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Revealed**

**Revival Ministries Australia**

**Presents:**

**A Series of teachings to lead the church onto perfection.**

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# INTRODUCTION

## LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION

The writer to the Hebrews (**Heb.5&6**) is exhorting us to go on the **maturity [perfection]**. We are to graduate to solid food, having laid the foundations of our faith [the elementary doctrines of Christ] as set out in **Heb.6:1-2**. In **1 Cor.2:6-10**, Paul tells us there is a **deeper wisdom** for the mature that is revealed to us through the Spirit. In these **days of restoration which God has spoken about in His Word (Acts 3:19-21)**, the veil is being lifted off our understanding (**2 Cor.3:16**) and the Father is granting to us a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of His Son (**Eph.1:17**). The New Testament assumes and demands a thorough knowledge, by revelation, of His word in the Old Testament so that we can understand and look for the **fulfillment of all things in Christ**. Given that the church is the body of Him who fills the all in all (**Eph.1:22**), and that the church is being perfected as His bride (**Eph.5:22-31**), this fulfillment includes a deep understanding of the church as the major component of **God's eternal purpose**; that which He is bringing forth as the grand accomplishment of all of creation; the **fulfillment of His creation purpose** in creating man in His own image and likeness (**Gen.1:26**).

The following series of teachings are an attempt to share with you some of the insights that the Lord has been revealing and quickening in recent times. In our statement of faith, we acknowledge that we are a church committed to the unfolding revelation of His Word. We believe **God is restoring all the ministries of the New Testament to His church**. Our strength has been in the teaching ministry as the Lord has raised us up. However over the last two years He began to speak of apostolic ministry and use us in a growing apostolic ministry, which includes teaching and understanding the **five-fold ministry and the expression of apostolic ministry in the Scriptures**. Hence the two sessions of study on the five-fold gift.

The teaching on the **blood of redemption** is mainly an exploration of this subject in the Old Testament, seeing the roots of the practice of blood atonement even in the Garden of Eden. *"Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin."* **Heb.9:22**

The **priesthood** of all believers is regarded as a fundamental doctrine of the Protestant church, and yet is so little understood or practiced. The two studies on the priesthood are to inspire us to fulfill **our high calling as priests called to minister to Him, and to enter into revival ministry, under a full anointing** that comes from being in the sanctuary of His Presence.

The **anointing** is best understood as the **Spirit and the Word** both operating in our lives and continuing to feed and nurture us as believers. The study on the two anointed ones of **Zechariah**, illustrate this understanding powerfully.

The final session in this manual opens up an understanding of the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles through the prophetic promises of **Isaiah 4:2-6**. **The glory shall be our covering in these days as we pursue the LORD and press on towards the high calling of our God in Christ Jesus (Phil.3:14)**.

Paul Galligan, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2000

## CHAPTER ONE

# OUR REDEEMING GOD: A STUDY OF REDEMPTION

The Bible is the story of redemption from **Genesis** to **Revelation**.

**Eph.1:7** *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."*

**It is in Jesus Christ that we have redemption.**

The aim of this study is to open up the Scriptures, to look at the message of redemption beginning in the book of **Genesis**. Our text is:

**Hebrews 9:22** *"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."*

Purified means cleansed.

**Word Wealth from Sprit filled Life Bible,p.1882. Remission. Strong's #859. "to send away". The word signifies a release from bondage or imprisonment, dismissal, sending away, and forgiveness, with the added quality of cancelling out all judgment, punishment, obligation, or debt. The remission comes about by the shedding of blood. The key message of redemption is that we receive this redemption, this remission of our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.**

This was taught according to the law, because it says, *"according to the law almost all things are purified with blood."* Under the law it was the blood of bulls, goats and lambs, all symbolic of the promised Lamb of God who would come. **The shedding of His blood on Calvary brought remission for our sins. (Heb.9:11-15)**

### **REDEEM**

Means to buy back; it comes from times past when people actually bought and sold people as slaves. To redeem a slave one paid a price for that person's freedom and release. You could pay a price to set that person free and restore that person's life and dignity. Another understanding is the paying of a ransom for a kidnap victim. **Jesus paid a ransom for us.**

**Gal.3:13** *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree").*

Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law. Under the law we are all judged to be sinners and sin brings a curse of death on us.

**Gal.4:4-5** *"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."*

We have been adopted as sons because Jesus Christ redeemed us; He bought us back; He paid the price for us.

**Eph. 5:16** speaks of *redeeming the time, because the days are evil*. It is urgent that people are saved.

**Col. 4:5** Also speaks of *redeeming the time*. We are to buy back the opportunities, to let our speech be with grace, seasoned with salt, so you know how to answer each one. We are to make the most of every opportunity and to share the wisdom of God with all whom we meet.

**Redemption literally means that Christ brought deliverance for us from the guilt and power of sin through His death.**

**1 Cor.6:20** *“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

**1 Cor.7:23** *“You were brought at a price; do not become slaves of men.”*

We no longer have to be slaves to feelings of control, of being under the control of men. We no longer have to submit ourselves to the wrong demands of other people.

**2 Pet.2:1** refers to those who are false teachers, people who are speaking wrong things, bringing destructive heresies. **They deny the LORD who bought them;** they no longer value the blood of Jesus Christ.

### **Guilt and Shame**

Redemption is from sin, but specifically from the guilt and shame that sin brings in our lives. **Guilt is how we feel; shame is something we carry.** The LORD wants to set us free from both!

Application: Pray the following PRAYER allowing God to release you:

*Heavenly Father I thank you today for the redemption that comes to me through Jesus Christ, through His precious blood, and gives to me the remission of my sins. Thankyou LORD for cancelling out my sins. Therefore I am no longer guilty. LORD I hand over to You today the feelings of guilt that no longer have any basis in my life. The blood of Jesus Christ removes that guilt from me. Father I hand over to you the shame that I carry. LORD it has got right into my personality; I am a shamed person, but the LORD Jesus Christ has redeemed me. He has broken that shame off my life. I take the shame off like an old garment and I cast it at the foot of the cross. I receive forgiveness, acceptance and approval, in Jesus Name. AMEN.*

As a believer none of us has to live with sin, shame or guilt any longer. If we sin we come back to the LORD and confess our sin so there is no grounds for shame and guilt to enter in again.

### **REDEMPTION FROM SIN FOR ADAM AND EVE**

**Genesis 3** In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were created blameless, innocent and perfect in that sense (**Gen.2:25**). God put a test in the garden, a **test of obedience**. There were **two trees in the garden: God's tree, called the tree of life** and tree of the **knowledge of good and evil**. This second tree had to be there because the devil was already in the earth. Satan was already prowling around disguised as a serpent. God warned Adam and Eve that there was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the devil was going to try to deceive them. He warned them that if they ate of that

tree they would surely die. But of the tree of life, He said "You can eat of that tree freely and you can live forever with me."

Adam and Eve were beguiled by the serpent (**Gen.3:1-6**). They ate the fruit from the wrong tree and as a result of their disobedience, they felt **guilt and shame and became afraid**. After they sinned they were **naked and ashamed, Gen.3:7**. This is a different Hebrew word for *naked* than that in **Gen.2:25**. This is a nakedness that is exposed, that exposes sin; as a result they became ashamed and afraid. They tried to cover their own nakedness, but that didn't work; they were still afraid.

### **GOD JUDGES**

God knew what they had done. God then judges the devil and judges Adam and Eve. **Gen.3:15** - in judging them God actually gives them a prophetic promise. He actually preaches the Gospel to them:

*"I will put enmity between you (satan) and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel."*

This is the **first preaching of the coming of a Saviour who would defeat satan** and take from satan his authority. The head refers to authority. So the Seed of a woman, in the fullness of time would come, the Saviour, born under the law to save us from the law, by crushing satan, by taking from satan his authority to enslave mankind (**Gal.4:4-5**).

**Gen.3:21** *"Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them."* God killed an animal. The first one to kill in creation was God. He killed one of His own animals. He had to shed some blood to cover their sin. **The shedding of blood covered their sin**; then He made a literal covering for them from the skin of the animal. This is the first mention of **blood sacrifice to atone for man's sin**.

*Atonement means reconciliation, expiation, the way that reparation is made or satisfaction given.* God makes us at one with Himself through atonement. The only way He can do it is through the sacrifice of blood. Adam and Eve had to throw away their own garments which represented dead works and receive a beautiful garment that He had made out of animal skin, which represented imputed righteousness (**Rom.4:3**).

Adam and Eve believed what God had said to them about the coming of the Saviour so they were **saved by faith** [they believed God]. God shed blood to take away their sin and He clothed them with righteousness.

### **CAIN AND ABEL**

**Gen.4:1** Adam and Eve had a son and named him Cain, which means *"I have acquired a man from the LORD."* Eve thought that her first born son would be the Saviour. She thought that he was the one promised by God; that **showed that she had faith**. Then she bore another son and named him Abel (**v.2**). Abel kept sheep; Cain was a tiller of the ground. Adam taught his sons about what happened in the garden and that the way back to the tree of life was guarded by **cherubim with a flaming sword (Gen.3:24)**. **Cherubim** guard or cover the very presence of God (**Ezek.28:14**). God is in the midst of the Cherubim, beneath their wings (**Ex.25:22**). God gave to

man a way back after He put them out of the garden. He left the way open for man to come and worship. Cain and Abel had been taught by their father to worship God.

Where did they worship God? **At the gate of Eden where the guarding Cherubs were, who guarded the very presence of God.** There is also the presence of a **flaming sword**. In the Scripture the **flame often represents the presence of God manifest through the Holy Spirit and the sword speaks of the Word of God.** So in a very real sense we have the Word and the Spirit and the covering Cherubim who cover the Father's presence. [the **Triune GOD**]

### **ATONEMENT FOR SIN**

The fullness of God is manifest in the pre flood era. God left His presence in the earth, He left a way for man to come and worship. When Adam went out of the garden, we can only imagine what he taught and what he told his sons. We can imagine he told them about the glory of God; what it was like in the Garden! about the time God made Adam a helper. Then you can imagine Adam very sorrowfully telling his sons about their disobedience, how God came to their aid, even when they were trying to run away to hide. God killed an animal and shed its blood for Adam and Eve. **God made atonement for their sin.** God clothed them with the animal skin and they were no longer uncovered and exposed.

Adam would have told his sons that this was why they came to worship God bringing the sacrifice of a lamb and shedding its blood to atone for their sin. **God then accepts man on the basis of atonement through blood.** Abel knew to bring the firstling of the flock, but Cain would not! God said to Cain, "your sacrifice is not acceptable" (**Gen.4:5**). But He says to Abel "your sacrifice is acceptable" (**v.4**), because Abel was a man of faith and he obeyed what his father taught him. He feared God and he brought a lamb. Cain was a proud young man and wanted to do things his own way. He offered what he thought would be good - his own works. This is what the New Testament calls "dead works"; **we are to repent from dead works and have faith in God through Jesus Christ, the lamb of God!**

### **NOAH**

In the Scripture the next righteous man we meet is Noah **Gen.6:8**. Noah was a **righteous man**, *"he found grace in the eyes of the LORD."* Grace is the gift of God that enables us to believe (**Eph.2:8**). Noah received this grace and believed God. The Bible says Noah was a **righteous man**, blameless before God, because Noah was a man who believed what God said to him. God was able to entrust to Noah the building of the ark and the effectual outworking of His purpose at that time. When Noah was building the ark, God said to Noah take into the ark two of every kind of animal and bird, but in **Gen.7:2** he is told to *"take seven each of every clean animal"* and **v.3** *"also seven each of birds of the air"*. These were for **sacrifice!** Noah was a righteous man and he knew the ways of God. He understood atonement, that **there is no remission of sins without the shedding of blood.**

Noah obediently took the clean animals, then in **Gen.8:20**, we read what Noah did. When the flood receded and the ark had come to dry land, the first thing this righteous man did was to offer a sacrifice. This pleased God. Every time that we come to communion, we acknowledge that it is through the blood of Jesus we are made righteous, that it is through the blood of Jesus Christ that we can receive cleansing and

forgiveness for our sins. God pours out His grace, because He loves us and wants to bless us.

**Gen. 8:21** *"the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done."*

## **Further Understanding of Blood**

**Chap.9:4-6** After the flood God gave mankind the right to eat flesh, but not flesh with its life, i.e., with its blood in it.

**v.5** If an animal kills a human being, that animal should immediately be killed according to the word of God.

**v.6** A man who deliberately sheds another man's blood shall also be killed [capital punishment for premeditated murder].

Because man is created in God's image and in His likeness; because God has such an awesome plan for man, that is, to live forever with Him, having reached his full potential on earth, God is absolutely opposed to murder, that is, a person wilfully taking the life of another. God is also telling us that once an animal or a man has killed unnecessarily then there is the propensity to kill again.

## **TOWER OF BABEL**

**Gen.11** The story of the Tower of Babel: there was **no altar to God, no sacrifice**. Man in his own arrogance and disobedience was trying to build his own temple and reach to heaven. Man through his own works and pride is attempting to be as God. God judged the tower of Babel very strongly; that is when all the different people groups were separated from one another.

## **ABRAHAM**

**Gen.12** Here we meet Abram for the first time, a man called by God.

**v.7** When he arrived in the land God had led him to, he built an altar to the LORD, to sacrifice.

**v.8** Again he moved on and built another altar and called on the name of the LORD.

**Our altar is the name of Jesus and specifically His sacrificial death on the cross. So as oft as you come together and share the bread and drink the cup, remember our sacrificial Lamb.**

**Abraham the father of the faith built altars, sacrificed lambs, and called on the Name of the LORD.**

**This is the story of redemption, this is how we respond to God's covenant with us: to build an altar and offer a sacrifice; to call on the Name of Jesus and remember His sacrificial death on the cross for us.**

**When we do that God will hear us. God will say "all your sins are remitted, cancelled out and you are My righteous children."**

**Genesis 15** God makes a **covenant [an agreement]** with Abram.

**v.10** Abram had to kill the animals and birds, **shed their blood** and then lay them out in a sacrificial manner so that he and God could make covenant together.

**v.11** Vultures came down upon the carcasses, and Abram had to drive them away. Vultures represent demons. **Abram had to be a watchman;** he had to be a man of prayer keeping watch, **keeping the holy things of God from defilement.**

**v.12** Abram fell into a deep sleep.

**v.17** *"there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces"*. God came and moved through the sacrificial animals that Abram had been told to set out.

**Gen.17:9-11** The seal of this covenant was **circumcision**. This involved a shedding of blood, to signify the sealing of this covenant between God and Abram.

**Gen.22** Abraham had Isaac, the son of promise. At about 12 years of age, God says to Abraham, sacrifice your son, take him up the mountain, Mt. Moriah, build an altar and sacrifice him. Abraham obeyed God.

**v.5** Abraham said, *"the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you"*. **WE will come back:** Abraham is speaking out of faith: he believed in **resurrection**.

**v.7** Isaac knew about sacrifices and he asked his father ‘**where is the lamb for the burnt offering?**’ They were going up to worship, by building an altar and sacrificing a lamb.

**v.8** Abraham says, *"YHWH Yireh"* The LORD himself will provide, referring to **God sending His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for your sins** – that is His provision for you. It is all about receiving the sacrifice of Jesus' body and blood on the cross. God will supply the lamb for the sacrifice.

**v.10-11** The Angel of the LORD came and stayed Abraham's hand and they looked in the thicket and saw a ram, which became the sacrifice.

**Isaac is the promised son. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son.  
What is God teaching us? That He would send His only Son, His promised  
Son and that His Son would be sacrificed on the cross at Calvary.**

### **The Bible is the book of redemption.**

The most common name of Jesus in the book of **Revelation** is **the LAMB**. In **John 1:29**, John cried out *"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"*.

### **PASSOVER**

**Exodus 12** This is the story of the first Passover. The people of Israel were to be delivered from Egypt under the leadership of Moses. Moses told the people of God to **take a lamb for a household and shed its blood to mark their doors**. The angel of death was sent by God and in every house that was not marked by blood, the first born child and the first born of every beast would be struck dead; but every dwelling place that was marked by blood would be **passed over** (**Exod.12:12-13**).

On the night Jesus was betrayed he was sitting at supper,  
[that was the passover meal],  
he took the bread and said "This is my flesh that is broken for you; take and eat."  
He took the cup of red wine and said "This is My blood that is shed  
for you and for many, as oft as you drink from this, remember Me".  
Jesus is the literal fulfilment of Passover, He is the Passover Lamb.

## THE COVENANT OF LAW

**Exodus 24** Moses and God instituted what is called the Old Covenant, or the Covenant of Law. Moses had already received the law on the tablets of stone and now with the whole congregation gathered and all the elders, he read to them all the words of the law which God had spoken, and the people responded....

**v.3** *"All the words which the LORD has said we will do"*.

**v.5** Moses built an altar and then sent the young men of Israel to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings to the LORD. The blood was shed.

**v.6** Then Moses took half the blood and put it in basins and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. When the blood was put on the altar, **God said "Yes I see the blood"**.

**v.8** Moses took the other half of the **blood** and **sprinkled it on the people**; everyone was sprinkled with blood and that brought the people **under a covering of blood** into a covenant with God. The covenant was sealed with blood.

As a result of the blood covenant ...

**v.9-11** *"Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank"*.

He did not lay His hand on them because they were covered by blood, so **they were able to enter into the very presence of Almighty God and see the God of Israel Himself and they did not die; they ate and drank with Him**.

## **This is the story of redemption,**

that when we come by the Bible way to God, He welcomes us, He clothes us with righteousness and He welcomes us to His banqueting table. The story of redemption is reflected in the whole sacrificial system given to Moses by God. In the **courtyard of the Tabernacle that Moses built** under God's instruction [the Tabernacle was a special tent in which was placed the Ark of the Covenant where God presenced Himself in His glory] was a big **altar made of brass, the brazen altar of burnt sacrifice**, and every day, morning and evening the priests were **to bring a lamb**.

**Exodus 29:38-46** sets out what the daily offerings were to be: a **lamb, whose blood was shed, and offered to God as a burnt offering; this lamb was fully consumed by fire.** There was also a grain offering and a wine offering along with oil.

## **A grain offering and a drink offering:**

on the night Jesus was betrayed He took a grain offering and said,

**“This is my body, as oft as you eat it remember me, the Lamb offering.”**  
**He also took the cup, a drink offering and said “this is My blood”.**  
**So what Jesus gave us in the communion is not only the fulfilment of the Passover but also the fulfilment of the daily offering under the covenant of Moses. He gives us bread and wine to remember Him.**

**Redemption is worked out by the shedding of blood**, but it is always pointing to Jesus coming in the fullness of time, born of a woman, born under law, hanging on a cross, shedding His precious blood. Jesus fulfilled the blood sacrifice to bring us redemption.

## **BOOK OF HEBREWS**

In the book of **Hebrews**, the fulfilment of what we have read in the Old Testament is clearly illustrated. We started with the text **Heb.9:22**. We have seen that right through the Old Testament from **Genesis**, God is revealing this principle, **that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin** to cover mankind with righteousness. He is the Lamb of God, who, the Bible says, was slain from before the foundation of the world. He was always prepared to lay down His life so that mankind, whom He had created in His own image and likeness, could be saved. God thought so much of us, even before He created us, and knowing all that we were going to do, He considered we were worth saving. All the pain would be seen as momentary light affliction compared to the glory that would be revealed in us.

**Heb.8:6** Christ mediated a better covenant

**Heb.9:11-15** Christ came as High Priest. He is the fulfilment of all the pattern of the Old

Testament Tabernacle.

**Heb.10:19-25** Christ entered the Holy Place with His own blood once and for all providing redemption for our sins.

## **BOOK OF REVELATION**

**Rev.1:5** *“Jesus Christ ... washed us from our sins in His own blood,*

**Rev.1:6** *and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father.”*

**Rev.5:6** *“in the midst of the throne ... stood a Lamb as though it had been slain;*

**Rev.5:9** *“You have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,*

**v.10** *And have made us kings and priests to our God.”*

We have skipped over many references to **redemption** in the New Testament. The conclusion of this study is to see **the fulfilment God has in mind: we are made kings and priests unto our God, by the redemption that is in the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ!** The teaching of the blood atonement has been in the Scriptures from the very beginning, being integral to our relationship with God.

## CHAPTER TWO

# THE EMERGENCE OF THE FIVE FOLD MINISTRY GIFT THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS.

**INTRODUCTION: Eph.2:19-22** The saints are citizens of the household of God, built on the foundation of apostles and prophets. Foundations are the part of the building that is underground, not seen. A house without a good foundation will fall. Jesus Christ himself is the **chief cornerstone, the One who holds everything together, the One upon whom the walls are built!** It is He who authorises the apostles and prophets to minister. The evangelist, pastor and teacher are 'above ground' ministries, building on the foundation. Jesus is also the capstone of the building, i.e., the one who holds everything in place. (compare with **Zech.4:7**)

The book of **Haggai** [who was a restoration prophet after the exile of Judah in Babylon] speaks of the **latter temple being greater than the former (Hag.2:9)**. The latter temple is going to be filled with his glory. Prophetic interpretation suggests that the **former house is the church of the book of Acts**. God is building a house that will stand in these last days. This last days church, the house of the Lord, will be more glorious than the church of the book of Acts. All that was manifest in the Book of Acts in terms of gifts and ministries is to be restored. There is no revelation outside of the Word of God; rather **a restoration of what we see in the Word of God (Acts 3:19-21)**. We are studying the Book of Acts to see the release and development of the fivefold ministry in the early church and to understand the restoration of the fivefold ministry today.

## TWELVE APOSTLES of the LAMB

**Acts1:16-26** the choosing of a replacement for Judas. There were **twelve apostles of the Lamb**; Judas was a traitor and it was necessary to replace him.

**Acts1:21-22** speak of the necessary qualifications to be an apostle of the Lamb: **one who had been with Jesus from the time of His baptism by John until the resurrection and ascension**. Only two men qualified and Matthias was chosen. These are the only apostles of the Lamb (**Rev.21:14**). Other apostles mentioned through the book of **Acts** are ascension gift ministry apostles.

**The twelve apostles of the Lamb were the founding apostles of the early church,**

**appointed by the Lord during His earthly ministry and the names of these twelve are on the foundations of the wall of the holy city (Rev.21:14).**

**Other apostles are appointed by the Holy Spirit (Acts13:2-3 & 1Cor.12:28) and receive the ascension gift ministry of apostleship (Eph.4:7-12).**

**Acts 2:14** the apostles worked as a **team** [Jesus had trained them in team ministry].  
Peter

stood up with the eleven and spoke on behalf of them.

**Acts 2:42** the apostles' doctrine was taught from house to house; different apostles going to house meetings to share the teachings of Jesus.

**Acts 6:4** The apostles declare the priorities of apostolic ministry: "prayer and the ministry of the word".

## DEACONS

**Acts 6:2-3** the apostles settled a dispute by appointing a second group of leaders to serve the church and share in the work. They were to do a more practical ministry as 'table servers'; to attend to *"this business."* They were chosen because they were men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. These are the first deacons in the new church! [compare with **1Tim.3:8-13** and see page 7 of this session] The work that they were to be involved in is the work of the deacon, which is an office rather than a ministry gift.

*[Strong's .Concordance, Greek number: 1249,  
meaning of 'deacon': one who runs an errand, a waiter on tables]*

**Neither Stephen nor Philip remained in the office of deacon.  
They moved into gift ministries!**

## MIRACLE WORKER

**Acts 6:5** Stephen was a man full of faith.

**Acts 6:8** full of faith and power, and did great signs and wonders.

**Acts 6:10** he spoke with wisdom and by the Spirit.

Stephen was a miracle worker. The gift of miracle worker is another powerful ministry that God has set in the church (**1 Cor.12:28**).

## PHILIP an EVANGELIST

**Acts 7** records the trial and death of Stephen, the first martyr.

**Acts 8:1** The result of Stephen's death was persecution of the church which resulted in the Jewish Christians being scattered. They *"went everywhere preaching the word"* (v.4) They were an apostolic people! So the church spread out from Jerusalem throughout Judea and Samaria.

**Acts 8:4-8** Philip went to preach in Samaria; he was an evangelist. He was also a miracle worker. People were healed and delivered as Philip ministered. In **Acts 21:8** Philip is called an evangelist, but his ministry started here in Samaria. He went about preaching Christ, with signs and wonders and many were saved.

**Acts 8:14** The apostles heard what was happening in Samaria and sent Peter and John. The new believers had not yet received the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 8:17** The apostles laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. **The apostles released the impartation of the Holy Spirit.** The apostles came down to help found the new church. The evangelist is not called to build the church.

**Acts 8:26** Philip was called by the Lord to leave the revival and go to preach to one man.

**Acts 8:36-38** Philip the evangelist led the eunuch to the Lord and baptised him. [remember **Mk.16:15-16**]

**Acts 8:40** Philip again moved on preaching in all the cities he came to.

**He had an itinerant ministry as an evangelist.**

**SO FAR THERE ARE : APOSTLES, DEACONS, MIRACLE WORKERS, A MARTYR, AN EVANGELIST, AN APOSTOLIC PEOPLE, in the book of Acts.**

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### **An UNKNOWN DISCIPLE**

**Acts 9:10** Ananias is **an unknown disciple** with no particular office or ministry.

**V.11:** God spoke to him and gave him specific instructions.

**V.17:** Ananias the unknown disciple was able to lay hands on Saul and minister the Holy Spirit. Saul is filled with the Holy Spirit and his eyes are opened.

**V.18:** Saul was baptised by Ananias. Each one of us is called to go, to preach, to heal, to minister the Holy Spirit and to baptise. (**Mark 16:17-20** *those who believe!*)

**This passage in Acts reveals that a disciple has authority to heal, minister baptism in the Holy Spirit and minister water baptism. While this is not normal practice, it is biblical!**

### **PETER uses the KEYS of the KINGDOM**

**Acts 10:** Peter was invited to the home of Cornelius a Gentile. Peter was the apostle who had been given the **keys of the kingdom (Mt.16:18)** to open the kingdom of God to both Jews [**Acts2** on the Day of Pentecost] and Gentiles, as well as release the Holy Spirit in Samaria.

**Acts10:34-43** Peter preached the gospel to the household.

**Acts:10:44** The Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

**Acts10:48** Peter then baptised the new Gentile believers.

Later in the book of Acts we see Paul the apostle using these apostolic keys to found new churches, e.g., **Acts 19:1-7**.

### **BRETHREN [the saints]**

**Acts11:1** **brethren** are mentioned along with the apostles.

### **UNKNOWN DISCIPLES**

**Acts11:19** speaks of the dispersion of the church; those who were scattered preaching to Jews only.

**Acts11:20-21** Other **unknown disciples** preached to Hellenists, so there was a coming together of Jewish and Gentile believers at Antioch. The **ministry of the disciple** is to **preach the gospel** and to win the lost. This is an example of an **apostolic people**: there is no specific apostle among them but they effect apostolic work!

### **APOSTOLIC DELEGATE [compare with Titus in Titus1:5]**

**Acts11:22** Barnabas was sent out from Jerusalem.

**Acts11:24** He was a man full of the Holy Spirit, and of faith. He went and sought Saul and brought him to Antioch. Barnabas is an **apostolic delegate**: he is sent on a mission by the apostles but he is not an apostle yet.

### **PROPHETS**

**Acts11:27** **Prophets** came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

Prophets were an established ministry in the church by this time: they came from the Jerusalem church to the church at Antioch. They were received by the church at Antioch.

**Acts 11:28** Agabus the prophet had visions; he was *'shown by the Spirit'*, what would happen. What he said came to pass. [This is the sign of a true prophet, **Deut. 18:21-22**].

**NOW THERE ARE APOSTLES [of the Lamb], AN EVANGELIST, AND PROPHETS** from the five-fold ministry gift. There has been no mention of **PASTORS OR TEACHERS YET!**

### **ELDERS: Are they PASTORS?**

**Acts 11:30** the first mention of **elders**, the office of the elder. This is not a ministry per se [all ascension gift ministers are elders, **1Pet. 5:1**, as Peter says he is an elder, though he is also an apostle]. However a case can be made from Scripture that elders are often **pastors**, exercising oversight. In **Acts 13:1** the leaders of the church at Antioch were *"certain prophets and teachers."*

**Acts 20:28**, *"take heed ... to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has made you overseers"*, Paul was speaking to the elders from Ephesus and his words show us that the primary ministry of the elder is to *"shepherd/pastor the flock of God."*

**1Pet. 5:2** *"shepherding [feed in KJV] the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers"*. Peter is also speaking to elders, and again as overseers, they are to shepherd the flock!

**Elders are to exercise oversight and to shepherd the flock.**

*WORD STUDY: Eph. 4:11 Pastors S.C. 4166, of uncertain origin, means shepherd (literally or figuratively) translated:- shepherd, pastor.*

*Vines, 'poimen', a shepherd, one who tends herds or flocks [not merely one who feeds them] is used metaphorically of Christian overseers. Pastors guide as well as feed the flock. 'poimaino', to act as a shepherd as in Jn. 21:15,17 & 1Pet. 5:2*

**Jn. 21:15-17** the emphasis is "feed" as well as to "tend" the flock. Peter as an apostle is called by Jesus to 'pastor' His sheep. All fivefold gift ministers are to exercise oversight and shepherd the flock of God but the pastor is the ministry gift that Christ has given to specifically tend and feed the church of God in the local fellowships.

### **Can WOMEN be ELDERS?**

Priscilla is mentioned exercising a 'teaching ministry (**Acts 18:26**); with her husband, she is a 'helper' or 'fellow worker' with Paul (**Rom. 16:3**) and the church in Corinth met in their home (**1Cor. 16:19**).

The apostle John writes to *"the elect lady"* in **2John**. The letter reads as if addressed to a person **'exercising oversight'** in the house of God.

'Junia' could well be a female name (**Rom. 16:7**). She was an apostle.

### **TEACHERS**

**Acts 13:1** teachers are mentioned along with prophets in the church at Antioch. This is the first mention of the ascension gift **teacher**; a leadership ministry of the church, along with prophets.

## ASCENSION GIFT APOSTLES

**Acts13:2** the Holy Spirit spoke to them and told them to lay hands on Saul and Barnabas and send them out as **apostles**. The prophets and teachers spent time in prayer and fasting, ministering to the LORD, then **the Holy Spirit spoke to them**.

**Acts14:4&14** Paul and Barnabas are referred to as apostles. They had been commissioned by prophets and teachers, and they had been sent out by the Holy Spirit. Paul and Barnabas are ordained as apostles according to the word of the Holy Spirit. They receive the ascension gift ministry of apostleship (**Eph.4:11**)

**2 Tim.1:11** Paul saw himself as a **preacher [evangelist], apostle and teacher**. Every five-fold ministry gift needs a strong foundation in the word of God; soundness of doctrine is the first qualification.

## APOSTLES and ELDERS

**Acts15:6** The Jerusalem church now has apostles and elders coming together to consider an issue. We have already made a case for elders to normally be the pastors, unless the elders are exercising other ascension gift ministries. The elders functioning in the Antiochan church were prophets and teachers (**Acts13:1-4**).

**Acts 15:22** Judas and Silas were chosen as “*leading men among the brethren*”;

**Acts 15:32** “*themselves being prophets*”; they were among the “*apostles and elders*” who gathered for the council meeting; it is clear that **they were elders** also.

**Acts15:13** James, the brother of Jesus, is a **leading elder of this church**. As an apostle (**Gal.1:19**), he **speaks up with authority in a matter of faith and practice**. **James is speaking with the authority of an apostle** in matters of faith [interpreting the scriptures] and practice.

**IN THE BOOK OF ACTS THERE ARE CLEARLY APOSTLES, PROPHETS, TEACHERS, AN EVANGELIST, AND PASTORS [i.e. some of the elders]. THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRY GIFT IS OPERATING**

## PROPHETS SENT WITH APOSTLES

**Acts15:27** the apostles and elders sent “Judas and Silas” with Paul and Barnabas.

**v.32** “*Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words*”.

**v.36** Paul decides to **revisit every city** where he had previously preached the gospel.

**v.37-39** There was a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas over Mark’s involvement.

**v.40** Paul chose to take Silas, a prophet, with him. An **apostle and a prophet team up to minister** to the churches.

## THE APOSTOLIC TEAM

### TIMOTHY GOES ON TEAM

**Acts16:1-3** Paul chose to take a young Timothy on team; “*he was well spoken of by the brethren*”. The apostolic team is growing!

**v.5** **Evangelism** is happening as the apostles and prophets go back to encourage. The **church was increasing in numbers daily**.

## LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Acts16:6-7** The **apostolic team is led by the Holy Spirit**.

v.9-10 Paul is obedient to the **“vision”** received and makes their travel plans accordingly.

### **FROM PRAYER MEETING TO HOUSECHURCH**

**Acts 16:15** The church in Philippi emerged out of a **prayer meeting** (v.13) and **was founded in a home**.

### **TEAM MINISTRY**

**Acts20:4** Paul, the apostle, was accompanied by a team as he travelled.

### **PAUL IN CORINTH**

**Acts18:3** The apostle Paul was prepared to work at his secular trade at times.

v.4 Paul went to the local synagogue first but was often rejected, although some believed.

v.7 Paul withdrew from the synagogue and ministered in a **friendly house** – *“many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptised”*.

v.11 *“And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them”*. Paul exercised a **teaching ministry**.

### **THE APOSTOLIC TEACHING CENTRE**

**In Ephesus, the apostle Paul founded the church on right foundations; then he established an apostolic teaching centre from where revival spread throughout the province of Asia.**

**Acts19:1-7** Laying the **foundations** (Heb.6:1-2) of the church of Jesus Christ.

v.9-10 Establishing a **teaching centre**; **teaching daily** in this centre; the result being *“that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks”*.

v.11 *“Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul”*.

v.12-17 Evil spirits were driven out;

v.19 many *“who had practised magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all”*.

v.20 *“So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.”*

All who dwelt in Asia heard the Word!

There is a **pattern of apostolic ministry** here that we need to heed!

### **SOME SIGNS OF AN APOSTLE**

**Acts20:7&11** Paul sometimes spoke at length! As an apostle Paul taught and testified at length, building up the churches at every opportunity in the Word of God.

v.8-10 Eutychus is raised to life! Mighty signs and wonders accompany apostles  
(Acts2:43)

**Acts28:3-6** *“they will take up serpents”*(Mk.16:18); Paul is unharmed when bitten by a viper!

v.7-8 *“Paul laid his hands on him and healed him”*; *“they shall lay hands on the sick and they will recover”*, Mark16:18.

## FOLLOW-UP, CARING FOR THE CHURCHES

**Acts 20:17:** Paul sent for the elders in the church at Ephesus; he had appointed elders there.

**v.20:** Paul had a teaching school through the day at Ephesus and ministered from house to house in the evening.

**v.27** Apostles are to **declare the “whole counsel of God”**.

**v.28:** Paul speaks to the elders of the church in Ephesus. **“Take heed to yourselves and to the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God.”** (A.V. `to feed the church of God')

S.C., Gr. #1985. OVERSEER - a superintendent, an officer in charge of a church;  
translated: bishop or overseer.

S.C., Gr. #4165. FEED - to tend as a shepherd, (or figuratively, supervisor)  
from 4166 a shepherd; translated: feed, rule.

## VARIOUS GIFTS AND MINISTRIES IN THE CHURCH

**Acts 21:8** Paul and the team stay with Philip the **evangelist**.

**v.9** Philip's daughters **“prophesied”**; **gift of prophecy**.

**v.10** Agabus the **prophet** visited from Judea.

**v.18 all the elders** with James were present. James was an apostle.

## JESUS SAID HIS APOSTLES WOULD TESTIFY BEFORE COUNCILS, SYNAGOGUES, GOVERNORS AND KINGS

**Mt.10:17-20**

**Acts 22:1-21** Paul bears witness to the Jewish crowd in Jerusalem.

**Acts 23:1-10** Paul bears witness before the council.

**Acts 24:10-21** Paul bears witness before the governor.

**Acts 26:1-23** Paul's defence before the king. **“I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision”**

**Acts 27:23** Paul is **visited by an angel from God**; the ship's personnel were to be kept safe!

**The apostolic ministry is a supernatural calling and gifting!**

## THE APOSTLE CONTINUES TO PREACH AND TEACH

**Acts 28:30-31** Paul, **“preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ”**.

We have studied the **emergence of the fivefold ministry gift** in the Book of Acts, noting some other gifts and offices. Paul and Peter both give further instruction concerning bishops [overseers], deacons and elders.

## THE POSITION OF A BISHOP

**1Tim.3:1** The position of a bishop\overseer mentioned. A position not a ministry so much as an office!

**v.2-3** A bishop must be **able to teach** and be of good character.

**v.7** He must have a good testimony with those who are outside.

**Titus 1:7** the position of bishop and his need to be of good character.

**v.9** He must hold **fast to the faithful word as he has been taught**, so that with **sound doctrine** he may be able to exhort and convict those who contradict.

## DEACONS

**1Tim.3:8** Deacons, an office rather than a ministry. They also need to be of good character.

v.9 *"Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience."*

v.13 the rewards of being a good deacon; *"obtain a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus"*.

**Serving as a deacon is often the training ground for ministry.**

## ELDERSHIP

**1Tim.4:14** Timothy is advised not to neglect the gift which was **given by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.**

Sc. Gr. #4244 ELDERSHIP [*presbuterion*] - a body of elders (literally aged men) composed of men of dignity, wisdom and maturity.

**1Tim.5:17** Elders who rule well are *"counted worthy of double honour, especially those who labour in the word and doctrine."*

**1Pet.5:1** Elders are exhorted by Peter the apostle, *"a fellow elder"*.

v.2 *"Shepherd the flock of God, serving as overseers"*, willingly and eagerly.

v.3 They must be an example to the flock.

v.4 If they are good shepherds they will receive a reward from the Chief Shepherd.

**Bishops are overseers and the elders are to serve as overseers and to shepherd the flock of God.** James, an apostle, not one of the twelve, served as the chief overseer of the church in Jerusalem.

The bishop must be able to **teach sound doctrine**. It is very important for there to be **ascension gift teachers in every church so that the word of God is thoroughly taught, Jesus Christ being fully revealed and the church being built up, growing into maturity [perfection]**. An apostle is clearly an elder. **All ascension gift ministers should be received as elders.**

Eldership is a **plurality, a team ministry** expression. There is no example in the Book of **Acts** of one person ruling the church singly. In **3John**, there is a problem when one man seeks to have pre-eminence among the brethren. Peter spoke with the support of the eleven, having a God-given role among them (**Acts2:14**). James adjudicates as the leading elder in the Jerusalem council. He is the first among equals and through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit his word is agreed to (**Acts15:13-29**).

In these **days of restoration**, the Lord is restoring the ascension gifts to the church. Many of our ideas and practices of eldership and church government, and concerning the ministry and work of God the Holy Spirit in and through His people, are being challenged, shaken and brought into alignment with His word. Let us recognise the ministry gifts God has set in the church : **1 Cor.12:28 "And God has appointed [set] in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues."**

## CHAPTER THREE

# THE LEVELS OF TRAINING AND EQUIPPING IN THE CHURCH BASED ON THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY OF JESUS

**Ephesians 4:11** speaks about the five fold ministry gift that Jesus gave to His church after His ascension. *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers."* Jesus Christ Himself expressed fully in His earthly ministry the fivefold gift. These gifts in operation reveal the Lord Jesus Christ and release effective ministry through the church into the world. **Verse 12** tells us why the gifts were given: *"For the equipping [perfecting] of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying [building up] of the body of Christ."* The fivefold ministry is necessary to bring the church to maturity and thus the church becomes the visible expression of His glory in the earth [see **Isaiah 40:5**].

In this study we will see that **Jesus Himself is the Apostle, the Prophet, the Evangelist, the Pastor and the Teacher**. Then we will study **2Timothy2:2**, which illustrates an outworking of the ascension gifts in training and equipping various levels of ministry in the church. *"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."*

### LEVELS OF TRAINING AND TEACHING

There are various levels of training and teaching meant to be in operation in every church. Through such training, ministries emerge and are released to serve in the Body of Christ, and every saint is taught in *"the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints"* (**Jude3**).

**Level One:** the Son of God, Jesus Christ the Head of the church reveals to Paul the mystery of the gospel;

**Level Two:** Paul the apostle, an ascension gift minister, then teaches [equips others for ministry],

**Level Three:** a group of trainee ministers whom he calls "witnesses"; the witnesses are being trained for ministry so they are to teach, that is, pass on what they have learnt by revelation and impartation.

**Level Four:** "faithful men" are the ones that Timothy, the minister trained by Paul, teaches and trains to teach others.

**Level Five:** "others" are the believers in the local fellowships taught by the ones trained by the minister who had received from the apostle.

**Level Six:** the lost, those yet to be saved are often reached by the believers who have been disciplined in the local fellowship.

*WHICH LEVEL OF MINISTRY TRAINING ARE YOU INVOLVED IN?*

## **JESUS CHRIST: THE COMPLETE MINISTER**

Jesus Christ fully exhibited and demonstrated the five fold ministry. His ministry life was a complete expression of the five ministry gifts. He is the Head of His church. In **Matt.16:18**, Jesus says *"I will build My church."* He is the Master builder. All the body must be related to the head. Jesus is the one who appoints and anoints ascension gift ministries. We learn from Jesus these ministries.

The following is a brief Scripture study to show Jesus as the primary expression of all the ministries.

### **APOSTLE OF GOD**

Jesus the **APOSTLE**: He is the one sent by God, a delegate, an ambassador.

**Heb.3:1** *"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus."*

**Jn.17:18** *"As You sent ['apostello', the verb form of apostle] Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."*

God sent Jesus into the world to bear witness to the Father. Jesus is the apostle of God!

**The whole church is apostolic**; it has been sent into the world to fulfil the Great Commission, (**Matt.28:19, Mark.16:15**). We are sent by Jesus into the world to bear witness to the gospel even as He was sent by the Father. However Jesus also chooses ones from among His Body to be apostles.

Jesus as the builder of the church (**Mt.16:18 & Heb.3:3**) is the apostle of the church of God, because **the apostle is the master builder (1Cor.3:10)**. Jesus holds the keys of David (**Rev.3:7**) and he gives the keys to His apostles (**Mt.16:19**).

### **A PROPHET WILL COME**

Jesus the **PROPHET**: The coming of a Prophet was foretold in the Old Testament.

**Deut.18:15** *"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst from your brethren. Him you shall hear."*

**Deut.18:18** *"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him."*

In the New Testament also, Jesus is referred to as Prophet.

**Matt.21:11** *"So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee".*

**Lu.24:19** *"And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, 'The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.'"*

**Jn.4:19** *"The woman said to Him, 'Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.'"*

**Jn.7:40** *"Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, 'Truly this is the Prophet.'"*

### **JESUS WAS SENT TO THE LOST SHEEP OF ISRAEL**

Jesus the **EVANGELIST**: Jesus knew that He was called to reach the lost.

**Matt.15:24** *"He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the*

house of Israel." Jesus spent most of His time going from place to place preaching about the kingdom of God, doing the work of the evangelist. We see the itinerant nature of the evangelist's ministry.

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**Mark 1:38** "But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there

*also, because for this purpose I have come forth."*

**Lu.4:43** "He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, *because for this purpose I have been sent."*

Notice that the evangelist preaches the gospel to the lost, in every town and city. The preaching ministry is primarily directed to the lost (**Mk.16:15**). It is the ministry of the evangelist! The teaching ministry is the church!

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### **I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

Jesus the **PASTOR/SHEPHERD**: the **pastor** is the one who cares for the flock.

In **John 10**, Jesus refers to Himself as the True Shepherd.

**Jn.10:11** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

The true shepherd is prepared to give his life for the sheep, he watches over them and guards them.

**1 Pet.5:4** "When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."

**Chapter 34 of Ezekiel**, gives a warning to irresponsible shepherds, and affirms the LORD as the True Shepherd of the sheep.

**Verse 15-16a** "I will feed My flock, and will make them lie down,' says the Lord God. 'I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick.'"

**Ps.23:1** "The LORD is my shepherd."

### **"GOOD TEACHER"**

Jesus the **TEACHER**: He taught His disciples, He also taught in the synagogues.

**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."

Jesus called Himself Teacher and the people recognised Him as a Teacher.

**Matt.23:8** "But you do not be called 'Rabbi'; for one is your teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren."

The rich young ruler referred to Jesus as "Good Teacher" in **Mark 10:17**.

**Jn.3:2** Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, recognised Jesus as a **teacher**. He says, "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."

**Jn.13:13-14** "You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

**Jesus Christ is the apostle of God, sent by God to build the church, God's house,  
the Prophet who Moses spoke of, who came to reveal the Father,  
the evangelist who came to seek and save the lost,  
the good shepherd of the sheep,  
the teacher of God's doctrine.**

**He is the GIFT!**

It is through the five-fold ministry gift that Jesus is fully revealed! The LORD has given the five-fold ministry gift to fully express and present Jesus Christ to the world through His body, the church. Until the five-fold ministry gift is restored, something less than the full Christ is being presented. The church cannot grow into maturity without apostles and prophets. Each ministry gift has a portion of Christ to reveal; the full revelation of Jesus Christ will only come with the full release and acceptance of the fivefold ministries of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. Then the church will grow into the maturity [perfection] that the Bible so openly speaks of.

### **EFFECTIVE TRAINING AND EQUIPPING**

One of the basic ministry roles of an ascension gift minister is to train and equip the saints for the ministries God has given them, and raising up other fivefold ministers.

#### **Paul identifies three ministry gifts in himself:**

1. Paul identifies himself as an **apostle** of Jesus Christ, **2Tim.1:1** "*Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God.*"
2. He is also a **preacher** of the gospel, an evangelist, (**2 Cor.10:16**). Paul is saying he has been sent "*To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you.*"  
The Great Commission in **Mark 16:15**, "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature*", indicates that the preaching ministry is the ministry of the evangelist.
3. Paul is also clearly a **teacher** of the Word, **2 Tim.1:11** "*To which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*"  
In **Acts 13** Paul was among the teachers and prophets at Antioch - he is nowhere else called a prophet, so he was a teacher.  
**Paul is an ascension gift minister, who equipped many others for ministry.**

### **PAUL, THE ASCENSION GIFT MINISTER**

In **Eph.4:7-12**, Paul teaches on how the LORD will build His church. Paul has received revelation direct from the Lord: he teaches the apostle's doctrine. The church is to be the expression of Him in whom is fully exhibited all the five fold ministry gifts. Paul often taught in ministry training schools where he trained and equipped others. Paul established a school in Ephesus, **Acts 19:9-10**, but he had also "taught" for eighteen months in Corinth, **Acts 18:11**, and his custom was to spend time in local churches with the leaders and disciples, teaching the word of God as in **Acts 20:6**, he stayed for seven days. Much can be accomplished in seven days of intensive ministry training with an apostle. Also trainees travelled on the apostolic team with him. At times there was a company of people with Paul. Paul taught in the school of Tyrannus in Ephesus for two years. As a result "*all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.*" **Acts 19:10** Many would have gone out from this training school to preach and minister – Paul stayed in Ephesus but all of Asia heard.

### **THE WITNESSES**

Timothy was one of those who had been in the class **being trained and equipped** by Paul. Timothy was one of the "witnesses", being raised up into ministry. When Paul

wrote to him, Timothy is functioning as a minister, maybe as an apostle. He had also been on team with Paul, being trained.

**Acts 16:1-3** *"Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium, Paul wanted to have him go on with him."*

Timothy is urged by Paul to **recall the training, the things that he heard among many witnesses, (2Tim.2:2)**. He is to **pass on that which has been entrusted to him**. This is fulfilling the Great Commission to make disciples through a thorough teaching ministry (**Mt.18:20**). Timothy is to teach these things to faithful men.

### **FAITHFUL MEN**

Faithful men are disciples who are to be trained and equipped. They have already been taught the elementary principles, the milk of the word (**Heb.5:12**). Their foundations are the doctrines of Christ (**Heb.6:1-2**). They have already been discipled in the Word as well, *"the word of Christ dwelling richly in them"* **Col.3:16**. Timothy now has to **train them to teach others**. According to **Hebrews 5:12** the first sign of maturity in the disciple is the ability to teach others! Timothy is able to establish a training school with faithful men to train them up and release them into ministry.

**The teaching ministry which trains and equips disciples to minister and raises up faithful men and women to teach others needs to be functioning in every regional church so that the saints are being equipped for the work of ministry they are called to.**

### **OTHERS**

These are younger, maybe baby Christians who need to be **discipled in the Word**. The faithful men, trained and equipped will teach them. New Christians need to be nurtured [milk of the Word, **1 Pet. 2:2**] and discipled (**Mt.28:20**), and these in turn will share with the unsaved, reaching the lost.

### **THE LOST REACHED**

The LORD is calling for **labourers to go into the harvest** (**Luke 10:1-12**). If we obey the LORD there will always be new ones coming into the kingdom. Often new converts are natural evangelists as they share the wonderful things God has done for them with family friends and workmates.

### **THE CHURCH IS BUILT**

The LORD is building His church (**Matt.16-18**). He is building it on the foundation of His apostles and prophets (**Eph.2:20**), and building it through the ministry of evangelists, pastors and teachers.

**The Lord gives the fivefold ministry to bring the church to maturity [perfection]**. According to the Word of God the church will not come unto perfection without these ministries raised up and functioning. The Scripture says the fivefold ministry is given: **Eph.4:12** *"For the equipping [perfecting] of the saints for the work of ministry, for the*

*edifying of the body of Christ."*

**Eph.4:13** *"until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of*

God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

### **Aspects of maturity:**

**1. Unity of the faith:** having sound doctrine, agreeing with Scripture. **Titus 1:9**, *"Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict."*

**Jude 3**, contend for the faith;

**Acts 2:42** receive the apostles doctrine.

**2. The unity of the knowledge of the Son of God:** this is revelation knowledge; keeping the centrality of the Son of God, Jesus. [**Eph.1:17**]

**Phil.3:10**, *"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection"*

**2 Pet. 1:5-8** being *"neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus*

*Christ"*.

**3. Unto a perfect man:** a mature man, conformed to the image of His Son; knowing the

word of righteousness (**Heb.5:13**). Fix your eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of

our faith (**Heb.12:2**).

**4. The measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:** to be like Christ the anointed one, the sent one. The church is the fullness of Him who fills all and all, (**Eph.1:23**). The glory of the LORD is the fullness of Christ as He fills His church.

**5. Eph.4:14** *"No longer being tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of*

*doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,"*

Jesus said in **Mt.24:5**, *"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ',*

*and deceive many."* We are to be established and rooted in the faith, (**Col.2:6-7**).

We are to be strongly founded and grounded on the Rock and in the Word of God.

**6. Eph.4:15a** *"but, speaking the truth in love"*, disciples growing into maturity no longer involve themselves in gossip or back-biting; they do not speak behind another's back; rather we speak the truth in love!

**7. Eph.4:15b** *"may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ"*; the Christian individually and the church corporately grows up! Every aspect of our lives measures up to God's word as the work of grace is completed in us.

### **8. God's love revealed in the mature church**

**Eph.4:16** *"from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."* This is a powerful picture of the mature church: notice the key characteristic of the mature church is LOVE, God's kind of love, sacrificial, self-giving love! The mature church is mature because every part functions effectively, having been joined and knit together – true

unity! Each part and every joint [in the body a joint is where two members are able to fully cooperate to function] supplies life and every part works for the upbuilding of the whole.

## **WE ARE THE HOUSE OF GOD**

**“We are the house of God” (Heb.3:6)** and Jesus Christ is the SON over God’s house. **“He shall build the temple of the LORD”, Zech.6:12. “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men” Eph.4:8.** He gave these gifts to **‘build up the body of Christ’ Eph.4:12.** The church is to come into maturity [perfection], to be the expression of His glory in the earth, **“that the world may know that You have sent Me” John 17:22-24, “that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish” Eph.5:27.** God has glorious intentions for the church: she is the body of Christ. Through the church God intends to reveal His Son. For this to eventuate there will be a full restoration of apostolic ministry along with all the ministry gifts. This is happening in our day and is being quickened for God intends a quick work to be done in the last days (**Is.60:21-22**).

One of the key roles of the apostle working in tandem with the prophet is to lay a foundation for the church of Jesus (**Eph.2:20**). Such a foundation releases the other ministries of evangelist, pastor and teacher to function fully, and thus the saints are properly ministered to and raised up to function in the body. The apostle is responsible for doctrine [that is, accurately teaching the Word of God] and for the building strategy. Paul says he was a wise master builder (**1Cor.3:10**). God reveals to the apostle how to lay the foundation; others are to build on it. The prophet has a role alongside of the apostle and together they provide a firm foundation in Christ for the training and equipping of the saints, and the raising up other ministries.

**THE HOUSE OF GOD WILL BE BUILT!**

## CHAPTER FOUR

# A HOLY PRIESTHOOD MINISTERS IN REVIVAL

### RESTORATION

The last chapters of the book of Ezekiel are **restoration** chapters. They record the word of the LORD to Ezekiel. A study of the restored priesthood in **Ezekiel 44** reveals to us the order of priests who will enter into the fullness of God's presence in the last days revival. All New Testament believers are priests (**1Pet.2:9; Rev.1:6**). However not all will enter in; some do not want to; others do not even know they can enter in to the sanctuary of God. **Ezekiel 44** teaches that there is a defiled priesthood who are not allowed to enter in and that is very sad. Then the Word of the LORD teaches concerning a **holy priesthood who will enter in and minister to God in His sanctuary**. These are ministers of revival!

### THE LORD IS THE INITIATOR OF REVIVAL

**Ezek.44:1** "*He brought me back...*" Ezekiel is being shown something by the LORD. [**He = the LORD**] Ezekiel is being brought back to the sanctuary - restoration is beginning! God is the author of restoration, but He graciously uses His servants to speak forth His word to reveal His purpose.

### THE EAST GATE

v.2 "*This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the LORD God of Israel has entered by it.*"

The gate referred to is the east gate. The **LORD entered by this gate**. The only one who is able to enter this gate is the **Prince**, Jesus. He is the only one who can sit in this gate.

[the cherubim were set to the "east" of Eden, **Gen.3:24**; there is something significant about the "east" in Scripture]

### ONLY THE PRINCE SITS IN THIS GATE

**Ezek.44:3** This gate, the east gate, is the gate of the sanctuary. Ezekiel can come in by the front gate, only when the Prince is sitting in the gate. [**Ezek.47:1** the river of God "*flows from under the threshold of the temple toward the east.*" ]

When the Prince is sitting in the gate then **the glory can come**.

When Jesus is called again the Head of the church, then **the glory will come**.

When Jesus Christ is exalted in His own church, then **the glory of God will fill the sanctuary**.

**WHEN WE TRULY HAVE JESUS ENTHRONED IN HIS  
RIGHTFUL PLACE, THEN THE GLORY COMES.**

No one will have to confront others, the glory of God will do it. When the Prince is allowed to sit at the east gate, and His majesty is revered again in the church, then the glory will come.

**Jesus we proclaim you are King. You are the Head of Your church.**

## THE GLORY COMES

v.4 *"I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD; and I*

*fell on my face."*

Ezekiel could not stand when he beheld the glory of the LORD. No one can stand in the awesome presence of the glory of God. God's glory fills His sanctuary! Know you not, **you are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor.6:19)**. He wants you to come into His sanctuary and behold His face and the glory will be revealed in you and you may not be able to stand! (2Cor.3:18) Jesus Christ is *"the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person"* (Heb.1:3).

## WE ARE TO LEARN THE WAYS OF GOD

**Ezek.44:5** *"The LORD said to me, 'Son of man, mark well, see with your eyes and hear with your ears, all that I say to you concerning all the ordinances of the house of the LORD and all its laws. Mark well who may enter the house and all who go out from the sanctuary'."*

There are ordinances and laws for the house of God, for the sanctuary, which speak of how to conduct oneself in the house of God. We need **"eyes to see and ears to hear!"** We are to *"mark well"* who may enter the house; to *"mark well"* what is happening in the group or area that we are involved in. We are to watch over that part of the vineyard that we have responsibility for. We are to guard, to protect those who are under our oversight.

The **days of judgement** are coming back; **the Holiness of God** is being revealed among us. *No man dared join them, except those whom the LORD added to them (Acts5:13-14)*. No sin is allowed in our lives if we are to be part of the harvest in the end of the age. No sin is allowed to come near the sanctuary.

**1 Jn.2:18-19** *"They went out from us, but they were not of us."* The LORD knows His

own and we can know His true disciples also.

**1 Jn.2:20** *"But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things."*

The anointing of the Holy Spirit sets us apart in the knowledge of Him.

**3 Jn.7** *"They went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles."* His

Name is upon us! He will uphold us and sustain us.

Mark well all who come into the house, and all who go out from the sanctuary.

## SPEAK TO THE REBELLIOUS

**Ezek.44:6** *"Now say to the rebellious, to the house of Israel."*

The rebellious are the house of Israel. God is the Master in charge of His own household. We are to speak out His words. Tell the people that even if it feels all right in the spirit, but doesn't measure up to the word of God, it is not of God. The spirit of man becomes ensnared by the lusts of the soul.

## WHAT ARE THE ABOMINATIONS

**Ezek.44:6-7** **What are the abominations that the rebellious brought into the house of God?** They brought "foreigners" into the sanctuary; uncircumcised men were part of the worship, and defiled the blood sacrifice. Unrepentant men

[uncircumcised] took part in divine service - remember the judgment in **Acts 5** on unrepentant people coming into the sanctuary.

*"Fat"* speaks of worship;

*the blood* refers to the sacrificial blood that covers and cleanses from sin

For us, the communion in the blood of Christ (**1Cor.10:16**). Beware lest the blood of Christ is trodden under foot (**Heb.10:29**). People living in sin must come to repentance - willingness to change, with resultant good works that manifest the change.

God says, *"they broke My covenant because of all the abominations"*(v.7).

*"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."* **1Cor.6:9-10** There are churches today who accept homosexuals and adulterers and fornicators into membership and even into ministry. **1Cor.6:11** says we are to be washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God! Then we can enter the sanctuary to worship! Then we can partake of the Lord's table in good conscience!

## **KEEP CHARGE OF MY HOLY THINGS**

**Ezek.44:8** *"And you have not kept charge of My holy things, but you have set others to keep charge of My sanctuary for you."* What things are holy that we need to keep charge of? The Scripture has already mentioned the *"fat"* and the *"blood"* which speak of worship and communion. Another crucial "holy thing" is the **Word of God, the Bible**. How often is the Word of God not taught properly, but is taught by ministers who do not fully believe the Bible is the Word of God. We need to teach and preach the Word of God, diligently presenting ourselves to God as workmen who do not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (**2Tim.2:15**). Some training seminaries actually teach the trainee ministers to 'doubt' the veracity of the word of God. One mainline denomination in Australia officially states that "the Bible contains the word of God"; this leaves the door open for "private interpretation" and the dismissal of portions of Scripture when it suits the interpreter.

Jesus speaks of *"hirelings"* [hired men] in **John10:12-13**, as ministers who have been hired to look after the sheep but who do not really care for the sheep. We need to check our motives for ministry. Sometimes the church employs hirelings to be their ministers and expects the 'minister' to do the 'ministry'. So often we do not exercise ministry at all as priests of God under the New Covenant. For example, how many Christians ever break bread in their own homes? The early church broke bread daily in their homes but we have handed this basic fellowship practice that Jesus gave us, to 'others'. The LORD does not approve of hirelings leading ministry. He requires real ministers, called and anointed by Him.

## **THE UNSAVED CANNOT ENTER THE SANCTUARY**

**Ezek.44:9** *"Thus says the LORD GOD: No foreigner, uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter My sanctuary, including any foreigner who is among the children of Israel."*

There was a court of the Gentiles in the temple. They could not enter the sanctuary. Remember the parable of the wedding feast in **Mt.22:11-13**: the man without a wedding garment was cast out! Also, the parable of the wheat and the tares

(Mt.13)warns us that there are many who masquerade as Christians and infiltrate the churches.

## **SOME MINISTERS GO ASTRAY**

**Ezek.44:10** *“The Levites who went far from Me,...who strayed away from Me after their idols, they shall bear their iniquity.”*

The Levites are the ministry tribe; they had been appointed to minister to God. The other eleven tribes were laity. However some of the Levites had gone astray; they had gone after idols and disobeyed God. There is a way back! That is, through genuine repentance.

Ministers have great influence over the people of God. If the minister has gone astray, inevitably the people of God are led astray.

## **GOD WILL USE THEM IN THE COURTYARD**

**V.11** *“Yet they shall be ministers in My sanctuary, as gatekeepers of the house and ministers of the house.”*

These Levites were still allowed to minister but only as gatekeepers in the sanctuary. God is not disowning the churches. They will remain in the outer court, ministering at the altar of burnt offering. They were a defiled priesthood. God allows them to minister at the cross, assuring the people of the forgiveness of sin, but they never go any further into the sanctuary. The focus of their ministry is the people and not the Lord, and what happens at the altar of sacrifice.

## **THEY WILL NOT ENTER THE SANCTUARY**

**Ezek.44:12-13** *“And they shall not come near Me to minister to Me as priest, nor come*

*near any of My holy things, nor into the Most Holy Place.”*

Because these priests have ministered before idols, God will not allow them to come near to Him. **God is Holy!** Nothing that is defiled can come near to God. These ones do not know the Word; they don't know about the Holy Spirit. So they will remain in the outer court. They will question teaching and experience in the Holy Spirit; they will actively discourage others who desire to enter in to more spiritual things. Such ministers generally do not understand fully the doctrine of redemption, and the vital place of the blood of Christ, especially the blood upon the mercy seat, in the sanctuary above. (**Heb.9:11-14**)

## **REVIVAL MINISTERS - TRUE PRIESTS**

### **REVIVAL PRIESTS MINISTER TO GOD**

**Ezek.44:15** *“But the priests, the Levites, .... who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer to Me fat and the blood, says the LORD God.”*

The ones who **kept charge**, the ones who **did not defile themselves**, these were the ones who were allowed into the Holy Place, to **offer worship (fat) and to sacrifice (blood)**. We are speaking of the house of God. Who are the ones who are able to draw near to Him? Those who keep themselves pure and undefiled.

[see **Psalm 15** and **Psalm 24** : "who shall ascend the holy mount?"]

We are not accepted as holy priests because of our past record or else we would all fail to qualify. We are accepted into the sanctuary because of the blood of Jesus and

the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He makes us adequate!  
(2Cor.3:5)

## **AND KEEP HIS CHARGE**

**v.16** *“They shall enter My sanctuary, and they shall come near My table to minister to*

*Me, and they shall keep My charge.”*

The true priesthood ministers to Jesus, not to the people. The table is the table of Showbread in the Holy Place. It represents the communion table of the Lord. We learn to minister to the Lord and not to our ourselves, remembering Him as oft as we gather.

### **What is "My charge"**

**Zechariah 3:7** *“Thus says the LORD of hosts, If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My command, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here.”*

His charge is to **judge His house** and **have charge over His courts**; this includes authority over Satan, who is *“among these who stand here,”* **Zech.3:1**. We are to learn to discern the wheat from the tares. **Zech.3:8** *“Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign, for behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.”*

God will reveal His Son through this people. **Zech.3:9** *“And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.”* On one day, the Great Day of Atonement, the blood of Jesus was placed of the mercy seat, once and for all. The final result is the great harvest.

## **IT IS NOT BY WORKS**

**Ezek.44:18** *“They shall have linen turbans on their heads and linen trousers on their*

*bodies, they shall not clothe themselves with anything that causes sweat.”*

We are not to come with any of our own works, anything that causes us to sweat. We are to be clothed in the linen garments (priestly garments, **Exod.28**) God gives us when we are *“endued with power from on high”* (**Lu.24:49**) and we are able to minister to Him. True worship is in the Spirit (**Jn.4:23-24**). Our boasting is in the LORD – what He does! Not what we can do. God works through His anointing. The anointing on our lives is like the linen garments, fully covering our flesh.

## **DIFFERENT ANOINTING FOR EVANGELISM**

**Ezek.44:19** *“When they go to the outer court.....they shall take off their garments in which they have ministered, leave them in the holy chambers, and put on other garments, and in their holy garments they shall not sanctify the people.”*

There is an anointing for the holy place, and there is a different anointing to go into the outer court. There is an anointing for worship and an anointing for evangelism. God expects us to minister to Him in the sanctuary, but He also commands us to preach the gospel in all the world (**Mk.16:15**). He told us to wait on Him for the power to witness throughout the world (**Acts1:8; Lu.24:49**)

## **A TRANSFORMED LIFESTYLE**

**Ezek.44:20-22** The priest is to present himself neatly in physical appearance; and the priest is not to drink wine [alcoholic drink] when he enters the inner court [compare with **Eph.5:18-19**]. The priest is to marry a fellow believer only.

**God is wanting to transform us in our character,  
our lifestyle and our commitment to Him.**

## **THE HOLY AND THE PROFANE**

**v.23** *"And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean."* This speaks of growing into maturity, as in **Heb.5:14**, *"But solid food belongs to those who are mature, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil"*,

and being well grounded in the foundations (**Heb.6:1-2**). This also means discerning between the wisdom from below and the wisdom from above, (**James3:13-18**). *"Extracting the precious from the vile"* **Jer.15:19**.

## **THE PLUMBLINE IS IN OUR HAND (Zech.4:10)**

**v.24** *"In controversy they shall stand as judges, and judge it according to My judgments."*

We are to learn to judge according to the Word of God. To do this we must be well taught in the Word. **2Tim.3:16-17** *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

## **LET US KEEP GOD'S APPOINTMENTS IN GOD'S WAY**

*"They shall keep My laws and My statutes in all my appointed meetings;"* the invitation does not equal the call, some appointments are not God's appointments. He wants to teach us how to conduct ourselves in His meetings. The Holy Spirit will direct us to the meetings He wants us to be a part of. We are no longer *"to be children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine,"* **Eph.4:14**, but we are to be in the place of God's appointment, knowing where we fit (**Eph.4:16**).

We are to be led by the Spirit of God and not follow after man's tradition. Many do not realise how much they follow man's tradition in the conduct of church meetings and the structures of church organisation and leadership, ministries etc. God has given us His word. We are to return to the word of God to obey the Scriptures: *"Keep His laws and statutes"*.

## **AND LIVE IN HIS REST**

*"and they shall hallow all My Sabbaths."* In **Leviticus 23**, we learn that every seventh day was to be kept as a sabbath, that is, a day of ceasing from our labours and spending the day in a special way worshipping God. As well there were other special Sabbaths associated with the celebration of the feasts. In the New Testament, keeping the Sabbath is 'ceasing from our own labours' (**Heb.4:10**), and 'being diligent to enter His rest' (**Heb.4:11**), every day! In other words living lives *"holy unto the Lord!"*

## **THE PRIEST LOOKS AFTER HIS OWN FAMILY**

**Ezek.44:25-27** *"They shall not defile themselves by coming near a dead person. Only for father or mother, for son or daughter, for brother or unmarried sister may they defile themselves."* In general the priest must keep himself from defilement of sin. *"The wages of sin is death," Rom.6:23.* The priest was not to come into direct contact with defilement, that is, a dead person. *"The wages of sin are death" (Rom.6:23);* a person in sin is a person with death in their lives, that is, defilement. The minister of the Lord must keep himself free from sin and not associate with sinners except to get them saved, following the example of Jesus.

However there is an exception for his own family members. I am a priest for my family. I need to attend to their needs, helping them deal with sin. If I get defiled in looking after my own family there is a cleansing, a sin offering for me. I am not to hide myself from my own flesh (**Is.58:7**). [compare with **1Tim.3:4-5**]

### **GOD'S PROVISION FOR PRIESTS IS THROUGH HIS PEOPLE**

**v.28** *"It shall be, in regard to their inheritance, that I am their inheritance."*

The LORD is our inheritance. He wants us to be totally dependent on Him.

**v.29.** The Lord will provide out of His provision. He says, *"I am their inheritance; I am their possession!"* [compare with **Mt.6:24,32-34**]

**v.30** The Lord's people will provide for those called to ministry and this will cause a blessing to rest on them.

### **CONCLUSION**

The final chapters of Ezekiel are restoration chapters. The prophet speaks of things that had little actual fulfilment in the historically restored temple. He is looking ahead through the Word of the LORD to the time of restoration that Peter says will precede the return of the LORD (**Acts3:19-21**).

- i. He saw the mighty army of God rising up out of the graveyard;**
- ii. he saw the enemies of Israel defeated;**
- iii. he saw the temple of God restored to glory;**
- iv. he saw the inheritance distributed to God's people;**
- v. he saw the river of God flowing mightily;**
- vi. he saw the holy city indwelt by the LORD Himself;**
- vii. And he saw the restored priesthood.**

The holy priests Ezekiel speaks of are the blood-washed saints (**Rev.1:5**) who will enter into the LORD's sanctuary in these last days to minister to Him, the volunteers in the day of His power (**Ps.110:3**). These priests will be true ministers of revival: people who worship in spirit and truth; people who do not compromise the word of God; people who believe and do not give in to doubt and unbelief; people who will obey the LORD's command to *"go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"* **Mk.16:15**.

## CHAPTER 5

# THE KING–PRIEST

### PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

Since the time of the Reformation there has been some recovery of the basic doctrine of the “**priesthood of all believers**”. This has been a much contested and little understood doctrine, standing against the longstanding church practice of a clear clergy and laity division, and specifically the Catholic practice of ordaining priests who were regarded as quite separate to and different from the rest of the people of God.

### RESTORATION

In these last days as **the Lord is restoring all the ministries to the church to bring the last days church to maturity, the saints are being taught and raised up by the Word and the Spirit to take their place in Christ, exercising the gifts and ministries the Lord gives to each one, entering into prayer and intercession, having personal access to the Father through the Spirit (Eph.2:18)**. The Word of God clearly teaches that we are a “royal priesthood” (**1Pet.2:9**), that Jesus Christ has made us to be “kings and priests to His God and father”, (**Rev.1:6**) and “we shall reign on the earth” (**Rev.5:10**).

### PRIESTS OFFER SACRIFICES

As priests we are to offer “living sacrifices”, our own bodies, to God (**Rom.12:2**); we are to offer the “sacrifice of praise to God” (**Heb.13:15**); and as a holy priesthood we are to “offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (**1Pet.2:5**). There are no Scriptures in the New Testament that speak of a separate priestly elite who minister on behalf of the rest of the people of God. However there is much teaching in the Scripture that instructs us as to the nature and practice of the priesthood that Jesus Christ has made us a part of.

### KINGS HAVE AUTHORITY TO RULE

“We shall reign on the earth” (**Rev.5:10**) and “we shall reign in life through Christ Jesus” (**Rom.5:17**). Jesus has given us authority “to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy” (**Lu.10:19**). Jesus promises that the one who overcomes will sit with Him on His throne (**Rev.3:21**).

### MELCHIZEDEK THE KING PRIEST

From **Genesis 14**, the Scripture testifies to the king-priest. The Scripture says in Hebrews, speaking of Jesus and quoting from **Psalms 110**,

**Heb.7:17** *“For He testifies: ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’”*

**Heb.5:5-11** also speaks of the order of Melchizedek: that Jesus is a priest, a high priest, of this order. **V.11** expects that we understand concerning Melchizedek. To fully appreciate Jesus as High Priest, and to understand the “*royal priesthood*” that Peter says we are (**1Pet.2:9**), we need to study the Bible to find out:

Who is Melchizedek? What is the order of Melchizedek? What is a royal priesthood?

Where does tithing fit in the New Testament : whom do we tithe to? to Melchizedek? And how is that outworked in practice? What about the priesthood under the law?

### **FIRST MENTION OF MELCHIZEDEK**

**Gen.14:18** *“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High [El Elyon]”*. This Melchizedek is a KING, the king of Salem. And he is a PRIEST of the Most High God. So he is a king and a priest.

A key strategy in Bible study is to compare Scripture with Scripture. Let us look for confirmation of the kingly ministry of Jesus and then for His priestly ministry.

### **THE KINGLY MINISTRY**

In **Hebrews 7** there are some interpretive verses that enhance our understanding of **Gen.14**. **Heb.7:2** Melchizedek *“first being translated ‘king of righteousness,’ and then also king of Salem, meaning king of peace.”* He is a king twice!

**Who is the king of righteousness?** *“Now this is His name by which He will be called: the LORD our righteousness.” Jer.23:6*

**Who is the king of peace?**

*“The government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called ... Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end”*. This messianic figure will be a king. He will occupy the throne of David forever (**Is.9:6-7**).

**Psalm 110** is a clear and powerful messianic psalm speaking of Messiah’s reign. The LORD, the Father, is speaking to *“my Lord”*, Jesus the Messiah. He says, *“Sit at my right hand till I make Your enemies Your footstool”*, and *“rule in the midst of Your enemies”*. Messiah is ruling! Messiah is seated upon a throne at the Father’s right hand! He *“will execute kings in the day of His wrath”*; *“He shall judge among the nations”* (v.6).

**Messiah is a powerful King to whom judgment has been entrusted.**

**He is also a “priest”!**

### **THE PRIESTLY MINISTRY**

**Gen.14:18** says Melchizedek was a priest of God Most High; he brought out **bread and wine**.

1. Who else presents **bread and wine** to people of faith? Jesus took bread and wine at the Passover meal on the night He was betrayed and gave them as a memorial of His death and resurrection, as we wait in expectancy for His second coming.
2. Where else in Scripture are **bread - a grain offering**, and **wine - a drink offering**, presented as priestly offerings. The offerings of bread and wine were also part of the daily burnt offerings, along with the lamb (**Exod.29:39-40**). Bread and wine are integral to God-ordained sacrifices that are to be presented by the priestly ministry in the Scripture.

Melchizedek brought out bread and wine to Abraham who was a man of faith, the father of all who believe. We have here in **Genesis** the first mention of bread and wine – the first communion!

**This priest of God blessed Abram in the name of God Most High:** a priest is to bless in God's name, [Nu.6:23-27 tells us how Aaron and his sons were to bless!]

**Priests minister to God via sacrifices and bless in His name.**

Melchizedek received a tithe of all from Abram (**Gen.14:20**). Who receives tithes? Kings or Priests? In the Scripture it is priests who receive tithes.

**Heb.7:5** *“And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren.”*

**Ps.110:4** *“The LORD has sworn and will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Mechizedek’”*. The Messiah who shall rule and reign as King will also be a priest forever of the order of Melchizedek.

**The Psalmist confirms the order of King/Priest.**

### **UNDER THE LAW**

Under the Law, the **offices of king and priest were clearly separated**. This is illustrated in the negative in **2 Chron.26:16-21**, when king Uzziah went into the Holy Place and dared to offer incense to the LORD. What happened to him? The king was not allowed to perform priestly duties. In the reign and ministry of King David there were some exceptions as God gave to David a prototype ministry to that of Messiah. David is known as a prophet, priest and king! There are occasions when David exercised a priestly ministry, for example entering the tabernacle and spending time with God, and calling for the Ephod to divine God's will.

### **IN THE PROPHETS**

**Zech.6:11-13** The high priest is crowned and sits upon a throne to rule!

**v.11** the crown is to be made from silver and gold and placed upon Joshua's head

**v.12** Joshua represents the Man called Branch, who will branch out! And who will build the temple of the LORD

**v.13** This One will bear the glory [who bears glory? Priests or kings?]  
He shall sit and rule : a priest on His throne!

*“the counsel of peace shall be between both offices”*.

This prophecy of Zechariah is clearly messianic, referring to the king/priest ministry and reign of Jesus. It is Jesus whom God has made *“both Lord and Christ”* (**Acts2:36**). He is the great High Priest who sits upon the throne and rules! He is building the church [the temple]. In Him, *“the counsel of peace shall be between both offices!”*

### **A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**

**1Pet.2:9** *“But you are ... a royal priesthood that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His glorious light”*. A royal priesthood does not mean a priesthood that serves kings but a priesthood of the same kind as our Lord Jesus: of the order of Melchizedek, the king/priest. In Melchizedek, this eternal order (**Heb.7:3**) is demonstrated. In Jesus Christ this order is brought into being: *“To Him who loved us and washed us in His own blood and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever”* (**Rev.1:5-6**).

It is not the case that some are priests in terms of ministry and some are kings. No! We have been made a royal priesthood of the order of Melchizedek, in whom there is *“the counsel of peace is between the two offices”*.

### **As royal priests we offer sacrifices :**

1Pet.2:5 *“A holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God”*

1Pet2:9 *“But you are a royal priesthood ... that you may proclaim the praises of Him.”*

Heb.13:15 *“Let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God.”*

Rom.12:1 *“Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.”*

### **We bless in His name**

Mt.5:44 *“Bless those who curse you.”*

Rom.12:14 *“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”*

1Cor.4:12 *“Being reviled, we bless.”*

### **We minister healing**

Mark16:18 *“They will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.”*

James 5:14 *“Call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”* v.16 *“Pray for one another, that you may be healed.”*

### **We exercise authority**

Lu.10:19 *“I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy.”*

2Cor.10:8 *“If I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction.”*

Tit.2:15 *“Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority.”*

### **We rule and reign**

1Cor.4:8 *“You have reigned as kings without us – and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!”*

2Tim.2:12 *“If we endure we shall also reign with Him.”*

Rom.5:17 *“Those who receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”*

Rev.5:10 *“And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”*

Rev.20:6 *“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”*

### **WHERE DOES TITHING FIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?**

Many assume that tithing is a requirement of the Law of Moses and therefore is not for New Testament believers. Few seem to realise that the father of the faith, Abraham, tithed to Melchizedek, over 500 years before the Law was given. It appears that Jacob had a similar revelation to his grandfather. In **Genesis 28**, after Jacob had a dream in which the way of salvation was revealed to Him, he committed himself to be a tithing man in response to the grace of God coming on his life (**Gen.28:10-22**).

**Tithing preceded the law as a response of faith and commitment to the LORD  
based upon a clear revelation of WHO HE IS!**

The principle of **Sabbath-keeping** preceded the law also, being first given in **Genesis 2**. Keeping the Sabbath was a requirement under the law but the New Testament fulfilment is given in **Hebrews 3-4**. Likewise tithing is first introduced in the Scripture in **Genesis** and the fulfilment is given in **Hebrews**.

**Heb.7:2** Abraham gave a tenth part of all to Melchizedek

**Heb.7:4** *“Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils”.*

**Heb.7:5** Under the Law the sons of Levi were the priests and they were authorised by God to receive tithes from their brethren. Levi is from the fourth generation of

Abraham’s family.

**Heb.7:6** Melchizedek was a priest of a different order and he received tithes from Levi’s father, even Abraham; and he blessed Abraham who had the promises.

**Heb.7:7** The greater, even Melchizedek, blessed the lesser, even Abraham and his descendants.

**Heb.7:8** This One is not a mortal, but One who lives!

**Heb.7:9-10** Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek through his father Abraham.

**WHO DO WE PAY OUR TITHES TO?**

We are no longer under the Law, so we do not pay tithes to Levi according to the law; but we are the children of Abraham by faith and we have also received a revelation of the King/Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us and saved us. Like Abraham our response to Jesus is to give a tithe of all to Him.

**WHAT IS THE TITHE?**

The tithe is literally a tenth part; the first tenth belongs to the LORD. The **tithe is holy to the LORD**; that is, it is to be set apart for His directed use.

**Tithing is a response of faith to the revelation of God Most High in the Person  
of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**WHERE DO WE GIVE OUR TITHE?**

**Abraham** gave his tithe direct to Melchizedek. We are not told where **Jacob** gave his tithe. Under **the Law**, the tithe was for the Levites, the priests who ministered and taught the Word of God. However some of the tithe was able to be used to enable the family to go to the feasts in Jerusalem and to feed themselves during that time and have the necessary sacrifices to offer to God (**Deut.12:17-25**). As well, every third year the tithe [or part of it] was to be distributed in the local area to the widows and orphans, the Levite who lacked, and the stranger (**Deut.26:12-15**).

It is unclear whether there was a single tithe under the Law which could be used in various ways, even though the primary use was to support the Levites who ministered, or there may have been a practice of three tithes; the third tithe being given every third year only!

What is clear is that the **first tenth of all we receive is HOLY to the LORD and is to be used in the way He directs**. There are great blessings for those who faithfully bring the whole tithe to the place the LORD directs (**Mal.3:10-12**). In most cases the Lord directs the tithe to those who minister; sometimes He will direct some of the tithe to the needy; sometimes He will direct some of the tithes to go to different ministries other than the local minister. However **every minister who is faithfully serving the LORD and His people should be supported from the tithes that are given**.

## **WHAT IS THE STOREHOUSE?**

Many Christians are taught to bring the tithe into the “*storehouse*” and that is said to be the local church. A careful study of tithing under the Law and the Prophets sheds more light on what is the storehouse. The storehouse was in the Temple precincts and in **Neh.10:37-39**, it was the **tithe of tithes received by the Levites** in the farming communities that was sent to the Temple to fill the storehouse and provide for the high priest and his sons. Many churches and ministries follow this principle of tithing on the tithes received, by sending their tithe to other ministries. Revival Ministries Australia follows this practice. We seek the LORD each month as to “which storehouse” we are to send our tithe.

Before the Law, the tithing principle was introduced and the tithe went to the King/Priest. Under the law, the tithe was to support the ministry, the Levites, who had no inheritance to earn a living any other way. **Special offerings were used to build and furnish buildings**. In the New Testament, tithing is only specifically referred to in **Matthew 23:23** and **Hebrews 7**. **Jesus** affirms tithing as something that “*ought to be done*” and the principle of tithing is affirmed clearly in the references in Hebrews, the Holy Spirit bearing witness. The conclusion then is that tithing is a principle of faith that releases God’s blessings in many ways, not only to the one tithing, but to those called to minister full time. In general our tithe is given to those who minister to us and care for us in the Lord. We are able to make offerings over and above the tithe.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Scripture is clear: Jesus Christ is “*a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek*”. He has made us to be “*kings and priests to His God and Father*”. We are a royal priesthood, chosen to reign and to minister, “*proclaiming the praises of Him who called us*”. Out of a revelation of the King/Priest Himself we give a tenth of all to Him, contributing the tithe into the place He designates, with joy!

## CHAPTER 6

# THE TWO ANOINTED ONES

## VISION of the LAMPSTAND and OLIVE TREES

### Zechariah 4:1-14

v.1 *“Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep.*

v.2 *And he said to me, ‘What do you see?’ So I said, ‘I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps.*

v.3 *Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.’*

This is the prophet’s initial description of the vision he was shown by the angel. Further detail is added in v.12, *“And I further answered and said to him, ‘What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?’”*

### LAMPSTAND

The Lampstand is a familiar piece of sacred furniture in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle of Moses and the Temple of Solomon. As a symbol it is interpreted in **Rev.1:20** by Jesus Himself, *“the seven lampstands ... are the seven churches.”* Seven is the number of ‘completeness or perfection, fullness’. The seven golden lampstands represent the church [universal] of the Lord Jesus Christ. Other references to the lampstand are found in **Exodus**.

### BOWL

The *“Bowl on top of it”* is not presented previously in the Scriptures nor is it mentioned again. **From the bowl seven pipes run to the seven lamps.** Each lamp has a pipe coming from the bowl.

### TWO OLIVE TREES

There are two olive trees, one at the right side and one at the left side, with **branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes.** Golden oil drains from the two olive trees into the gold bowl. From there the golden oil **flows to the seven lampstands.**

What is oil representative of in the Scripture?

### WHAT DOES THE VISION MEAN?

The prophet did not understand the vision and wanted to know what the two olive trees meant.

**Zech.4:4** *“So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, ‘What are these, my lord?’*

v.5 *Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ And I said, ‘No, my Lord.’*

v.6 *So he answered and said to me: ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel : **Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.**’*

v.7 *‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a*

*plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!”’*

**The meaning [interpretation] of the vision is given by the angel : the word of the LORD comes forth! Through the word the vision is interpreted.**

**1. The Holy Spirit is the key:** it is by God’s Spirit, not by “*might*”, that is, human strength or resources, nor by “*power*”, that is, human ability, but by the Spirit of God that the temple will be built, that God’s purposes will come to pass. We are to walk according to the Spirit (**Rom.8:3**).

**Rom.8:14** “*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God*”

**1Cor.12:11** “*But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*”

**1Cor.12:7** “*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*”

**Gal.5:25** “*If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*”

God is working in us by His Spirit. God the Holy Spirit is Lord in the midst bringing into reality the word of God in our lives.

**2. What is the great mountain?** The mountain is the opposition to God’s purposes, specifically the building of the temple. Even as Zerubbabel faced much opposition, so we face much opposition today; there is a mountain of opposition raised up against the building of the church. It is called the “gates of hell”, the domain of darkness, the sons of disobedience. “The gates of hell shall not prevail!” (**Mt.16:18**). Jesus tells us how to deal with the mountain, **Mk.11:23** “*For assuredly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and cast into the sea’, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things will be done, he will have whatever he says.*”

Paul also tells us how to deal with opposition: **2Cor.10:4** “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God to the pulling down of strongholds.”

**The mountain of opposition shall become a plain! Is.40:3-5** John the Baptist received his commission from these Scriptures – “*every mountain and hill brought low*”

**3. Who is Zerubbabel?** He is the **governor** of God’s people who have returned from exile to rebuild the temple of the LORD. The prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah are addressed to Zerubbabel the governor and Joshua the high priest and the remnant of the people. Zerubbabel is a **builder**; he will bring forth the capstone; he “*laid the foundations of this temple*” (**Zech.4:9**). He is a **type of Jesus Christ**, who is the One who is building the temple [house] of God; he is also a type of the **apostolic ministry** – the apostle is a wise master builder! (**1Cor.3:10**)

God is restoring the apostolic ministry in our day, **to build the church**, to lay the foundations, and to strengthen them, and to see the church come forth in maturity, all glorious within!

**4. What is the capstone?** *Oxford Dictionary*; a stone which caps or crowns; in the scriptural context, it speaks of the completion of the temple.

**5. “Grace, grace to it!”** “*For by grace you have been saved through faith,*” **Eph.2:8**. The church is made of “*living stones*” (**1Pet.2:5**), all saved by grace. It is

by a work of God's grace that we are saved and it is through grace that we go on to perfection. The church of God is built by grace!

### **JESUS IS BUILDING HIS CHURCH**

**Zech.4:8** *“Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ‘The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundations of this temple [literally, house]; his hands shall finish it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.’”*

Zerubbabel is the builder of God's temple; **Jesus, the Son, is the builder of God's house [the church].** What Jesus began when he appointed Peter to be a foundation apostle in **Mt.16:17-19**, He will also finish through His ascension gift ministers that He has raised up. The church that Jesus is building has His mark on it: that is, His character and nature openly revealed for all to see; a *“glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing”* **Eph.5:27**. It is through this church that *“the manifold wisdom of God might be made known to the principalities [rulers] and powers in the heavenly realm”* **Eph.3:10**.

Everybody will know that the LORD of hosts sent Jesus when they **behold the finished work** [see **Eph.4:13-16**] of the church of God: *“every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* **Phil.2:10-11**. When the true church is manifest, the church of Jesus Christ will be received with the words, *“Blessed is He [His corporate body] who comes in the name of the LORD”* **Mt.23:39**.

### **THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT**

**Zech.4:10** *“For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.”*

Zechariah and Haggai were sent to the remnant of Judah to encourage them to rebuild the temple. The work had stalled. The people had been scattered, allowing sin to enter in. It is through the eye of faith in response to the word of God that we see the vision of God. *“Do not despise the day of small things!”* Learn to live by faith [in grace] and walk in the Spirit.

The **seven eyes of the LORD** refer to the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

There is reference to them in **Zech.3:9**, *“Upon the stone are seven eyes”*. The stone is the *“stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily”* **Is.28:16**.

The stone is Jesus. In **Rev.3:1**, Jesus *“has the seven Spirits of God!”* [see also **Rev.4:5**] The Son of God received the Spirit without measure (**Jn.3:34**); He was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power (**Acts10:38**).

**Rev.5:6b** *“a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth”*. The Holy Spirit is omnipresent and omniscient!

The **plumb line** [or plummet stone] is in the hand of Zerubbabel, the apostolic builder. God gives to His minister a measuring instrument to measure His people: the

measuring instrument is **the word of God!** The Holy Spirit rejoices to see the people of God living by faith in the word of God and faithfulness to the word of God. In these last days the plumb line is being placed in the hands of preachers and teachers who will faithfully **“declare the whole counsel of God”** (Acts20:27). The Lord is raising up His church **“out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation”** Rev.5:9  
**This great work of God is happening all over the earth!**

## **THE TWO OLIVE TREES**

**Zech.4:11** *“Then I answered and said to him, ‘What are these two olive trees – at the right of the lampstand and at its left?’*

**v.12** *And I further answered and said to him, ‘What are these two branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?’*

**v.13** *Then he answered me and said, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ And I said ‘No, my lord.’*

**v.14** *So he said, ‘These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.’”*

Zechariah has heard the word of the LORD but he still does not understand the vision. He asks again for understanding. How often do the saints not comprehend the word of God even as they read it but sadly they do not ask the Lord for understanding.

**What are the two olive trees?** What are the two branches that flow into the gold pipes into the bowl out of which the golden oil flows to the lampstands? This **golden oil is the anointing**. It comes from the two olive trees. In the gold bowl it is mixed together to become **the anointing of the LORD for His church**. In **Luke 4:18-19**, Jesus, the Word become flesh, (**Jn.1:14**), says, *“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me because He has anointed Me”*.

**The Father anointed the Word with the Holy Spirit.**

So what are the two olive trees? The angel says, *“These are the two anointed ones [literally, sons of fresh oil] who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth”* (**Zech.4:14**). There is a tri-unity here! The Lord of the earth and the two anointed ones!

Who are the two anointed ones? Where does the anointing come from? **2Cor.1:21** *“Now He who has anointed us is God”*. **God anointed the Word with the Holy Spirit**. We come to salvation through **faith in the Word** and then God **pours out His Holy Spirit upon us**.

God sent His Son into the world to bear witness to the Father. The Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit into the world to bear witness to the Son and the Father. **It is the WORD and the SPIRIT who “stand beside the Lord of the whole earth”**, who bear witness to the true God. From them we receive the anointing. **The anointing we receive is from Jesus, the Word, and it is the gift [chrisma] of the Holy Spirit, 1Jn.2:20,27**. The anointing we receive is a teaching anointing: **1Jn.2:27** *“you do not need that anyone teach you; but the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true.”*

## CONCLUSION

### THE ETERNAL CHURCH

The vision Zechariah received is a vision of the eternal church: the church of God, which is being prepared as a glorious bride for the Son by the working of the Holy Spirit. The seven lampstands represent this church and the vision reveals to us the unending flow of anointing that is provided for the church. The Word Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are abiding as two olive trees continually releasing the Word and the Spirit to the church, releasing **revelation of the Word and power through the Spirit to confirm the word of God.**

### APOSTOLIC and PROPHETIC MINISTRIES FUNCTIONING

**Eph.2:20** says that the apostles and the prophets are the foundation of the church. This revelation assumes the proper functioning of apostolic and prophetic ministries in the life of the church, with the release of revelation in the word and signs and wonders confirming the word. We are living in those days in which the Lord is restoring the golden oil to flow freely to the saints who believe! The golden oil is the anointing that is released as the apostles and prophets are raised up to function.

### THE TWO WITNESSES

The vision in Zechariah is the backdrop to understanding the two witnesses in **Rev.11:3-12**, who are identified as the *“two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth”* (v.4). The Scripture is referring back to Zechariah but also clearly refers to the ministries of Moses and Elijah. It was Moses and Elijah who appeared to Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration. Elijah did not see death but was translated, and Moses died but his body did not see corruption but was glorified (**Jude9**). These saints had both experienced resurrection life. Moses’ ministry was one that was strong in the Word, and Elijah’s was strong in miraculous works through the Spirit. The two witnesses in Revelation rose from the dead. The witnessing church is characterised by the resurrection power of the Lord, strong in the preaching of the word and strong in the power of the Spirit.

**The two olive trees abide, releasing God’s word and power into the earth through His church. The Word and the Spirit abide in the midst of the church. The bride is being prepared.**

## CHAPTER SEVEN

# THE GLORY SHALL BE

## A COVERING OVER ALL

The word of the LORD from **Isaiah 4:2-6, the renewal of Zion: a vision of the glory of God covering His church in the last days.** This is an awesome promise repeated in various Scriptures throughout the Bible to give us a vision of the outworking of God’s purpose in the last days through His church. *“To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”* (**Eph.3:21**)

## **THE TEACHER**

This passage of Scripture was quickened to me some months ago. During the training school in early July '99, as I opened up the Bible to re-read this passage in my morning time alone with the LORD, the Teacher, the Holy Spirit, came to me in a very special way. He taught me, opening my understanding to 'know' what He was showing me as I simply followed Him to certain cross references. It was a remarkable experience of being with the LORD, the Spirit (**1 Cor.3:17**). He was right there with me! He opened the eyes of my understanding (**Eph.1:18**). It was a holy time! I hardly dared to breathe, as I gently and fearfully turned up specific cross-references. The fear of God was strong upon me. I knew He was right there, speaking, teaching me, and the Scripture references exploded in meaning and revelation.

## **FULFILMENT OF TABERNACLES**

I had been asking the LORD for revelation of the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles in our Christian experience. I have Kevin Conner's excellent text "THE FEASTS OF ISRAEL" but I did not want to simply study the text again. I was keen to understand the fulfilment of the feast of Tabernacles. I knew of Passover and Pentecost to some extent, having been born again [saved] and Spirit filled. For some time I have been talking about going onto maturity, to completeness, wondering, "LORD, when will you bring us into fulfilment of the Great Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles?" I believe the LORD is now opening up the Scriptures to us.

I pray for you *"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 glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power". Eph.1:17-19*

## **UNFOLDING REVELATION**

In the prophetic Scriptures of the Old Testament given through Moses, there is a clear continuum, that is, a progression of revelation and experience that brings us into the fulfilment God intends.

## **There are three parts of the Tabernacle of Moses:**

**OUTER COURT - HOLY PLACE - HOLY of HOLIES.**

### **OUTER COURT**

As the priest came to God in the Tabernacle, he first came within the courtyard and to the **altar of burnt sacrifice** for sin. This altar typifies the cross and represents the place of meeting with Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This altar is fulfilled when we come to faith in Jesus and receive the forgiveness of sins. Then the priest washed in **the brazen laver**. This washing speaks of water baptism and also of the *"washing of the water with the word"* (**Eph.5:26**). Once we have come to faith in Jesus we are commanded to be baptised in water, and become a disciple of the word of God.

### **HOLY PLACE**

After the priest washed in the laver he **put on [was clothed in] the priestly garments** and entered the Holy place. This clothing in priestly garments is fulfilled when we are baptised in the Holy Spirit (**Lu.24:49; Acts1:8**). The Holy Place is where we meet the Holy Spirit and are empowered to minister in the Spirit. There are various administrations and ministries to be attended to in the Holy place including coming to the golden altar of incense to offer prayer [and intercession] and worship to God.

### **HOLY OF HOLIES**

Under the Old Covenant only the high priest of Israel could enter the Holy of Holies, into the Shekinah glory, into the Father's presence, once a year to place blood on the mercy seat. Now our Lord Jesus Christ has entered there as a forerunner and placed His blood on the mercy seat in heaven above (**Heb.6:20, 9:11-12, 10:19-22**).

### **There are three Feasts of the LORD:**

**PASSOVER - PENTECOST - TABERNACLES.**

The Feasts are given in an order that is Divine. They were fulfilled in order: Passover had to be fulfilled first, then Pentecost, and finally Tabernacles.

### **THE PASSOVER**

Passover is firstly that which God instructed Moses and the Israelites to do in Egypt in **Exodus 12** on the night of their deliverance. They were to take a lamb for a house (**v.3**) and put its blood on the doorpost and lintel (**v.7**) of the house. Every house with the blood was passed over when destruction came against the Egyptians (**v.12-13**). On that night they were to eat the flesh of the lamb, and then they departed from Egypt. They were to eat unleavened bread. This was the first Passover. It was to be celebrated in solemn observance throughout the generations (**v.42**). The Passover feast always pointed to the Son of God coming and dying on the cross to deliver us from Egypt and Pharaoh, that is, from Satan and this world's system. The Passover happened in the first month on the appointed day.

The feast of Passover has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ dying on the cross as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. When a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ and has their sins washed away they have experienced the fulfilment of Passover.

### **PENTECOST**

Fifty days after their departure from Egypt, the people of God had come to the wilderness of Sinai (**Exod.19:1**) and they camped there. There was to be meeting with God. God who had led them out of Egypt was now going to come down on this mountain, and make covenant with the people of Israel. They came to Sinai fifty days after leaving Egypt; this was the first Pentecost: the giving of the Law. It happened in the third month and was to be celebrated annually from then on. It was known as the Feast of Weeks and was a harvest festival of the cereal grain in the agricultural cycle.

### **TABERNACLES**

This feast is in the seventh month and was to be celebrated in the land and not before. If the children of Israel had believed the word of Joshua and Caleb and gone into the land from Kadesh Barnea, they would have celebrated this feast in the land. It also is a harvest festival of the grape and the olive.

## **The Revelation of the Godhead:**

**FATHER - SON - HOLY SPIRIT.**

At **Passover** we meet **the Son**, the Lamb of God; in the **Outer Court** we meet **the Son**, as the cross is clearly signified in the brazen (brass) altar of sacrifice.

At **Pentecost** we meet **the Holy Spirit** (Acts 2:1-4); we need to be **clothed in the power of the Holy Spirit** (Lu.24:49) to enter in to the **Holy place**.

At the fulfilment of **Tabernacles** we will meet **the Father**, because that feast speaks of fulfilment; in the **Holy of Holies** we meet **the Father**, coming into His awesome Presence through the offering of prayer and intercession and praise and worship at the altar of incense.

To understand **Isaiah 4:2-6**, we need to go back to **Leviticus 23:23-42**, to study the **Feast of Tabernacles** which is made up of three parts:

**TRUMPETS - DAY of ATONEMENT - TABERNACLES.**

### **TRUMPETS**

**Lev.23:23-25** the first day of the seventh month was a special day of *“sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing trumpets, a holy convocation.”* God had given the blowing of trumpets to Israel to call them to move on with the glory of God; to follow the cloud of His glorious presence. To be able to move on the people needed to have an attitude of repentance, a willingness to change, to forsake all and follow Him. In this feast, the trumpets call the people to repentance in preparation for the Day of Atonement.

### **THE DAY OF ATONEMENT**

**Lev.23:27** the Day of Atonement. The LORD is speaking. On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month there was to be a holy convocation [assembly], calling the people to be set apart. They were to *“afflict their souls, by fasting and to make an offering by fire”*. The offering by fire refers to the daily offerings (**Ex 29:38**): a lamb with grain and drink offerings was to be made twice daily. This speaks of communion whereby we **remember Jesus the lamb that was slain for sin**, by taking a grain offering [the bread] and the drink offering [the wine].

**v28** They were to do no work. We are not saved by works but by faith. God had to do something to make atonement for our sin.

**v29** Everybody must come and any who try to enter in without garments of salvation will be cast out.

**v30** Any who do not come will be destroyed. There is no other way to be saved.

**v32** Sabbath - means rest. It is a day of solemn rest, and it is a day of afflicting your souls. You can't get into the Feast of Tabernacles if you haven't been through the Great Day of Atonement. Don't miss it! It is the time to come and humble yourself.

**Chapter 16 of Leviticus** gives us much more teaching on the Day of Atonement and what was to take place on that day. We can see how Jesus literally fulfilled the Law as He became the **scapegoat** to carry our sins on the cross and in shedding His blood He also fulfils the **taking of the sacrificial blood into the Holiest place and placing it on the Mercy Seat** (**Heb.9:11-14**).

### **THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES**

**v34** The Feast of Tabernacles. [Tabernacle - a shelter, tent, dwelling place] On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month for 7 days.

v35 Again there was to be a holy convocation, a coming apart, doing no customary work, a holy day.

v36 It was to be for 7 days, offerings to be made by fire, the burnt offering, the lamb. On the 8<sup>th</sup> day, **a day of new beginnings, a day of resurrection**, there was another holy convocation. The people were to be called together and an offering of fire made to the LORD. No customary work was to be done, a sabbath rest.

v39 The 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month. ***“When you gather in the fruit of the land”***. This is a **harvest festival of the grapes and olives, i.e., wine and oil**. ***“And the vats will overflow with new wine and oil”*** (Joel2:24)

**Pentecost was the grain harvest - souls. Tabernacles is the fruit being brought in, sometimes known as the feast of Ingathering**

**This harvest is being out-worked at the end of the age.**

v40 They were to take the **foliage of beautiful trees**, representing the saints, who are likened to trees many times in Scripture:

**palm trees**, speaking of the righteousness of the saints, ***“the righteous shall flourish as the palm tree,”*** (Ps.92:12).

**boughs of leafy trees**, ***“whose leaf does not wither”*** (Ps.1:3) because the saints are planted by the rivers of water, they are filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit (Jn.7:38);

**and willows of the brook**, willows are always green because they too are planted by the waters. **Jer.17:8**

This verse describes the tabernacles [booths, shelters made of boughs] that the people of Israel were to live in. By interpretation, this verse illustrates the **righteousness of the saints and the fullness of the Spirit flowing out of the saints who have come into the Feast of Tabernacles**.

v41 They were to keep the feast for 7 days, in the seventh month: speaking of fullness and completeness. It is a statute forever! This Feast will come to fulfilment!

v42 They were to dwell in booths for 7 days; a booth is like a temporary tent. This is God’s command for all His people!

v.43 We are to remember where we have come from and that it was God’s supernatural deliverance that got us out of Satan’s grip and brought us into His promises. We are to always remember Him and the way of the cross!

## **HE BROUGHT US OUT TO TAKE US IN!**

When God brings us out of Egypt (the world) through salvation [Passover] He then brings us to Pentecost to receive the Holy Spirit [originally Moses and the children of Israel met God at Mt. Sinai to receive the law on tablets of stone]. Then there is meant to be a short sojourn as we come through the wilderness training and testing [remember the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness immediately after He received the Holy Spirit at His baptism (Mt.4:1)].

**God always intended His people to come into the land and be established there by the seventh month and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in the land.**

They were to do this by erecting temporary booths to dwell in. God has a dwelling place for you, (a booth). **Jn.14:2** Jesus said ***“I go to prepare a place for you”***, a tabernacle. We are to live in a booth of His glory which is a permanent house ***“eternal in the heavens”*** (2Cor.5:1). Meanwhile we live in temporary booths – our

natural bodies, earnestly desiring *“to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven”* (2Cor.5:2).

**Col.1:27** *“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you the hope of glory.”*

**Jn.14:23** Jesus says, *“We will come to him and make Our home with him.”* The Father and Jesus desire to tabernacle in us. God has always meant for us to live in a dwelling place of His making. The people of Israel were to live in temporary booths for seven days to remind them of their wilderness journey, to remember God’s deliverance and His glorious presence that went with them. Each day there were special offerings made, including a *“sin offering”* (Num.29:12-40). We live in temporary booths until our mortality is swallowed up by life (2Cor.5:4); we are to remember Jesus’ death and resurrection daily and live by His power!

### **The death experience**

The death experience to all that is of ourselves is typified in the “affliction of our souls” on the Great Day of Atonement. The people of Israel could not celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles unless they were part of the Great Day of Atonement. On that day all the sin of Israel was atoned for by the sacrificial blood being placed on the mercy seat in the Ark of the Covenant, and as well their sin was sent away into the wilderness with the scapegoat who would die in the wilderness because of the weight of sin. We have to be totally dead to self, having no place in our lives where the enemy can get a foot hold, **“loving not our own life unto death”** (Rev.12:11)

**PASSOVER -> PENTECOST -> death experience -> TABERNACLES**  
1<sup>st</sup> month                      3<sup>rd</sup> month                      Day of Atonement                      7<sup>th</sup> month

**The blowing of the trumpets called the people of God to the Great Day of Atonement. The proclamation of the restoration Word of God especially in the second half of this century has been calling God’s people to be prepared through the revelation of His Word for the end of the age and prophetically this is a calling to receive the full atonement that Jesus made for us when He shed His blood on the cross and entered into the heavenly tabernacle with His own precious blood.**

God Himself dwelt in a tabernacle in the wilderness. In fact God continued to dwell in a tent [tabernacle] until the Temple of Solomon was built nearly 500 years later. In **Isaiah 4:2-6** we will see there are references to this that indicate **the coming of His glory in the last days.**

### **STUDY OF ISAIAH 4:2-6**

#### **THE BRANCH BRINGS FORTH GOOD FRUIT**

**Is. 4:2** *“In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those who have escaped.”*

God has decreed that His Son, Jesus, is to get all the glory - He is the Branch and He tells us to “abide in Me, and for His words to abide in us”. Then we ask whatever we will and the Father is glorified through Him (**Jn. 15:7-8**).

**Jn. 15:16** you are to bear **fruit which will last.**

**Matt. 3:8** bear fruit that shows you have changed. **The fruit of the New Testament church shall be appealing.**

Jesus will always be central, always uplifted. *“In that day we will say ....”* (Is.12:1-6).

The kind of fruit we see in Acts 2:43-47: they had *favour with all the people, Acts 5:14 and believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,*

**5:42** they did not cease **teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.**

**6:7-8 Signs and wonders, miracle-workers** raised up, **multitudes** coming to the Lord.

**Israel** literally means “the man who overcame God”.

**Overcomers** refers to overcomers that arise in the last days. It refers to God’s army, the manifest sons of God, **Rom.8:19-21**

It includes all the conditions and rewards of the overcomers in **Revelation Chap.2&3. Rev.2:7, 11, 17, 26; Rev.3:5, 12, 21**

The key to overcoming is to hear and obey God’s word. We have escaped from the world system, we have freedom.

### **THE LAST DAYS CHURCH WILL BE HOLY**

**Isa.4:3** *“And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy - everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem.”* The **remnant** will come out of Zion; Zion refers to the kingdom of God; they will be kingdom people [we are born again to enter the Kingdom, **Jn.3:5**], and from Jerusalem, representing the church, the people of God.

**The true church is a separated people, holy, set apart for God, a called out people, separated unto God’s purpose (1Pet.2:9). The true church is made up of everyone whose name is recorded in the Lamb’s book of life (Rev.21:27).**

**Heb. 12:22** *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.”*

**Ps.48:1-2** *“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north the city of the great King.”*

**Rev. 21:9b-11** *“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife,” “And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.”*

### **SPIRIT OF JUDGMENT AND SPIRIT OF BURNING**

**Isa.4:4** *“When the LORD has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning,”* God wants His church to be a **clean, pure, holy church**. He is refining and purifying His church in these days. **Eph.5:26-27** *“that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle of any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”*

The Holy Spirit is committed to preparing a **perfect bride church** for the LORD. This involves a **spirit of burning and a spirit of judgment**. Judgment begins in the house of God (**1 Pet.4:17**). **1Pet.4:12** talks of the fiery trials. The whole of **1Pet.4**

speaks of suffering and judgment. **Heb.12:28-29** *“our God is a consuming fire.”* We are to *“serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”* (v.28).

### **THE GLORY WILL BE A COVERING**

**Isa.4:5** *“then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering”.* When the LORD has washed away the sin and filth from the people by the spirit of judgment and burning, then the LORD will create over every dwelling place (i.e. us, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit.) a covering of the glory of the LORD. We are to build around Christ not any other ‘mans’ doctrine. **Don’t camp at any other place!**

We are to follow Christ wholeheartedly. God’s intention is to inhabit his people! The Holy Spirit has come to indwell us (**Jn.14:17**). We individually have become the dwelling places of the King - *“every dwelling place of Mt. Zion.”* *“do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own.”* **1Cor.6:19**

Our assemblies are “her assemblies” *“For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God and I will be their people.’”* **2Cor.6:16** *“In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”* **Eph.2:21-22**

Every time the cloud moves on, we must move on, because we are to follow the presence of God. The faithful remnant will receive a covering; it reminds us of the wilderness wandering. The significance of that was that they lived in tents and God also dwelt in a tent. God wants us to be on the move and He wants us to dwell in a tent or booth with Him, being willing to change, being willing to move in revival with Him, not clinging to past experiences, until we come into His permanent dwelling place, having received glorified bodies (**Phil.2:20-21**). This will happen in the fulfilment of the third great feast of the LORD, culminating the *“appearing”* of the LORD JESUS CHRIST the second time.

### **CLOUD BY DAY AND FIRE AT NIGHT**

The LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mt.Zion and above her assemblies a cloud and smoke by day. Let us look back to Exodus to see where this reference comes from:

**Ex.13:21-22** *“And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.”* The glorious presence of the LORD is present continually in revival.

**Ex.14:19** *“And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.”* The angels are *“ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will*

*inherit salvation*” (Heb.1:14). I believe there is an increase of angelic ministry in these days.

Ex.14:24 *“the LORD looked down.....through the pillar of fire and cloud.”* The LORD sees!

Ex.33:9 *“the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.”* The LORD will speak clearly and powerfully; *“great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.”* (Acts5:11) Also Num.9:15-21.

These passages refer to *“cloud by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night.”* God was very present with His people in the wilderness, covering them with a supernatural covering day and night. We are called to walk in the Spirit, giving no place to the flesh (Gal.5:16); *“we ... worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh* (Phil.3:3). We are to *“run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus.”* (Heb.12:1-2).

#### **GOD’S COVERING IS COMPLETE**

Is.4:6 *“And there shall be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain.”* Remember, v.5 said, *“over all the glory there will be a covering (canopy).”* Jesus went to the cross in order to open God’s dwelling places to us. He said, *“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places* Jn.14:2. [“mansion” is not a true rendering of the Greek word].

Jesus rose again and ascended into heaven to prepare those tabernacles [eternal dwelling places] for His people. In Jn.14:23, Jesus promises that if we love Him, we will keep His word, and the Father will love us, and **the Father and Jesus will come and make their home [abode, dwelling place, tabernacle] with each of us.** This is an awesome fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles. The dwelling places (tabernacles) that the LORD wants us to dwell in are the *“places”* He went to prepare for us.

#### **GOD WILL TABERNACLE WITH US**

Final fulfilment is shown to us in Rev.21. *“John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”* v.2. God will indwell the holy city. John *“heard a loud voice from heaven, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.”* v.3

The fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles is clearly shown to us in this chapter of Revelation. Up until now we have received **Jesus, the Son of God and the Holy Spirit in fulfilment of Passover and Pentecost.** The time has come to enter into the fulfilment of God’s purpose in Christ: **to be in Him even as He is in the Father.**

This tabernacle is a covering of shade in the daytime, resting under a covering of glory (Sabbath rest), and a place of refuge - He has dealt with our “blood guiltiness”. This tabernacle is a shelter from storm and rain. Jesus rebuked the storm and it obeyed Him. Even the very elements of nature are subject to us in Him. As we faithfully dwell in this tabernacle Christ has prepared for us, the rain of judgment will not come near us.

**This tabernacle speaks of the permanent dwelling place of God with a glorified people; the kingdom will have fully come !**

#### **CONCLUSION**

Even as you and I were saved through the **cross of Jesus Christ**, the fulfilment of Passover, and we were able to **receive the Holy Spirit** (be Spirit-filled) through the fulfilment of Pentecost, even so there is an imminent fulfilment for us **at the end of the age** to come through the **Great Day of Atonement** (being freed from all sin) and receive the **Father's indwelling in fulfilment of Tabernacles**. There is much more that the LORD will reveal to us as the fulfilment of the Word of God unfolds. Even as the Scriptures of the Old Testament were revealed and fulfilled in the first coming of the Lord Jesus so it will be in the last days as we approach and enter into His second coming.

However we need to keep in mind Peter's declaration in **Acts3:19-26**, especially **verses 20-21** that tell us that *"Jesus is retained in the heavens until the times of restoration of all things spoken of by the mouth of the holy prophets since the world began"* and his exhortation in **2Pet.3:11-12** *"what manner of persons ought you be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God"*.

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