

THE
NEW
JERUSALEM

The New Jerusalem

JOY THOMAS

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PREFACE

The ministry contained in this book has been wrought on the anvil of a deep and intense seeking of the Lord before the onset of the Winter Camp Meetings of 2005 in New Delhi. The thoughts shared in these pages are not just doctrinal and typological; they are the mind and the thought of God for His people who are called according to His purpose.

These messages were spoken at camp meetings and the reader must try to get into the spirit and mind of listening, and not only of reading. In speaking, the messenger can see by the faces before him where repetition or reemphasis or fuller elucidation is called for. This explains why this book does not have the character of a precise literary production. It has its difficulties for readers, but it also has its values.

The majority in Christendom believe that Holy Jerusalem or the City of God is a literal place. The hungry and searching heart of a true child of God has to be open to the Holy Spirit for a fresh input. It is my prayer that your spiritual eyes may be opened to behold Holy Jerusalem, the City, of God as you read the pages of this book.

The Bible begins with the 'fact' of God but it ends with 'the nature of God' in perfect expression. This perfect expression of God's mind and nature is presented to us in the symbolism of a city and a garden in the Book of Revelation

The word 'symbolism' may upset many believers; it

may upset the contents of many old hymns. Many believers think that heavenly Jerusalem or the City of God is some 'thing' and some 'place'. They talk about the 'land with milk and honey'; the 'golden street' in the City of God; taking the 'fruit of the tree of life' and drinking at the 'river of life'. Let me say clearly that this is not a literal place. They signify a realm of life in God. Saints, there is no such thing as literal Holy Jerusalem or a literal heavenly City; but it is a spiritual reality which God wants to bring us into.

Why is there so much symbolism in the book of Revelation? Why is God speaking in the book of Revelation in symbolic language, especially the last two chapters. Have you wondered why it is so? For the same reason why the Lord Jesus spoke in parables! He spoke in parables so that the multitudes would not understand! Why did God inspire John to write in a symbolic language? It was that we may not understand what is written unless it is revealed by the Spirit!

This 'city' is right here. This speaks of a present reality and preparation in our lives. It is a city whose builder and maker is God. God is now building that city inside of us. So it not just symbolism. Symbolism is great and wonderful in concept but the actuality of it shall be through much suffering in the flesh. It is sad that many are caught up with symbolism and typological teaching and they are very excited about God's Glorious Church, the Holy Jerusalem objectively. However, they miss the present reality because they are not willing to move from the realm of symbolism to reality by paying a price to suffer in the flesh. I would place this challenge before the reader in all humility.

Finally, saints of God, “The City, the New Jerusalem”, relates not only to prophetic things in the book of Revelation, but it also relates to the present times. Heavenly Jerusalem is the answer to all the deteriorating conditions that have prevailed in early days and that are prevailing even in our times. This book will show you that great end to which God is moving and working toward in His people. We need to clearly know what that end is.

My advice to the saints is that they should not attempt to read a lot at once. Almost every page requires thought and meditation; weariness can only overtake one if too much is read without quiet meditation.

May the Lord help the reading of this message result in a fuller understanding of God’s call upon your life!

Joy Thomas

October 2007

NewDelhi

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He, whose Word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

- JN

THE VISION OF THE CITY

Every born again child of God has the same calling in Christ Jesus, but not all are fully walking in the seriousness of that calling. In our walk with God, we find that we are moving along at different levels. Though we may have known the Lord for many years, yet in our walk we may be far from what God expects of us. Whatever may be the level of our walk before His face, there is one blessed call and one single purpose of God resting upon each one of us. Therefore, it is important that none should shut their hearts and minds to the Word, even though they may not fully understand the depths of this call. Let the Word be received into the hearts with faith and in due time it will bear the right fruit. Even in the days of Jesus, there were disciples who could not understand all the things He said. When the Lord said that He would destroy the temple in Jerusalem and raise it up in three days, neither the Pharisees nor the

disciples understood what He meant. The Pharisees fully rejected whatever He said, but the disciples nurtured the things He said in their hearts. And when the Lord was resurrected their eyes were opened and they understood what He had meant on that day. We need to have an inward openness to receive the Word into our lives without offense. If we allow the Word to be deposited within without offense, it will be revealed to us in all its depth at an appropriate time.

In these critical days, it is so necessary that our ears be tuned to hear the voice of the living God. To know what God really wants of His people in these days is absolutely indispensable. I would not hesitate to say that more than a mere knowing of this, it is essential for us to come into the place and position that God expects of His people. Yes, it is crucial for a true child of God to know that he has been redeemed by Christ and to even understand that there is something more than mere salvation in Christ. But it is much more important TO COME TO THAT PLACE IN GOD that He wants us to be. If we are open to the Holy Spirit we shall definitely be able to see that place in God. God will mercifully show us what God is looking for. **It becomes necessary for us to be brought to the place where we see what God is looking for and looking at. What God is looking for is so vastly different from what we have in our minds.** To see what God is looking for and to be in that 'place' is the key to our walk in the Lord. To know what He desires from us and to be in the place where His will is operating upon our lives will revolutionize our lives.

This is what we ought to pray for. *“Lord, I want to know the thought You have for me. Lord, I want to come into the place that You want me to be.”*

The expression of such desires to the Lord will be a springboard to many changes in our lives. It will bring us closer to Him and to His purposes. If we pray, *“Lord show me Your mind concerning Yourself, Your purpose and Your Church,”* we will prepare the ground for the Holy Spirit to work upon our lives.

Most of the time our prayers are made from an earthly and human point of view rather than keeping in mind God’s purposes and His Church. If we are really open to the Lord, the Holy Spirit will begin to show us things concerning His purposes and His Church that we have not yet been able to see. **It is sad that God’s people have often failed to come into greater spiritual dimensions because of a tendency to mix the human with the spiritual.** Yes, we want to see God’s plan unfold, but we also want our own plans to go on; we want our own plans to form part of God’s divine plan and purposes in the earth! This is where many have missed God’s call in their lives. The mentality of God’s people to the Lord, His purpose and His church almost, if not entirely, earthly!

SHOW THE HOUSE TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL

When we look into the Christian realm from the largest to the smallest, whether they are churches, denominations

or so many 'things' going on in the name of the Lord, what do we see? Look at the state of things, even among the Spirit-filled believers and the fundamentalists. Is this what God is looking for in His people?

Is God looking down from heaven and focusing His attention upon or looking for any of these things? Do the 'things' His children do interest Him at all? Is He impressed with the pomp and show and all the display of man's achievements before God? Do our ecclesiastical and ministerial procedures impress the Almighty? Does He look down upon them and their things with admiration and wonder?

Is there any one who thinks like this, "Lord, when You look down from heaven, do you expect to see such 'things' from your people? Lord, do the things that are going on here interest your Being? **Lord, how interested are You in the things we do, these camp meetings and Conventions we hold year after year? How do you look at our jumbo outreach conventions, mega programs, Leaders Conferences and workshops?"** How many are really concerned with what concerns God? Is God impressed? Does God look down at us and wonder what His children are doing; does He ever say in amazement, "Look at what my children are doing!"

Beloved, God's mind is not set on the things that concern most churches and denominations. Their activities seldom reflect His mind and thought. Let them not think that all that they are doing meets with God's interests and is being done from God's point of view. O, there is a sore need for God's

people to be open to God's thoughts. God's people need to see all things in the way that God sees them. God is not impressed with the pomp and show that is being displayed in the spiritual world. He looks down upon His people to know who seek His mind, who desire to see things as He sees, and who has the mind of the Spirit. Our brilliant ideas, our plans for ecclesiastical renewal, and our new initiatives do not in any way interest God. Men have their own opinions and judgments of how spiritual things should be done. Much of our viewing is earth-bound; much proceeds from a natural mind. If we are ever able to see things from a heavenly point of view, from the point of view of God, then we shall begin to see our own faults, our shortcomings and our presumptuousness before God.

What is the mind of God? What does He feel? Does He marvel and admire the new ideas that people are bringing forth? Is He impressed by anything we do on the earth? What are His feelings? **Does He ever view the things of man with a desire and longing, or does He ignore them?**

If God happens to consider them, it may be in pity, or sorrow or even broken-heartedness! He may say, "How poor and needy they are, ever learning and never coming to the knowledge of the truth!"

Many are playing church, like little children who play in market places. They are playing games of the priesthood, house of God etc. The Lord pities the futile efforts of man to please Him? In the Old Testament we often get to see what God's feelings were concerning the things and efforts of man. Many times, God had pity upon the ways of man and He was

sorrowful over their attitudes, actions and reactions. Often He was completely broken-hearted. This is what history shows us. God's people were ever learning but never coming to an understanding of what God really desired. Saints, all our ways of viewing the Church and the things of His kingdom are very earthly. **If we ever could see things from His stand-point, we would see our great folly! The important question is how many of His redeemed people are open to the Lord of their salvation that He may show them what delights Him and what is after His heart!**

The book of Ezekiel gives us some inkling of this great mystery.

Ezekiel 43

10 Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.

11 And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them.

12 This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.

The Lord told the prophet Ezekiel to show the House to

the House of Israel so that they may be ashamed of their ways. Then the prophet told the people of the measurements to the house of Israel. In Chapter 44 of the book of Ezekiel, we read of the ordinances, the portions of the sanctuary, the ordinances of worship, and in Chapter 47 we read of the House and the waters thereof. Towards the end of Chapter 48 we read that the Lord is there!

The Amplified Bible says, “You, son of man, show the temple by your description of it to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities, and let them measure accurately its appearance and plan. And if they are ashamed of all that they have done show them the form of the temple and the arrangement of it, its exits and its entrances and the whole form of it, and all its ordinances and all their forms and all its laws. And write it down in their sight so that they may keep the whole form of it and all the ordinances of it, and do them.”

It is absolutely clear that if our eyes were opened, if we could see the Lord’s will from the heavenly point of view, we would see our extreme folly in matters spiritual. **And if we would turn to the Lord, then He will surely show us every detail of the house, even our own lives.** The Lord told the prophet to show the people the form of the house, and the fashions thereof, and the goings thereof, and the comings thereof. God has exact measurements for every part of the house. Nothing is left for man! Beloved, God is concerned about our goings and comings, our sittings and our lying downs. There is a will that governs even these insignificant areas. This measurement of the house is to govern every area of the lives of God’s people. The Word says that if the

people be ashamed of all they had done then the Spirit would show the details of the house to them.

I certainly believe that in our lives and in our ways if we are open to the Lord even in some small measure, we would begin to see our folly and we would be ashamed of ourselves. And if we would only turn to God and seek His face then the Lord would surely further reveal the things of His house to us. Many are still living in their folly and refuse to turn and hear God's voice. But if we would open our hearts and hear God's voice, then we shall definitely be delivered. If we really turn with all our heart and see things from God's stand-point – whether it be our personal life, our family, our church, our ministry or our own work – we shall be governed by His Word and His will. The principle is to be subject to the law of the house of God, His temple. He has a form or order for everything. A lot depends on our availability to God. We must let the Lord do some paving and digging work. Let there be no attitude of familiarity. It is time to stop seeking man's needs and focus upon the needs of our God. As long as we live in the flesh we will have needs that have to be met. We can never meet God's need if we first have to meet our needs. The Lord said, "The poor you will have with you always."

HEAVENLY JERUSALEM – THE MOTHER OF US ALL

Revelation 21

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew

thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

Hebrews 12

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of

Galatians 4

26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

These verses speak of a heavenly Jerusalem. We are trying to get into a very important truth in God's Word. Before the work of God there is the Word of God. **If there is no Word in us there can be no work. The work is the expression of the Word. We, therefore, need to come into an apprehension of God's Word so that we can do God's work. Without understanding His Word, what work**

are we going to do? This is a fundamental truth that we must understand. Let us try to understand this in the light of these passages. And these passages tell us precisely where we are.

In Hebrews 12:22, the writer says that we have come to the heavenly Jerusalem, which is Mount Zion. *“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem”*. The Word says very categorically that the believer has come unto the heavenly Jerusalem. And then again in Galatians 4:26, we read that the heavenly Jerusalem is above and that she is our mother! So that is where we are, but these passages contain no explanations of this truth. The Word says that we have come to that city in our lives! May the Lord give us a spirit of understanding that our hearts may be enlightened.

When we read Revelation 21:9 & 10, which says, *“And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God”*, we are inclined to think that all this will happen in the future. We read that the Holy City, New Jerusalem is coming down from heaven from God. Surely that belongs to some future time in some dimension and measure. Well, it may have a future aspect, but these Scripture passages say that we have come there already! I know that sounds rather mysterious. However, in these meditations we shall see exactly what this means. Therefore, let these Scripture portions be a foundation for our meditation!

Before we go ahead we must lay a foundation to this study and meditations. Why were these chapters written? Why did the Spirit prompt John, the apostle, to write these chapters? Why and when did John write all this concerning the New Jerusalem? Why did the Lord prompt John to write about the New Jerusalem and what was he prompted about? It is important for us to know these things.

Firstly, we ought to know that these verses were written **at a time when God's people were undergoing severe persecution.** The disciples of the Lord were being subjected to ruthless, brutal persecution at that time. There was a great, immense wave of persecution against Christians. Christianity was being subjected to very strong opposition from the world. To be found faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ was a matter of great personal cost. The apostle John himself was in exile on the Isle of Patmos for the testimony of Jesus. Such were the times!

We see that even today there are those who are being persecuted for the testimony of Jesus Christ. **That very first thing, the persecution and suffering, makes these chapters in Revelation, very contemporary.** New waves of persecution against Christians and Christianity have already taken their toll. While we read about these things today, many Christians are languishing in prisons, suffering for the Lord and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. In this hour and time, the true disciples of the Lord are being persecuted by the nations and also by those who call themselves Christians. Even in our midst there are brothers and sisters who are being subjected to a kind of social boycott, to rejection, and to threats because they are living

the life of the Lord Jesus. We are living in times similar to the days of John, the apostle, in many ways. It may not be happening on the scale of persecutions in the first century, but nevertheless the fact is that the true disciples of the Lord are being persecuted in many places in the world. Persecution is not limited to those early times. Recently, I received an email from someone who lived in a Christian country in the West, who said that a man was distributing tracts when he was stopped by a policeman who said, "You cannot convert people in this country!" To be a true disciple of the Lord, even in a Christian country, involves persecution in some form or another. There is a new wave of persecution that is being unleashed by the world against true disciples who will stand for the testimony of Christ. While we are here in the mercies of the Lord there are many others who are suffering persecution in this hour and time. Beloved, persecution is a common feature for all those who are following the Lord in all earnestness. This suffering is real and practical in the lives of those who are bearing the testimony of Christ in these days.

The second thing concerning this writing of the vision of the heavenly Jerusalem was that **it was written at a time when the churches were losing their first love**. John wrote the vision concerning the heavenly Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb, and the city of the Living God, at a time when the churches were losing their first love. The churches which had been bought by the blood of the Lamb, and redeemed by the mighty hand of the Lord, were losing their first love. **A change was coming over them. The first few chapters of the book of Revelation show us what the change was.**

The first love, the first works, the first life, and the first glory were being lost. The very churches whose foundations were laid by the apostle stood in great danger in that hour and time. That was the time that the Spirit of God prompted the apostle John to write about the New Jerusalem, which is the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. And surely we all realize that if the churches, which had been raised by the hand of the early apostles who had walked in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, **could lose their first love, we as God's people today stand on much more shaky ground in this hour!** If they could lose the first glory then where do we stand in this hour? If you are open and sincere to seek the truth with the help of the Holy Spirit, you will know how much God's people had lost. They had lost all, their first love, their first life and their first glory. And the cry of the true remnant in this hour is, *"Lord, restore us to that former life, the former love, and the former glory of the former days. Lord, help us to get back to those glorious beginnings of Thy Spirit in this hour."* Saints of God, these verses concerning the heavenly Jerusalem were written not only for the past or the future, but for us, here and now.

Thirdly, these chapters were written at a time **when many false prophets and teachers were bringing confusion into the lives of the people of God. The faith that was once delivered unto the saints was losing its purity, right there in the first century.** The apostle Jude said that he was constrained by the Spirit to write in order *"to contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* (Jude 3). Is that any different from the condition in which we are living today? John the apostle was prompted to write these chapters about the Heavenly

Jerusalem at a time when false prophets were going to and fro with their teachings. And we know that we live in similar times. We face identical conditions, wherein many false prophets and teachers are bringing God's people into bondage and fear. They are taking God's people far away from the purposes of God. Many of God's people do not know what to believe in God's Word. I have met many believers who say that the most confused book in the Bible is the Book of Revelation. Some have stopped reading Revelation because there are so many false preachers and teachers who freely preach their own interpretations of the mysteries of God. But it is written very clearly in the Book of Revelation, "*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*" (Rev 1:3).

The Scriptures say blessed is the man who reads it, but many don't read this book because they have been confused by the teachings and interpretations of false teachers and prophets. And who has gained from this confusion? None, but the enemy of our lives! God's people do not want to read this book any more because they have been put into bondage and fear! But the Lord says, "Blessed is he who reads it."

The Amplified Bible says, "Blessed (happy, to be envied) is the man who reads aloud (in the assemblies) the word of this prophecy; and blessed (happy, to be envied) are those who hear (it read) and who keep themselves true to the things which are written in it – heeding them and laying them to heart – for the time (for them to be fulfilled) is near."

If you don't read the Book of Revelation, how can you follow and obey the Lord? But God's people have given up reading it for fear that they will get it wrong. How can you pay heed to the Word, if you do not read it and understand it? How can the Word be fulfilled in your life when you don't even know it? The Scripture says that the time of fulfillment is drawing nigh and, therefore, we must be those who read and understand it. It is sad that many of God's people are kept away from God's promises and counsels. False prophets and teachers abound in our day, no less than the days of John. Today, the condition is the same as in the days of Jeremiah of which it is written "**that which is false has become the truth; and the truth has become false**". Such are the terrible days in which we are living. There are no takers of the truth. But the Lord has never lacked a remnant.

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

***Matt 24:14** And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

Daniel and his Hebrew brothers, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, stood for a kingdom of God in the midst of the kingdoms of men. In the midst of the kingdoms of men there was a kingdom of God in one man named Daniel, who said, "I have purposed in my heart not to defile myself. **I have set myself to be the evidence of God in the kingdoms of men.**"

One man, beloved! And the kingdom of God reigned

within the kingdoms of men even as the kingdom of men continued through history for another four kingdoms. Kingdoms of men came and kingdoms of men went but the kingdom of God, in the person of Daniel, continued in their middle! The kingdom of God was set in the midst of the kingdoms of man! The kingdoms of men were strong and powerful but the kingdom of God reigned in and through one man. Kingdoms of men came one after another, with increasing might and power, but all of them perished. However, Daniel, the representative kingdom of God, continued in the midst of all of the human kingdoms. Saints, such is the power of the true kingdom of God! May we draw strength from God's Word! It was not a matter of a majority: democracy is the basis of man's kingdom, but God's kingdom never works on the basis of a majority. This is the strength of God's kingdom. A democratic kingdom cannot fit into God's kingdom. God's kingdom is not the voice of the people or the welfare of the people! It is not a matter of how many are against it or how many disagree! God's kingdom works on a different principle. In the kingdoms of men, the truth is seen as false, but God will have a people who will stand against that. Beloved, God has a remnant, even in this hour and their goings-in and goings-out will be governed by the laws of the kingdom of God and their deeds will be established according to the laws of His House. That will be the difference! They will give themselves to God's law, to the forms thereof, to the laws thereof and to the ordinances thereof. God wants us to live our lives according to the form of the House these days. There is a strong remnant of God rising up these days.

***1 John 2:18** Little children, it is the last time: and as ye*

have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

Remember, that the revelation of the Holy Jerusalem was given to John, the apostle, at a time when many antichrists were rising up. Similar conditions prevail in our times, but we need a revelation of God's New Jerusalem in much greater measure today. Furthermore, the Book of Revelation was written during John's time when the judgments of God upon the world were beginning to take place. If you read the accounts of early writers like the historian Josephus, you will find that there was nothing as terrible as the days when Jerusalem was destroyed. You have only to read through those accounts to know that the judgments of God upon the world had begun even with the destruction of the earthly Jerusalem. **But when the earthly Jerusalem was destroyed and removed, the heavenly Jerusalem comes into view.** That is what we see in God's Word. The judgment of this world began at Jerusalem, and then it came upon the Roman Empire, and upon Rome itself. However terrible it may have been in those days, in God's great economy and plan, the judgments of God began to move out into the world after the destruction of Jerusalem. Then God's judgments came upon Rome, resulting in the destruction of that great and powerful imperial Roman Empire. From all its wealth, its luxury and its plenty, it was reduced to a place of famine and pestilence. Historians say that conditions in Rome became so bad that the richest and wealthiest men were found begging for food in the streets of Rome. We read about famines, pestilences and wars in Chapter 24 of the book of Matthew. **The Lord said that when you see these things it will not be the end but it will be the beginning of**

sorrows. The judgments of God upon this world began a long time ago and continue through this day. Saints, know for sure that the judgments of God are upon this world.

The judgments of God upon the world are here in greater measures today. When God's judgments come upon man he cannot do anything. Disaster management cannot help mankind. The wisdom of man comes to an end when God raises His hand. Even the most developed nations do not have an answer to the judgments of God. We have seen the truth of this in types and shadows in the land of Egypt. When God's hand came upon Pharaoh's kingdom, he called all the wise men together, but they had no answer, they did not know what to do. The days of Pharaoh were numbered in the face of the judgments of God that came upon them day after day. Man's wisdom will fail; every effort to have peace will fail without the Prince of Peace. Therefore, the Scriptures say that when people say 'peace, peace', sudden destruction will come upon them. **Man's wisdom will fail. We must decide whether we want to live by the wisdom of man or the wisdom of God!** Let us not say, "Today, I will live in my wisdom and on that day I will switch over to His wisdom." **Many believers live by the wisdom of man from Monday to Saturday and on Sunday they switch over to another power line!** Many believers think that they can live their lives today using the wisdom of the world and that when a crisis appears, when the hand of the Lord comes upon them and their ways, they will conveniently and easily change and switch sides! It will not happen in the way some of us think, saints of God. We will find no place in His programme, if we abide in the wisdom of man. It is true that we are living in the world, we have secular jobs and we have

to do with the people of the world. However, we need to be like Daniel, through whom the kingdom of God ruled in the midst of the kingdoms of men. We need to be a people who belong to the kingdom of God, which is peace, joy and righteousness in the Holy Ghost. His kingdom begins with His righteousness! Yes, the wisdom of man will fail. The Scripture says that the Lord brought a separation between the land of Goshen and the rest of Egypt. God's people were enclosed in the power of the blood; they were caught up and were moving in the potential of the power of the blood while the rest of Egypt suffered through the judgments of God. Have you chartered your life according to the wisdom of man or the wisdom of God? May we realize that the judgments of God are upon the world!

The things that happened in the days when the apostle wrote the book of Revelation are happening before our very eyes. The Apostle John was constrained by the Spirit and prompted by the Spirit to bring into view the Bride of the Lamb, the Holy Jerusalem. How much more we need a revelation of the thoughts and desires of God! We need to know what God thinks about His Church, the Bride of the Lamb. We need to know what His people ought to do in this day. We must know what it is that delights His heart and what God is looking for. The conditions of spiritual corruption that prevailed in those early days are here in no lesser degree. God's people, the true disciples, are suffering. The decline of the love of God's people, the state of their false lives, their spiritual weaknesses and the presence of false prophets and teachers, all go to show that the judgments of God are imminent. In the midst of all that, the apostle John was

inspired to write and bear the news of the New Jerusalem. Why did he bring it in? He realized that it was the answer to all these things. The Heavenly Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem, the City of God is the answer to every kind of spiritual decline and departure.

Beloved, God wants to change our lives. Let us keep you hearts open before His face. Let us remain broken, humble, and contrite in spirit. God's judgments have already come upon the earth. He began His judgments with the devastation of earthly Jerusalem and He is continuing to judge all the earth. His judgments are progressive! Saints, we really are in the last days and may God give us the grace in these days to see what He holds for His Bride, His New Jerusalem!



Blest inhabitants of Zion,
Washed in the Redeemer's blood!
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,
Makes them kings and priests to God.
'Tis His love His people raises,
Over self to reign as kings,
And as priests, His solemn praises
Each for a thank offering brings

- JN

GOD'S NATURE

THE KEY

SEEING THINGS FROM GOD'S STANDPOINT

It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit may keep our hearts open to the truth, and that the Spirit of God would help us to understand the things of the Spirit, even though for some of us it may be difficult to comprehend the depths that the Spirit is revealing.

Revelation 21

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city,

the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

One important thing that the Holy Spirit has shown us in increasing measure concerns the revelation to John, the apostle. When John, the apostle, wrote the Book of Revelation by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, it was a time when the early church was in a state of utter decline and deterioration. Those were times of intense persecution for the churches and it was also a time of losing the very things which the Lord had brought them into. A change was taking place in them. The first love, the first life and the first glory were being lost. It was a time when false teachers and prophets were influencing the churches to return to their former Judaic state. At that time, the apostle John was constrained by the Spirit to bring forth the revelation concerning the heavenly Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb and the City of the Living God. Let us, therefore, focus our attention upon the last two chapters of the Book of Revelation to know what New Jerusalem, the Holy City means.

In the Book of Hebrews we are told that we have come to a city, which is the heavenly Jerusalem “*But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,*” (Hebrews 12:22). This verse tells us that we have already come to the heavenly Jerusalem. So when we read the Book of Revelation (Revelation 21:9-11), we assume that the mention of “holy Jerusalem” talks of some place that we will

come to in the future. To understand this seeming dichotomy, we need to first set aside our own ideas and depend on the Holy Spirit to illumine our beings. Blessed are those whose inner eyes have been opened to see that **“the City, the New Jerusalem”, relates not only to prophetic things in the book of Revelation, but it also talks of the present time.** Beloved, let the Spirit of God open our eyes to see what the city, the Heavenly Jerusalem, means to the Lord.

As the Spirit would open our minds, we will begin to see that some of the hymns which we have been singing for several years give us an improper understanding of the things of God. Many of us are caught up with old traditions and the interpretations of man. Some of these men who wrote these hymns did not see the things of God as we see today. Perhaps God did not reveal it in their times. So let us be open to the Holy Spirit today when He speaks. Unfortunately, many believers find it difficult to set aside the thoughts and ideas that were appreciated a long time ago, by generations gone by. Praise God we shall have something better to sing in the days to come if we are open to the move of the Spirit in our lives! When the Spirit opens our eyes we shall sing a new song for the Lord that will set aflame something within our hearts! Though there are still many things that are steeped in religious tradition, we know that it is time to come out of those things and it is time to come into what God has upon His mind for His people.

A child of God who takes life seriously will invariably be found seeking God for something that will explain the spiritual experiences he faces. He will look to God for that which will explain his experience. This is the mark of the

true child of God who is progressing on in the things of God. There are many believers in whose lives situations come and go without affecting or touching them in any way. When they are faced with situations, they go through experiences of one kind to another, but the situations end without bringing about any real spiritual progress in their lives. But true children of God's heart will always look for an explanation for everything in life. They continue to look unto God and none other for every explanation and answer. That is how they get to know the Lord and His ways. However, the reality is that there are very few believers who walk this way. Only those who are serious about this calling in their lives really seek to know the meaning of every situation they face.

Today, many believers are crisis-managing people. Somehow they manage to move from one crisis to another in their lives. But the true child of God seeks the face of the Lord to know the correct explanation of things that are happening in his life. They look unto God for the explanation that comes from the Lord. Inwardly they say, "What does this situation really mean, Lord? What will this situation lead me to. Men of the world also ask questions about the situations they face, "Why is this so and why is it like this?" But the true child of God asks, "*What does this mean in my life? What is this leading to? I want to hear You, Lord, for You are justified in my life. You are my Lord and You are justified in situations and circumstances. Lord I seek You for an explanation of my experiences.*" That is the kind of attitude that God is looking for today amongst believers. A child of God sets himself up to seek God for the answer to his situations.

We see men all around us suffering in sicknesses of one kind or another. They also have many questions upon their minds. They want to know what the meaning of all their suffering is. They have questions but they don't look to the right source for the answer. Many sick people are groaning. They want to know why they are suffering. "What does it all mean?" They ask, "Why am I going through all this suffering?" There is a groan in their heart, but their groan is not in the right direction.

In Romans 8:22, we read of another groaning. "We know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." Paul talks about a groaning creation. If you put your ear to the groaning creation you will probably hear them say, "What it is all about?" They do not know all the details but they are groaning. And then the Apostle Paul goes on to say in verse 23: "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." We have deep questions in our hearts. We are facing such difficulties, trials and sufferings both within and without. They say, "Lord, what does it lead to? Lord, I have your promises, yet there are these difficulties, trials and sufferings". The Apostle Paul went through similar things in his life; he set himself to seek the Lord and the explanation came from the Lord. "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (II Corinthians 12:8-9). We face many types of situations in our lives. The Lord will help us to seek Him in these days if we are those who are 'groaning within ourselves' for the answers. He will

help us to change our ideas, our thoughts, and our ways. This ‘groaning within ourselves’ that is mentioned by the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:23, is a different type of groaning. **This groaning is not one of helplessness saying, “Why is this?” and “What is this all about?”, but it is a groaning that points to the very purpose that set them into that condition.**

There is a groaning in the true remnant of God in these days – a groaning within ourselves waiting for the adoption. There are promises to be fulfilled and there is a groan within us as to what this really means, and so there is a seeking of the Lord for an answer based on our experience. God is bringing His remnant to set their faces to seek the Lord to know the answer. May the Lord help us to be a people who will respond to the nudges of the Holy Spirit and be available to Him for His dealing.

THE KEY TO ALL THINGS

Heavenly Jerusalem is the answer to all the deteriorating conditions that had prevailed in early days and that are prevailing even in our times. When we look to the last two chapters of the Book of Revelation, we find an explanation to the weakening situations in the churches. If our eyes are open to see these verses a great light would break upon us and we would say, “Lord, now I see the answer, the key, the explanation to all things.” In these last two chapters we have the real key to everything that God is offering to us in this great redemption of God. I am not just bringing forth some words of explanation. I believe the Lord has opened

my eyes to see something! I have dwelt upon it and, therefore, I say these are not just empty words. My prayer is that our eyes may be opened by the Spirit, for in these verses we have the explanation to everything in the heart of God.

The thing that governs everything from the beginning to the end is the nature of God.

Let us lay this as a foundation in our heart. The nature of God governs everything. It seems very simple, but it is deep; it is more than just a few simple words. May the Holy Spirit take these things and reveal them to us. Here lies the key to everything spiritual. Truly this is the key – the nature of God governs all things.

What do we mean by the nature of God? **The nature of God means the constitution of God Himself.** When we talk about people and their nature we say, “Well, he is constituted that way or she is made that way.” That is the kind of expression we have when we look at people. That is how he feels, how he speaks and the manner in which he behaves. Because he is made like that, he speaks like that, and behaves like that. Many times we say, “He is typically so and so.” That means we know he is constituted in that way. You cannot get away from your constitution, no matter what you do. **It is your constitution that makes you behave as you do. That is why God wants to re-constitute or re-create us in Christ Jesus.** It is our constitution that makes us behave the way we do and that is what God wants to change. That is why Scripture says that in Christ we are brought into a new constitution.

So when we talk about a nature, it means the very constitution. To put it another way, God does things in this way because that is God's constitution. We cannot change God. That is one thing we need to understand. He is what He is. He looks at things in a different way than we do. Many times we say, "Why can't God see it my way or in this way?" He cannot, because that is His constitution. He is what He is. He looks at things in His way; He looks at things very differently from us. These are not very exciting words, but they can be very foundational. I will encourage every one to allow the Lord to lay this foundation in their lives. He looks at things very differently. **He looks at things from the eyes of His own nature.**

I have often seen believers arguing with God. They say that God has not been fair to them. They do not know the constitution of God. We look at things from our standpoint, but God looks at things differently. God always looks at things from the eyes of His own nature. **If anything satisfies God's nature, there is a great delight and satisfaction that flows from God.** And that is what we can call the glory of God. When there is a satisfaction and delight that flows from God, it can be called the glory of God. When the tent of the tabernacle of God was raised up by Moses, it pleased God. Moses had to check that everything was according to the pattern shown to him in the Mount to make sure that the Lord was pleased. And Moses was meticulous; he checked every detail because Moses had seen it on the Mount. And he was cautioned, to make no changes as we read in Hebrews 8:5. He had to make everything according to the Christ shown to him in the Mount. God looked at that, and He was

pleased with what was raised up. And we know that when the tabernacle was completed, the glory of God filled the House (Exodus 40:34).

So when things are done according to His mind, His will, His nature and His desire, it pleases God and there is a glory that comes upon the person or the thing. In other words, if there is anything that satisfies the nature of God, He says words such as, "In whom I am well pleased." It is a realm where God is able to see things according to His heart's longing and according to His Divine nature. Let us take this into our hearts. The Lord says, "In whom I am well pleased" when He is pleased; and then He fills that with His glory. When things are done according to His nature, then He is pleased. And if something does not please Him, His eyes are darkened, which means He is displeased and there is no glory there. **God judges everything according to His nature.** Let that be a strong foundation in our lives. **He decides everything according to His nature. God determines the destiny of everything according to His nature. He judges all things according to His Divine nature.** We must grasp this truth. We will never understand the City of the Living God unless we understand this principle. Until we grasp, appreciate and understand this principle, we will never be able to understand the true meaning of the City, nor will we be able to be a part of that City in our lives. We will never understand God's New Jerusalem, the City of the Living God, until we understand this important principle.

Let me go a step further. We will never be able to understand why Jesus came into this world until we understand this important truth. May God help us to grasp

this, even though it may be difficult for some to understand it. **God's judgments are always based upon His own nature. We will never be a part of the ultimate purposes of God in Christ Jesus unless we understand this vital truth. God determines the destiny of this world from the standpoint of His nature.** Many times we have come to God with questions, but the key is here, it is in His nature. If we understand this we have the key to everything. **All our questions arise from our standpoint, but when we see things from His standpoint we shall have no questions.** His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the eternal standard for His decisions; the Father has no other standard. So let us bring our hearts to the Lord. This one question should govern us and our decisions: Does this please God's nature and satisfy His heart?

THE SYMBOLISM OF JOHN'S REVELATION

The Bible begins with the 'fact' of God but it ends with 'the nature of God' in perfect expression. **This perfect expression of God's mind and nature is presented to us in the symbolism of a city and a garden in the Book of Revelation.** The word 'symbolism' may upset many believers; it may upset the contents of many old hymns. We need a revelation in our hearts. **Many believers think that the heavenly Jerusalem or the City of God is some 'thing' and some place.** They talk about the 'land with milk and honey'; the 'golden street' in the City of God; taking the 'fruit of the tree of life' and drinking at the 'river of life'! Many believers are living in that realm today. They think that the heavenly Jerusalem is a literal place – a place where

they will be physically set upon. **Let me say clearly that these places are not literal places. The City of God is not a literal place. It is a better realm in God.** We have many things in our minds which are based upon religious tradition. **Saints, there is no such thing as a literal Jerusalem or a literal Heavenly City; but there is a spiritual reality of these, which God wants to bring us into.** As we remain open to the Spirit, He will guide us into these things.

Why is there so much symbolism in the book of Revelation? Why is God speaking in symbolic language to us? The book of Revelation is written entirely in symbolic language, especially the last two chapters. Why is it so? What John wrote in Revelation was not only prophetic; it had to do with the history and conditions of those times. We know that the Lord Jesus Christ spoke used many parables to explain spiritual realities.

***Luke 8:10** “And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.”*

The Lord Jesus told His disciples that He spoke in parables so that only those who were open and given to Him could understand those things. In other words, His words can only be understood by those who are born-again, who are spiritual, and who are led of the Holy Spirit. This is very important. God has hidden spiritual things from the wise and prudent and given them to babes. This is a reality. **Why did the Lord speak in parables? He spoke parables so that the multitudes would not understand. Why did God**

inspire John to write in symbolic language? So that they may not understand what is written unless it is revealed by the Spirit!

It is sad that many people are born of the Spirit, but they are not led of the Spirit. Having eyes, they don't see! That talks of born-again people who have spiritual eyes to see and yet they are blind and cannot see because they do not obey the Spirit. The Lord told Nicodemus that unless a man is born again he could not see. When we are born-again we receive spiritual faculties to see and hear the things of the Spirit. This is the privilege of having spiritual eyes, spiritual ears and spiritual faculties. But many times we do not exercise them and subject them to the Spirit of God. So even though some are born-again, having eyes to see, they cannot see; having ears to hear, they don't hear; nor do they understand. This is what is happening to many believers today. Our hearts have to be open to set aside many of our misunderstandings. Therefore, the Lord Jesus said to His disciples, "You understand, but they do not understand." These chapters in the Book of Revelation are for those who will give themselves to a spiritual understanding. This City, which is the Holy Jerusalem, is something that fully answers to the nature of God. This is what we need to realize. Every detail of it, as we have seen in Ezekiel 43, represents something of the Divine nature.

There is nothing very inspiring and sensational in what we are saying, but line upon line, precept upon precept, there is something that can be laid as a strong foundation in our lives. Every detail about this City represents something about His Divine nature. The Hebrew writer tells the Hebrew

believers that they have come to this City, the heavenly Jerusalem. Every detail about this City is vital for life. Let the Spirit open our eyes to this truth. These introductions are necessary to understand the truth in God's Word though they are not sensational or soul stirring. What pleases God is that which is according to His nature. Has anything clicked within? This Word is a very important to every child of God. This is an important message for our lives and our times. This foundation in our life is going to help us know the ways of the Lord. Even though you may not be able to retain all this, just remember that all God's work in your life is done on the basis of His own nature. Amen!

We are called to be partakers of His Divine nature. That is what the Scriptures tell us. This is the key to everything — **all God's workings in our lives are based on His own nature.** We have been brought to a place where we are to be partakers of His Divine nature. That is our privilege. That is why the Hebrew writer says that we have been called to and brought to the Heavenly Jerusalem. Many are looking for a literal Jerusalem — for something literal in their lives. Let all those things be demolished. It is not something here or something out there that we have come into; we have come into a Heavenly City whose builder and maker is God. And therefore, all God's dealings and workings in our life are according to His own nature. **That gives an answer to everything in our lives.** This word is important to every child of God who is serious about his life.

We are called to be partakers of His Divine nature **and when God has finished with us, if we would let Him have His way in our lives, we shall be like Him.** We shall be a

full expression of the nature of God. Does any one say that is not possible? God's Word says very clearly to us that we are called to be partakers of His Divine nature. This City represents His Divine nature. We have come into this Heavenly Jerusalem, which is His Divine nature. All His works in our lives are on the basis of His nature. When Israel of old heard this they said this is not possible. How could they be an expression of the nature of God? They said that there were so many 'giants' in their lives – envy, jealousy, pride, etc. – and therefore it was impossible to be like Him. But there were two men (Joshua and Caleb) who knew God, and they believed and said that God could do that in their lives.

The majority in Christendom easily believes that New Jerusalem is a place somewhere. However, the spiritual reality is that it is a realm in which we are to partake of His Divine nature. When God has His way with us and has dealt with us in every way, we shall become the expression of the nature of God. **When God has a people of that kind, He will have a full living expression of His own heart on the earth. Then you will have New Jerusalem, the City of God.** We can now sing a new song, 'Let's go unto Zion, the City of our God' for we know what it means. It is not just coming to the house of God and going back. If we know what it means, we can sing a new song. **Going to Zion talks of moving to a place where we will put on His new nature. We are becoming His House – a people of His nature.** We have some beautiful songs of Zion in our songbook, but we often sing these songs in the reality of our old nature. We ought to sing these songs with the new understanding that God is bringing to our hearts in these days.

GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATING MAN

Hebrewa 11

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Here we read about Abraham, the great man of faith, who journeyed in a strange country and looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God. The Hebrew writer says in Heb 12:22 that we have come to that city, the city which Abraham looked for whose maker is God. He tells the New Covenant people that they have come into that place which Abraham was looking for all the days of his journeying.

Heb 13:14 "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come."

This means that we have no permanent city but wait for the city to come.

Let us recall the purpose of this meditation again. We are not dealing with any specific subject here; we are not carrying out a study to prepare for a series of messages. My strong conviction is that this specific word is from the Lord. This is the word of the Lord for His people in this serious time in the history of this world. If we have even a little understanding of what is happening in the world today, we shall not find it difficult to identify with this word. And if we are aware of what is happening in the nations today, one question will arise within each one of us. "How long can

things go on like this?" The way things are happening in the nations of the world today, it is impossible for the world to prolong or delay the judgments of God. Saints, the end is in view. **Look at the iniquity, immorality and unrighteousness that can be seen all around.** The end is very close.

Though I am not a prophet or an alarmist, the Spirit is prompting me to say this. The Lord is laying this matter upon my heart. Things are happening so quickly; there is a haste in which things are happening. The days of Pharaoh and his kingdom are numbered. I would say to God's people that there is a strong conviction in my spirit to warn God's people. This is a word and a message from God for His people. The full content of this message will be unfolded by the Holy Spirit as we continue this meditation. God wants to prepare us for what is coming soon. The wisdom of man will fail. Let our lives be governed by God's clear principles and His Divine nature.

The center of everything is the Divine nature of God. When God created this world He created it to be an expression of His own nature, so that whatever we behold would show us what God is like. **God intended man to be an expression of Him.** The Bible says,

Genesis 1

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

This was the mind of God. God intentions were very clear. All He had in mind was to create man as an expression of His own self on the earth. He wants the earth to be filled with people who would be an expression of God – a holy Jerusalem, a Heavenly City. This means that **when man is what God has meant him to be, we would see what God is like. When God has finished with man, man will be like unto God!**

Gen 1:31 “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

After God had finished creating man in His image, He said “It is very good.” That was His word. God looked at man and thought what He had made was very good because it was an expression of God Himself. God declared, “Look at this man that I have created from the dust, he is now like Me”. The earthen vessel of man was made in the perfect image and likeness of God! How great it is! For God to say, “It is very good” of anything, shows that it really satisfied His nature! He looked at man, the work of his creation, and said that man was exactly as He had desired him to be, the very expression of Himself.

But today, that same man says, “I can never be an expression of God. It is not possible.” No wonder that those who did not believe perished in the wilderness! If God looked at man and said it is very good, why does the

same man, who was raised from the dust of the earth, say he cannot be like God? God was pleased with His creative work, but that which was created by Him refuses to agree! What a tragedy it is! If God has saved us, He has saved us to this end. If we say in our hearts that this is not possible, then we are fearful and need deliverance. How shall we escape?

Beloved, let our hearts be open to God to realize unto what God has saved us and called us. The unbelief of many will not nullify God's word. We have come unto the Heavenly Jerusalem. We are called to be partakers of His Divine nature. We are made to be an expression of God. When a people become an expression of God's heart, then God will have His New Jerusalem, the City of God, in all reality. May God open your eyes to see our calling and our election in Christ Jesus!



**Round each habitation hovering,
See the cloud and fire appear!
For a glory and a cov'ring
Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from our banner
Light by night and shade by day;
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which He gives them when they pray.**

- JN

THREE

THE CHARACTER OF THE CITY

In the previous chapter we were able to see that God is the center of everything. We thank God for all He has revealed to us. He created the world as an expression of His nature so that whatever we behold shows us what God is like. God intended man to be an expression of Him, which means that when man becomes what God meant him to be, we shall see what God is like. When God finished His work of creation He was able to look upon His work of the creation of man and say that it was very good. God looked at man whom He had brought out of the dust, and said this is 'very good', for man was as the nature of God. Looking at man, God was satisfied with what He had created because it was according to His pattern and His nature. Let us be

open-hearted as we move forward in what God has for us.

The Word shows us that the Garden of Eden did not continue in a condition that pleased the heart of God. After God created man, He was able to declare that man was an expression of Himself and His own nature, for He said that everything was 'very good'. But soon everything He saw in the earth displeased the Lord of all creation. Man turned away from God, and hence, all things became displeasing to God. When He looked upon the world after man had turned away from Him, He could not see His nature being expressed. So God put a curse upon everything. In other words the Lord said, "That no longer satisfies My nature, I do not want it." Since then, God has been seeking for some thing that would satisfy Him.

The Old Testament tells us the same story. God was satisfied when He brought His people out of Egypt, but it did not take long for Him to be dissatisfied with all that was happening. There were times when God was pleased with the children of Israel, but soon after He was dissatisfied with them. The entire Old Testament is a long story of the satisfactions and dissatisfactions of God. It is like a thin golden line in a black fabric. There was so much that spoke of the dissatisfaction of God, but in the midst of all that there was also something that satisfied Him.

A CITY WHOSE BUILDER AND MAKER IS GOD.

Right in the very beginning of the Bible, in the book of Genesis, we read of this man of God, Abraham, who was

called out of the nations by God. He looked for a city whose builder and maker is God, not a city built by the design of sinful man, but one whose builder and maker is God Himself. **How ever wonderful a city man may build, it can never meet the satisfaction of God.** Abraham had a sincere quest deep within his heart, and he looked for a city whose builder and maker is God.

In Chapter 11 of Genesis we read of something that was built by man in his own wisdom. Man began to build something sinful and corrupt prompted by his own desire to exalt himself.

In Gen 11:3-9 of the Scriptures we read about a city that men began to build 'unto God'. Beloved, we are living in times not very different from those ancient times. Many cities and towers are being built in the power and strength of man. "Let us make," is what people are declaring all around us in these days. Even in the spiritual world, there are many towers coming up today; many cities are being constructed where men are boldly going all out to exalt their own name and make a name for themselves. In Babel, God brought confusion among men for He said, "Let us go down and confound them". The Word shows us that when sinful man built a city to make a name for himself, the Lord intervened and scattered them.

In Genesis 12, the chapter following the Babel Chapter, we see how God called out one man out of the Ur of the Chaldees, a man who never knew the true God in his life. God's hand came upon a man; and God's mind was revealed to a family. There are many precious things in these chapters

of Genesis, but through them what we see is that Abraham had a heart for God. He had a seeking heart, for he looked for a city whose maker and builder is God. **Beloved, God is not pleased with whatever man builds.** The Scriptures show that Abraham was very specific in his search for a city whose maker and builder was God Himself – a city that had foundations which were laid by God Himself. He was looking for a city that would satisfy God’s nature. I am not sure how Abraham got this idea of seeking for a city whose maker was God for it is not made clear in the Scriptures! However, somehow the thought that God wanted to have a city on the earth was planted deep within his heart by the Spirit of God. He also came to understand that if God wanted a city it would have to be like Him and His nature and made by Him! You may say that Abraham had a revelation of this great need of God! And we read:

Hebrews 11

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

In his quest for this city of God, Abraham went up and down the land of promise. As he moved from place to place he saw many cities. And when he saw a great city called Sodom he said to himself, “This is not the city that has been built by the hand of God.” He moved on and saw another city called Gomorrah and said, “**No this city can never be the one that has been built by God**”. So we see Abraham

sojourning from city to city, but he saw that none of the cities could ever have been built by God. **He was able to discern that in those cities everything was contrary to what God was showing him.** So Abraham continued to sojourn in the land of promise with the concept that eventually he will find that city whose maker and builder is God. Though he moved from place to place, his divine conception never materialized. All the remaining years of his life he continued to seek for that particular city but he never found it. Over hundred years passed before he died, but Abraham never realized the fruit of his search! “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. (Heb 11: 13,14)

God’s Word is clear that Abraham lived upon the earth bearing this divine conception in his being. He never entered into those things he conceived in the Spirit. Eventually, he left the world even while nurturing that divine hope in his heart. He was persuaded of those things, he embraced those things, and he confessed that he was a stranger to any other city that he saw in the earth. He never conformed to any of the other things he saw. He saw a city called Salem, the forerunner of Jerusalem, and even that natural city did not meet his heart’s desire. We see that he **nurtured something hidden in his heart that persuaded him that there was a city whose maker was the Almighty God.** He even saw the city of Jerusalem on the earth, known as Salem at that time, and the Spirit said to Abraham, “No, not even this city.” All through his days on the earth he continued to

look for a city whose builder and maker is God, but he did not find it. His divine conception never materialized. He never found it!

A DIVINE CONCEPTION OF GOD'S CITY

The greatest need in our lives is to have a divine conception of that which God wants for Himself! We need a spirit of revelation and understanding to see the city whose maker is God. When we have a divine conception of that city in our being, and when we sojourn and move in the reality of that conception, our lives will be different to what it is today. Chapter 21 of the book of Revelation makes it clear that the city of God, the New Jerusalem, is none other than the Church, the Bride of the Lamb. As in the case of Abraham who saw several cities but could not settle for any of them, the Abraham's of this time are in search of that city that is the Bride of the Lamb. Abraham saw many wonderful cities including the city of Salem, which was far better than many other cities and looked very similar to what he had upon his heart, but it wasn't so; it did not match that heavenly pattern.

Even today, like in the days of Abraham, there are many cities in the spiritual world. Some of them appear to be good, but the strength of man is found in them. The idea and concept of man has entered its very foundation! I have come across many such cities like the Anglicans, the Presbyterians, the Baptists, the Methodists, the Brethren, the Pentecostals and the Charismatic. But something deep within me says, "This is not it. No. This can never be it. There are many other cities and I realize that none of these can be

like that city whose maker and builder is God. The cities we see all around us can never answer to that. Abraham moved from city to city looking for a different city! When he entered a new city, he realized that this was not what he was looking for. Even when he came to the city of Salem, the precursor of natural Jerusalem that met the interest of God, he did not see that New Jerusalem as a city whose maker and builder is God.

Saints, the greatest **need in our lives is to come into the divine conception of a city whose maker and builder is God**. This is the key to everything. If **we are able to see this, it will set us free from many other things**. It is crucial for God's people to come into a revelation of the city whose maker and builder is God Himself, to come to that which satisfies His own heart. There are many who hear God's Word but they get into cities that man is building and there is no understanding of what God is building. They lack a divine conception. Yes, they are also God's people, but that is not the issue. They fail to see what satisfies God's heart. The issue is the matter that God is after in this hour. What is He looking for and what is He looking at? It is not the matter of being God's children. We need to know that all Christians are not going to be in a place that satisfies God's heart. It is only a remnant of God's people that will come to such a place. We must be a people (like Abraham) who move about in the land of promise, holding God's divine promises before us in the realm of spirit. I have seen many cities, but I realize that all these have been built by man and by the idea and plan of man. And something within me says this is not that city whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 11

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Abraham counted himself to be a stranger and a pilgrim: he was persuaded of that which he saw deep within his being. The Scripture says of him that he died in faith and the divine conception did not materialize in his life time. Though Abraham looked for a city he did not come to one. Beloved, he could not enter in without us entering in for God has something better for the New Covenant people. What a great privilege for us!

Heb 12:22 *But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,*

Here the Hebrew writer says that we have come to the city that Abraham could not enter! We have come to the place which Abraham hoped to come to. But, unless the Spirit opens our eyes we will not be able to see this and nothing will happen in us. That is what we must trust the Lord for in these days. **We have come to the end of Abraham's quest!** 'Ye are come into Mount Zion, unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem'. So we see that it has been a long spiritual journey and pilgrimage..."but ye are come....".

Chapter 11 of Hebrews tells us of those who had died in faith from the very beginning of the Old Testament. It has been a long-drawn spiritual pilgrimage! But in Chapter 12,

the writer says, that that long spiritual pilgrimage is now coming to an end. He says, "Now ye have come into that city." The writer says that Abraham is a co-inheritor of this city along with us!

God's people have lot of wrong ideas about Jerusalem and we need to be open as we consider this matter. There is a long story about Jerusalem in the Old Testament, but the city of Jerusalem, where people worshipped the living God, **never fully satisfied God's nature, even at the best of times and best of its days.** We need to understand this truth. Even today many people give undue importance to the natural city of Jerusalem. This is because they have not understood the basic principle of God's Word here. We must be delivered from our own immature understanding. God is not going to build another physical, natural, city like Jerusalem, which never fully satisfied God's nature. All who are open to the Spirit of God and read the Word will realize this truth. The New Testament makes it clear that the things in the Old Testament were only a pattern of the spiritual things in the New Testament. When we read Peter, who talks about God's new Israel, the spiritual House, and spiritual sacrifices, it is abundantly clear that he had a revelation that the things in the Old Testament were merely a pattern of some spiritual thing in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul in most of his letters also talks about a transition from the earthly to the heavenly (Galatians 4:25-31 and Philippians 3:21). He talks about moving on from the temporal to the spiritual. It is important to grasp this. We have been hearing about this for a long time, but some of us are not clear. We know it is not the earthly but the heavenly that is significant, and yet many are not delivered from old, religious concepts.

This is the key to many things in our lives. If we understand this we will sing a new song. **But many times we have sung this new song with old concepts in our hearts.** We need to align our spirits to the reality. We need to come to the ground where we have a different expression before God. Then there will be a freshness that will flow from the Spirit. As God brings us to that new ground, **we need to stand on a new ground of worship.** Let us recollect that when God brought **Abraham to a new place he built an altar there.** When God brings us to a new ground or place in Him there needs to be a new worship of freshness in our lives. We need to come into such worship. This is what God wants His remnant to experience in these days.

Let us come to the realities of our call in Christ. **Our worship should tell of the exuberance of what God is speaking and doing in our hearts.** Our worship should express our seeking and standing on the new ground that God has brought us to. We will experience a transition from one realm to another. That is the ground of our new worship. It is so wonderful to meet a brother or a sister who have come to the House of God with such a spirit of worship because of the new ground they have been brought into by the fresh working of God. Some are emotionally happy for various reasons (they may have got a raise in salary, or they may have come into some natural blessings). Beloved such emotional worship does not last for long; it is temporal and of no spiritual value. **Our worship should be on the ground of the fresh working of God's hand upon our lives!** We must come into such grounds in the Lord in these days. These are the ways we need to progress on in this call of God. In the past you may have worshipped God according

to some form of worship, or as per the traditions or culture of the people. If so, it is time to change. That is what we want to do. The old worship forms and programs are nothing but 'cities' made by man. We should realize this and look to the true builder and maker who is God, the Holy Spirit.

As we remain sensitive to the heavenly maker and builder we shall come into more new ground.

John writes his Gospel around the natural Jerusalem, which is from below! It is not the Jerusalem which is from above (Galatians 4:25, 26). But when he moves to the book of Revelation, written by the same man, the center is no longer the natural Jerusalem, but the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. He moves away from the earthly to the heavenly. He walks around the heavenly Jerusalem looking at the foundations and the walls. The Hebrew writer says that ye have come into the heavenly city, the heavenly Jerusalem. The believers of this dispensation have come into the New Jerusalem. We read there **a spiritual language concerning that which God is going to possess in a people.** It is beyond symbolism. It is the outworking of what that symbolism means. What does it all mean actually? The New Jerusalem is not talking about a literal Jerusalem; **it is not a place or a thing; but it is talking about a spiritual character that God is seeking to possess in a people. God is going to find his full satisfaction in His Son.** This is meaning of all the spiritual language in these books of the Bible. The Mediator of the New Covenant has come! All the spiritual language in the book of Hebrews and Revelation means **that God is going to find his full satisfaction in the Son and in a people who have been formed in the image of His Son.** This is the sum total of it! So it is not a place.

New Jerusalem is not a place; **it is the Son of God and the sons whom He is bringing into glory in the New Covenant.** And they without us cannot be perfected. God will have many sons. This is the plan and purpose of God.

THE CITY IS A PRESENT REALITY

The 'city' is right here! **This talks of a present reality and preparation in our lives.** Let us bring that 'city' right here in our midst. Dear saints, if you are a born-again child of God, you are a part of that city which God is now building. It is a city whose builder and maker is God. **God is now building that city inside us.** So it is not just symbolism. That is very important. This work is taking place inside us. **And God has purposed that it ought to be within us. God by His Holy Spirit is building His Son into our lives. Christ is being built in us. And we are being built into Christ.** May we realize this and may we make way for the city to go deep into our hearts. God is determined about it. The Lord Jesus said, "*The kingdom of God does not come by observation.*" It does not come by doing something outward. The Lord said the kingdom of God is within you. **So the kingdom of God is being built within us as a city of God.** God by His Holy Spirit is building His Son in us. We are being built up into a many-membered Christ as well, where He is the Head and we are the members. O this is a tremendous work as far as God is concerned. This is the tremendous business of His kingdom. And His kingdom is growing and developing within the lives of a people. He is working after the counsel of His own will in the lives of a people. This talks about a present working of God in a people.

If you are looking for a city whose maker and builder is God, you are going to experience fresh workings in your life in these days. Considering the things that are happening all around, you are going to say, "This is not that city." If you really look to Christ you will say "O Lord thank you for bringing me to this city that you are building, for this is your mind." You will begin to see what God is building into your life and what God is building His church into. It is going to be a tremendous work of the Spirit. You will no longer play "church". Going to church will no longer be just a formality of coming and going. It is going to be different for God's true people. We cannot live anymore the way we have been living. We must give ourselves to His workings. We must let Him have His way in our lives. God is determined to build His city. We have come to that city. It is a present fresh working of God in our lives. This city is very practical.

When we are born again, the Holy Spirit gets hold of us as pieces of rough stones. **We are poor material for the building of a heavenly city.** When we look at ourselves we realize that we cannot but exclaim, "What poor bits of humanity we are! And are we to build this city of God?" But God's will is to fit these stones of humanity into His heavenly city. Does the clay ever ask the potter why he is shaping him in his way? Does the clay ever question the potter as to his intentions? We are the clay and He is the potter. This is the great wisdom of God. And when Paul saw God's plan to build an eternal city (Church), he could not stop writing! He wrote one long, unending sentence expressing his awe and amazement to the Ephesian believers because he was thrilled in his heart. "Who is sufficient for these things?" The apostle asks in 2 Corinthians 2:16.

We know that we are bits and pieces of humanity in the hands of the Maker and the Builder of the heavenly city. That is the wisdom of God. **Though we are bits of humanity in the hands of the Maker, nothing but poor pieces of raw material, yet the One who has picked us up says, “I will make you. My intention is to shape you, to mould you and make you a partaker of My nature. I will perform this with My Spirit. I am therefore recreating you in My Son. Don’t worry about your humanity. I have something upon My heart and I will perform it in your life.** That is why I have brought you here.”

We know that we have a lot of rough corners and edges in our lives. But the Spirit tells us not to worry about it. He will knock off those sharp corners and edges. All He asks is to give Him place in our lives. **Our spiritual experiences in these days must be one of knocking off those spiritual edges and corners in our lives.** God wants to do this work in us. **Remember this city is a present reality.** We have come to the city whose builder and maker is God. This is a work of God inside us. We have many rough edges and corners. If we are open to the Lord to admit this, our spiritual experience would consist of the removal of our irregular, sharp edges and corners by the Spirit of God. You know what these ‘corners’ are! You know what the ‘rough edges’ are! Some may think they do not have any corners; some may say that they do not have any rough edges! **Often we do not see our rough edges, but we experience the rough edges that others have.** God wants to work upon our lives. In the economy of God there is a present working and a preparation. **We are not looking at a city but unto a city.** We have been brought into it. Basically, we are very awkward

people and we do not fit in any where in His Holy City. **So we have to be made to fit into this Holy City.** We do not easily fit in any where. But the Holy Spirit puts His hand on us and brings us in and fits us into this heavenly city. This is the wisdom of God. The Holy Spirit says, “I have begun a work in you and I will complete it. However awkward you may be, I will fit you in the right place.” In other words, we must realize that this holy city is a present working of God. This holy city is very practical in our daily life.

It is wonderful to sing about the heavenly Jerusalem, and about coming unto Zion, but the rough edges of our earthly lives continue to foster. It is one thing to sing such precious songs about Zion **and another thing to realize that God is knocking off the corners.** He is taking the awkward rough material of our lives and fitting them into the heavenly city in these days. That is why I say that now we need to sing a new song. **The songs will be the same, but our hearts will be changed, and therefore we shall be those who sing a new song.** It is not that we will sing a new song with meaning, but we shall sing an altogether new song! We will set new altars of God’s workings in our lives. This city talks about the present workings of God in every life which is open and given to the workings of the Lord.

Symbolism is great and wonderful but the actuality exists through suffering. In actuality all this symbolism brings us into the sufferings of the flesh. The symbolism is beautiful in concept, but in reality and actuality it means that there will be suffering in the flesh. I have seen people talk of having a revelation of Zion and of the sons of God and of the ‘overcomers company’, but today their lives are

pathetic in the plan and purpose of God. **Symbolism is tremendous but the realities of that would bring us to places of suffering.** We can get excited about symbolic truths, **but the question is whether we have the same excitement for the suffering that such a truth will bring into our lives!**

Beloved, this heavenly Jerusalem is a present reality. It talks about His present workings in us. Every symbolism, be it Jerusalem or Zion, or the House of God, or the river of God, the Bride, or any other symbolic representation, is great but the reality is through suffering. Let us embrace this truth as Abraham embraced it. This is what God wants to do in us, so that when God's work is over we will be able to say, "This is nothing but the mercies of the living God. What a different person I was! What a difficult person I am still. But I thank God for continuing to work in my life. God is faithful, and He will do what He has set out to do!" This is what Paul said to the Corinthians believers, "God is faithful to bring us into the place of His divine nature". Therefore, let Him have His way. And be sure to yield to Him!

THE CITY IS COMPACTED TOGETHER

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

The city of God is compacted together. Peter said that you are God's glory – lively stones put together as spiritual stones. God is building His city today. All awkward corners are being knocked off, compressed, compacted, and brought together in the Body. They are not loose stones but

compacted stones brought together. They are fitting into God's divine plan. As rough stones, (far removed from the polished, smooth stones that will be used to build the House), the Holy Spirit will subject us to separations and situations to deal with us. Most of the time, we want to have an easy and painless experience. We don't like to be smoothened, yet we want to have a smooth time! What a tragedy that is! How can the love of God permit us to go our way when there is such a call upon our lives? If we would let Him have His way, it will be so different. God uses his divine ways to smoothen us. **We will never have a smooth time until we have gone through the smoothening work of the Holy Spirit subjecting us to situations! He uses human sand paper to smoothen us out!** What makes us smooth lively stones? It is the grace of God in sufferings and difficulties. That alone can smoothen us. **We will never have a smooth time until we are made smooth!**

So it is not into some kind of symbolism any more. We have come into the spiritual reality of a heavenly Jerusalem. **That city is the embodiment of those spiritual principles.** When we talk about heavenly Jerusalem **we are not talking about something external. It is a present reality and at the same time it is something eternal.** May we be ever conscious of that eternity! **This city is something spiritual and not temporal. What God is doing in the small fragment of time in our lives, is going to be revealed to His glory in eternity.** That is what Paul says. God is doing His precious work in the little lives of those who belong to that city, whose maker and builder is God. It corresponds to that city that comes down from heaven having the glory of God. May we realize that this is a present reality! There

are a people who are being made into that city – a people being conformed to His image and His nature.

1 Corinthians 1

8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

God says, “Just as I am blameless, my bride shall also be blameless.” God is faithful. The Apostle Paul says again in 1 Cor 10:13, “God is faithful.” God’s faithfulness does not mean that He will force His way into our lives. God’s faithfulness does not mean He will break open the door and forcefully enter into our lives. He will not impose Himself upon any one of us. Paul said again and again that God is faithful. In other words, God is faithful enough to bring us and fit us into the New Jerusalem. However, we have to let Him have His way into our lives. Let Him knock off the rough edges and sharp corners of your life. We may be people with awkward edges and corners, who cannot fit into anything, but God is faithful who calls us into the fellowship of His Son. He is faithful to conform us into His image.

Beloved, let God have His way. He will fit you into that New Jerusalem. Yield to His workings. The Corinthian church miserably failed and continued to live in their carnality. They could not fit into God’s heavenly plans. We need to believe and trust in His salvation. We should not be like the Israelites who limited God in the wilderness and said, “Thus far Lord and no further”.

Remember, God cannot take you farther than the place where you have made decisions for yourself. **God cannot take you beyond that which you have willed in your own heart.** Many times I have seen brothers and sisters making unholy, immature decisions which are totally unwise. **And they become victims of their own decisions, thus incurring terrible spiritual losses.** Then recovery is next to impossible; it is very difficult. They bind themselves and tie knots that cannot be opened easily. Even though God can forgive and restore them, the knots are so complicated that it becomes difficult to bring them out of their own prisons.

So let us not take spiritual symbolism as the end! Symbolism is good and helps us to see the principles of God. The flesh must be willing to suffer. The danger we face is that often we are not willing to suffer. The danger is that we may get excited and stand in the realm of symbolism. The actuality is that we must suffer and hand our lives over to the Spirit to perform His works.

Let us pray and say, "Lord, have your way in my life. Lord, I want your way in my life. That is my only desire. I have prayed, confessed and sung songs concerning Your will and way in my life many times, but many times I did not realize what those words really meant. But when You allowed me to suffer in the midst of various situations, when you began to knock off my sharp corners and edges, I found a way out of my predicaments. Lord, I want you to deal with me. I want you to work upon my life. I realize my mistakes, Lord. My greatest desire is to be worked upon in these days."

Beloved, God is at work but our rough corners will not go away in the twinkling of the eye. Many believers are waiting for the miraculous ‘twinkling of the eye’ that will remove all the awkward corners in their lives. It will never happen in a slit second or in the twinkling of the eye. The Holy Spirit is at work and He will work upon us in and through situations and circumstances. Those of us who are used to His ways will find our walk becoming more difficult because God is going to continue to consolidate His work in His people. **This city is a present reality. The Lord is preparing His stones so that He may fit them into their rightful places.** We must give ourselves to the present reality of His workings. It is not somewhere else but here that He will work upon us. **Finally, the city will be a reality – a spiritual reality in the earth.** All the awkward corners will be taken away. Jerusalem, the heavenly city, will be put together and compacted; a city whose builder and maker is God; a people who are partakers of His divine nature!

Will you fit in and be part of that city?



City of God, Jerusalem,
where he has set his love;
Church of Christ that is one on earth
with Jerusalem above:
here as we walk this changing world
our joys are mixed with tears,
but the day will be soon
when the Savior returns
and his voice will banish our fears.

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HOLY CITY COMING OUT OF HEAVEN

We thank the Lord for the way He has been unfolding His Word unto us in these days. We see in Rev 21 verse 2, that John saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem. We have seen that this New Jerusalem is not a place or a building, but a people conformed to the image of Jesus Christ — partakers of His Divine nature. We are moving toward the holy city of God.

RevelatIon 21

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

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God “

Now in this place in Revelation 21 that we come to, we are moving from symbolism to the spiritual reality. We are standing on the ground of the spiritual reality of the New Jerusalem. So we are not considering a thing or a place any more, but we are bound up with a symbolic expression. We have been brought into a representation of Jesus Christ and His Church. At the end of the Bible we see what this representation is towards which God is moving. God is bringing the fullness of His Son into His church. This is what we see as the final manifestation. **That is the explanation of our Christian life – bringing a people into the fullness of His Son and into the final manifestation. That is the explanation of Christian life.** There is no other explanation. **Our spiritual life begins with Christ and goes on with the increase of Christ and it ends with the fullness of Christ.** Is this not so? If this is not our spiritual track, then we have been side-tracked in some way from God's full intention and purpose in Christ.

Saints, we are not imagining things; we are not dreaming of some good things; we are not having some good feelings about spiritual things. But we are moving into that which the Church is destined to come into. God's people must move from spheres of imagination to the realms of reality. We are moving from imagination unto the reality when we are a part of His true Church, which is the Bride of the Lamb. We need to really stand on this ground in the coming days. **We**

have moved from symbolism to spiritual realities. Jesus Christ and His glorious Church are represented in these verses of Rev 21.

Rev 21:10 and Rev 21:2 show us that the New Jerusalem is the same as the Holy Jerusalem. I want to draw our attention to some terms here that will help us to understand these verses more fully. The meaning of the expressions “Having the glory of God”, “In the Spirit”, “New Jerusalem,” and “Coming out of heaven”, need greater clarity. This is what the Lord wants to reveal to us.

HAVING THE GLORY OF GOD

What is the glory of God? The writings of the apostle John tell us that the glory of God was His Son. That is what we read as we go through the writings of John and the gospel of John. John says, “*We beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth*”. The glory of God was in His Son. May this be a foundation for our inward lives. In all that we heard there are certain precious truths that need to be laid as a foundation in our lives. In the forthcoming days the Scriptures will open unto us in fresh ways if we closely hold on to this truth. Paul says in Eph 3:21, “*Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*” Paul says the church has to be a vessel for the glory of Jesus Christ. Though there are many statements from God’s Word that tell us about the glory of God, they do not really define and explain what the glory of God is. However, we do find one verse in the Bible that actually defines the glory of God. John 1:14

tells us, “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*”

Beloved, the glory of God is **the absolute satisfaction of His Divine nature**. When God is able to see something that identifies with His own nature and all that is His then that something has the glory of God. If God can say, “**I am well pleased in this**” or if God can say, “**This (or that) perfectly satisfies my nature,**” then we have what is really the glory of God. We know that the heavens were opened and the Father God said, “*This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*” **The glory of God is that wonderful sense or sensation that God has of being well pleased.** And we know that the pathway of a child is like a shining light, shining unto the new day. The pathway of a born-again child is to be the pathway of glory. We move from glory to glory. The Holy Spirit takes possession of our lives from the day we were born-again. The Holy Spirit has come into us. And when we are baptized in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit has a firm grip upon our lives by the power of His Spirit. His promise is that He will take each one of us from glory to glory, in the pathway of glory. This is what the Lord Jesus Christ promised, “*After I have gone I will send you another Comforter.*” The Holy Spirit’s great ministry is to take the children of God along the pathway of glory and bring them to the realm in which the Father is pleased. This is an ongoing work of the Spirit. We do not come into the glory one day all of a sudden. It is a progressive work of the Spirit.

The Scripture supports this in John 3:2-3 “*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall*

be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” This does not leave any place for vague imaginations or perceptions, but all who have this hope in Him purify themselves. So there is an ongoing work of inward purification at the hands of the Spirit. **New Jerusalem having the glory of God is a people coming into the absolute satisfaction of the Lord.** The church consists of vessels having the glory of Jesus Christ. We need to be open to this work of the Holy Spirit who has taken us into His charge. That is why Christ told His disciples to wait till the Holy Spirit came upon them. When we receive this promise in our lives, the Holy Spirit commences to do a new work in us.

IN THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has taken charge of born-again believers. Having taken that step of faith and having tasted something of the glory of God, we can move forward on the pathway of glory. As we move on in this pathway of glory, we do come across many situations and temptations where the whole glory is involved in that. We are faced with a situation or a temptation or a trial and there is always the question of this glory there. And we see the Holy Spirit coming to our aid and help at that time. The Holy Spirit comes to our help. This is His ministry. In Revelation, John says, “I was in the Spirit.”

We can never set aside the glory we receive on the day we were born-again. Let me ask each one of you, “What were your feelings when you were born again? What did you feel?”

I don't know about you, but I know that on that day I felt so close to the presence of God. I was filled with such joy and gladness. All the previous years I had been spent in the dark, in fear, and in unbelief. But on the day that I was born again, I came into a place of experiencing a joy and a hope. The Almighty God had come so close to me! He had become my friend. It was incredible! That is the glory of God. That is the Light of God that comes into our lives.

In Chapter three, Verse 18 of 2 Corinthians we read, *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord”*. Further, the writer says in Romans 8:30 *“Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”* That is why Paul says that we have come into a glory and we move from glory to glory. He has made us His own children. God was satisfied with us on the day that we received Jesus into our lives by faith and we were born-again. **God expects nothing more from us on the day that we were born.** This is the reality that we all need to accept wholeheartedly. There can be no doubt. The day when we entered His kingdom, and were washed of our sins, and were embraced by Jesus was a glorious day! It was a precious day, and it was a perfect day! After taking the first, the initial step, and having tasted of God and having experienced the love of God, we are called to move on in the pathway of glory. **Just as we begin in Christ we also begin in glory. And then we go on from glory to glory.** And eventually we come to a place of manifesting the fullness of His glory.

In this pathway of glory we come against many situations, trials and temptations, where the whole question of God's glory is involved. The Holy Spirit will move in, take over, and even put His finger upon many areas of our lives. And He will convict us of sin, and of righteousness. He will say, "My son my daughter, this belongs to the things of the world, the world which you have left behind. And this belongs to the flesh. You remember the day when you gave your heart to me? You said to Jesus, 'From today all that matters to me is You and You alone — the world is behind me and the cross is ever before me.' My son, my daughter, what you are now considering is something you left long ago. And therefore leave it behind again."

It is all a question of His glory. In any situation, what matters is whether the Lord will be pleased with us or not. He is watching us at all times. What are going to do about it? Are we going to hold on to what we think is important for our lives? Or are we going to let it go and desire to go the way of the Lord? If Divine satisfaction is what you desire, then you will leave it. But if, in the stubbornness of your heart, we continue to hold on to our own thing then, the Divine satisfaction will be clouded. There will be a darkening of our lives and it will become painfully visible to others. There is no glory in such a life. Beloved, the loss of glory in one's life can be clearly visible to others. People often ask me, "Brother, what happened to that brother or that sister? He or she looks so dull." This glory is a reality. We are not chasing shadows. Sometimes it becomes so visible that others come and ask, "Brother what happened to him?" The change becomes visible, saints. It may not be visible to us because of our insensitivity but others can see it very clearly.

Let the glory that comes of Divine satisfaction be the basis of our lives. This matter of glory always brings us to fresh battles in our life. If we are moving from the realm of shadows to the reality in our lives today, we shall invariably face many battles in our daily lives.

The glory is nothing else but Divine satisfaction. Please remember this. Glory is not a halo over the head or a glow on the face of saints. Men can do wonders to impress another soul. They can make their faces and their words appealing to others people. In contemporary Christianity, many leaders do that. They publish their pictures configured with the help of computers and graphics to appeal to the natural desires of other people. Saints, this glory of God lies far beyond any kind of human manipulation. The glory that God looks to relates to God's own nature. God will not delight and be satisfied by anything of man. His satisfaction rests in that which bears the mark of His Son and His Spirit. Many people deceive themselves as well as others in these last days by doing things only meet the satisfaction and delight of other men. But God cannot be fooled by any man. So let us come to the grips with this word. Let us be concerned with Divine satisfaction. Let that be the place of our dwelling and walk. Let us say, "Lord, You have brought me to a new ground, You have released my spirit, and I want to hold on to that 'glory' and move in the pathway of Your glory all my life. I do not want a clouding of this glory in my life. I don't want anything to come between me and my God. I only want a Divine satisfaction." Sometimes it becomes so visible that others come and ask, "Brother what happened to him?" It becomes visible, saints. Let that glory of divine satisfaction be a foundation. This matter of glory always

brings us to battles in our life.

When we move in this pathway to glory we are continuously in a battle that rages between the spirit and the world and the flesh. The Spirit of God is very much there to help us. In the Old Testament the Word says, the battle is the Lord's. So the Holy Spirit is present in every battle we experience. But we need to stand on the side of the Holy Spirit. The Divine glory of His satisfaction should be our concern these days. We have to come into a new position as to the will of God in these coming days. We need to move on to new positions in the spiritual realm, beloved.

It is perhaps a hard school where we need to learn the disciplines of the Lord. It means much discipline and testing in our lives. May we be quick to acknowledge and realize this. Our love for the Lord will be tested again and again in the days to come. So there is a constant inward inquiry we face in everyday life – whether we will please the Lord or whether we will please ourselves; whether we choose to hear the Lord say, “I am well pleased with you, my son” or whether we choose to please ourselves. **But this is the kind of schooling that those who are to be the sons of God must go through.** We need to be in the ‘school of the sons’ in these days. As Paul wrote to the Galatians, “*Lord we are inheritors and sons, as long as we are children we differ nothing from a servant.*” Therefore we need to be under governors and tutors. We need to be in the School of the Lord where God's sons are being prepared for the greater glory and manifestation. Disciplines and preparations, coming into a harness, and submitting ourselves will bring us into the glory of the Lord in our times.

John says that **he was in the Spirit and saw the bride of the New Jerusalem with the glory of God.** We need to be in the Spirit. That is what I want you to underline — **in the Spirit, having the glory of God.** Drop it into your heart. **Remember if we are out of step with the Spirit there is no glory coming forth in our lives. If we step out of the Spirit we are out of the glory of God.** Remember, what keeps us in the glory path is being in the Spirit. The tremendous example of this is that of Jesus Christ. His very life shows that He walked in the Spirit, and was led of the Spirit. What a wonderful example He set before us. He walked and received the Father's commendation that He was His beloved Son. The Lord Jesus said, "*And after I have gone I will send you another Comforter and He will not leave you as orphans. I will send you the Holy Spirit.*" **And the work and the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to bring us to a place where we meet the satisfaction of the Divine nature of God and are able to glorify Him.** But see what is happening in the church world! The Holy Spirit has become a puppet in the hands of many believers. The gifts of the Spirit seem to be the ultimate quest of many people. They come to the gathering of saints wearing their 'gifts' as spiritual ornaments, displaying them before others with pride and arrogance. Beloved, such gifts cannot be used to build the true body of Christ in the earth which must have the fullness of the glory of God.

THE NEW JERUSALEM

John saw the New Jerusalem in the Spirit, having the glory of God. Again let me say that this is but a **symbolic**

expression that means that you have to be under the government of the Holy Spirit. John saw it in the Spirit. If we desire to see what is upon the heart of God or what new things God is doing, then we need to be under the government of the Holy Spirit. It is absolutely essential to be under the government of the Holy Spirit to see new things that God has for His people.

One of the characteristics of the New Testament Word is that it is 'new'. In Christ Jesus there is a 'new' creation. We read about the 'new' man in Christ Jesus. We read about a **'new' life, a 'new' way and life, a 'new' man etc.** Finally as we come to the book of Revelation, we come to the 'new' heaven and the 'new' earth and New Jerusalem. In the New Covenant all is new – a new life, a new creation, a new man, a new way of life and so on and so forth. Remember, that the word 'new' implies that there is or was something old. It is a word that conveys a comparison and a contrast. So there was an old Jerusalem, there was an old creation, and there was an old man. But the old has gone and the new has come. The old Jerusalem has been brought under God's judgment. And when the old was put away the new was brought in. May God help us to see that! **If we have to see what is new in God we have to be under the government of the Holy Spirit.** We have yet to see the meaning of this City more clearly, but for the moment we take a look at this word 'new' again. If something is new, it means that it is completely fresh. It is new and fresh. When we consider Old Testament history what a tragic story we read concerning the 'old' Jerusalem. It is a story of tragedy because of the sin of God's people. It had its days of glory, but they were very few and far between. The glory soon departed. Tragedy

is written all over the Old Testament. The last word for that Jerusalem was pronounced by Jesus Christ.

Matthew 23

36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

These are the last words that Jesus spoke over that ‘old’ Jerusalem. In the last two thousand years we have repeatedly heard the story of that desolation. But the New Jerusalem — **the new people that God is bringing forth — is just opposite to that which is old.** This is something that should encourage our hearts. The story of the New Jerusalem is totally different to the story of the ‘old’ Jerusalem. There is something that is called “unto His eternal glory.”

In the first Epistle of Peter, Chapter 5, verse 10, we read, “*But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.*” **This New Jerusalem will never go into a tragedy. She is destined into the eternal glory to bear the image and likeness of the Son.** This is something we must lay hold of. Consider to what we have come! We are not called to be a part of something that will turn into a tragedy at the end, like the old Jerusalem.

Those who are not a part of the New Jerusalem will end up in a tragedy, but not the New Jerusalem. Let us realize this solemn truth. The New Jerusalem is destined to bear the image and likeness of the Son in eternal glory. We are called to participate in something which will not turn out to be a tragedy in the end, but we have been called to eternal glory, to something over which the powers of hell shall not prevail. The old Jerusalem, over which the powers and principalities prevailed, was destroyed and remains forever a miserable story. However, the New Jerusalem is birthed in glory and is altogether a matter of glory; the powers of darkness will never be able to prevail against it. May we see this reality in the Spirit! **The New Jerusalem has come to stay.** Saints, may we realize to what we have come! **We are not going to it. We have come into it.** May the Spirit of God demolish every other thought and idea from our mind. O may God release our spirits to His burden.

COMING OUT OF HEAVEN

If you use your imagination, you will not understand what ‘coming out of heaven’ means. Many people think that this City that is ‘coming out of heaven’ is some object like thing that comes down from the clouds. Coming out of heaven, to some, conjures up the image of a big city descending from the open skies as a result of a great, wonderful and miraculous work of God. Some of us who smile at this imagery may nonetheless have identical thoughts. This is the common understanding of the average believer. John the apostle saw the New Jerusalem coming out of heaven; this clearly shows that the heavenly city (Jerusalem) already existed there!

Before the city could come down from heaven it has to be there. Only if it were in heaven could it ever come down! The Apostle Paul left us a key to understand this.

Ephesians 2

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ

God has raised us up together, praise Him, through Christ Jesus. You and I are placed in that realm together with Christ Jesus so that in the ages to come he might show us the riches of His grace. By grace we have been saved, but the riches of His grace must be worked into our lives. Some people say that they are saved by grace and that is enough. They do not care for the riches of His grace to work upon them. They live like spiritual paupers. Many today refuse to have the riches of His grace worked into their lives. In His kindness He shows us the exceeding riches of His grace. May God help His people to understand this and may God open their eyes to see this truth and receive it. The question that remains is, "Where are you as regards receiving the riches of His grace?" It is given for a purpose. If you receive His grace in the spiritual man, He will take care of your natural man! He has raised us up and made us to sit together with Him in heavenly places. **And what is He doing there? He is working into us the riches of His grace in His kindness. Money cannot buy this: hard work cannot**

earn this; only His Grace and kindness will suffice. No wonder Paul says that by grace have you been saved, not by works but by the grace of God, not of works that any man should boast. The day God raised you up and you were born again we began to sit together with Him in heavenly places. Did you go anywhere? Did you physically go to any place in heaven? No, certainly not. So do not look towards heaven when you read of “coming out of heaven”. **Physically we do not go anywhere but something happens inwardly in our constitution.** I know that the day I was born-again I was really in heavenly places! O the joy of the Lord! I wanted every one to be born-again that day. That is a reality. This is the mind of God. When we are born again, we do not go any where but it seems as if we are sitting in heavenly places with Jesus. That is the reality.

One of the deep convictions that came upon me on the day that I was born again was that **something had happened to me which had separated me from the present world.** I realized that I had entered a different world. The things that were so dear to me at one time were no longer precious to me. I did not seek for the things which I once sought after with great zeal. The people who were once my friends were no longer my close companions. After my experience with the Lord, my family and my friends were the people of God! This became a growing reality in my life. Why this change? Something had happened inside of me. It was not of my initiation. Something happens deep within each one of us when we come to the Lord in repentance and humility. This is God’s work. It is the work of His grace. Quite often we use the word ‘born-again’ to describe these changes when we truly turn to the Lord, but I would like to use a word that

the Bible uses. What happens to us is that we are ‘born from heaven’. What happened to me was that I was born from above, that is born from heaven. I was brought into that heavenly realm. This is what happens to all those who experience His Presence deep within in a new and real way.

Naturally speaking, the place where one is born always holds a special place in one’s life. Having been born in a particular city and spent one’s childhood in the same city, a strange link or bond is established with the place of one’s birth. A relationship comes into being. In the spiritual it is not a strange link, but it is a strong link. When we are born from above, we establish a strong bond with the heavenlies. It’s a link that cannot be severed, nor does God ever want us to break that link. A most powerful work that the Spirit of God does is to bring this new, heavenly constitution into us and to make us know that our lives now belong to heaven and not to this earth! The work of the Spirit is to keep us continually linked to our birthplace, which is heaven. The Holy Spirit keeps telling us that we no longer belong to this world but that we are born from above.

Moses’ mother always told him, “You are not an Egyptian, you are a Hebrew.” The Holy Spirit also tells us that we are born from above. He says, “My son, my daughter, wherever you may be, you do not belong to this place. You are born from above.” What was Moses lead to do as a result of his mother’s whisperings? Moses chose to suffer with God’s people. He chose to suffer with his Hebrew brethren much before he met God at the burning bush. He chose to suffer with God’s people rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. **The Holy Spirit has a tremendous ministry to remind us that we are born from**

above. He strengthens our link with our birth place. That is why the Apostle Paul says that our citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20). We are born from above and our citizenship is in heaven. To be a citizen of heaven signifies that God is working in our lives and that we have entered the realm of God's workings. Look at these verses:

Ps 87:4 "I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there."

Ps 87:6 "The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah."

I thank God for the psalmist who says, 'this man was born there'. The Holy Spirit says to us that we were born there in that heavenly Jerusalem. He says we do not belong to this world. And we ought to know this. **If we settle down in this world and are satisfied with all that goes on in this world, we shall know nothing about this work of the Spirit.** Therefore, let us not grieve the Holy Spirit. This is what the Lord said, *"I will send you another Comforter."* Why did He say this? **The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to link us to our birthplace in heaven, for we were born there!**

Dearly beloved, this is what it means to come to New Jerusalem. New Jerusalem is no longer an abstract idea, nor is it an imaginary symbol. It is a powerful reality in the daily life of a true Christian. We are not going to the city of New Jerusalem, but we are that city. May we give ourselves to the Holy Spirit to do this work in us!



Sorrow no more, Jerusalem,
discard your rags of shame!
take off your crown as a gift from God
who has called you by his name.
Put off your sin, and wear the robe
of glory in its place;
you will shine in his light,
you will share in his joy,
you will praise his wonderful grace.

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THE CITY- A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has opened our eyes in these meditations to understand the reality of the city of God in some measure. Now it is your responsibility to make certain that this Word is worked upon in your own life. The Apostle Paul counseled Timothy to *“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.”* (2 Tim 1:13-14,). The word ‘keep’ here also means to **maintain** that which has been given to him. We are to maintain and preserve those things that the Lord has brought us into. The Holy Spirit is always available to us to help us. We need to constantly seek His help. And we can be sure that the Holy Spirit will give us a fresh understanding of the things the Lord has committed unto us to so that we are able to maintain that deposit in us. He will remind us and

bring us into those things. Let us not be those who merely rejoice in all that the Lord has done, but also maintain that deposit that the Lord has given by the Holy Spirit. So we return thanks to God for every eye that has been opened and every heart that has been convicted. We thank the Lord for the position and ground to which He has brought us through the Holy Spirit. We thank God that we are no longer living in the realm of symbolism but that we have come to the realities of those symbolic things in our lives.

THE SPIRITUAL VERSUS THE LITERAL

Revelation 21

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

In Chapter 21 of Revelation, we find the key to everything in God's plan and economy. These Scriptures open up precious truths to us though they are given at the closing stages of the Bible. Through these Words, we are able to see what God is working towards and what God wants to do in our lives by bringing the fullness of His Son into manifestation in His church. The things we are considering and contemplating are not literal things but spiritual things and divine matters. Many times people think we end up spiritualizing everything, but it is not so. We are delving into things which are purely and wholly spiritual and not literal

in any way. These are spiritual things for a spiritual people. Many are holding to the thought that the heavenly city is a natural and literal city. But I wish to hold my stand and position with the help of the Holy Spirit. **This city represents a spiritual people.** There is much in the Scriptures to justify that.

Revelation 21

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

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

Let us examine these Scripture portions a little more closely. John saw “the *holy city* coming down from God....*prepared as a bride*”. The Spirit of God then showed him that the bride is none other than the Lamb’s wife. When he came closer, he saw a city coming down from above; and he saw that it was the Lamb’s wife! The City is the Bride—the Bride is the Wife of the Lamb. These terms are used interchangeably to speak of the same thing! So these words written here are not talking of literal things but of spiritual things. These words speak of a people.

Revelation 5

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the

earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

When John, the apostle, saw the angel, he wept much but one elder told him not to weep but to behold the **Lion** of the tribe of Judah. And when John turned to see the lion, he saw a lamb! “And behold and lo...stood a lamb.” There is nothing in common between a lion and a lamb. We can only explain these things if we lay hold and grasp the spiritual principles. The terms and terminologies mentioned in these verses are not literal in any way. We need to realize that these words from the Book of Revelation do not represent something literal. They represent not literal, but spiritual things. They refer to things which have a great spiritual significance and deep meaning. **These things are to be understood spiritually and experienced deep within.** Like the Apostle John, God’s people must always be concerned with the spiritual meaning that lies behind material or natural things.

Permit me to repeat some of these things because

they are of tremendous import to spiritual people. John saw a city coming down. The Holy Spirit said to him, "*Come, I will show you the Lamb's wife.*" When he drew closer to see the Lamb's wife, he found that what he saw was a city. We can only get into these things when the Holy Spirit shows them to us. This is what the Spirit would say to us even today, "Come, I will show you the Lamb's wife." Beloved, we need to turn to the Spirit for the Spirit to open up the meaning of the mysteries of God and to see the spiritual principles behind them.

The Gospel of John reveals something very marvelous. The apostle John was always concerned about the spiritual meaning of all that Jesus did. He called the miracles and wonders of Jesus – 'signs'. He saw them as 'signs' of great significance. Whenever the Lord performed a miracle or healed someone, John looked upon His deed as a 'sign'. John wanted to indicate that the Lord's miracles and works were actually spiritual signs. They were signs pointing towards certain things in the realm of the Spirit. When Jesus healed a man who had been bedridden for thirty eight years (John 5), John looked upon that as a sign to indicate that Jesus could take a spiritually crippled person and make him whole; He could give him power to walk a new kind of life. May the Lord help us to take hold of these things! It is essential that we see the spiritual meaning of all that Jesus did. In the Book of Revelation there are many signs, such as the city and New Jerusalem, but they refer to something spiritual that we need to see by the Spirit of God. Every part of the city signifies something spiritual, something in relation to the reality and substance of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 21

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

John was “carried away in the Spirit” to a great and high mountain. Spiritually all this means is that he was alive in the Spirit. I would like to underline that phrase – **alive in the Spirit**. When the Holy Spirit took him to a great and high mountain, he was alive in the Spirit. In spiritual terms it simply means that at that time John was fully alive to the Spirit. **Physically, John was on the island of Patmos, but in the spirit he was on a high mountain.** He was not physically lifted to a high mountain, nor did he escape his captivity in Patmos. Had it been so, the Roman Empire would have spared no effort to search him out. John did not go anywhere physically. No never. To be alive in the Spirit is a spiritual expression that talks of an experience that John had in the spirit. It might be that John had a vision, but this much is certain that it was not something natural or physical. John had a true, genuine spiritual experience! In the natural this is akin to having a dream. Physically one does not go anywhere in a dream, yet one has a feeling of going somewhere. **This is truer in the spiritual realm where one may not go anywhere physically, and yet the Spirit can take one into divine realms to show heavenly things which are absolutely real, true and eternal!**

Some of the things which I am going to share may sound preliminary, foundational and elementary. However, it is in some of these things that the majority is ignorant about what they experience. Therefore it is necessary that a strong foundation be laid in these matters. So do not fail to open your heart to the ministration of the Holy Spirit as you continue to read on.

There are two important considerations that are fundamental to our lives. **The first is that the Holy Spirit is a great reality.** Though we all believe that the Holy Spirit is a reality and dynamic factor in our lives, yet we need to go beyond that fact and actually experience the present reality of the Spirit. Even though He is a great reality, you cannot see Him or hear Him with your natural eyes or ears. **You cannot know the reality of the Holy Spirit until something happens within you!** Something has to happen inside us. This is what we read in Chapter 3 of the Gospel of John. The Lord Jesus said this very thing to Nicodemus, *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again.”* (John 3:5-7).

We can only come into a place of seeing and hearing the Holy Spirit after something definite has taken place inside us. Many know of the Holy Spirit as a fact; many know that the Spirit of God is living and active, but one has to go from there to a place of experiencing Him as a reality. Jesus knew what Nicodemus was going through. He told Nicodemus that something would happen inside him. Only then could

Nicodemus be released into the kingdom of God, which is a realm of the Spirit. **The reality of the realm of the Spirit can only be experienced after something has taken place within us.** This may sound basic and fundamental but this is where many of us commit a mistake. This matter must be sorted out before we can move forward in our spiritual lives. Though we may know that the Holy Spirit is living inside us, the reality of the Holy Spirit is missing in many cases. We will see this more clearly as we progress. Let us, therefore, have the right mentality and not take the Spirit of God for granted. If we are careful not to be presumptuous, we will be able to see what the Spirit has for us.

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Let me ask you what is born of the Spirit? Sometimes, the very fragments of foundational truths that we have heard time and time again, are taken for granted with the result that we remain ignorant of many spiritual depths. That is why we need the Holy Spirit to help us. *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* Man is body, soul and spirit. Adam’s spirit died the day he sinned though he was alive in the body and soul. The generations of man after Adam have all been born with a spirit that is dead (separated from God). **The dead spirit of man can only be brought to life again by the working of the Spirit of God.** So when a person is born again, his dead is made alive in him. He is born of the Spirit and is alive to God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and what is born of the Spirit is spirit and spiritual. We can only enter the realm of His kingdom and come closer to God when something happens in us and that which is dead within

us is raised up by the Spirit of God. This is a fundamental truth, but many are ignorant of its reality in their lives.

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT

The truth that we need to reckon with is that when we are born again our spirit is brought into union with Christ. This is both positional and experiential. This is a tremendous work of God in a believer's life. **"Being alive in the Spirit" means being in union with God experientially and practically and actively.** This is what the Scriptures teach us. This is the second fundamental regulation in our lives. To be born again **means being alive unto God to His Divine things.** The entry point to all that is of the Heavenly realm is when we are born again of the Spirit of God. But, this 'aliveness' is to be maintained by each believer in Christ; it is not automatically sustained.

If we take hold of these principles and turn to Revelation 21, we will be able to understand that for John to be carried to a great and high mountain simply meant that his spirit was alive to the Spirit of God at that time. He was **actively alive** in the spirit to the Holy Spirit. As believers we know that our dead spirit has been made alive in God, **but the problem with many of us is that our spirits are not actively alive to the Holy Spirit. One's spirit may be alive by virtue of one's born again experience, but many a time the spirit that has been made alive within is not actively alive to the Holy Spirit.** This is where God's people miss receiving what the Holy Spirit has for us. Therefore, we need to examine our lives critically to see whether that which was

true for John is also true for us or not. **If our spirit is actively alive to the Spirit of God, we too will see new things in our lives.** Often we are not able to see and receive fresh spiritual realities because the spirit within us is not actively alive to the Spirit of the Lord. That is why we miss many things that God wants to reveal and unveil to us.

John says, *“In the Spirit I saw the New Jerusalem.”* The Spirit of God showed him something when his spirit was aligned to the Spirit. The Spirit will do the same work in each one of us if our spirit is actively alive to the Holy Spirit. Do you believe that? We will see the things that the Spirit will reveal to us. A new thing will happen in our lives. God’s people have repeatedly failed to realize this. Many believers are born again, baptized in water, and even baptized of the Spirit, but they are not able to see that it is necessary to be actively alive and in union with the Holy Spirit day after day. Many still think that having been born-again they have ‘got it all’. They think that by virtue of their new life everything thereafter follows automatically. We must realize that there is something vital we need to move into these days by the working of the Spirit. **Our spirit must be actively alive to the present workings of the Holy Spirit** and then and then alone will you and I be able to say, like John, *“In the spirit I saw...”*

When the apostle John lay imprisoned, cast off and abandoned in the Isle of Patmos, he was far from discouraged and depressed. He was not thinking of the good old days when he walked beside the Lord Jesus Christ day after day. Though the natural man always has a tendency to think of the achievements of the past, John’s imprisonment on the

lonely island was not able to keep him down or defeat him. John's past was packed with great and grand spiritual events, but spiritual men like the apostle John and the Apostle Paul were not concerned with the commonplace things of their past. **They were mainly concerned with the spiritual things that lay ahead.** We need to be spiritual men who look to the things of the Spirit. All the apostles had made great sacrifices and suffered death in horrible ways, and John, as the last of the 'twelve' apostles, could have easily been totally engrossed and absorbed in thinking of the kind of death and suffering he would have to experience. But in those **lonely moments on the isle of Patmos, the Scriptures say that John was alive in the spirit and to the Spirit.** Many people often carry a spirit that is bogged down in self-concern and self-centeredness. Consequently they lose the opportunity to be in total union with the Spirit. To be alive in one's spirit to the Spirit of God is to be one with the burden of the Spirit and with the present Word of God. It is not enough to say that we are born again; it is not enough to proclaim that our spirit is alive; it is not enough to have had several good spiritual experiences in the past. **What we need to have is a spirit that is actively alive to God and to the present work of God, here and now.**

John was shown something by the Spirit of God. And let that be your testimony – the Spirit showed me! May it be that we are able to say that He showed me this or that by the Spirit. This is what is meant by the reality of the Holy Spirit. It is more than a cold fact of teaching. It is a matter of knowing the Holy Spirit in the reality of life. He is a great reality. Our spirit can be alive to Him for He is a person and not a thing. The Holy Spirit will do with all of us that which

He did with John, if we are a part of God's purpose, as John was in his day. **The Holy Spirit will reveal to us the things that are in God's purposes today, just as He revealed God's will to John.** Then we too will say of a reality that the Spirit has shown this and that to us. It would be a reality and not a figment of our imagination.

Beloved, God is no respecter of persons. This Christian life is more than routines and rituals. We need to make sure that all that we do does not turn out to be something that is lifeless and dead. **Remember that anything can turn out to be dead if your spirit is not aligned to the Spirit of God at that given time.** Let us consider, for example, the gathering of saints to worship the Lord. **All may be singing the same songs of worship, but the difference lies in how actively alive they are in their spirits with the Holy Spirit at that point of time.** One could have a spirit that is actively alive to the Spirit of God, while at the same time, at the same place, another person's spirit could be wrapped up in the concerns of the world and the self. **One may be going through the routine of singing, while the other touches divine depths in the Spirit; one may be singing loudly and so religiously, while the other may be lost in silent awe of the move of the Holy Spirit because his spirit is active in Him.** Our worship can only be alive when our spirit is actively alive to the Spirit of God. Our worship can only please God if we are in union with the Holy Spirit.

Look at the tragedy of the worship of God's people today! The letter of the Word may say that only those who are born-again can worship the Lord. **Does this mean that any song sung by born-again worshippers is true worship**

unto God? This is the deception that exists in many churches today. This is where many need to be delivered. **The spirit that is alive within the worshipper has to be actively alive to the Spirit of God, to His mind, to His workings, and to and His thoughts.** Or else our worship will be nothing but dead! Many people gather with a sincere desire to sing and worship the Lord but nothing happens within them! We need to know what the Holy Spirit desires of us. The Holy Spirit is a great reality in our lives today. He is the custodian of God's eternal purpose. May we be delivered of religious routines and traditional mentalities and exercises! Our spirit has to be actively alive to the Spirit of God. It is a walk with God in the Spirit. I have seen this happening in the midst of God's people. **While the Holy Spirit is powerfully in the midst of some saints, nothing seems to be happening in some lives. On one hand, many are moved and touched by the Lord, but at the same time and place, there is a deadness in the lives of many others.** Why? Because the spirit within them is not alive to that which the Holy Spirit was doing at that time. **Their spirit is undoubtedly alive, but they failed to be actively alive to the move of the Spirit at that point of time.**

Many people desire to know God's will, but they cannot know it because their spirit is not alive to the Spirit of God. If your spirit is alive to the Holy Spirit in your daily life, God will reveal His mind and His will to you. It is a great tragedy that the majority of believers are not alive in their spirit to the Holy Spirit when the Spirit wants to do something in their lives. May the Lord help us to lay this principle as a foundation in our lives so that as God's remnant we would be always actively alive in our spirit to the Holy Spirit! The lives of

great men of God, who walked in step with God in their generation, seem great and wonderful to us today because they were people who lived in God's presence, aligned and tuned to the mind of the Spirit. Often we desire to be like them and even pray that our lives may follow the pattern of their lives, but we fail to align our lives to that which is of the Spirit as they did. Is there a spiritual principle that will help us to come into their level of a higher life with God? What should we do to enter into that higher realm and place in God?

IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT OF THE WORLD

The lives of great men of God, who walked in step with God in their generation, seem to be great and wonderful to us today because they were people who lived in God's presence, aligned and tuned to the mind of the Spirit. Often we desire to be like them and even pray that our lives may follow the pattern of their lives. Is there a spiritual principle that will help us to come into their level of a higher life with God? What should we do to enter into that higher realm and place in God? May the Lord help us to be actively alive to the Spirit to reveal that principle as we meditate further!

In Rev 21:10, we read, "And he carried me away in the *spirit to a great and high mountain*". There is a spiritual principle here that is very vital for us today. Many times we have a desire to reach out to the heights in God, but find that our sincere desires are not enough to meet our needs. **What the Lord reveals to you depends on how high you have climbed the mountain. The higher you climb the more**

God is able to reveal to your heart. This is an important principle. What we are reckoning here is a spiritual mountain and not a literal one. What is this mountain that we are called to ascend to the maximum height? **It just means getting away from the world. When you ascend the mount you leave the world behind. This talks of separating ourselves from the present world. The height we gain is related to the distance we would have moved away from this present world.**

We see this principle actively demonstrated in the life of the Lord. He totally separated Himself from this world and its pressures and demands (Matthew 5:1, 14:23, and 15:29). The Spirit called John to a great and high mountain, to a place separated from the world and its influences. In the natural, mountains are places where we can separate ourselves from much of the noise and activity of the world. Many men who walked with God, many of the people who became instruments of recovery for God's name, many men who upheld the testimony of Christ, were men who moved to great heights on mountains separated from the present world. What the Lord reveals to you will depend upon how high you have climbed the mountain. Often we are not able to keep ourselves away from the present world and ascending the mountain remains a wishful desire. It is true that many believers find it difficult to leave the world behind and be totally separated from it and its demands. However, it is equally true that **we can never see heavenly and the spiritual things until we have been separated from the world in some measure.** It is sad to see so many things of this world entering into the lives of God's people. It is tragic to see so much worldliness occupying the priorities of God's people. All of us

are quite familiar with the meaning of worldliness; no purpose will be served by trying to define it. If we are serious about this life with the Spirit of God, which is a reality, and if we are alive to the Spirit of God in a real sense, then we would know what worldliness is because the Holy Spirit will caution us time and time again. This new life in Christ is not a dead law. The Holy Spirit will help us if our spirit is alive to the Holy Spirit, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

Separation from the world is not a matter of age and years in the Lord. I know many believers who were saved several years ago, but they were not able to separate themselves from the influence of earthly things and the corruption of worldliness. Their interests in worldly affairs are still active in them and occupy a large place in their lives.

John 17

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

May these words of Jesus Christ go deep into us so that we are alive to the Spirit at this point of time! The Amplified Bible says, “*They are not worldly, belonging to the world, just as I am not of the world.*”

This is what the Lord Jesus said in His high priestly prayer to the Father. Concerning His true disciples He says, “*Father they are not of this world (or worldly), nor do they belong*

to the world, even as I am not of the world.” That is what the Lord says to us – we do not belong to this world and to the things of this world. **This world is not the place to live our lives.** This world is not the place we live in; it is not the place where our lives are to be spent. **Our life is above.** That is what John’s Gospel is all about. We are not of this world, we are not a worldly people, nor do we belong to this world. **So this spiritual life is not a matter of age or of years in His service, but of separation from this world. What is crucial is how much we have separated from this world and climbed this mountain!**

The Spirit took John to a high and great mountain. **The people who constitute and inhabit the New Jerusalem will never be an earthly people. In the New Jerusalem that comes down from above there will be nothing earthly. It will consist only of people who are separated and set apart from this world.** Though there are many believers who have been in the Lord for many years, their inclinations, acquisitions, thoughts and schemes are aligned to the world and to the spirit or mind of the world. But at the same time, I have seen young ones in the Body of Christ who have ascended this mountain to great heights. They are a challenge to those who have been lingering in the lower reaches for many years. The reason these young enthusiasts have been able to reach new heights on the mountain is **that they had made a determined and early effort to bid farewell to the things of this world.** They were deeply convicted of the necessity to do so in order to move on in their spiritual lives. So it is not a matter of age and years, but it is a matter of being alive in the spirit to the Spirit who convicted

them. **The farther and higher you are from this world, the better you are able to see the things of the Lord and His Kingdom!**

Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

What a counsel of God! The Amplified Bible says,

“If then you have been raised with Christ to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead, aim at and seek the rich eternal treasures above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”

In our lives we are not to seek for the things of this world, but for the things that come from above. In other words the Apostle Paul tells us, “Come let us leave this world aside and climb this hill in our lives. Let us move higher up in the life of separation from this world. Come up to the place where Christ is – far away from all worldliness. We are not of this world, even as He is not of this world.”

My prayer is that the Holy Spirit would make this Word real to us because we are alive in the Spirit to Him. Saints of God, be sensitive and be alive to the Holy Spirit and separate yourselves from this world. This mountain is ours to climb from the very first day that we meet the Lord. Be utterly devoted in your endeavor to reach the highest realm on this mountain. Be totally committed to a life of separation from this world in the great purpose of God. May I say emphatically that **this life in the Spirit is a matter of union with Christ. It is not a matter of years or of age. Though**

some of us may be young in age, we can nevertheless climb great heights if we say “good bye” very specifically to this world! If you are utter about this matter, this mountain will be yours!

THE LAW OF FRUSTRATION

This world lies under a terrible curse. The Lord has pronounced a curse upon this world where Satan is the prince. What is the explanation of this curse? **The law of frustration works or operates in this world which is cursed. Though man has done many things and made many attempts to break the sound barrier of frustration, yet they have not been able to do so.** Man with all his knowledge of science, development, technology, and psychological research, has not been able to make a break through; man has not been able to cross the sound barrier of frustration. Nor will man ever be able to do so. The wisdom of man will fail. The law of frustration will continue to work in this world and every effort to have peace will continue to fail for **there can be no peace in the world without the Prince of Peace.** So when people will say, “Peace, Peace”, a sudden destruction will come upon the earth. This is God’s word to us. **As this world is under a curse and the law of frustration is at work, immorality will increase and eventually mature.** This is what we see all around us.

What should God’s children do in this hour? Our calling is to be a part of His remnant on the earth, to be a part of this heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God whose maker and builder is God. We have got to be alive, ever

actively alive in our spirits to the Holy Spirit. **Every child of God who is sensitive to the Holy Spirit will know that something is wrong when they touch this world. Their reaction will be, “I have come down”, “I am missing something, “I am losing something”. If you touch something of this world, you will sense and know that you are touching an accursed thing. You will get the smell of death there.** But on the contrary, what do we see believers and leaders doing in Christendom today? It is a sad story of compromising with the world, its ways, its principles, its philosophies and its values.

Saints, you will experience something in your spirit if you are actively alive to the Spirit. **The Holy Spirit is a great reality.** God has given us His precious Holy Spirit, sent of God, to produce this divine nature in our lives. This is more than just imagination, or wishful thinking. He is here to bring us into the very life of the Son, realistically.

Until we move to higher ground, which means greater separation from this world, and **until we go above the fog of this world, we will not be able to see the things of God. May we ever maintain our spiritual lives at altitudes and heights that amount to a deeper separation from the things of this world, and its order, philosophy, system, and values!**

Beloved, the law of frustration is actively at work in the world. If you want to see it, get into the world. **If you descend to the self and the life of the self, you will meet with frustration.** Just get into the things of this world in but a tiny measure and you will be faced with frustration and

confusion. It matters little whether you are rich, educated, or wealthy, but if you look around and taste the things of this world, you cannot help touching frustration. This is the truth. We are not talking about imaginary things. If you have risen with Christ then seek those things that are above. We are born from above and we need to remain in those mountainous realms. **If you touch the world, all you will get is frustration. And you will miss the things of God.** Until you get to reaches that are above the world and remain in that altitude and place of separation, alive to the Spirit of God, you will never be able to experience His presence or walk in union with Him. This is a stark reality.

John said that he saw something heavenly when he was in the Spirit upon a great and high mountain. He saw the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of God. He said, "I saw." He saw things in the realm of God. The only way to see things in the realms of God is to ascend the mountain and be open to the Spirit of God. In these last days, God has much to show and reveal to us. God is working after the counsel of His own heart. **The Lord wants to show us the great end towards which He is moving in the lives of His people. The divine end is the expression of His divine nature in His people. That divine end, that divine nature, has been brought to us in His Son. The Holy Spirit has come to reproduce the Son in us; He has come to make Christ alive in the Church today!** God is not doing two things today. He is only doing one thing in the earth.

We thank God that the He is still saving people today. I believe in evangelism – in getting people to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour and in bringing people into God's great

salvation. After salvation, it is the burden of the Holy Spirit to conform all of God's people to the image and likeness of His Son. So God is not doing two things. He is only doing one thing. And every endeavor of evangelism is linked to this work of the Holy Spirit to conform every believer to the likeness and the image of God's Son. Yes, God is doing only one thing. This is what we see in Chapter 21 of Revelation – a people coming into the place of the divine nature of Jesus Christ, God's Son. God is doing only one thing – bringing a people into the likeness and image of His Son that they may be partakers of His divine nature. Then His people shall come into a place that satisfies His own divine nature. Surely there will be a people who will possess the glory of God!

The end of the work of the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of Christ in and through the Church!

May we yield our lives to the Lord and may this Word become a strong foundation in our lives!



See! the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love;
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove:
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst t' assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver,
Never fails from age to age.

-JN

THE CITY OF GOD'S LOVE

THEY SING A NEW SONG

The preciousness of the call and purpose of God in Christ is unique and distinctive. Though we all have been raised up in Christ, not many are in a place of hearing God. Therefore, we must ceaselessly pray that our spirits may be made alive to the Holy Spirit, so that through the working of the Holy Spirit we may remain in a place of hearing and obeying God.

***Rev 14:3** And they sung as it were a new song before the throne and before the four beast and before the elders and no man could learn that song.*

We thank God for opening our eyes to see the New Jerusalem, the Holy City, which the apostle John saw coming down from heaven. The Spirit of God has made it very clear

that New Jerusalem is not a city in the literal sense. It is a symbolic representation of Jesus Christ and His church. Moreover, **it is a present reality, a reality into which the Lord is bringing His people.** The Lord wants to bring His people into a new ground in the Son. God wants to give them a new understanding of spiritual things. The Spirit is doing a new work in their lives so that they would sing a new song in these days. May the Holy Spirit open up the things we have not been able to understand so far. There is newness in what we express because there is a new working of God. Now let us not sing merely because we love the tune or the words of a song, but let us be found singing a new song because there is a fresh working of the Spirit of God deep within us.

In the Amplified Bible, Rev 14:3 quoted above, is rendered in the present continuous tense, which implies that this is continuously taking place now.

“And they sang a new song before the throne (of God) and before the four living creatures and before the elders (of the heavenly Sanhedrin). No one could learn (to sing) that song except the 144,000 who had been ransomed (purchased, redeemed) from the earth.”

The people of God are singing a new song. **They are singing it now and it is taking place currently.** They are singing it before the throne of God. No one can learn to sing that song except the 144,000 who have been redeemed. **Those who are singing this ‘new song’ are not trying to catch up with the words or the tune, but they are allowing the Spirit to do a new work in their lives.** This talks of a

working of God in the lives of some people, so that now they may sing a new song unto the Lord. They are able to sing a new song because they are open to the Holy Spirit for a fresh work of the Spirit in their lives. **It is a new song that is sung out of the life they possess, and it's new because it comes out of a fresh working of the Spirit!**

No man can learn this song. This song has to be learnt from the way God is working in our lives. We cannot catch up at the last minute. God is working in the midst of a people in these days, a people who are utterly sensitive and available to the Holy Spirit. May God find you and me to be a part of this remnant church that sings a new song because there are fresh workings of God in their lives. Let us be those who are prepared to sing a new song in our lives because there are fresh workings of God in our lives. **We may sing an old hymn that we have been singing for many years, but that very song has now become a 'new song' because we are singing it afresh in the deep, present, workings of God in our lives!**

Being born again, our spirit is now alive. Yet, many times, we see that our spirit is not actively alive towards the present workings of the Holy Spirit. **If spiritual things in you appear to be dead, it is because your spirit is not actively alive, alert and linked to the Spirit of God at this time.** Many believers are found in this place today. In worship we need to be active to the presence of God and to the working of the Spirit at this present point of time. Many say that we must worship God by uniting our hearts. **Remember, unity is not always the product of the Spirit of God.** We all know that it is easy to unite our hearts to do

things unto the Lord, many of which are not of the Spirit. **We can be united and yet be far away from the working of the Spirit at a precise moment of time.** David and all the brethren gathered together and said “*Let us bring the Ark of our God back to us*” (1 Chronicles 13:3). They were in agreement and in unity for a good cause and yet they were insensitive to the Holy Spirit of God in what they were after.

In worship, what matters is not just unity or oneness of heart. **What really matters is that our spirits flow in the direction that the Spirit of God takes us, and that there is a unity in that which the Spirit is doing.** Our spirits should be united to do what the Holy Spirit prompts us to do; we should flow in the direction of His workings. So the issue is to be alive to the Holy Spirit and to His present workings in our midst. That is why the Word says, “*Endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit.*” Any other kind of man-generated unity will not help us to worship God; for our worship to edify one another (“John 4:24 says, “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*”). May God help us to be aware, awake, alive and active to the present working of the Spirit – be it in worship, in coming together, in our time with God or in the study of His Word.

THE IMMENSITY AND GREATNESS OF THE HOLY CITY

Hebrews 11

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

These verses indicate that the Father desires to show the House of Israel to the Israel of God! When there is a true repentance in our heart, He will show the house to the house of Israel. God will reveal every detail of His house to His people. We shall be persuaded of the things we behold with our spiritual eyes. Why have many believers not been persuaded to change and wholly follow the Lord? It is because they have not been able to 'behold' the spiritual things of His House. The beholding and seeing of the divine principles and precepts of His House, by His people, has not been as clear and lucid as it ought to be. We may not be able to see all the details, but if we see the concreteness of what God is holding before us it shall suffice. God will reveal the details at an appropriate time in our lives. If we are able to grasp and understand something of what God has for us, and what

He shall bring forth in due time, then we shall surely be persuaded of many things. For then, like Abraham we shall readily confess that we are also strangers and pilgrims upon the earth.

Revelation 21

15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

This Scripture tells us about the greatness of the Holy City that comes down from above. The apostle John saw this City in a vision. He saw an angel measuring the City with a golden reed which was held in his hand. The City was 12000 furlongs or 1500 miles in height, depth and width. It was a huge and high City! Can you imagine living in a city that has a height of 12000 furlongs or 1500 miles! It goes beyond the reach of our imagination! The measurements of the City show that this City was not like any city built by man! Furthermore, it was made of transparent gold! None of us have seen such a city! There has never been a city of that kind in the earth at any time! Beloved, in these verses we read of an expression of the Spirit of God concerning a heavenly and a spiritual City. The City was measured by a reed of pure gold. The City was made primarily of gold. **In the Bible, gold is symbolic of the divine nature of God.**

God's love is the supreme and most significant aspect

of the divine nature of God. Every thing that is of God is measured by the standard of His love. John saw the Holy City coming down from heaven having the glory of God. **The supreme thing about the glory of God is the love of God. The greatness of the City is synonymous with the greatness of God's love.**

Now let us look at the City a little more closely with the help of the Holy Spirit. The length, the breadth and the height of the great City measures 12000 furlongs each. The number twelve always signifies the government of God. **So the measurement of this City talks about a people who have the love of God and who live under the government of God.**

Hebrews 12

5 "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”

Here we find a people living under the government of His love. They are open to the corrections and disciplines of the Lord. They are being worked upon as sons by a loving Father so that they may grow up to express the Father's character. Saints, if you and I want to be a part of this City, in reality, this Scripture passage has to be worked into our lives experientially until we also exhibit His character and nature. The majority of believers look out for an easy life, a self-satisfying life, and a life that is wanting of any correction or discipline. You and I cannot overlook the principle that the City of God is 12000 furlongs high, long and wide, which represents the full government of God over our lives. Every chastening and disciplining we experience comes from His great love, the purpose of which is to produce His life in us. God's people have repeatedly failed to understand and accept this and have thus remained unchanged in many ways. This is the reason many believers have failed to display the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. But the city, the people in Revelation, they have experienced the great love of God in their own lives.

In other words this City is the love of God in Christ Jesus, expressed in a redeemed people and manifested in His fullness. This is something that the Holy Spirit wants

to bring to us in these days. My prayer is that God would open our eyes to see the dimensions of this great City and to come into a place of experiencing His enormous love for the redeemed people of God. As the singer says,

*“We fall down, we lay our lives,
at the feet of Jesus,
The greatness of, His mercy and love,
at the feet of Jesus,
We cry Holy, Holy, Holy;
We cry Holy, Holy, Holy,
We cry Holy, Holy, Holy;
is the Lamb!”*

If the measurements of the city go much beyond the natural conceptions of man, if it is difficult to conceive the dimensions of this City in our natural mind : the love of God in Christ Jesus is also completely beyond our imagination! So enormous, so mammoth and so immense! This is what the Spirit of God wants us to see with our spiritual eyes, for it is something that lies far beyond our natural ability to understand and conceive. Just as it is quite beyond our ability to visualize a city having those measurements, so also it is beyond our understanding to know the love of God. God wants us to know that the ‘love of God’ in Christ, extends to the infinite; it goes beyond our imagination. Only the Holy Spirit can open our eyes to see the extent of God’s great love. **This immense City, called New Jerusalem, is a symbol of the immensity of God’s love. Beloved, this City is you and me, individually and corporately.** May we be apprehended afresh by the love

of God as we progress with this study.

The Lord wants us all to have a new understanding of the greatness of His love. God is bringing His people into a revelation of the love of God. He wants us to begin to apprehend the love of God in Christ towards every one of us. This City is the full expression of the love of God. Today there are many who talk of God's love, but they measure it in terms of what they can get from Him. They see it only in terms of a self centered life that is steeped in their own needs and desires. They are seldom open to correction or discipline. They only interpret God's love in terms of liberty to do what they want to do and to live the way they want to. Yet they want God be good to them. God's love is something that is greatly misinterpreted and misrepresented today. Our God is a God of many virtues. We know that God is love, but **His very love is many-sided. There is the sorrow of His love, the jealousy of His love, the wrath of His love, the chastening of His love, the disciplines of His love, the judgments of His love and yes, even the hatred of His love!** May the Lord open our eyes to see and know the many-sided love of God. As we progress in this meditation, may the Lord give us His grace to be open to the Holy Spirit to truly know of His love.

The Apostle Paul prayed that the Church may be rooted and grounded in love, that all the saints may apprehend the breadth, length, height and depth of the love of Christ, which passes all knowledge:

Ephesians 3

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;

that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

This certainly brings light to our souls. In these verses, Apostle Paul is talking about the same thing that Apostle John mentions in Revelation 21. He is talking about that City. The love of God surpasses knowledge just as this symbolic city is something altogether beyond knowledge. We cannot understand the extent of the love of God with our natural mind. These verses (Eph 3:17 & 18) from the Amplified Bible give us a better understanding of the love of God.

“May Christ through your faith (actually) dwell – settle down, abide, make his permanent home – in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love,

That you may have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints (God's devoted people, the experience of that love) what is the breadth and length and height and depth (of it);

(That you may really come) to know – practically, through experience for yourselves — the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge (without experience); that you may be filled (through all your being) unto all the fullness of God – (that is) may have the richest measure of the divine

Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself!”

Saints we need a fresh spiritual understanding and a clearer revelation of God’s love. The City talks about the greatness of His love. It is beyond human understanding. Do you know what the Apostle Paul says about this love? **He describes the greatness of this love as something that is beyond the greatest things known to human beings!** See what else Paul says about God’s love.

***Rom 8:35** “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”*

The Apostle Paul asks, “Who shall separate us from the love of God.” And then he poses a question, “Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” Paul does not say ‘what shall separate us...’ But ‘**who** shall separate us...’ However, significantly, no mention is made of any name or person!

It is a reality that these situations of tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and the sword are brought to us by the enemy of our soul to separate us from the love of God. Apostle Paul’s list of calamitous situations makes mention of some of the major occurrences of human life. To the natural man tribulations, trials and sufferings are very great things. They are the tallest things in their lives. It is the same with believers today. **Reflecting on the greatness of God’s love the Apostle says that the love of God is taller than the tallest of one’s tribulation**

or suffering. However, in the lives of many believers today, their local situations assume greater proportions and seem to be taller than God's love! Such people need to come to know the true ground of God's love in Christ. **Beloved, our eyes need to be opened to see that our problems, that always appear to be so large to us, are smaller than the love of God.** The Apostle Paul was able to see that nothing — no persecution nor trial, no distress nor difficulties, could ever measure to the immensity of God's love.

Christians today are easily separated from the love of Christ! Sometimes, it seems that anything and everything separates some believers from the love of Christ. The least amount of trouble, the slightest difficulty, and the smallest trial causes some believers to walk away from the love of Christ. This clearly shows that some believers do not really come into a true apprehension of the love of God. They talk glibly about the love of God and yet in the face of minuscule situations, the first thing they question is God's love for them. They wonder, "If God really loves me why do I have to suffer in this way?" This plainly reveals that they have not yet come into a true revelation of His love for us. Often our tribulations and problems appear to be bigger than God's love for us; our distress, sorrow and suffering also seem to be greater than God's love.

Beloved, God has manifested His great love towards us in giving us His Son, who died for us. The love of God in Christ Jesus is the greatest expression of His love. Our lives will be totally changed if we are able to see the depths of the love of God for us. If there would be just a tiny dawning of the great love of God towards us, there would be a great

change in our whole attitude, behavior and demeanor. Many see the love of God only in terms of the Lord Jesus Christ dying for us on the cross. **However, our eyes need to be opened to see all that the Father has done to include rebellious man in the provisions of His great and eternal purposes.** Surely, therein, we see the greatness of His love!

Let us not conclude that we are well aware of the love of God. We know how badly we have reacted to some situations we have faced. The Apostle Paul says, "Who shall separate us?" Situations and circumstances in the lives of most people always appear to be greatest and tallest to them. Yes, to the natural man the self assumes the highest and greatest dimension. **To most people, the self is taller than the love of God.** And although God's people speak much about God's love, the truth is that many of them are still blind to the reality. How true this was concerning Israel in the wilderness. **They experienced the love of God in their deliverance and in their sustenance but they wanted no more of His love; they refused the depths and the heights and the depths of His great love.** They murmured and rebelled and were not open to receive more of His grace and love. I see a similar attitude in God's people today; they are in a place no different to the Israelites. They only want deliverance and the sustenance, a life free of encumbrances and responsibilities. They refuse to accept the greatness of God's love and all that He has purposed for them in His Son. They have no desire to know the greatness of His love. What a tragedy and great deception this is! **They talk of His love that brought them deliverance and sustenance, but they refuse the greatness of His love that is to bring them into all His**

fullness. What blindness has struck God's people today!

Remnant of God, may we realize that all our situations, be they a matter of tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or the sword, are nothing compared to the love of God for us. God's love is bigger and taller and greater than all of them. Every situation we experience in our life, every calamity, every mishap, every rejection, every persecution, every reproach, every misfortune and disaster *seems to be* taller than this City of New Jerusalem, which is the love of God towards His people. But saints, our eyes must be opened. Is it not true that when we go through a situation, when we struggle and battle, the first thing that the enemy wants us to question is the love of God toward us? We see our situation to be taller, wider, higher and deeper than the love of God! We need to change and have a fresh understanding of the love of God. May the Lord open our eyes!

NOR THINGS PRESENT, NOR THINGS TO COME

The apostle Paul's list in verse 35 of Romans 8 is not complete; he goes on to say a few more things in verse 38 that highlight the tendency of natural man to undervalue God's love.

Romans 8

*38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things
present, nor things to come,*

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The natural man considers death to have the most powerful influence upon his life. Death appears to be the final and the ultimate end of everything to man. It signifies the end of life. Man measures all things by death. But the Apostle Paul, prompted by the Holy Spirit, says **that the love of God is more powerful than even death.** Hallelujah!

Can you take this to heart? **For many people, death is the end force, the largest, the greatest and the tallest thing, but the Bible says that even death cannot separate us from the love of God. Death has no power to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus!** Can you truly believe this? Are you of the view that death is so powerful, so tall and high, and so immense that it overshadows Christ? The Apostle Paul says that this is not so; the love of God is more. Neither death nor life can separate us from His love. **Many people love their lives; they love life; all they want to do is to live. Their whole life is spent living unto themselves, unto their own interests and unto the extension of their own life.** But the Bible says that the love of God is far greater than our own lives. Many believers have been separated from the love of God and this great call of God in their lives, because they have loved their own self life more. They despise and reject anything and everything that comes in the way or that challenges the self life. Love of the self has separated them from this holy calling. Saints, we cannot be part of New Jerusalem, the Heavenly City, if we love our own lives, if we love the self life and if we want

our present lives to continue, unchallenged and unquestioned!

Paul goes on to say “... *nor angels neither powers nor principalities...*”, can match the love of the God. There are spiritual powers and authorities in high places that are ruling and governing the nations today. These spiritual forces and principalities are evil and therefore the nations are being subjected to their rule and order in the world. Today we see terrible things are happening all around us in the world for these powers and forces are in ascendancy. Demonic powers are in control of much of the world governments. In every place under the sun, we find the presence of powerful demonic forces ruling and dictating events. Compare this to what the Apostle Paul says in contrast. He says that the love of God is much greater and more powerful than all these powers and forces. Our eyes need to be opened to know the truth here.

In the days of Daniel, when powerful heathen kingdoms and nations were ruling the earth, there were some young men who realized the great power of the love of God. **They served the kings of the earth, but they saw that the love of God was higher and taller than the principalities and powers that governed the kingdoms of men.** The Scripture says:

Daniel 3

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace,

and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

The three young boys saw the love of God as something more powerful, more potent and much greater than any force and power that the rulers and kings of their generation had. **They were able to see that their God was taller and mightier than the kings of men and their powers.** We can say that in reality they saw the city whose builder and maker is God. They could not be separated from the love of God!

If our eyes are opened we shall see that the City, the New Jerusalem, is the immense love of God. The measurements of this City, its length, breadth, width and height, all reflect the greatness of the love of God. God has called us, redeemed us, purchased us and even sealed us by the Spirit because of His immense love for us. (Rom 8:29-30 says, “*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*”). We see how Paul’s eyes were really opened to the love of God in Christ Jesus. We also must begin to see that the dimensions of this City are higher, longer, deeper and wider than all our local situations and circumstances. May God help us!

Further, the Apostle Paul says “... *nor things present...*”

In the world around us many terrible things are happening. '*Things present*' can mean many things. There are plenty of *things present* today that are enough to frighten any one. I can't mention all the terrible things that are present today, but I know that even in spiritual circles many dreadful and unsavory things are taking place every day. We read about Demas in verse 10 of 2 Tim 4, "*For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.*" **To many believers the "*things present*" are more important and more significant than the love of God.** They see the things of God as something of the distant future, but what appear to be taller and more pertinent to them are the things which are present, visible, tangible and sensual. They are drawn away from God and drawn towards "*things present*". Though the Apostle Paul found that the '*things present*' could not separate him from the love of God, his co-laborer and friend Demas, who was a blessing to the ministry of Paul at one time, loved the present world, with all its attractions and temptations, rather than the love of God. The Living Bible says "...for Demas has left me. He loved the good things of this life and went to Thessalonica." He was a great help to Paul at one time (Col 4:14, Philemon 24). The present world is separating many believers from the things of God. They are leaving the purposes of God and going away from the workings of the Holy Spirit. '*Things present*' make many people to move away from God's call upon their lives. Saints, be open to the Holy Spirit to help you. Let us stay away from the present world of materialism to which many are bowing today. Let us be persuaded in our hearts that the love of God is higher than good living and the good things of this world.

Then Paul writes, ‘... *nor things to come*’. Even things to come could not separate him from the love of God. There are many prophesies about things that will come upon the earth in the future. Many fearful and terrible things are prophesied. The hearts of men shall fail. Such fear will grip them in the future. Many believers are fearful of those things. And there is a Christianity that says that a great tribulation will come upon the earth, and therefore, they are ready to pack their bags and leave. They have not seen the love of God. The love of God is taller than the tribulation that is to come upon the earth. It is greater than the fearful things that are to come in the future. God has given us many examples to encourage us.

The Lord would like to say to this generation that in the past He kept His people from every calamity. He has done it before. God preserved the children of Israel in the land of Goshen. They were fearful of all that was to happen to them when the Egyptians came under the judgments of God. That is the love of God. When those days shall come upon this earth, God is going to draw a line between His remnant people and those who are not part of His remnant. As the Scripture says, “*Many shall come on that day saying, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name cast out devils? And in name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity*” (Matthew 7:22-23). Many believers will be ashamed on that day when the Lord will draw a line between His remnant and the rest of the redeemed. Many will refuse the greatness of His love and reject this great call of God upon their lives. May we realize this when we talk about the love of God. **Many can sing love songs to God as long as**

their needs are met, but the true love of God will take them beyond their own needs. May God open our eyes! The love of God is beyond man's wisdom knowledge and understanding. This City is the expression of God's love and truly how great it is! Nothing can separate God's chosen remnant from the love of God.

The apostle John, who in Revelation 21 wrote that the love of God cannot be measured, also said in John 3:16 that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that all those who believe on Him should not perish but have eternal life. John made mention of a mere fragment of that great love of God in verse 16 of Chapter 3 of the Gospel of John, but in Revelation 21 John brings to light the great depths and heights to that love of God. The measurements of the City are only symbolic of the greatness of the love of God. **When God has done His work upon His remnant, they shall become an expression of His life for all eternity to come.** Eternity will show how great God's love is. We may not grasp or understand its depths right now, but we shall in eternity.

There are many who are outside the City; there are many people who have never accepted and given themselves to the great love of God. It is so sad that for all eternity they have lost this wonderful thing! Are you glad that you have accepted His love, experienced this love, and that you are in this City and even are this City? But let not your heart be content with this. Your prayer ought to be that the Lord may open your eyes to see the depth and the length and the breadth of His love. The Bible says that none of these things can ever separate us from His love. **There is no height that**

is higher than His love. We know of no depths to which He has not reached to find us and save us. He went deeper than the depths! Now we see the length to which He will go to lift up this humanity and to bring it into an expression of His very life in the earth!

THE STABILITY OF GOD'S LOVE

We need a spiritual apprehension of God's love or else we shall not make it to the end. If the measurements of the City represent the greatness of God's love, the immense City must be a very stable thing. His love is high and majestic, like the great mountains and hills that can be seen in some places. The mountains are awesome; they do not change; they do not move; they live forever. We may visit the mountains we see after several years but they remain the same; the mountains continue to be there. **We see how reliable the love of God is! It is so unchanging!**

Psalms 125

1 They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

2 As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.

In the verse 22, chapter 12, of the book of Hebrews, we read that we have come unto Mount Zion. Let us consider Psalm 125 in the light of that. **We have come unto the Mount means we have come unto the love of God.** It is a love that cannot be removed; it abides forever. It is unchanging. **Stability is a characteristic of divine love.**

Man's love is seen today and gone tomorrow. The prodigal son is an example of the divine love of God. He was the son of his father's love. He despised it, took his things by force and departed from that love. He spent all his father's resources in sinful living. He brought shame and dishonor to the father. But one day he repented with a true turning of his heart. He yearned for the love of his father. As he approached his father, he saw his father run toward him. **True repentance brings true restoration.** That is the stability of God's love. This is a true representation of God's love. We need to know that the love of God is utterly stable. The City is unmovable and stable. We have come to the love of God which cannot be removed. When things do not work out for us in some situation, difficulty or circumstance, it does not mean that God has forsaken us. Let us know about the stability of the love of God. The way in which Paul's eyes were opened to the love of God is seen in his expressions in the letter to the Ephesians. We can also read Romans 8 to see the way in which his eyes were opened.

The measurements of the City, the height, the length and the width are all the same. The City is equal on all sides. It is the same on the East and also on the West; the North and the South. Which ever way you see the City, it is the same. The Lord's love does not discriminate people. His love is not different and bigger towards people in any special part of the world. Many think that God loves those who live in some countries more than the rest. This is not true. **The measurement of the City is equal on all sides. The west is not higher than the east! The south is not higher than the north! His love is not 'special' for some people. |**

have heard people say that God loves others more than He loves them. But this is not so. God's love is the same. **God's love does not depend on where we live, or whether we are rich or poor, or whether we are educated or uneducated. God has no favorites. There is no partiality in the love of God.** Many believers think that God does not love them. However, **the City is equal on all sides.** We need to know how much He loves us today. How many accept this love of God? Many are still outside this love of God. The city is an immense City and yet some live on the outside. His love cannot be comprehended by man. The love of God is equal on every side the. **The Lord did not love the Apostle Paul more than He loves us. But the Apostle Paul appropriated the love of God more than we have. He saw the heights of God's love and he accepted it and received it.** But today there are many who refuse this love; there are many who are satisfied with the love they have received through their salvation. How much of His love have we received in our lives?

Many believers are like the children of Israel who had experienced God's great mercy and love. Yet, they do not appreciate His love, the greatness of His love, the stability of His love and the equality of His love. They love themselves more than the call of "*God's great love*". The older generation missed out the great call of "*God's great love*". The same thing is repeated today in the life of God's people. However, God shall have a remnant that will be this city, the New Jerusalem, the expression of His life in the earth! The words of Apostle Paul would be a living reality in their lives and they will say, "*... we are persuaded that neither death, nor life*

nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!" This remnant will experience the love of God under His government. **New Jerusalem, the city of God is His redeemed people in whom the love of God in Christ Jesus shall be made manifest in His fullness!** What a calling, saints of God! May the Lord open your eyes!



Sing and be glad, Jerusalem,
for God does not forget;
he who said he would come to save
never failed his people yet.
Though we are tempted by despair
and daunted by defeat,
our invincible Lord
will be seen in his strength,
and his triumph will be complete.

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THE WALL OF JASPER

THE GREAT END OF HIS WORK IN US

The Lord has been speaking a very serious word to us from the book of Revelation. He has been showing the ultimate things that God has for His people. It is important that we should clearly understand what the Lord wants to reveal to us. God's Word has been ministered to us in great depths in the previous chapters, and, therefore, it is good to ask ourselves, "What is this all about"? Many times, we are quick to appreciate God's Word, we readily acknowledge that the Spirit is doing something definite in our lives, and yet there is also a quick turning away from those things toward our own opinions, judgments, thoughts and ways. Therefore, we need to really endeavor in our spirits to hold on to the things we have heard by the

Holy Spirit and stay on the ground of His workings. This is the solemn responsibility of every believer.

We need to clearly know to what end and to what purpose the Lord is leading us through the ministration of His Word. Sometimes, it is necessary to ask ourselves whether the words we have heard have found a good ground in us. We need to look inward and ascertain whether the ministrations of the Spirit have brought forth lasting changes in us. Has the Spirit of God been able to touch our inward man in a way that brings forth lasting changes for the better? Has He done a good inward work that has led to some permanent change in our nature or character? Answering these questions will enable us to ascertain whether there has been real spiritual progress in our lives or not.

It is time for God's people to leave every kind of spiritual symbolism. The Lord used symbolism to lead to the truth. He used it to help us to understand what the Lord is speaking to us today. But an adherence to symbolism only will not bring us to the ultimate in His kingdom. **Beloved, we must also experience the reality of symbolism in our lives. It is time to move from the area of symbolism to the area of spiritual reality.** We need to constantly check whether we are moving toward the full reality of symbolism in our lives.

There is an end toward which the Lord is working, saints. The Lord is trying to show to us what that great end is. God is moving and working toward a great end in His people and we need to clearly know what that end is. **That 'end' is the expression of His divine nature in His people**

through the Son. The divine nature of the Father has been brought to us and shown to us through Christ. **The Holy Spirit has come to produce Jesus Christ in the church. When God's work is completed in His people, there will be a manifestation of His divine nature in a people in the world.** It is important that these things be revealed to God's people by the Spirit.

There is an end towards which God is working and moving by His Spirit in these last days. In the words of the Apostle Paul, God is working after the counsel of His own will (Ephesians 1:5-10). **Now the question is where is the Lord working His counsels? He is working out His counsels in His own redeemed people, first.** He is not working His counsels in the lives of people who ignore, overlook and neglect the gravity of His purposes and ends. The Spirit of God is working in His people, but more specifically in the lives of those ones who are wholly given to the bringing forth of His ends in their lives. The Apostle Paul makes this very clear in the book of Romans.

Romans 8

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered

from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The Bible unmistakably says that the whole creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. So if all things are to be released from curse and bondage, then it will be done through His people—a **people in whom God**

has worked-in His ends! It has to be a people called the ‘sons of God’, a people who are conformed to the image of His Son. Therefore, we must come to grips with the end toward which God is working through His Holy Spirit in this hour.

God is not doing two things in the earth; He is doing only one thing. Evangelism only brings people to the Lord and adds them to the church. This is undoubtedly necessary, **but what the Holy Spirit yearns to do in these new ones in the church is to work in them after the counsel of His own will** so that they may be transformed and conformed to the image and likeness of the Son. Bringing people to the Lord and adding them to the church is only a part of the overall work of the Holy Spirit. People are saved by the grace of God, but thereafter, there is a tremendously significant work that has to be done by the Spirit of God—namely, conforming believers to the Son. Unfortunately, the majority of Christendom is involved only in bringing people to a saving faith. It is not greatly concerned with the follow-up work of the Spirit that involves disciplining believers and transforming them into the image of the pattern Son. That is the tragedy in Christendom today! But, God is not limited. He is moving ahead to fulfill His end in a people. He continues to work after the counsel of His own will, as God has always done. This is what the history of God’s people has always shown.

COME UP HITHER, AND I WILL SHEW THEE

Beloved, **the Christian life is one of progressive increase of Christ.** All the workings of God are directed

towards this end. All the dealings of the Spirit in the lives of God's people are aimed at bringing God's people to this end. **The Holy Spirit has only one aim and object—to bring the church to the fullness of Christ.** If we want to know what the fullness of Christ is then all we need to do is to see New Jerusalem the Holy City, in which we have the symbolic representation of Christ. But we need to first understand Chapters 21 and 22 of the book of Revelation. An understanding of these two chapters will open up several things. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem talks about the fullness of Christ. Every aspect of this City represents some spiritual feature of Jesus Christ. New Jerusalem, the Holy City represents the divine nature of Christ that needs to be reproduced in the church—the people of God! As far as God is concerned it is very simple. However, man finds it difficult to accept this simple purpose of God. Only when one is open to accept this purpose of God, can one really understand His workings. May the Lord help us!

Revelation 4

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Revelation 21

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

These verses show some features of the divine nature of God. **They emphasize various aspects of the Divine nature that need to be reproduced in the church in these days—not in some imaginary thing called church, but in you and me.** It talks of something practical and concrete that has to be reproduced in a people. Many people think that spiritual things are imaginary things and that the church is going after unrealistic things. Even believers talk of church as a 'thing'. On Sundays, people say, "Let us go to the church." But the church is the gathering of God's people and not a thing. The church is the people themselves. Similarly, people talk of the New Jerusalem, the City of the Living God as a place and fail to associate it with a people coming into His likeness and His nature. The Holy Spirit is committed to producing the Divine nature in His people. So the City is not a thing out there, but a reality that His people have to come into. May the Holy Spirit release our minds to this understanding of the City! May the Lord look upon us as a people who are to come into the realities of His life!

We have seen that the all-inclusive character of this Heavenly City is 'pure gold'. Symbolically, gold talks of Divine nature and character. Further, it talks specifically about the

love of God. This is an important feature of Divine nature. Another feature of His nature is described by the word 'jasper'. This word is used frequently in Chapters 4 and 21 of the book of Revelation. In these chapters we read of expressions like 'even a jasper stone, clear as crystal'. Jasper is a symbol of clearness. But what does this symbol mean in reality?

Revelation 4

1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

In the earlier chapters of the book of Revelation, we see God's dealings and judgments upon His churches, especially the seven churches in Asia Minor, where the churches were judged and the throne comes into view.

'And, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat upon the throne'

'And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone:'

The throne talks of the judgment of God. The Bible tells

us that the world and everything else will be judged. He will judge all things by Divine government. He is going to judge everything in the light of the jasper stone. This talks of the Divine nature of the One who sits upon the throne. **The One who sits upon the throne is pure and clear as Jasper.** His throne is also clear as Jasper. The seven churches were judged in the light of the One who is upon the throne and who is as clear as Jasper. And the world will also be judged in the same light. **The judgments will be absolutely true.** He that sits upon the throne is like the precious stone of Jasper that is as clear and transparent. **The One upon the throne is absolutely transparent.** There is no darkness found in Him and there is no shadow in Him. He is perfectly transparent. You can see through!

To be transparent signifies that there is nothing false, hidden or shadowy within. God is totally transparent. He is the absolute Truth. In Him there is nothing that is not real! Some believers harbor doubts about God, they have misgivings and misunderstandings about the Lord. And they also doubt and do not believe His Word. But, on that Day, when they see Him who is like Jasper, their doubts will flee away. **There is no mixture of two contrary things in the Divine nature of God.** They will no longer question His Word; they will have nothing to ask. The One who will judge all things after His own counsel is like Jasper. He is clear and transparent. He will judge all things in the light of His own Person and Truth. In Him there is nothing that is an imitation. There is nothing on the throne that is artificial or false. Everything concerning the throne is crystal clear. There is no hypocrisy there; there is nothing that is an unreality there. This throne doesn't have any

mixture; there is nothing in it that contradicts His transparent purity. There is nothing in the Person on the throne that deceives or pretends. It is the throne of God. It takes many more words to describe this transparent, clear-as-crystal, throne for it talks of something that is not natural but wholly spiritual. How does this apply to us?

THE WHOLE WORLD LIETH IN A LIE

In the book of Revelation chapter 21 we see that the walls of the City were made of Jasper. God wants to reproduce the nature of the jasper stone in us. The Holy Spirit is committed to reproduce Christ in us, to bring the likeness of His Son into the church. So this ‘jasper’ quality of character is something that God wants His people to have. This means that there must not be anything in us that produces darkness or a shadow in our character; no mixture of contradictory things; nothing that is artificial and unreal; nothing that is an imitation or a simulation. We must think of these things carefully and desire to be like Him. God judges us according to His Word, His nature and His character. His judgment depends upon the light we have received. The world is also going to be judged in this light, but first it His own people who will be judged by His word. The seven churches were judged in this light. God’s people need to be much more open to the work of the Spirit in their lives in these days.

In the description of the Holy City John says, “*And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, either whosoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie...*” **This means**

that nothing can enter into that city that is a lie. And John calls the ‘lie’ an abomination. That which is not absolutely true is an abomination to God. The Lord Jesus Christ showed what God’s true nature is like. The strongest word that Jesus ever spoke concerned ‘hypocrisy’. He repeatedly said, “*Ye hypocrites ...ye hypocrites.....*” (see Matthew 23). The word hypocrite means ‘play-actor’. The Lord’s anger was directed against that which was not genuine and real. We also read of the use of this strong word by the Lord in verses 1 to 47 of Chapter 8 of the gospel of John. It talks of an outward act without an inward reality. It speaks of an inward falsehood, of a lie within. Hypocrisy was the first sin that was judged in the church at Jerusalem (see Acts 5).

How did the lie enter into the world? Lies have a very long and terrible history that can be traced to the Garden of Eden. The Lord Jesus said, “*When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it*” (John 8:44). The Lord was relating to what happened right back at the beginning **when Satan told a lie about God that Adam readily accepted. The story of the terrible tragedy of this world began with a lie—it came from that lie.**

There is a lie right at the heart of this universe; there is no truth in this universe outside of God. The history of this fallen creation is the history of a lie. Jesus said of Satan, “*..... and abode not in the truth*” (John 8:44). There is a hint of a suggestion here that Satan must have been in the truth at some point of time. But he departed from the truth and the terrible judgment of God fell upon him and those who shared the lie with him. Then Satan came to man, God’s

creation to impart to it his own lie. John, the Apostle says, “*The whole world lieth in the evil one*” (1 John 5:19).

The ‘lie’ has a very long and terrible history, but it is coming to its climax now. **The ‘lie’ is one of the most powerful influences in the world; a liar is one who does not believe there is truth!** When Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilot, Pilot asked, “What is truth?” He implied that there was no such thing as truth. In other words, there is no point in living by the truth; it is just as good to live by lies as it is to live by anything else! This ideology is spreading everywhere today and it is not uncommon to find gross cynicism concerning the truth. Beloved, we live in a deceived world; the world is steeped in deception; and this is increasingly having a direct impact and an adverse effect upon God’s people as well. Many believers today are receiving first-hand experience of the artificiality, unreality and emptiness of this world.

GOD’S ANSWER TO THE LIE

Now let us come face to face with one of the most solemn issues in the whole history of the world. **Jesus came to answer the historic lie that Satan had spoken in the Garden of Eden.** That is why He came to the world. He is the answer to every lie. The Son of God became incarnate and said, “*I am the truth*” (John 14:6, John 18:37). Everyone that is of the truth hears His voice. **To this end He came.** Everyone who is of the truth hears Him and bears witness of Him. **Jesus is the embodiment of God’s answer to the great historic lie.** Jesus Christ is the eternal answer. That is why the devil hated the Lord, for Jesus not only said the

truth, but He is the truth. Satan stirred up the hearts of men who hated the truth. Satan came against Jesus Christ to kill Him through the lives of men who were slaves to Satan's lies. Therefore, saints, let us know that Christ is the answer and He alone can deliver us out of every lie, every harmful thing, every negative thing and every evil. The Lord Jesus exposed religious men and laid bare their true nature. He tore their masks apart and exposed their play-acting. No wonder they were driven by the enemy to kill Him!

With the Lord Jesus Christ truth was not some abstract thing. It was not just that He spoke the truth. He was and is the truth Himself. **He became a personal power in this universe, a mighty effective witness against everything that was a lie.** Therefore, when He came into this world, the battle between the truth and the lie came to a high point! Remember that from the very beginning, when the Lord Jesus was born, the great hypocrite Herod sought to kill and exterminate Him.

What does the Lord want us to do? He wants to set us free from the lie and every effect and influence of the lie. **He not only delivers us from the lies we speak, but He also delivers us from the consequence of lies in our lives.** The world is full of deceitfulness, dishonesty, falseness, treachery, and untruthfulness. We have to be careful that we are not influenced by the world and its lies. God wants us to be delivered from every negative influence of the world. Let us believe God and His Word. Today, everything, even in the midst of God's people, has become a mixture. Jesus said that He is the truth. The Scriptures say that in Him there is no darkness. In truth there is no darkness. People

say they speak the truth but what follows is a string of lies. People lay hands on holy books and say they will speak the truth and nothing but the truth, but they speak a bunch of lies. We are living in a world that is ruled by lies. When Jesus said that He is the truth we know that in Him there was no darkness. If there is any darkness in truth then it is not the truth. The reality is that we are continuously influenced by lies in one form or another, for we are living in a world that is governed by lies and the father of lies. Only the Holy Spirit can open our eyes, convict us of the omnipresence of lies in the world, and set us free from every form and appearance of lies.

***John 16:13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

Jesus is the answer. He is the truth. Not only is Christ the truth, but the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.

John 14

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

The world cannot receive the Spirit of Truth because it lies in a lie. The Lord Jesus told His disciples that He is the

truth and that they could easily verify this for He stood before them. **And then He told them that the time was coming when the Truth would be inside them.** He said, **“You have seen me as the Truth, but the day is coming when this truth shall not be something outside but within you.”** May God open our eyes! The world cannot receive the truth because it hates the truth. Right at the center of this universe there is a great lie. The lie is against God Himself.

God is going to judge all things by His truth. All the lies shall be judged by Christ and His Body. If this is so, how can the church which is His bride have any untruth or darkness in her? How can this Holy City have anything that is not true? The Lord will judge and cleanse all things in His people who are called to be His Bride. It is a solemn word that God is speaking. The Spirit of Truth will be within us, inside of us.

***John 8:32** “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

What shall the truth set us free from? It will set us free from every lie.

***Acts 5:3** “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?”*

In other words, Peter asked Ananias, “Why did you lie to the Spirit of Truth?” The Lord is speaking a very solemn and sobering word to us. The world is filled with lies. He wants us to be delivered from every lie in our lives.

THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

***I Jn 2:27** But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*

The anointing teaches us all things. It teaches only the truth and not the lie. The Holy Spirit can only teach the truth. This is the way into the City of God. Now we can see how we are to enter into the City. This is God's solemn truth. The New Jerusalem, the Holy City represents the Divine nature of God and His great principles, and therefore we would do well to remember that we shall be judged by the One who sits on the throne like the Jasper stone. He will judge us by the light we have, according to what we have seen and heard so far. These are things into which we have to come so that we can enter into this City. This is how we are constituted in the City. The Holy City is nothing but His holy, glorious church. John says that he saw this City coming down, having the glory of God.

***Eph 5:27** "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."*

Paul explains what the glorious church is. He says the glorious Church is one that does not have spot or wrinkle. It is spotless. There are no dark spots in the glorious church; it is without spot. There are no dark spots or **marks of the deceived creation; there are no signs of that**

historic lie in the glorious Bride. It has nothing of pretension and falsehood. The glorious Church is the Bride, the Lamb's wife, the Holy City.

Beloved, this is God's end for us. He is working towards this end. How shall we fit into this end of God? What the Holy Spirit is seeking to do is to bring us to this City. How open are you to His working? We have our own ideas and opinions but the need today is to subject ourselves to the Spirit of Truth; He will speak and reveal Christ and He shall not lie. We have many impurities and He wants to deliver us from our own nature. He wants to bring us into Jesus' likeness and divine nature. **He only wants to purify us as gold until we are as transparent as glass.**

Rev 21:21 (b)—and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Have you ever seen transparent gold? What does God want to convey to us? **It is not natural for gold to be transparent.** If we are to be brought to the Divine nature of God, then everything of the natural must go out from us. Nothing of the natural can enter this City. Everything of the City will be a complete, pure, work of God. This is the Divine wisdom of God. **We are not transparent by nature, but that is what we are going to be when the Spirit has done His work upon us by the grace of God.** The grace of God and the Spirit of Truth working in us shall bring us to a place where we possess the very nature of Christ.

Isa 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Is there anything whiter than snow? Only the handiwork of God can produce something that is whiter than snow. Only God can remove our weaknesses and produce godliness in our lives. This message comes to us by the one who says, "*Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy*" (Rev 3:4).

What the Lord is emphasizing is that this work of transformation of our nature and character is something that only God can do. Have our lives been influenced by the lies of the world! May we be open and honest before the Spirit of Truth! The spirit-of-the-world is a deceiving spirit, actively working throughout the world today. Therefore, it is difficult to believe that we shall become pure gold like a transparent glass. But the Spirit of Truth will do this. Let us believe the Word. The unbelief of many will not make any difference. "To this end have I come" says the Spirit of Truth. This is the reason that Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit. And when He is come He is going to lead us into the truth and every lie will be exposed. Let us know that the Holy Spirit of God is the Spirit of Truth and He will only produce that which is of the truth in us.

God has a City, He has a Church and He has a Holy Bride. But the question is whether we shall be a part of it. It is not within our reach to be what the Lord wants us to be. This City of God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, has only one street. It is not like the cities we know. It sounds like a

strange city with just one street, for the Scripture says “...*in the midst of the street of it* (i.e. the city)...” (Rev 22:2). Can you picture or imagine a city with only one street? It would be amusing to live in a one-street-city! It is abundantly clear, therefore, that the Scripture is not referring to a natural city. Yet, many preachers and Bible teachers interpret this to mean that the streets and mansions of this heavenly city are made of gold! Beloved, **spiritually ‘the street’ speaks of the way, the only way to this city, and the way of the cross. It further speaks of a walk in the Lord, a walk in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth.** People who try and enter the City with another kind of walk will stand disqualified. God’s remnant will only have one walk—the walk in the Spirit, the Spirit of truth. They will have only one way to enter in, and it shall be by the way of the cross. **They will walk the way of the cross by the Spirit of Truth.**

Saints, may God help all of us to empty ourselves, that the lie within us may be totally obliterated and removed without leaving any trace of a lie in our lives! Let each one of us see how much untruth exists deep within us and be given to the Spirit of Truth. Let the Spirit of Truth enter into depths in us where the light of God’s Word has never penetrated. God’s remnant will have to be sensitive and honest. Where there is a lie, truth cannot work. True fellowship can only take place in the light. Therefore, we need to let God to work upon us in our depths. The Spirit of Truth will set us free.

God is working after the counsel of His own will in the

earth today. He is working in His people end that He has purposed. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth has come to this end into this earth. Beloved, may we hear the voice of the Lord and give ourselves to His workings in this crucial hour!



Savior, if of Zion's city,
I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy Name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know.

-JN

THE CITY- A PAVED WORK OF GOD

CALLED TO THE MOUNT

We certainly need God's Word day after day, but the most important thing is to allow the Word to work out our lives and to consider what the Word of God is doing within us. We can be thankful to God for what He is speaking to us but the question is, "What effect does His Word have upon our lives?" May these days not pass by without a true work of God upon us. Let us be quick to experience a fresh work of God in the light of His Word. Is God doing a specific work in your life as a result of hearing His Word? We need to answer this question honestly and candidly. No one should withdraw from the Spirit for He is the one who helps us to search and examine our lives. Our spiritual progress will depend, to a large extent, upon the openness and sincerity with which we approach God and His Word.

The Lord has been enlightening us on various aspects of the City of the Living God from Chapter 21 of the book of Revelation. It is good to recall some of the verses which the Spirit has brought before us. We refrain from going into the details of these verses as we have already meditated and considered them earlier on.

Revelation 21

18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

The Spirit of God showed me that some portions of the book of Exodus are linked and closely connected to Revelation 21.

Exodus 24

1 And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off.

9 Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel:

10 And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire

stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.

These Scriptures show that Moses and a company of men were called to the mount by the Lord. There they saw the God of Israel under whose feet there was, as it were, “a paved work of a sapphire stone and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.”

There is a remarkable connection between the Scriptures in Exodus and in Revelation. We can understand the mind of God in and through these verses. By the grace of God, He shall give us a fresh view of the City of the Living God, which is the New Jerusalem, which is the church of Christ. God willing we shall see this City of God in fresh light, from another side or angle, as it were. However, let me underline one thing at the outset. When the Lord repeatedly brings something to our attention, **there is a deep purpose to it.** This shows that He wants to establish a truth within us for our growth and spiritual progress.

Verse 1 of Exodus 24 shows us that the Lord told Moses to “come up”! Here was an invitation from God to Moses. **The invitation was not extended to the whole nation of Israel.** The invitation to come up was only for Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and the seventy elders of Israel. **It was not for all Israel but for a few – a remnant.** Only a privileged few were invited to “come up” and hear the word of the Lord. They were to leave the rest in the valley and ascend the heights to hear the Lord.

Why did the Lord invite only a few Israelites to the mountain top? Is God discriminative? Is He partial? No. It is the heart of man that brings this division amongst God’s

own people. But often God is blamed when He chooses a few out of many. We see an example of this in Exodus :

Exodus 20

18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

The Scripture says, “. . . they removed and stood afar off.” And then, “Speak thou with us, . . . but let not God speak with us, lest we die.” “And the people stood far off and Moses drew near....where God was.” They chose to stand far off when the call was to come near. There are many such instances in the Scriptures that establish this truth and principle. **It is man’s heart that chooses to draw away! It is man who brings this division and not God.** It is so even today. The majority do not want to draw near to God although they have the privilege to do so. **So also, God invites the hungry and the open hearted as in the days of Moses!** Such is the working of the government of God. In those days, there were only a few who were open to hear His voice. And they were the ones who were invited to meet Him on the mount. Even today, not all are called by God to

the mount to behold what is upon the heart of God **because it necessitates a deep, inward and outward separation.** We need to leave the temporal things of the world, the earthliness, the secular, the mundane and many other things of the self-life to behold the Lord and His purposes. We need to abandon earthly things and ascend the heights to see the Lord. This is not a geographical climb but an ascent in the spirit that we need to maintain in our lives. There is a setting aside, a leaving of the values of the world, and a cleaving to the Lord and His ways that is significant. Why is it that many cannot hear this voice of the Lord to come up? It is because they are so caught up with the earthly realm. There is no point calling some one who is so caught up with the earthly life and it's cares. This is very important. We must set our eyes upon the Lord and move on. If we have no desire to see God and know His ways, the Lord will not invite us to the mount of His presence. Saints, it is a matter of our heart.

When Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees, his nephew Lot accompanied him. However, later on, Abraham felt that a separation between them was necessary. Seeing Lot's ways, a time came when Abraham felt that they could not move on together in God's purposes and plans. He believed that a separation was inevitable and that it was not possible to disregard or overlook it any longer. Lot had neither seen nor heard God; nor did he have a desire to know the God of Abraham. Their hearts were divided because Lot's desires were to always stay in the plains, while Abraham looked for a city whose maker and builder was God. Lot chose to stay in the plains of Jordan, where the land was fertile and productive. His heart was not for the higher places. He

always looked for things that were pleasing to the natural man. Lot chose to live in the lowly plains of the carnal man and not in heights of spirituality. **Beloved, to ascend spiritual heights we need to leave the plains.** Most believers are not willing to do so. Even later, in Genesis 19, when the Lord judged Sodom and Gomorrah and saved Lot and his family, the Lord told them to flee to the mountains. But Lot tried to go another way; he tried to negotiate with God. Lot asked, “Lord, can’t I go another way?” Lot said, “You have saved me, you have preserved me, but I cannot go to the mountain You have shown me!” There are many believers like that. They want to negotiate their ways with God. Some do not want to learn how to climb the mountain. Some don’t want to leave the plains and the world with all its pleasant ways and values. Therefore, many believers cannot go up to the mountain top. And they cannot see what God wants to show them. If we refuse to go to the mountain top, we cannot see what God wants to show us. There is no other way to see what is upon the heart of God. Let this be a principle to bookmark your life.

Lot was a righteous man, but he was a vexed man because he gave himself to the world. He missed the great things that God had for him. Though he did not perish with Sodom and Gomorrah, yet he deliberately chose not to go in God’s way. Finally, the life of Lot was exposed because he had no desire for the things of the Lord. He had been always a man who was governed by his own choice. He never allowed God to choose for him, like Abraham, who left his choices to God. **Saints, we can do whatever we think is right and yet we can miss the truth because we love the plains, the principles of the world, the things of the world and the ways of the world.** Jesus used the name of Lot to convey

a warning to God's people (Luke 17:28-29, "*Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all*"). **Jesus prophetically spoke that the end times in which we live will be characterized by the mentality of Lot. The majority of believers will be given to such an attitude of heart. Yet this warning goes unheeded today.**

Saints, we must not presume to have come to the mountain. Many are living in presumption. We need to see where we are in reality. There is an invitation from God to come up to the mountain, but not many can respond to that invitation; many cannot even hear His invitation. It is a posture that God's remnant must maintain perpetually. This ascending must be more of a reality than just a terminology. It is a tragedy that many are satisfied with doctrine and ideology rather than the reality of the word. Amongst the hundreds and thousands of Israelites, there were only seventy-four men who went up with Moses to the mountain of the Lord.

Exodus 24

9 Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel:

10 And they saw the God of Israel:

THOSE WHO WENT UP SAW THE LORD

Beloved, **God is extending this privilege to "come up" to some in this hour!** This is God's undying principle.

May this principle be active in our lives! **A people are ascending the heights in Christ Jesus and they are receiving a vision of God.** This does not happen automatically by virtue of being a part of the company of saints who teach and believe such truth! No. Each one needs to maintain a spiritual life within; one needs to maintain a taste and fitness for the heights. Let us praise God that there are some who are slowly coming into a vision of God in these days. Moses and seventy-four others saw God while others were still in the plains! They were privileged to see God. This spiritual seeing of God is very essential. **When we begin to see Him with our spiritual eyes, we will be able to see His purpose as well. And there will be an unfolding of His plan, His will and His purpose.** Then you will be able to give yourself to the work of the Holy Spirit and allow the Lord to do that He wants to do. Who will be available for such a work to be done upon their lives? Many times we want to strive and struggle in our strength to live the Christ-life. We try to figure out things in our mind and try to help God. All these things happen because our eyes are not as open as they ought to be. But if we maintain an ascendancy, if we are sensitive to the nudging of the Spirit of God, if our eyes are open to see the Lord and His ways, then we shall cease to strive in that realm any more. We would be quick to give in and let His will be done. If our eyes have been opened we will know that it is not a matter of striving, but of experiencing the work of the Holy Spirit of Truth. For He must have His way and do His will. Beloved, God is revealing Himself to a people in this hour and they are getting a vision of His purposes, and His Holy City, the New Jerusalem.

The thought in Exodus 24 conveys that there was an invitation from God to come up. “And they went up and they saw.” It begins with a personal invitation to come away from the present world. The religious world with all its husks and dunghill, customs and traditions, routines, activities and personal interests must be put aside. Our routines and interests may seem to be good and profitable to us and we may be caught up in these good things, but we are to leave these and come up to the mount of God!

In Revelation 4, the Lord told John to come up. When John saw the condition of the churches in his time, he was greatly discouraged. These churches which had a splendid beginning had lost their focus and purpose of their calling. **The Lord judged them and found them wanting!** They moved away from God’s original, initial and primal purpose. His counsel was to repent or else He would remove them from the Candlestick.. In the midst of such decline and deterioration, John still heard the Lord. John was invited to “come up” to meet Him. We are living in similar times. The churches have lost the original, primal and initial purpose of God. **John experienced an open door of heaven and saw the One who sat upon the throne. This is our need today!** Oh, if only we could hear His voice and the invitation to come up! Saints we need to hear Him and we also need to desire to go up to Him in these terrible times of apostasy and decline. Our need is to “come up” and behold Him. If we look around, we will be discouraged and will be overcome by the things around us. Saints, we need to experience something real and eternal, something that will bring us in touch with His divine presence. God’s people need to turn away from this downward trend and maintain a spiritual ascendancy in our lives.

The invitation to Moses and others to go up to the **mount was not only a personal one but a corporate one.** The Scripture says, “And they saw” (Exod 24:10). **“They” refers to a remnant of His people and a many-member-man.** I feel that an individual seeing will bring us to a corporate ‘seeing’. How important it is to have a people who would see together what is upon the heart of the Lord! But this is not automatic; it depends on our openness and our separation unto the Lord. God had something to share with Moses. Therefore, the Lord told Moses to “come up”. Then the Lord gave him the description, the pattern and the blue print of the Tabernacle which is given in Chapters 25 to 40 of the Book of Exodus

Saints, remember, if the Lord is calling you up, it means that the Lord desires to unfold something to you. **What God speaks is not quite likely to be something that you want to hear, but it would be something that God has upon His heart for you, individually and corporately.** In some circles, people are keen to hear God’s voice but they only expect to hear a positive word about their own welfare and the well-being of their families. There are so many people who are so eager to hear prophesies about themselves and their interests today; they are only anxious to hear of what would become of them one day. People who indulge in prophesy concerning individual lives usually seek to exalt themselves or derive some profit and gain for themselves. We need to be people who want to hear God’s purposes and plans for His people. **Men are biased in their hearing. Hence we must examine the motives we may have concerning our desire to hear God’s voice.** Is it to hear something that will lift us up before others? Do we want to hear Him so

that we would be able to tell others what God has said, thus indirectly seeking the praise of men? **To become great in the eyes of man is a common reason for many believers to desire to hear His voice and know His will.** We need to hear God, but **it is important to know why we seek to hear Him.**

Saints, we are born into a spiritual world that seeks after its own and not that of the Lord. The Lord is not the centre and focus of their desires! In my early days as a Christian, I did not get the right teaching concerning hearing the voice of God. I was taught as an evangelical to have my “quiet time” with the Lord. When I read the Word, **I merely looked for something in it that I could apply to my own life!** We all need encouragement, but the majority of believers look for some personal gain, something that would be profitable, something that would lift them up, and something that would positively favour them in the eyes of other men. Personal prophecies, personal promises, personal gain – these are the kinds of things people want to hear from God now-a-days. Only a few are open to know what is upon the heart of the Lord, rather than to hear something that favours their own plans and wills. There are not many believers who seek the Lord for purely divine purposes. May God help you to be among the few saints who choose to know His desires rather than the interests of their own heart

God called Moses to the mount, not to tell him that he would have a great ministry, but to tell him of the desires of His own heart. This is what God did when He called Moses to the mount. God began to reveal to him every detail about

the building of the Tabernacle wherein He would dwell. **Our hearts have to be concerned only with God's desire and heart-concern for the time in which we live.** When we go to Him in prayer, we should not merely reiterate our own personal matters, but be concerned about the things which God would like to do in His people. We need to wait upon Him, to hear what He has to say to us, to spend time in His presence so that He would open His heart to us. **The majority of believers only want to hear their own voice, to talk about their own concerns, and to narrate their own difficulties, problems, situations and circumstances, regardless of what is upon God's heart.** Such prayers may sound spiritual at times, something humble and self-effacing, but the focus remains on the self and the needs of man. If our prayers are filled and dominated by our own needs, then we are yet to come into a place in Him where He occupies the center stage. God would like to cleanse His people from prayers and activities that emphasize their own profit, gain and benefit. Let our heart's cry be, "Lord I want to hear your voice. Lord, tell me what is upon your heart."

THE EARTH IS HIS FOOTSTOOL

Exod 24:10 "Moses and a company of Israelites ascended the mount to hear what was upon the heart of God. What did they see? "And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone..."

The people saw a convincing manifestation of His presence. And under His feet there was, as it were, a paved work. The location of the paved work is "under His feet".

Acts 7

48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

Beloved, there is a footstool under God's feet. We read of this in Isaiah as well (Isa 66:1 reads, "Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?") Moses and others with him not only saw the God of Israel, but they saw something under His feet. **God's footstool is the earth!** Seventy four people saw at one time and not just Moses. They beheld the Lord. They had a tremendous vision! **They had a vision of our great God!** They saw something under His feet in the earth which was His footstool. What did they see on the earth? What did they see that lay under His feet? **They saw a paved work. Saints, God wants to make you and me His paved work.**

Most of us have seen the way a road is paved. First, the road is surveyed; the cost is counted. Then the digging starts. The digging continues until the way is cleared. Finally, the road is paved with cement or tar. This is what paving is all about. Moses and the elders of Israel saw a paved work of God under His feet. **God wants to do a 'paving' work in you and me. The holy city is a paved work.** This New Jerusalem is a paved work of God. God wants to dig deep into the lives of His people these days. God wants to do a paved work upon our heart. It is not an easy work. He needs to clean and straighten things that lie on the surface.

He needs to remove all that is superficial, religious, shallow, and phony in our lives. The Lord must remove every outward mask from our lives. The Holy Spirit's digging work in our lives is inescapable and the Holy Spirit does not want to leave any thing undone. He wants to remove everything that is in the way. He will dig and dig into the depths of our lives until all the digging work is complete. The time has come when all that is untrue and unrealistic must be removed. Everything that is outward, superficial or having some kind of a religious mask in our lives has to be removed. This work is not easy. It is not going to be easy. God desires to get to something real and solid into our lives. God will not thrust Himself upon us, or steamroll His will upon any one of us. Our cooperation and willingness is a necessary precondition for His work upon our lives. He will work upon us only if we allow Him to do so. But if we ask Him to work upon us, then He will get into the details of our individual lives and set us right. Are you willing? Are you ready for such a work?

Today, we see a great amount of superficiality in the lives of God's people. Our lives do not reflect or manifest the truth of the things we are hearing. There is so much of the lie-of-the-world that we project to others. A man of God said, "Superficiality is the curse of our age." The world is steeped in superficiality, artificiality and hypocrisy, but the Lord can remove these things from our lives if we give Him the go-ahead signal. Many believers are still very superficial in their character. Their behaviour and conduct is outward and external; in reality, their inward lives are poor and niggardly. Let the Holy Spirit open our eyes to see what Moses and his men saw, to see a precious jewel like the sapphire under His

feet, to see a paved work like as a body of heaven in its clearance. If our eyes are opened, beloved, we will be able to give ourselves to this heavenly work upon our lives.

Many believers are unconcerned about their superficial lifestyles and external behaviour. They bluff others by their outwardness. I know of people who have given me excuses that were far from the truth. However, I did not argue with them although I knew that what they said was not true. In believing such ones, it is not I who stood in danger of displeasing the Lord, but that brother or sister who spoke an untruth. I was free and not bound. However, the other person was bound by his attitude and behaviour. He will have to be answerable to God. It is really sad that there is so much of superficiality in the conduct and behaviour of God's people! God must work upon us. All the lies, the make-belief, the surface thing and the religious masks must be removed before we can come into the reality of His purpose. God must work deep within us. He needs to dig deep into our lives and make our paths straight from the inside. God alone can straighten our lives out but we must wholly cooperate with Him. Brothers and sisters, we must let God do this paved work upon us today. If we don't allow God to do so now, it may never be done and we shall incur such a great loss.

Often God's people look to God to perform a painless work in or upon them! Can a dentist do a painless work? If you have a cavity in your tooth, your dentist will have to first use a high speed electric drill to remove every deposit deposited there. The drill must go deep into the tooth to remove anything that will hamper its restoration. If you

request the dentist to repair the tooth painlessly and quickly, he may not agree to your request because the problem could recur if he used the drill sparingly and you would be compelled to visit him again and again. A good dentist will not agree to fill the cavity without drilling the tooth; he would not risk losing the tooth to save you the pain. He knows that any kind of patch work, though it may be painless, will not help you in the long run. Many believers want the Lord to do a painless work upon their lives. They want to be part of God's workings today, but they are not willing to go through a painful structuring work of God upon their inner man! **They seek a painless cross. Many believers do not want a painful word. So they flock around preachers who give them a painless word!** They only want to hear words of blessing. They only want to hear positive things which cause them no pain and support their own views, ideas and will. They say, "God is good all the time." **They prefer a short-term painless work to a deep work of the cross upon their lives.** But God wants to do a lasting, deep work upon each one of us by His Spirit even though it is painful. Are you looking for a painless word or work? Or will you turn to the Lord and say, "Lord, I am willing. Dig deep into my life. Lord, I give you full freedom to remove all kinds of unnecessary deposits in me that hamper my growth in Christ. Lord, I want you to do a lasting work upon me even though it may be painful for the time being."

Heb 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Many are able to repeat this verse verbatim, but it seldom finds its way into their hearts! That is a real tragedy!

Heb 4:12 (Amplified) “For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power (making it active, operative, energizing and effective): it is sharper than any two edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and (the immortal) spirit, and of joints and marrow (of the deepest parts of our nature), exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.”

This Word is painful to every believer. There is pain involved in following and obeying the Word of God in spirit because the flesh is crucified. But many believers make the Word painless by finding ‘doctors (false teachers and preachers)’ who will perform painless surgeries. The Word shows that in the days of Jeremiah, “They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace” (Jer 6:14). There were many priests and prophets who brought a ‘painless’ word and people loved to go to them. But the Lord told the people, “. . . and what will ye do in the end thereof?” (Jer 5:31). The Lord would like to ask God’s people today.

God’s people will have to face the dire consequences of their choice and preferences. Such people will stagnate spiritually; their nature will not change; and they will never be conformed to the image of Christ. The true Word is able to go deep within, to the dividing line between the soul and the spirit. **We may not know where the dividing line is, but the Word of God knows.** The Word works in the deepest parts of our beings. Let the Word go down to the deepest

part of your being and it will work out something that is long-lasting. This is the way we must experience the cutting edge of the Word. **We must stay in the place where the cutting edge of the Word is working.** That must be our prayer. The Word is painful to the natural man, but it is welcome to the spiritual man. When we pray and ask the Lord to do a work within our being, we will have to pay a heavy, painful cost in terms of death to the self, but it will also release us into the greater measure of His life.

A BODY OF HEAVEN IN ITS CLEARANCE

Moses and the elders of Israel saw a paved work under His feet. In Hebrew, the word ‘paved’ means something that is becoming white (implying pure). So under the feet of the Lord (“earth is my footstool”), they saw something becoming purer and whiter. It speaks of something pure, holy, spotless and righteous. In Eph 5:27, we read, “. . . *that He might present unto Himself a glorious bride without spot and wrinkle or any blemish.*” In 1 John 3:3 we read that those who have this hope purify themselves even as He is pure. That is what they saw under His feet, in the earth—a work of God that is becoming purer and purer, a work of His own hand. It talks of the building of a city (the New Jerusalem) of pure gold. That work is important. The Lord is digging the earth to make a place for the heaven. **He is removing some of our earthliness and replacing it with something from heaven.** That is what the Lord wants to do in our lives. He will remove that which is earthly within, and overlay it with something heavenly. That is what the Lord is doing in these days in His remnant. He is digging and taking away the earthly aspects

of their nature and replacing it with that which is of heaven. Praise the Lord! Saints, give in to the Lord for such a work.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in the earth as it is in heaven”. People pray, “Lord, Thy Kingdom come,” but seldom realize that His kingdom is to come in the earth! They pray alright, but somehow they fail to believe what they confess. God’s plan is to bring His kingdom here, upon the earth. Heaven will come on the earth. Here on the earth we shall see heavenly things. God will remove what is of this earth to put in what is of heaven in His people. He wants to bring the heavens, and the things of the heavens, upon the earth. Why is He doing this digging and paving work? He is doing this to remove that which is of the earth and overlay it with heavenly things. **He is digging and removing that which is of your will and my will so that he can replace it with His will.** Today, you are free to walk in your will and none can stop you, but the Lord will have a people who will say, “Lord, I am willing to lay aside my will. I am willing to do whatever You say. I do not want to do my will any more.” Please do not fail to notice the difference! **If you want to argue and bargain with God, He will let you do what you want, but you will have to face the consequences.** We will have to face the consequences of whatever we do today, apart from God. We can have our way today, but what will we do at the end? The choices we make today and every day govern and dictate the consequences we will have to face in future. If people do not listen to the Lord and obey Him, there is nothing any one can do to help them.

At one time, I desired that everyone I met should be

saved. I was prepared to even use force, if necessary! Such was my zeal. However, one day my eyes were opened to realize that Jesus Christ never forced His way upon others. After I learned the truth concerning the Body of Christ and the deeper truths of God's purpose for man, I wanted everyone to know and go the way of the truth that had been revealed to me. Now I know that holding such an attitude cannot bring an inward change in others. I can only tell others not to walk in their own wisdom and in their own ways any more, as indeed the Bible says, for what would they do in the end? The consequences of our choices remain upon each one of us. This is what the Lord said in the book of Jeremiah, "What will you do in the end?" What one reaps in the flesh is what was sown in the flesh. That principle is unchangeable. We are God's people and God will forgive us but God's principle is that you reap what you have sown. This is an everlasting principle.

God can forgive us for the seeds we sow through our deeds, but we have to face the harvest. This is very serious for none are exempted. We may continue to do whatever we want to do and no one will stop us, but there is a loss that is incurred if we sow in the flesh and that is irreversible. When the consequences of our actions and the effects of our decisions are upon us, what can be done? Nothing, for it is too late; all we can do is to seek the infinite grace of God. Little else can be done. So why should we go our own ways and sow in the flesh today?

Our cry in these days needs to be, "Lord, I want to be worked upon." We must be in a place where we consider and reconsider, value and revalue our choices, our

desires, and our ways. We must ever remain open before the Lord. The cry of His remnant ought to be, "Work in me some more, Lord. Get deeper into me, Lord. Take some more earth out of me, Lord. Get to the bedrock, and to the substratum of my life. Get some heaven inside. My thoughts are perverted, Lord. My judgments are not right about so and so. Lord, many times my mind is not right. Fill it with something of heaven. Lord, if you do not do it, I'm done, for no one else can. Remove some more earthliness from me and overlay it, fill it with the heavenly things."

The heavenly city is overlaid with pearls and sapphires. It is good to remember that the walls and the streets in that city are overlaid with precious stones. Amen! The streets were paved. A paved work was done there! This truth must be lodged deep within our beings. The question is whether you want such a work to be done in your life or not. Is this your cry? Have you told the Lord that this is the time for that deeper excavating work to be done in your life? Are you open and willing to let God do this? It is indeed a painful work.

Many people look for a life without suffering, difficulties and problems. Many look for an easy walk with the Lord; a walk with no pain, no cost, no suffering and no difficulties. That is not God's will for us. God's Word says that if we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him (2 Tim 2:12). **So while the majority wants to go the easy way today, there are a people who want to see God and to see something becoming purer and purer day by day—to see a body of heaven in His clearance!**

The scripture says that Moses and the brethren saw something under the feet of the Lord, “. . . the body of heaven.” May the Lord open our eyes to see this truth in greater clarity than we do.

1 Corinthians 15

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body .

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

In this passage Paul talks about a spiritual body and a natural body. He says that as we bear the image of the earthy, so let us now bear the image of the heavenly. Paul talks about two men, Adam, the head of the natural body, **and Christ who is the head of the spiritual body, the body of heaven.** A man has only one head and one body. The new man in Christ Jesus has one head and Christ is the head; and he has only one body, and we are that body, we

are that family. The Church is the “body of heaven.” This is what Moses saw—a body of heaven. We shall also bear the image of the heavenly man. God wants something of heaven to come into the earthiness of our lives.

Many believers want to go away from the earth! They have packed their bags to leave the earth, but God says that He wants to fill His church that we may be a body of heaven on the earth. Believers want to go their own way and leave this earth whether it is the will of God or not, and whether they have done God’s will or not. **Whether God’s work in the earth is complete or not, they want to leave the earth before the anti-Christ comes or before the tribulation dawns, so that they will not experience any suffering.** It is the same soulish, carnal desire all over again—the desire for no pain and no suffering. They have made this **their principle, their doctrine and it has become their song!** Jesus never preached the gospel of no suffering or no pain. He said that if the world and the people could do what they did to Him, then they will do much more to us.

Saints, many believers look forward to leaving the earth but God wants to bring the heavens to the earth and overlay earthly things with heavenly things, so that His will may be done in the earth. **Then there will be something on this earth that will be a reflection of His will, His purpose and His kingdom and even Himself.** But many believers are just waiting to leave this earth before suffering would come upon them. **The “silly” part is that they want to take all their worldliness, all their gains, all their treasures, and their entire earthiness with them.** They hope to keep their baggage of malice, hatred, jealousy, religion and every

worldly thing for all time to come! And yet, they imagine and insist that they are moving on in God's will! They do not want to bear any responsibility for their actions. May God save us from such an attitude in this hour!

'A body in His clearness' in the earth talks of pain and responsibility. It talks about suffering. If we want to be a part of this calling, we should be prepared to suffer in the flesh. God is challenging us with this word. He is looking for a people—a body of heaven in His clearance, a people who have undergone a paved work of God in their lives. Saints, I can see it by the Spirit and I can shout it aloud! **There is a body and a family of God that is getting purer and more pure in His clearance. Thousands of years earlier seventy four men got onto a mount and saw a vision by the Holy Spirit.** They had a vision of what we are talking about today and to which we have come. Seventy-four men went to the hilltop and saw it for themselves. It is tremendous! Here we stand in fulfillment of what Moses and the elders saw upon Mt. Zion! Glory to God!

Beloved, God is taking a ministry and a people, and He is removing the scales from their eyes to see Him and what is under His feet! If we do not see Him we cannot speak of Him. This is what John said. He spoke of the things he had seen; he declared the things he had handled (1 John 1:1). If I had not seen the things of God in some measure then I would not have been able to share them. If we do not see, we cannot build. Before Moses could build the Tabernacle, the Lord showed him the pattern and the details of that which he was called to build. Moses could build it only after he had seen it. The principle is the same today.

In this age, 'ministry' has become a word with people who have the skill to preach and teach. **However, the true work of God involves a seeing. Without seeing it is not possible to build the things of God.** May God open our eyes to see the paved work—that is, the sapphire stone, the body of heaven. If we have not seen this we cannot be built up together. Saints, God has opened my eyes and I have seen a paved work, like a sapphire stone—a body of heaven in His clearness. After Moses saw the purpose of God in the mount, he had to come down from the mount and build the tabernacle. Yes, only then there be a building. What a need today! **God is opening our eyes to see! Come down, and become an expression for Him in the earth.** We are not to remain in the realm of appreciation but be built up together into a body. God is showing what is upon His heart. It is time for His will to be done and His purpose to be fulfilled. He is taking a ministry and showing what is upon His heart. God is showing the need to align ourselves with such a ministry and to be built up by God so that we may be a Body of heaven in His clearness, a city whose builder and maker is God! May we find our place in 'the body of heaven in His clearness!'



To please thee thus, at length I see,
 Vainly I hoped and strove;
For what are outward things to thee,
 Unless they spring from love?
I see the perfect law requires
 Truth in the inward parts,
Our full consent, our whole desires,
 Our undivided hearts.
But I of means have made my boast.
 Of means an idol made;
The spirit in the letter lost,
The substance in the shade.

-CM

THE SAPPHIRE STONE

BEHOLDING BY THE SPIRIT

The Lord spoke to us very specifically that unless we ascend the spiritual heights in Christ, we won't be able to see what the Spirit wants to show us. This is a responsibility that each of us bear. We need to behold Him, maintain the heights to which the Lord has brought us, and also ascend into greater heights in Him, so that we are able to see what the Spirit has for us individually and corporately. This is the call that comes to us repeatedly throughout the book of Revelation. This is the challenge that the Lord places before us again and again. We are called to come away from the world. It is only when we separate ourselves from the world, even the so called spiritual world, that the Spirit can reveal something of Christ in us. The 'mount' talks of a separation from the things in the valleys. Only when we ascend

the heights of His holy mount can the Spirit open our spiritual eyes to behold the Lord and the deeper things of His domain. Then, and only then, will we begin to behold things we have never beheld before. For this to happen we have to be alive in the spirit and 'live' in the heights of this calling. This is the only way to behold and move on in the ways of the Lord in these days.

These are the days that the Lord is calling a ministry to the fountain of the Lord so that His church is able to see what is upon His heart. The Lord is laying aside the scales that cover our eyes; He is removing the veil that shuts out the things that are upon His heart. In the previous issue we saw that there is a paved work, a work of a sapphire stone as it were a body of heaven in His clearness (Exodus 24:10). There are a people who will come into a 'seeing' that is absolutely crucial in this hour. Beloved, we cannot be built up together into the things of God unless it begins by seeing what is upon the heart of God. We have to be the city whose maker and builder is God. Only when we see the Maker and His City will we be able to embrace it and count ourselves as pilgrims and strangers in this world. So 'seeing' is vitally important for every one of us. We cannot delegate this to others; someone else cannot see this on our behalf. We have to develop an ability to behold the Lord. It is absolutely indispensable.

The Lord took Moses, Aaron and seventy others to the mount of the Lord and *they saw* the God of Israel. **They saw the God who loves humanity.** Moses saw the God who loves humanity many years before God demonstrated that love of God in Christ and many years before John wrote,

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”. Thousands of years earlier, Moses and a few men had a glimpse of the divine God of love — a God who suffered to reach the depths of humanity. They saw a God who made His way into the humanity that had gone astray. They saw a God who reached down to the place upon which His feet stood, a God who had made inroads into the place of His feet, which is the earth. **And Father God wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger in the earth. And He was the paved work, like a sapphire.** Moses was privileged to see something that went much beyond his days. He saw something that was becoming whiter and clearer at His feet. What Moses saw stretched far beyond the ark of His glory; it even extended into the Glory that was yet to come in dispensations of a different age. O there is so much to what Moses saw!

A MAN NAMED SIMEON

The High Priest in the Old Testament wore a breastplate upon which were twelve precious stones. Every stone was inscribed with the name one of the twelve tribes of Israel. The stones were strapped to the breastplate which was tied to his breast. In other words, the precious stones with the names of the tribes of Israel were strapped upon the heart of the High Priest, who stood as a type of Christ, the eternal High Priest. In the New Testament there is a high priestly order called the order of Melchizedek. Christ was a High Priest of the order of Melchizedek. He is seated on the right hand of the Father where He is ever interceding for us. He has you and me upon His breastplate. This is much more

significant than what is prefigured in the Old Covenant. It shows that we have an eternal High Priest who is ever interceding for the purpose of God to be fulfilled in us who are upon His heart and upon His shoulders. Beloved, this High Priest was a paved work of God. The God of love made inroads to the earth, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. He was a paved work of God. The Book of Hebrews tells us very clearly that Christ is a paved work of God.

Hebrews 5

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

These verses tell us that though He was a son, yet He learned obedience through the things He suffered. He was worked upon and became whiter, and clearer and more transparent. **Though He was without sin, yet in His humanity He was still to become perfect. He was to learn obedience. He was to become whiter day by day by a life of obedience to the Father's will. Though He was perfect, He was yet to be perfected by obedience!** May the Holy Spirit open your eyes! Undoubtedly, Jesus Christ was a paved work of God.

Christ is our Forerunner who entered into the Most Holy

Place by a new and living way. **He has already entered into the Most Holy Place with you and me strapped to His breast.** This should encourage every one of us. There are a people who are strapped to His heart and He has entered into the Most Holy Place with them. He knows that there are others who will run after Him and arrive at that very place. Let us remember that Jesus Christ was a paved work. The Father's will was worked upon the life of the Son. **He was spotless and blameless. Yet in His humanity he became whiter day by day!**

The sapphire was one of the precious stones in the breastplate of the High Priest. This stone had the name SIMEON carved upon it. That is very precious and significant to us. We find a man named Simeon in the New Testament.

Luke 2

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

It is very interesting to see that the Holy Spirit revealed something to this man named Simeon. Led by the Spirit of God, Simeon entered into the Temple. The Spirit told him that he would not see death till he had seen the Lord's Christ. The Spirit of God was at work in his life. This man received a promise from God that he would not see death unless he saw a manifestation of the promised glory of God. **Saints, do you know that there is a promise to God's remnant that they shall not see death until they see the manifestation of the promise of God's glory?**

It is necessary for us to understand that Simeon lived at a time when the spiritual state of things was altogether terrible. The Old Testament had come to a close with the Book of Malachi revealing the terrible condition of the people at that time. People did not have the fear and the love of God. The sacrifices to God were polluted. These verses show the awful condition of the people of God in those days and stand as a background to the days of Simeon.

Malachi 1

6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.

8 *And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.*

12 *But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible.*

2:11 *Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.*

Malachi 4

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

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

3 *And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.*

4 *Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.*

5 *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:*

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

The Lord said in the last book of the Old Testament that He would close the door of His house because of the abominations of His people. The book of Malachi contains the last words of God to His people in the Old Covenant. It was followed by 400 years of silence during which there was no word from the Lord. Those years were silent because God did not reveal His heart to anyone. However, there remained a remnant that feared the Lord and remembered His name.

Malachi 3

16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

The New Testament opens with the backdrop of the deteriorated condition of God's people. Religious activities in the temple, at the dawn of the new era, continued at the same pace. Temple sacrifices were offered, corruption was

rampant, and the things of man held sway over the things of God. The priesthood continued with its age-old traditions and rituals. However, in the midst of all the religious trivia, God had a precious remnant that feared the Lord. In the midst of the spiritual darkness, there were a few people like Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Zacharias, Hannah and Simeon who were communing with God unmindful of all that was happening in religious circles. There was a holy remnant that was closely linked to God and to His purposes. There were some people separated unto God hidden, as it were, from the moral and religious decline.

How did Simeon, who sat expectantly in the temple all day, know about a holy Child who had been born in their midst? How could he know who that Baby was? The answer is that Simeon came to the temple led of the Spirit and alive in the Spirit. He was a man who maintained a spiritual height despite the surrounding religious decline. He maintained a spiritual walk despite the discouraging religiosity. He was led of the Holy Ghost and the Holy Ghost was upon him. When Simeon entered the temple he was actively alive to the Holy Spirit. Simeon means hearing in Hebrews. That is what is so significant! Simeon heard. **He was one who heard!**

To hear spiritually means much more than hearing and listening by the use of ones natural faculties. **True hearing involves hearing, believing, obeying and walking.** That is what the name Simeon signifies. The Lord told Simeon, “You are not going to die unless you see the Lord’s Christ” And Simeon said, “Lord, I hear that, I believe that, and I obey that.” This was the attitude in his heart as he sat patiently in the temple day after day. He had good company in Anna

the prophetess, who frequented the temple! Such was the spirit of Simeon when he walked into the temple on that day! And he took the child into his arms and led of the Holy Ghost he said, "Mine eyes have seen Thy salvation." How sensitive he was! Jesus had no halo around His head, as many painters have portrayed. But Simeon knew that this Babe was none other than Jesus, the Messiah. He knew this because he had heard the voice of the Spirit of God. The Spirit had revealed it to him. So saints, it is not just a matter of hearing what God said at one time. It also involved believing, obeying and walking in all that he had heard. That is how we shall experience the fulfillment of His Word in our lives. **God wants us to be Simeons in these last days!**

Moses saw something on the Mount of God that was as clear as a sapphire stone. That which John saw by revelation was also as clear as a sapphire stone. What does this mean? Jesus was the first paved work. He was a pure 'sapphire' stone for He said, "Whatever I hear my Father speak, the same I shall speak. Whatever I see my Father do, that alone shall I also do." He was the perfect 'Simeon', though His name was Jesus. He always heard the Father, believed the Father, obeyed the Father and walked in the truth revealed to Him by the Father. We need to understand that Christ was a paved work of the Father. He was a true hearer; we could also call Him 'Simeon'. He always wanted to do the Father's will. He was the ideal Son and sets for us an everlasting pattern to follow. He is the Pattern Son, our elder Brother amongst many brothers. He is our Forerunner for He has already entered the temple of God. He always heard what the Father had to say and He obeyed everything the Father said. He believed and endured the cross for the joy

that was set before Him. The Father said, "Son you go through it all. Something purer and whiter in the image of your likeness will come forth. Therefore, walk in this way of suffering and obedience and become the paved work." Jesus suffered for the joy that was set before Him as He endured the cross. **The joy was a paved work like that of a sapphire stone at the feet of the Father. As a paved work of the Father, He would be the Head of a paved work upon the earth.** He saw the glorious Church down the road of time. **The Lord being the Head, looked down and saw a body, a body in His clearness. He saw a glorious Church without spot and wrinkle, a glorious body, a habitation, a sanctuary, a city whose builder and maker is God. This was the joy that was set before Him.** He was in every way a sapphire stone, a Simeon, hearing and obeying to the uttermost.

A BELLY OVERLAID WITH SAPPHIRES

Song of Songs 5

10 *My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.*

11 *His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven.*

12 *His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set.*

13 *His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.*

14 *His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires.*

15 His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.

16 His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

The Songs of Solomon give us a striking phrase that expresses the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ and also talks of a people who will bear His character and nature in the days to come. Note verse 14 in particular, “. . . *his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires*”.

These are prophetic expressions that the Holy Spirit needs to open to us. In the Bible, the ‘belly’ almost always talks of **the inner things, of inward expressions, of inward affections and the inward being**. The inner most cry of the Lord Jesus was to hear the Father’s voice, to do His will, and to obey His word. In other words His belly was fully covered or overlaid with sapphires.

We need to ask ourselves whether we have a perpetual cry to do the Lord’s will in our lives. Is our belly overlaid with sapphires? What is the innermost cry of our heart? We could find many answers to these questions, but what is the reality within? Is there a cry within for the Father’s will to be done? Is there a yearning within to hear His voice and do His will?

Jesus’ belly was overlaid with sapphires. Simeon was written all over Him. Even when Jesus was hungry physically, His heart yearned to hear what His Father had to say. Jesus

had another hunger within Him that overtook His physical hunger. In John's Gospel we read, "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish his work." (John 4:34). Truly, His body was overlaid with sapphire. **He allowed His own ways to be overlaid with His Father's ways. He took His will and overlaid it with His Father's will.** What an example and pattern He is for us! He is indeed the holy paved work of God.

What are we occupied with in our lives? What is the cry of our heart? Is there only a cry for natural things or is there something spiritual in our cries unto the Lord? Is there a genuine cry within for the Father's will to be done in your life? A work of the sapphire stone has to be done in many lives. What is your deepest desire? What are you overlaid with? We need to search our hearts by the help of the Spirit of God. Saints, take this word seriously. What are we pursuing after? The Spirit of God is nudging us to hear and see what God has for us. Note carefully that His body was overlaid with sapphires. **If you are a part of His body you will experience a sapphire like work in your life!**

We need to understand that Jesus was a paved work in His own life. He did not come from heaven with sapphires overlaid upon Him. He was overlaid with sapphires while He walked the earth. The sapphires were overlaid upon Him. How was that done? The Father took the Son's will, and the Son's ways; He overlaid them by the Father's will and the Father's ways for His Son. Jesus said, "Not my will, but Thy will be done." He said to the Father, "It is difficult to drink this cup, but if you want me to do so, I am ready to do Thy will, Father". The Father's will was overlaid on the Son of

Man. He was perfected in His humanity! He was God but He was also man. He was overlaid with His Father's will.

This is true for us as well. This work of overlaying is not an easy work. A deeper digging by the Spirit into the depths of our earthliness is necessary. God wants to get rid of everything that is outward. The cry of our heart needs to be, "Lord, overlay my belly with sapphire stones. Dig deeper into the recesses of my being. Lord, take my will, take my desires, take my affections and take my all. And lay over it your will Father, your desires, your ways, your will and your affections." This is not easy by any standard, but God is at work in His body. When laborers are working on reconstructing a road, they put up a signboard that says, "Caution, men at work". Beloved, the board we all have upon us is, "Caution, God at work." God is at work in our midst. Does your life show that? We have to pay a price. We will have to do so if we want to be part of that city.

Many of us want to be called 'overcomers' or at least be counted among the overcomers of this day. This shows that we have a deep inward desire to be overlaid with sapphires. However, after some time many say, "Lord, overlay my life, but let not my will and my ways be touched." Others say, "Lord, I am willing to lay aside my plan and my desire. Can these be overlaid with your will?" God will not overlay His will upon that which is not surrendered and yielded to Him. The Pharisees also wanted God's will to be done, but they were not willing to change or surrender their wills and their ways. Jesus told them, "This new wine cannot be poured over old wineskins. Any kind of patchwork will ruin the whole garment. The whole garment will be spoiled." Many have the

same attitude today! **They want to take some of God's wisdom and some of their own wisdom, some of His will and the rest of their will, they want some of His way and the rest of their own way.** It doesn't work that way. **We must take the whole and not just a part of it.** We all have to pay a price. We all have a strong will within us; and we all have to pay the price of relinquishing it to the Lord. So let us give into the Lord. And saints, when God begins to do that work of overlaying in you, do not say "Oh, my belly!"

Philippians 3

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Phil 3:19 (Amplified Bible) "They are doomed and their fate (is) eternal misery (perdition); their god is their stomach (their appetites, their sensuality) and they glory in their shame, siding with earthly things and being of their party."

It is very clear that for some "God is their belly" and "their god is their stomach". Some people's bellies are their gods. They worship their bellies! The Apostle Paul here talks about false teachers, for the whole chapter deals with this matter. He says that their god is their belly, their appetite and their sensuality. They are serving or worshiping their appetite and their sensuality. They are mainly concerned about the satisfaction of their sensual desires.

Leaving aside false preachers, let us see what God has

to say to us today. **To worship one's belly means to be ruled by our own way, our own will and our own desire!** There are **people whose own way is their god. They are only concerned with their sensuality, their desires of their senses. Their own wills, their ways, and their desires, are all that matters to them.** They worship their own selves for to them their own interests are their gods. This can happen to any one of us for we know how strong our own will is; we know how our wants and desires grip us. God wants to break that kind of mentality in us. God wants to do a new work in our bellies, He wants to dig into our innermost being, but He is waiting to see if a price has been paid by us. We must understand the realities that exist in our lives. Let us not say, "I am OK, you are OK, we all are OK." These are the days to say, "Lord, let a progressive work be done in me, for I am not OK." **This is not the work of a day but an ongoing work of the Spirit in cooperation with us.** Many lives begin well, but get stalled after a time. It is like the contractor who has been given the task of building a road. But half way through, he stops the work and the project is stalled. The work is hindered and cannot be completed. This is what happens in the lives of many believers — the ongoing work of God is stalled. The work of God was begun when they received the Lord and they became a part of this calling. They paid a price, and they trusted the Lord, but then the work of the Spirit was stalled and came to a halt. It could be that they grieved the Spirit. It is for each one of us to examine our lives.

A dear brother in the Lord told me that I pay more attention to the lives of younger people! It is not a matter of age but of moving on in God's present workings. That is so

important. When the Apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers to take heed lest they fell, he was the first one to take this caution into his personal life. There is a great need for us to be aware of this. The Biblical caution, “Today, if you hear His voice” is not for the people of the past but it is a matter of whether we are hearing His voice today. Are you hearing? Are you obeying and moving on? Are you progressing? There has to be a progressing towards completion. Nothing needs to be done if the work is completed. **I know it is not completed and so the question is what are you doing to hasten its completion?** What is our mentality? Am I be satisfied to say that the Lord has done great things in my life in the past? Do I go to the house of God with a longing that the Lord may show me the salvation of God in a new dimension? Beloved, there is an ongoing, progressive, overlaid work which will definitely come to an end. It will be certainly finished, by His grace.

During the days of the Lord Jesus in the earth, He worked in the carpentry shop of Joseph, His earthly father. I am sure that Jesus never left the work half done. Undoubtedly, He always finished the work He began. He would always complete the making of every item of furniture before moving on. Remember what Jesus said “My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish his work”. See the emphasis, **to finish his work**. This was very true for Him, even in the natural. This is also to be true in your life and mine. If He has started a work in us, He definitely desires to complete it. **But if it remains incomplete don't blame God because it is not His will to leave it incomplete.**

When God took His people out of Egypt His will for them was to bring them into the promised land. His will did not change throughout the wilderness journey. His will remained the same for His people till the very end. **But His people had another will in them which said, “We cannot go.” Saints that ‘will’ in us to pursue things that are not of God must be denied. Remember, you cannot own two wills at the same time.** You have to deny one and hold to the other. The choice is with each one of us—to either deny the will of God or deny our own will. That is the issue we all face daily. Finally, **when Israel decided to do what was upon their heart, refusing to do God’s will, then God left them to themselves. He refused to intervene or do anything else.** This is an important lesson for all of us.

If you have accepted God’s will and purpose in your life, then you need to continue to move forward in His will. The Israelites were destroyed in the wilderness because they had another will. They said, “We cannot and we will not.” **God does not force His will upon people. When people close their mind and will to the Lord and decide to do their own will, God cannot do what He would like to do.** God could not complete what He had promised the Israelites because they refused to accept His will in their lives. God could not bring to completion what He had begun with that generation.

Saints of God, it is the same with us today! It is time to take heed! There are many lessons for us to learn if we have a heart to follow the Lord. But sadly, for some their own ways, their own desires and their own needs have become their god.

God's desire is to complete that which He has begun in us. However, we need to give him our will, our ways, our decisions and our desires. Are you willing? If so, God will not fail you!



Without spot and blameless, so holy,
See the church in her beauty sublime;
She lives on the bright hills of glory,
She reigns over sin all the time.

Without spot and blameless He bought her,
In the likeness of heaven above;
From depths that were sinful He sought her,
And filled her with infinite love.

She's blameless, without spot or wrinkle,
From the last stain of sin she is free;
With blood from the cross He doth sprinkle
Her altars of cleansing for me.

-BEW

THE CITY - IN HIS CLEARNESS

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

The Apostle Paul says that there is a mystery of iniquity; a mystery of lawlessness. He says that there is a man who sits in the temple, the mystery of iniquity, the spirit of antichrist, saying that he is Christ, saying that he is god! He says, "My belly shall not be overlaid with sapphire. No I have my own will, I have my own....." Saints, there is a mystery of doing one's own thing and going one's own way that springs from the spirit of anti-Christ. Such a spirit sits in the temple of our being and says he is god. What does this tell us? We have seen how strong our own will is. The self, the soul, the will of man sits in this temple of our body and proclaims that it is god. Often we are able to see the spirit of the anti-Christ working in us. Of course we don't see any thing or any spirit entering into us, but a spirit

that is against all that God is rises up within us. **That ‘spirit of iniquity’ (doing our own thing) works in us and is often at work to negate the things of God.** It sits in the temple of our body and enjoys manipulating our will, our ways, our desires, and our affections. It refuses to allow our bellies to be overlaid with any kind of sapphires or any kind of thing that comes from the Lord. That ‘spirit of iniquity’ resists the things of the Lord. Some believers say that they have no other choice but to do their own things in their own way. But this is a sure sign of the working of the spirit of iniquity. If we examine our lives carefully we will be able to see that many times the evil one sits as god upon the throne of our lives reiterating that in reality he is our god. We see the reality of this in the decisions we often make, we see it in our insistence to continue in our own ways despite the counsels of God. **When we are unwilling to change our will and our ways, the spirit that is working in us is often the spirit of iniquity.**

II Thessalonians 2

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Some believers say they cannot change the decisions and choices they have made because they have already given their word to someone. They say that what they have said

or spoken cannot be changed! They are not prepared to change what they have said. Though they may have given their word to someone, does that mean they have pledged their life to them and that nothing can be changed? Certainly not! So I ask them, **have you not given your word to the Lord and promised to do His will? How about keeping your word to Him? Have you not given your life to the Lord? For many believers their promises to men are far more important than their word or promises to God.** It is strange. It is very clear that they do not want to give up their will, their way and their decision! There are many who say, “Not your will Lord. In this matter I need my own will.” To give their word to someone and to hold on to that wrong choice and decision will eventually take them away from God. One wrong decision in life will lead to many other wrong decisions. Therefore, we need to be open to God or else the enemy will not hesitate to pick us out as flies.

We need to be extra careful and sober in these last days when iniquity is abounding and the love of many is vexing cold. The Lord said “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” (Matt 24:12-13). May we be open to the Holy Spirit and endure unto the end. Then we will never put us to shame by Him.

JESUS—GOD’S PRECIOUS PAVED WORK

Jesus, our Forerunner in all things, was a paved work of God,. **He became a paved work that we may become a paved work of God.** Chapter 53 of the book of Isaiah is a chapter that talks about Jesus Christ being a paved work.

Verse 3 reads, *“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”* Is that not a paved work? A man of sorrows acquainted with grief talks of a paved work. And we hid as it were our faces from Him. How much the Father ploughed into this life? He was despised and we esteemed Him not. Surely He had borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Yet we did esteem Him not. He was stricken, afflicted of God and smitten for our sake, He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. Was He not a paved work of God? He was oppressed, He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth. Surely, this was a paved work of God. And He was brought as a Lamb to the slaughter, as a sheep before the shearers. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him, He hath put Him to grief. It is difficult to understand this. The Son of Man stood as one who is dumb and helpless. He allowed the Father to pave His way into His life.

If you read these verses in Isaiah 53 by the power of the Holy Spirit it will break your heart. Then we shall begin to see the depths of this paved work of God. He gave His back to the smiters. They smote Him and ploughed His back. He was marred beyond recognition! Just pause and take that in! **But when they were done with Him, the Father said, “This is My precious paved work”** for the scripture says, “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied” (Isa 53:11)

Jesus was marred beyond recognition. Through all the whipping, He stood as a dumb lamb because He said, “Father, not my will but Thy will be done.” **The more they dug into**

Him the more the Father overlaid Him with His glory.

Jesus said He had come to do the Father's will. The Father looked at His Son. Can you imagine the condition of the Father's heart when He saw His Son marred beyond recognition as a man? And yet Jesus saw a glory in and through it all. **He saw a people in His glory. He saw you and me and that was the joy that was set before Him.** Do you love this Jesus? And yet it is so sad that many murmur and complain when they go through slight pain and suffering for His sake!

My prayer is that some of us would see Jesus as the Father's paved work. Let there be a seeing that goes beyond the voice of man and beyond the message you have read in these chapters. **Beloved, a beholding of Jesus as the paved work of God will change your life.** You will know what your calling in Christ is. Saints, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Jesus said, "You are my friends if you obey my commands."

Moses saw a paved work of God. He saw the work of a sapphire stone as it were a body of heaven in His clearness (Exodus 24:10). Are your spiritual eyes being opened? **If you could see what Moses saw, it will change you completely! That seeing will make you holy, clean and uncontaminated.** You will experience a grief within your own inner-most being for all that is unholy! Saints, holiness is not legalism. Holiness is giving in to the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in us that will make us without spot one day (Eph 5:27). It is something that He alone can produce in us. If our eyes are open to see the

paved work in Jesus, then the Lord will be able to remove every spot and blemish from our lives. What does 'spot' mean in the Scriptures?

2 Peter 2

12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time.

Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean

escaped from them who live in error.

19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Jude

10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

*12 **These are spots** in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;*

Saints look at the similarity of words in these two epistles written by two different apostles. Here we see the burden of the Holy Spirit. **These Scriptures reveal that spots and blemishes are people who have done their own will, their own way, and their own thing and continue to do so.** They in turn influence others and teach others to go their own way and in their own will. The Scripture says, “Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam”. Again it says, “Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.”

Oh, may the Lord open our eyes, saints! We are living in those days, predicted by these Apostles. God will give His true remnant His unchanging word in this hour and cause them to be delivered from compromising preachers in these last days. As the Apostle Paul says, “The Lord will cleanse her by the washing of the word.” Saints if you really love the Lord and His church, be open to consider what I am saying. We are living in the days of the fulfillment of the prophetic utterances quoted above.

THE EPIDEMIC SWEEPING THE CHURCH

Today, in almost all forms of Christian persuasion, the validity of the Word of God, the unique leadership of the first apostles, and even the authority of Jesus Christ are being questioned and redefined along liberal lines. **With very few exceptions, historical Christian beliefs regarding entertainment, sexual sin, and separation from the world**

are no longer commonly taught, accepted or practiced among born again Christians and even where there is the teaching of deeper life, Kingdom principles and end time truth. Consequently, an epidemic of immorality is sweeping away a large part of the Church. The resultant corruptions of its teachings are compromising the Gospel of Jesus Christ that is being taught and modeled to the nations. Much of the Church is falling away from many of the core Biblical doctrines and beliefs as the memory of past revivals and holiness reformations slip further into the distant past.

The low moral and ethical standards of the Church, as defined by the only measurable benchmark, **the divorce rate, exceed that of much of the unbelieving pagan world. According to one of the latest divorce statistical studies, there is a significantly higher divorce rate amongst those identifying themselves as “born again” Christians, than the rest of society as a whole, even amongst those claiming to be atheists and agnostics.** Another survey has the divorce rate in the whole Church identical to that of the world. Evangelical, Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches, proud of their “Bible Believing” theology most often take the lead in the divorce increase. **According to the latest statistics, in the “Bible belt” of certain Christian countries, where the greatest concentration of evangelical Christians practice their faith, the divorce rate is a staggering 50% higher than the nation as a whole. In addition, a recent study determined that ordained ministers themselves now have the second highest divorce rate of all the recognized professions in Christian countries.**

Such statistics come as no surprise to those who have been scientifically tracking the trends. If these polling measurements reflect anything even close to reality, it goes without saying that both the majority of those claiming new life in Christ, and those that do not, share common moral principles and levels of ungodliness, contrary to God's Word. When we consider that public morality itself is at its lowest point in modern history, how sad that the Church itself has failed in her responsibility to the world to show the light she is called to give. Is it really unjust that the non Christian countries and people have judged our Savior, the Church and Christians so severely as of late? For the last few decades we have been increasingly ridiculed by many outside of the widespread immorality and marital unfaithfulness. Sin breeds sin. The worst is yet to come. **These negative perceptions are not illusions created by those who hate God and the Church, but rather the harsh truth of His people in these days which we need to accept..**

The failure is not found in the Gospel of Christ, but in the Church's refusal to live according to the Divine message it was given to model and teach. Most of us do not need to have social scientists telling us what we ourselves have seen, felt and experienced in the midst of God's people. **The evidence of a great falling away from God by the Church as we have known it, is everywhere. Something is wrong, terribly and overwhelmingly wrong!**

As the deterioration of moral standards works itself through the Church it is steadily gaining momentum. **Christian divorce, once a rare and curious dichotomy, now defines normality in the Church.** A large metropolitan

Church is not considered well rounded if it does not have a ministry to provide divorce care and recovery programs. As more professing Christians walk from their marriages, there is less moral support holding together the remaining unions. As pastors and leaders in the Church who succumb to the same tide, freely divorce and subsequently remarry, it becomes conditionally acceptable by nearly all. These same leaders often stay in or return to ministry with their new mates. Saints, I truly weep for the Church of Jesus Christ. Listen to what the Apostle Peter says,

“Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own **deceivings** while they feast with you; ...Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls.... Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;.....These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever..... For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. **While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.....** For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.**”

The denomination, colleagues and Church members are quick to defend their leader's decisions and speedy rehabilitation, redefining doctrine as necessary to comfortably accommodate the circumstances. **Biblical teaching that cannot be twisted away is explained away as falling within God's permissive will, or unconditional grace, providing a slippery slope for those left standing. The leaders make a wide path through the wilderness for whosoever will to follow in their footsteps.** Consequently, the walls carefully erected and maintained by the early apostles are being professionally pushed down from the inside.

Dearly beloved, I wish to share the burden of the Lord in these pages. The Lord is after a Bride who is without spot and wrinkle and any such blemish. But what do we see today in His people who are called and redeemed to such a glorious height? I know many fellowships and churches in India and some abroad who speak about the glorious Church and the Kingdom of God and the end time teachings. While they speak about a Bride without spot and blemish, they are under the influences of these liberal teachings which are contrary to the pure word of the Lord. Like any other Pentecostal and Charismatic group, they also allow divorce and remarriage. There is no difference when it comes to this sin. It has made inroads into every congregation.

In the present condition of terrible moral deterioration in the Church, **temptation increases dramatically as new mating opportunities arise with the collapse of marriages, throwing millions of Christian Moms and Dads onto the "meet" market.** "Christian" radio stations

and Internet sites abound with advertised dating services aimed at the Christian divorced, desensitizing, encouraging and facilitating the sin of remarriage. **Testimonials of meeting the right new “Christian” spouse are aired as an encouragement for others. These “swap shops” not only tempt the remaining faithful, but also destroys the credibility of the Gospel of Christ to the world.** Unbelievers are becoming less aware of the salvation and restoration message of Jesus Christ that the Church is commissioned to deliver. They do, however, hear loud and clear that Christians and the Church have absolutely nothing worthwhile to offer them with their own relationship problems, or any of life’s other problems either. Even they can see that the walk and the talk are in opposite directions. **Sin, now dressed in stolen clothes of righteousness, begins to entice afresh as old temptations are magically transformed into new, potential opportunities.** The nature of the “opportunities” is as varied as the weaknesses of the victims themselves. **There has been a treacherous slide from believing in and looking for “God’s permissible will” instead of God’s written will, all the way down to “God just wants me to be happy”. The downward slide is fast, furious and fatal.**

THE DESTINY OF THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

However, saints, the Lord is determined to have a glorious Bride, a city that is a paved work, a city that is of sapphire. He will wash her and cleanse her with His powerful word. The Lord will get rid of every spot and blemish. In

other words the Lord will not allow His true bride to come under these perverted teachings and teachers. **Those who desire to be part of this true remnant in these days will return to His unchanging and uncompromising word.** They will be like Ezra of old concerning whom we read, “For Ezra had prepared his heart to **seek the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach** in Israel statutes and judgments” (Ezra 7:10). **Their desire will be to be under the government of the Word of the Lord.** The Lord will surely have a spotless and holy Bride.

John the Apostle was caught up in the timelessness of God. Time means nothing to God. God created it. Saints, let us give no time for the things of the flesh, to listen to others, their stories, their Christian fantasies, their achievements for the Lord, their adventure for the Gospel etc. I would say, waste not your time. John saw the Holy City in the Spirit and he says, “And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass” (Rev 21:21). **Many desire to walk on the golden streets, but there are no streets there. This city has only one street and that signifies a walk,** a walk in the way of the cross. This street is overlaid with gold which signifies a walk by divine nature, a walk in the way of the cross. Further Apostle John says that the street is like “transparent glass.” This talks of a life that shines forth as a result of the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit.

Saints of God, this is what Moses and the elders saw—a **glorious people, hearing, believing, obeying, walking and living the life of the Son. Glory to God on high! It talks of a remnant people radiating the life of Christ, of**

His Divine nature shining through them, and of a people conformed to His likeness by the power of the Holy Spirit!

It tells of a people like sapphire stone, in His image and likeness! This is what Moses saw thousands of years ago!

May God open your eyes to see that you are called to be part of this heavenly city! Beloved, you are in the presence of something very precious and serious! You have been saved unto this – a body of heaven in His clearness!





A PECULIAR PEOPLE .

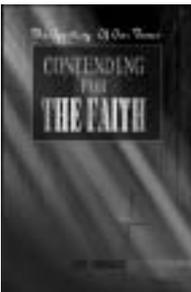
The calling of God in our lives is to be "His People" and also to be "His Bride". Like Queen Esther of old, the church of God is to prepare herself and do that which pleases the king.

A SURE FOUNDATION (Teachings on the first principles of life)

There is so much confusion and compromise that has set in. In many cases, the foundations that have been laid are so weak because the traditions of men have utterly destroyed and damaged them. In some cases, those ancient foundational landmarks have been marred and changed due to the choice and likings of man. The burden of this book is not to criticize others, but to show God's people their true spiritual plight and condition so that they may turn and return to the Lord of their lives.



CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH



The apostasy of the last days is now in full boom. The false and the counterfeit abound in every nook and corner of the world. We have not only to contend with other religions, new age promoters and cults, but also with countless perversions that are mushrooming within the very ranks of so called believing churches. A must read to know and discern the times.

AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

As the title suggests, Jesus is the Alpha, the Beginning and He is also the Omega, the End or the Finisher. In the Book of Genesis , we see Him as the Beginner and in the Book of Revelation, we see Him as the Finisher....If we know Him as the Beginner then in these last days we need to know Him as the Finisher as well.

THIS IS NONE OTHER THAN THE HOUSE OF GOD

To-day, many in the Christian world do not have a clear understanding and revelation of the house of God. The common understanding is that of a physical or a natural house. The house of God represents a divine order where the working the cross is central and supreme.

THE NEW GENERATION ARISE! (SECOND EDITION)

In the history of mankind there have been many generations. But there is only one particular generation that the heavens are interested in. Which is this generation? Is there another generation that inhabits the earth in this hour?

YE JONATHANS, CHOOSE THIS DAY (SECOND EDITION)

There are many Jonathans today, who could either continue to remain a part of Saul's house (the organised church) which is decaying and dying day by day or they may arise, separate themselves and be a part of David's House (the body of Christ) which God is establishing by His Spirit. This book is a 'sign-post' to many in the valley of decision.

MY TIMES ARE IN THY HANDS (SECOND EDITION)

While many are keen to know the happenings in the natural, few know how to determine the times in the spiritual. If one does not know the times in the spiritual, one will seldom know what to do or what not to do.

THE PURSUIT OF A HEAVENLY PATH

'Heaven' is not merely a location but a rule, an order, a system and a realm, which is the true one and the ultimate one. Church, the masterpiece of God is of heavenly origin, of heavenly calling and of heavenly destiny.

THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

The book brings out valuable historical background of the Church to portray its ordination, deterioration, restoration and the church's ultimate destination. The Church means more to Christ, than all the wealth of the universe. The Lord loved the Church and gave himself for her.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SON

The word 'Fellowship' is one of the most misquoted and misunderstood words which carries a very shallow meaning to-day. We are called to know the Eternal Son and to have fellowship with Him, without which we will not be able to progress spiritually.

"YE ARE COME UNTO MOUNT ZION" (VOL I, II)

For many today, Zion means a mountain or at best a city in the natural. But Zion is a people in the complete and perfect work of Christ.

I KNEW A MAN IN CHRIST (VOL I, II)

The great Apostle Paul, expressing his deepest yearnings from a Roman prison near the end of His life worded it thus: '...that I may win Christ, and be found in Him...' (Ph.3:8b,9a). What does it mean to be IN CHRIST?

THE RECOVERY OF GOD'S ORIGINAL THOUGHT.

The Church has lost its primal and original character and nature. God's people need to know what is God's original intention for mankind and for the Church.

GOD'S MANIFEST PRESENCE.

If you are hungry for the Lord and nothing but His fulness will bring you satisfaction, then here is a message that will accelerate your steps in the direction of His presence.

PURSUING GOD'S PRESENCE

By showing the way to enter into the very presence of the Lord this book is a signpost for the famished soul in

hte painful trail of God's presence. It reveals the secret that can unlock the door to His presence, even a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

DISCOVERING GOD'S PRESENCE

God's people have become too familiar with the pleasures of His provisions; they have become too familiar with the blessings from His hands that they have discarded tears of repentance. This book shows how passionate desperation and dependance upon God enters His church, you will discover God in the folds of time!

THE GLORY OF GOD

Here is a gripping 2 part book that unveils the secret of David's tent which the Lord say's He will rebuild in these last days. Ezekiel the prophet too was shown a temple not made with hands in which the glory of God descended. Learn more about it in this book.

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