lives? We experience Pentecost when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, and speak in tongues. We receive power

“when the Holy Spirit comes upon us” (Acts1:8).

Power to do what? To preach the Gospel with signs and wonders; to bring in the harvest.

**The people of God were on a journey to the land,
from Egypt via Sinai to the Promised Land.**

They were delivered from Egypt through the Passover Lamb; they met with God at the holy mountain to receive the Law. In other words they received their Pentecost. Then they were meant to go on to enter the land. They had been authorised and empowered to take the land! **The Feast of Tabernacles was to be celebrated in the land** in the seventh month.

The church is not meant to camp at Passover [getting saved and nothing more];

the church is not meant to camp at Pentecost, even though there is power and miracles at Pentecost; there is still leaven at Pentecost.

We are to go on to the Great Day of Atonement, having entered the land, and experience fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

PENTECOST IS GREAT, WONDERFUL! BUT THERE IS MORE!

There were miracles in the wilderness; God provided for His people supernaturally. But they were never meant to stay in the wilderness. In fact they died in the wilderness. They refused to enter in to the fulfillment of God's purposes for them.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The Feast of Tabernacles includes the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement.

FEAST OF TRUMPETS:

Lev.23:23-25 This feast was to be celebrated in the seventh month, on the first day. It was a holy day; a sabbath day. There was to be **a memorial of blowing trumpets.** The feast was fulfilled in Jesus Christ who came to speak the prophetic word of God to the world. It is being fulfilled **in the last days church through the prophetic word of God**

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being revealed and spoken forth, bringing God's warning to us. The Word of the LORD is trumpeting forth saying '**get ready for the coming of the LORD.**' The LORD is coming for a perfect church, a mature church, no longer children tossed about by every wind of doctrine. A unified body, that has grown up in all aspects into Christ who is our head, (**Eph.4:13-15**) .

RESTORATION OF TRUTH IN THE LAST DAYS

Since the Second World War, the trumpet has been sounding forth. The Word of God is being revealed and truth is being restored to the church, e.g., the truth of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and of worship in the Spirit.

["*Restoration Theology*" by Kevin Conner gives much insight to the moves of God in recent history.]

THE GREAT DAY OF ATONEMENT:

Lev.23:27-33 The tenth day of the seventh month was to be the Day of Atonement. It was to be **a day of afflicting the soul**. Fasting and affliction speaks of sorrow for sin, **of true repentance**, which leads to a desire to change. This was the Day when the priest entered the Holy of Holies, (**Lev.16**). On this day two goats were brought to the priest, one to be the scapegoat and one the sacrificial goat.

THE SCAPEGOAT

The scapegoat was chosen by lot. All the sins of Israel were imputed to the goat when the high priest placed his hands on it; then it was taken out into the wilderness and left to die. **When Jesus came He became the scapegoat**. He died on the cross, outside the camp, **taking upon Himself the sins of the whole world**. Jesus also was the sacrificial goat. This was the time each year when the children of Israel had **all their sins atoned for** (**Lev.23:34**).

THE SACRIFICIAL GOAT

The blood of the sacrificial goat was taken by the high priest into the Holy of Holies and placed on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant. **Lev.16:34**: this was to be an everlasting statute. This truth is everlasting! It will be fulfilled! Jesus took His own blood and placed it on the mercy seat in the tabernacle not made with hands, (**Heb.9:11-12**). This is where the blood of Jesus is today.

Heb.9:24 *"For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us".*

EVERYONE MUST COME TO REPENTANCE

Lev.23:29 *"For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people."* All the people had to be prepared to come to repentance.

Acts 17:30 *"Truly these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent."*

HOW IS THE DAY OF ATONEMENT FULFILLED IN THE CHURCH?

When we come to the Great Day of Atonement, all sin is forgiven. Jesus is saying to His church today – **come to the Great Day of Atonement**. His blood is upon the Mercy

Let Us Go On To Perfection

Seat. It is time to receive our full inheritance of redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins (**Eph.1:7**). We have received forgiveness, justification and glorification. We are being sanctified now by the blood, by the Spirit and by the Word. He wants us to enter into the Holy of Holies.

When we truly enter into the Holy of Holies, we will not come out the same. No flesh can see the glory of God and live. When we are glorified we will walk in the Spirit. The Lord wants to deal with all of our flesh – so that we can enter into His glory. Come to the Day of Atonement: receive your inheritance that Jesus has guaranteed for you.

Jesus is in the GLORY today and when He comes again He is coming with the clouds of glory. He is coming to receive a glorious bride church without spot or wrinkle, (**Eph.5:27**) We have been perfected forever by Jesus being offered up on the cross (**Heb.10:14**). He is now sanctifying us! **A great change is to come over the church.** We are called to go on to perfection (**Heb.6:1**). It can only come through faith and faith comes by hearing the WORD (**Rom.10:17**). The Lord is releasing His word now: the trumpet is being heard!

A GREAT CHANGE IS TO COME OVER THE CHURCH

WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

How were you saved? On what basis did you receive the Holy Spirit and speak with new tongues?

We are saved by faith.

We are filled with Holy Spirit by faith.

We are made perfect, complete – by faith.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Lev.23:33-44 The Feast of Tabernacles was to be celebrated on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, for a period of seven days. Offerings were to be made by fire to the LORD. For us this refers to Jesus the Lamb sacrifice. We are to remember Him. No matter which feast is being celebrated, Jesus is central to it. A sacrifice was to be offered. We are to remember the cross.

v.39 ***“You shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest.”***

This was a harvest festival – the fruit of the grape and the olive, producing the wine and the oil. [The book of Joel speaks of the vats overflowing with new wine and oil, **Joel 2:23-24**] It was not to be celebrated until the people came into the land!

THE PEOPLE WERE TO LIVE IN BOOTHS

Lev.23:40 The people were to take the foliage of beautiful trees and were to make booths out of them and to dwell in the booths for 7 days.

“And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days”

The feast of Tabernacles was a celebration in the land at the time of the olive and grape harvest, rejoicing in all that the LORD had done: in redeeming the people from Egypt,

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visiting them at Sinai to give them the Law
and giving them a land flowing with milk and honey.

There were seven days to keep the Feast, to live in tabernacles [temporary booths]. Seven days suggests a perfect length of time, a time of completeness. When the church fully receives the great and precious promises of the word of God and becomes partakers of the divine nature (**2Pet.1:4**), abiding in The Anointed One, this will be the seven days: a perfect time!!!

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE TREES

They were to use branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and branches from willows of the brook. The trees represent the saints. The Scriptures have some references likening the saints to trees. We learn from these references.

Palm Trees:

Ps 92:12 *“The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.”* The righteous, i.e. the saints of God, flourish like palm trees.

Pro.11:28 *“The righteous will flourish like foliage.”*

This booth is made up of righteous saints. We are made righteous by the blood of Jesus. He became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (**2Cor.5:21**)

Leafy trees:

Ps 1:3 *“He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”*

Leafy trees that are planted by the water do not wither. The righteous ones planted by streams of water, speaks of people filled with the Holy Spirit; people who have plenty of anointing; people through whom the rivers of living water are flowing freely, whose roots go down into the living water and they will never wither.

Willows of the brook:

Jer. 17:8 *“For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green. And will not be anxious in the year of drought. Nor will cease from yielding fruit.”*

These trees are not effected by drought, and will not cease yielding fruit. This speaks of saints who are always bearing fruit. [cf. **Jn.15** the vine and the branches]

Pro.11:30 *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and he who wins souls is wise.”*

Rev.22:2 tells us that the tree(s) of life bears fruit every month and its leaves are for the healing of the nations.

**These are the saints who will come into fulfillment of Tabernacles:
Righteous, spirit filled believers who are bearing fruit.**

These are the ones who have come through the Great Day of Atonement, who have heard the trumpet call of God, and obeyed the Word of God. Jesus said in **John 15:5**

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"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

THE LAST DAY, THAT GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST

Then there is an 8th day to complete the Feast of Tabernacles. Eight speaks of resurrection, new beginnings, a holy day.

Jesus highlighted the eight day of the Feast of Tabernacles and shows us the fulfilment of it. The Feast of Tabernacles is being fulfilled at the end of the age.

John 7:37-38 ***"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.' He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart [belly] will flow rivers of living water."***

v.39 ***"But this He spoke concerning the Spirit ..."***

RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

On the last day, that great day of the Feast of Tabernacles, **in a perfect [mature] church**, made up of saints, free from all sin, who are righteous, and who are filled with the Holy Spirit and bearing fruit, Jesus will be found;

He will release the Holy Spirit as never before!

In the midst of that church,

Jesus will appear! Every eye will see Him. Jesus will stand up

and His Word will be heard throughout the world. The gospel will be preached to every soul on the earth. Everyone will see Jesus in the midst of His glorified church. The church will be made up of righteous, spirit filled, fruitful saints, preaching Jesus Christ.

His promise is that rivers will flow out of this church. The thirsty will come and everyone who is thirsty will get filled because rivers of living water are flowing.

The **glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea** (Hab.2:14; Num.14:21) . All flesh will have the Holy Spirit poured out on them! (Joel 2:28)

Begin to imagine the rivers of living water that Jesus has promised. Ezekiel saw that river in **Ezekiel 47**. Moses tapped that river in the wilderness when the people of God needed to drink. John saw that river flowing

"proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Rev.22:1)

This is the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles!

The Holy Spirit poured out in the earth upon all flesh! **Joel 2:28**

The testimony of Jesus openly proclaimed in every nation [people group]; the gospel fully preached; **Mt.24:14**

The Body of Christ fully functioning, every member set in place and released to participate and minister the love of God; **1Cor.12:18,28; Eph.4:16**

Apostles teaching the full counsel of God in all the earth; **Acts2:42; 20:27**

prophets sharing their knowledge of the mystery; **Eph. 3:5**

Messianic Jews and saved Gentiles reconciled, making up the Body of Christ; **Eph.2:14-16**

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Awesome signs and wonders, demonstrating God's power and love; **Acts2:42;**
Rom.15:19

And then the last Trumpet will blow to herald the return of the Lord.

Will you be ready?

Will you be part of the glorious church?

Will you heed the trumpet calling and come to Day of Atonement

Will you in every way be made perfect? Your whole spirit, soul and body!

1 Peter 5:10 *“The God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*

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is based at the SHILOH Centre in Toowoomba but can travel anywhere.

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Bible Research Classes teaching use of concordances, message preparation, preaching and teaching practice.

TEACHING / STUDY MANUALS AVAILABLE

1) *The Word and the Spirit*; 2) *Prayer a Way of Life*; 3) *Foundations of Our Faith*; 4) *The Power of Prayer*; 5) *This Gospel Must Be Preached*; 6) *Steps to Revival*; 7) *Strategy to Reach the Nation*; 8) *The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed*; 9) *Let us go on to Perfection*; 10) *And He gave some to be Apostles...*; 11) *The Cross to the Glory*; 12) *Planting the Church*; 13) *I will Build My Church*; 14) *Faith in Practice*

15) *Leadership in the Last Days*; 16) *The Spirit and Power of Elijah*

Youth and Young Christians: 1) *Prayer Attack*; 2) *Foundations of our Faith for Youth*;

3) *Born again to Serve*; 6) *Heroes of the Bible*

Children's Manuals: 1) *God Talk*; 2) *Joseph, Jesus and Me*

"Walking in Our Inheritance" a book by Paul Galligan

