

Come OUT OF HER
MY PEOPLE

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PREFACE

The contents of this book were ministered in the House of God at New Delhi in the year 1982- 1983. It was a time of transition for us as a local church. Several brethren, who hardened their hearts during this changeover, chose to leave us so that we were just a small remnant left behind. These messages were not birthed intellectually, but in a great travail of the Spirit in those dark and difficult days. They were preached with ceaseless prayer, travail and tears to a small congregation whose hearts were open for the Lord in those times of great trials and challenges. We were called to pay a great price in choosing to go the way of the Lord and remaining obedient to the Holy Spirit as He revealed the mind of the Lord. I was acutely aware of how keen the enemy was to tear down the truth and to discourage those of us who diligently chose to walk in the light of the Word, despite the cost involved. The enemy chose many methods to oppose this move of God in our lives through the levy of false allegations, lies, and scorching accusations. The enemy even stooped to using bad dreams to some people to discourage and dishearten me. Letters were written to me conveying the judgments of the Lord that would fall upon me if I persisted in this calling. As a body of believers we suffered much rejection, persecution and ridicule from our brethren and the religious world. However, the presence of the Lord and His fresh Word by the Holy Spirit was a seal upon us!

A brief form of this message was first brought out in print with the title, "Choose This Day", primarily for local distribution in the church. I was encouraged by the good

response that many sincere Christians received through it. They testified of deriving greater courage to leave their traditional systems and separate themselves to the present workings of God.

This work of the Spirit of God in many lives, encouraged us to bring about a Second Edition of the message under the title, "Ye Jonathans, Choose This Day" in 1995. Many people, across several countries, were blessed by this word. This Third Edition has been necessitated by the hunger for reality by many brethren for the truth contained in this message. The Lord burdened me to revise this Edition to bring about a greater emphasis concerning the present workings of the Lord.

The word of the Lord contained in these pages is fresh for us today even though it was first shared 26 years back. Undoubtedly, the principles of God are the same in all ages. I wish to share very personally that over the last 26 years I have seen several walking away from this calling. **Some who stood with me and with us as a church in those difficult times and trials are no longer actively walking in this calling.** The underlying reason is that this walk will cost us all that we hold dear. Jonathan failed to pay the price and go with David to the wilderness.

We read in the Scriptures, "*And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded*" (1 Samuel 20:41). The words "until David exceeded" relate to a most touching, yet

disheartening scene. They kissed one another and wept one with another, until David exceeded. David arose and departed: and Jonathan went back into the city. Other translations say, “but David wept the most” (NIV), and “but David wept the more” (NASB). Why did David weep more than Jonathan? **The man who discerns things by the Spirit, the one who knows and sees what lies ahead, will weep more when others who walked with him, walk out of this calling.** David saw what would happen to Jonathan, but Jonathan could never see that!

You read the lamenting voice of Apostle Paul in his words, *“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed...”* (2 Tim 4:10). **Paul experienced the pain and agony of seeing several walk away from this calling, including his close brother and Apostle Barnabas.** I am sure Paul wept all the more. This is very true even today.

I am humbled within as I write to say that I have wept over the lives of several potentially people who have walked away from this call after having known and embraced it for a while. Truly, it breaks my heart to see what they have missed and where they are heading. I have also witnessed the sad end of some, spiritually as well as literally. Some of them left when they were yet young and full of promise. They did not realize to what end they were moving back and out of God’s intended path for them, but somehow I could discern this in the Spirit. **Only those who can perceive in the Spirit will weep more as David did.** I want to say, in all brokenness, **even as I write these words, that I am weeping for some who are walking away, at this**

very moment, from this call that they have pursued for many years, in their sheer arrogance, conceit and pride!

Beloved reader, many come forward, appreciate the word and show signs of hunger for the true things of God, but most of the time; it is shallow and lacks depth. While some Jonathans go back to the house of Saul, like Jonathan of old, there are some who have chosen to be with David (His true remnant) in the present workings of God.

There is a blowing of the trumpet and the sounding of an alarm in His holy mountain. It is my prayer that you may hear that Voice, as of a trumpet, loud and clear in these pages, even as a call unto separation, in this crucial hour of moral and spiritual deterioration in His people. The restraints of the Lord shall fall upon those who give into that Voice! The Lord surely will have His remnant, His army, and His overcomers for the day of battle!

Will you '*come out of her*' and be a part of that company, dearly beloved? Remember, your choice will determine your destiny! Hear ye the word of the Lord and live!

Joy Thomas

October, 2009

*O Jonathan, woe is me for thee,
my brother Jonathan,
very kind hast thou been unto me,
thy love to me was wonderful,
passing the love of women.*

- DAVID

THE CHOICE



Introduction

Beloved, the story of Jonathan in the Book of 1 Samuel is given to us in the midst of a tremendous transition when God wanted to bring about a governmental change in the kingdom. The aspirations of the people for a king in the place of God (1 Samuel 8:20-22) was met in Saul who was, by all standards, a man of great stature. Finally God anointed him to be the captain over His people (1 Samuel 9:15). As a leader Saul had everything that men seek in leadership. His lineage was impeccable. He was chosen of God, anointed and baptized in the Spirit, spoke prophetic words; and he won battles in the power of God. Yet Saul eventually went his own way and betrayed God through disobedience and pride. He began well but ended in tragedy.

Saul represents an old order that had to be set aside or rejected because of his disobedience unto the Lord (1 Samuel 15). The throne was to be handed over to David, who signifies the new order for the new day. Jonathan, Saul's son and heir, was a fine young man, who saw the coming of a new order, and even prophesied of the coming kingdom. He knew and loved David, the coming King, dearly, yet missed being in that kingdom of glory. The tragedy is that he refused to bear the painful reproach of being one of the 'outcasts of Israel', who separated themselves unto God as they became prisoners of the Lord in the caves with David.

Our heavenly Father desires you to be a functioning part of the end time body of believers, known in the Bible as "the called-out ones". It shall mean suffering in the flesh, being cast out by fellow brethren, and innumerable miseries, but commitment and loyalty to the present word of the Lord would bring one into the ambit of all that the Holy Spirit has for our age and time. Herein lies a message of significant import for our times.

As you know, the accounts of the Old Testament were written for our learning. Those things took place as examples for us, upon whom "the ends of the ages have come" (Rom 15:4; I Cor 10:11). There is a great witness in the Spirit that this message has much to speak to God's people today. There are many believers in our land who are pictured very clearly in the young warrior Jonathan. But let it be said at the outset, that this message cannot be ministered with a spirit of arrogance or with pride or anger, but rather from a loving and burdened spirit. Jeremiah the

prophet says; “for these things I weep”. Yes, just as Jesus wept for Jerusalem, there is travail within the elect today for the sad and deplorable spiritual conditions that exist in the corridors of Christianity.

Youthful Jonathan, Filled With Zeal And Power

Jonathan was no ordinary warrior. He was a man of tremendous abilities, of excessive courage, and of initiative and daring. In Chapter 3 of 1 Samuel, we see him as one anointed of the Lord, next in line to the throne of Israel. The Scriptural background to this Scripture clearly shows that Jonathan was anointed of God so that he could be a part of the ‘New Order’ that God was bringing forth through David. Jonathan was called and chosen to fulfill the will of the Lord in his generation by standing alongside David. It was a time when the Spirit was pioneering new tracks for the kingdom of God. That was the pioneering spirit that our Lord exemplified in Luke 2:52, as recorded in Wuest’s translation, *“....and Jesus kept on hewing a pioneer path ahead, making steady progress in wisdom and maturity and in the presence of God and with men.”*

Beloved, the time in which we are living is similarly filled with a dynamic of change, foreboding a greater measure of His abiding presence, provided God’s people seriously give themselves to a fresh opening of their hearts to hear His voice. God is inviting men and women to “the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:14). Let us press into a higher realm of anointed ministry, without fear of any man. The Greek word for “press into” implies a

vigorous pursuing, as is done when we run a hundred meter sprint. Let us not be afraid of being misunderstood by those who have eyes to see, but see not.

1 Samuel 13:1-3

(1) Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,

(2) Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.

(3) And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.

We read here that the anointing enabled and energized Jonathan to subdue the Philistines, using an army that was only half the size of his father's army. Further, we see that even though Jonathan was only a youth, he was twice as courageous and effective for God as compared to most of the soldiers in the Old Order, including his father, Saul. It is very encouraging to see young men being raised by God with an anointing to smite the enemy in this day, for the Old Order lacks fresh anointing; all they are left with is the memory of their past experiences of victory. God is equipping many young people today with fresh anointing to smite the enemy like Jonathan of old did in Israel. Today, these young, spiritually energetic saints need to take hold

of the opportunities that God is providing.

1 Samuel 14:4-7

(4) And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.

(5) The forefront of the one was situate northward over against Michmash, and the other southward over against Gibeah.

(6) And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

(7) And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart.

Jonathan was not afraid of the enemy, as many in the Old Order were. We see Jonathan moving out in faith with a fervent vision and a concern for his people. He began to ascend between two sharp rocky crags. We read in the New Testament that this kind of warfare is waged in the heavens and only few dare to venture into that realm (Eph. 6:12 and II Cor 10:3-5). **Beloved, the high calling of God in this day is for those who dare to stand against the purpose of God in this evil day.**

It is interesting to note that the two cliffs on either side of the gorge of Michmash (see 1 Samuel 14:4), have names that speak of the character of the Israelite force under Jonathan. ‘Bozez’ means ‘shining or white’ and ‘Seneh’ refers to a ‘thorn’. The physical contrast of the cliffs is surprising and picturesque. But these names also have a spiritual significance. The saints who are engaged in a war involving an ascent across stiff enemy opposition know what it is to walk in righteousness as they crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts.

Jonathan declares in verses 6, “*come let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us; for there is no restraint to the Lord to save my many of by few*”. He had known the principles of faith and confessed it positively. We see a difference in the manner of warfare between Jonathan (a potential man in the New Order) and Saul (the Old Order). Young Jonathan and his armour-bearer were like two trail-blazers who smote the Philistines in ruthless unison as paired yoke of oxen.

1 Samuel 14:13-14

“And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him. (14) And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armourbearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, which a yoke of oxen might plow.”

Jonathan looked like a young charismatic Christian

who knows the power of plural ministry. Jonathan and his armour-bearer had agreed to go ahead claiming God's promise and God confirmed their ministry with an earthquake (see verse 15)! And so it is in this hour that many Jonathans will revolutionize and shake their leaders and denominations with a demonstration of the power of the Gospel. Jonathan made a very good beginning indeed.

1 Samuel 13:3-4

(3) And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.

(4) And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

In these days we find there is a great spirit of jealousy concerning one another's ministry in spiritual circles. This is just one of the marks of those who walk after the flesh. Once a servant of God said, "If there were a fruit seller and a cobbler in a street junction, they both will be very friendly, but if another fruit seller comes to that place there will be jealousy"! Though there are many ministries in this land, it is sad to see the envy and hatred that exists among those who have identical ministries. Saul took the credit for a victory he did not win, "*and Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land and all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines*" (I Sam

13:3-4). Does that not have a familiar ring?

Jonathan's Eyes Were Enlightened

1 Samuel 14:24-26

(24) *And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food.*

(25) *And all they of the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground.*

(26) *And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth: for the people feared the oath.*

Here we see King Saul moving in his own human wisdom and strength to make sure that his position and authority were secure. As a result, Saul made a foolish vow that none of his army would eat any food until he was avenged of his enemies.

Jonathan did not hear the foolish oath his selfish father had made and therefore ate the tasty, fresh honey. Verse 26 notes that the honey 'dropped'. This is an old English phrase for 'dripping' or 'overflowing honey'. The Bible says, "And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey

for sweetness.” Ezekiel 3:3

In this day of the visitation of the Lord, when the Word flows as a veritable river of honey from true ministries, many in Saul’s (Old Order) forbid sincere believers from pressing onto maturity or living the life of Jesus in this mortal body, which Paul taught the early church (2 Corinthians 4:10-11). I have known denominations which call themselves “full gospel”, but they share only two-thirds of the gospel, warning their believers to stay away from those who speak anything beyond the Pentecostal experience and separate apart from those who speak of perfection. I have come across many sincere believers who live in the fear of men when the honey is dripping. Nonetheless, some like Jonathan of old get to taste the fresh honey (word) and are being inspired by it to overcome their fear of man.

1 Samuel 14:27

(27) But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.

The word ‘enlightened’ mentioned here, is found in Old Testament (KJV) in three other places; I Samuel 14:29: Job 33:30: and Psalms 97:4. The root word in Hebrew means, “to make luminous or light up” and could be translated “break of day, glorious, kindle, give or show light, to set fire, shine” (Strong’s Concordance). The Amplified Bible’s rendering is, “*his weary eyes brightened*”. We also read in

Psalm 119:30, “*the entrance of thy Word gives light; it giveth understanding to the simple or immature*”.

As we move about in this land, we come across many believers whose eyes are weary because of the spiritual blindness in leadership. Spiritual confusion abounds and there is a lot of mixture and worldliness that has crept into worship and the word. **When Jonathan tasted the honey his spiritual eyes were opened.** He immediately received a revelation and an understanding of the dawning of a new day of glory. It is then for the first time that young Jonathan knew that his father’s administration was operating after the flesh (man-made system). Look at Jonathan’s statement after his eyes were opened to see the wrong things in the land:

1 Samuel 14:29,30

(29) Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.

(30) *How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?*

In my experience, many young people turn away from us when we speak about the Old Order, but it is encouraging to see that some of them, having tasted the honey, are being enlightened inwardly and are able to discern the deception that has gripped the Old Order or the present system of man. He further says in verses 30, that if the

children of God were allowed to eat all the words of life (Acts 5:20), it would result in a much greater victory over the enemy. Is that not a great truth? If God's people had the word of life with them, the enemy wouldn't have prevailed over them. Look around and see the conditions of God's people! The Lord Jesus Christ Himself overcame Satan by the word. Jesus said to the Scribes and Pharisees of His time, *Wherefore also do ye transgress the command of God because of your tradition? This people doth draw nigh to Me with their mouth, and with the lips it doth honor Me, but their heart is far off from Me; and in vain do they worship Me, teaching teachings—commands of men.' let them alone, guides they are—blind of blind; and if blind may guide blind, both into a ditch shall fall.'* (Matt 15:3, 8-9, 14)

Apostle Paul also knew the value of Jonathan's eating honey, for he pray-writes: "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of the glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the recognition of him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, for your knowing what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what the exceeding greatness of His power to us who are believing, according to the working of the power of His might," Eph 1:17-19

From this time forward, Jonathan would ever be different, but he had to yet learn the ways of the Lord in his life.

Beloved, in this day of visitation we cannot allow anything or anyone to deter us from the will and eternal purpose of God. **It is very easy and convenient to be both**

Saul's son and David's friend, but in the present workings of God we have a responsibility unto God and the brethren to be totally identified. There are multitudes of believers in the valley of decision today, but they cannot see the danger of dining at the table in Saul's house. Why is it so? The first reason is that they have not eaten honey; and the second is, though some have received a present revelation of word concerning the Old Order, they do not have the courage to leave that order and move into the wilderness. Wilderness in the Bible signifies a place of discipline and proving. This second group refuses to admit and believe that Saul could actually desire David's death and destruction; they have deceived themselves and others into thinking that in the future Saul will even change. It is only by a revelation of the Spirit that we can discern the old order or the system of man. I need to remind us here that Babylon the false church system is called "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT" (Rev 17:5). Mystery means secret. **In other words Babylon the false church is a secret and can only be known by a revelation of the Holy Spirit.** Many sincere saints are spiritually blind and are deceived by the enemy in this area. They go by natural senses and do not feel anything wrong about the systems of man.

In Chapter 9 of the Book of Ezekiel, we see how God showed the prophet Ezekiel the abomination of the children of Israel. The Lord God lifted him up above the earth in the Spirit. Then he was able to see the adulterous and rebellion that existed in the lives of God's people and the priesthood.

Ezekiel 9:3

(3) And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side;

Ezekiel 9:9

(9) Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not.

Ezekiel 9:11

(11) And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.

Dear saints, only the Holy Spirit can bring to man's heart the revelation that Saul (the Old Order) is troubling the land (Christendom). The Spirit of God is encouraging sincere ones to leave the Old Order and commit themselves to the fresh working of the Spirit.

He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.



TWO

THE PRICE



The Change Of God's Anointing

1 Samuel 16:1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

There can be times when even men like the prophet Samuel allow their human nature to rule them. He mourned for Saul because the kingdom had been rent from him. It was clear to Samuel that Saul could no longer be a part of God's purpose for Israel. And Samuel wept for Saul who had missed all that God had for him by his own foolishness and disobedience.

Beloved, the mind of God was to provide Israel another king. Our hearts may break for those in the Old Order who have missed what God has for them, but we cannot sit down and mourn for them for the rest of our lives! There is a need to move on seeing what is upon the heart of God. The Spirit of the Lord is speaking to many believers today to be sensitive, to hear His voice and to know His mind. The Lord asks them, “How long will thou mourn for Saul? How long will you grieve for those who deliberately turn away from the present word of the Lord?” **It is time to MOVE ON from our disappointments, our displeasures and our dissatisfactions with the Old Order, ever praising God that He is providing His people fresh anointing and working after His own will as signified in David.** The Lord had asked Samuel to seek out and anoint David as king. The Lord’s interests had shifted from Saul to David, but how many people were able to quickly see what was upon the heart of God and give themselves to His present thought?

1Samuel 16:13-14

(13)Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

(14) But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

2Samuel 3:1 Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Jonathan Stripped Himself

1 Samuel 17:54 And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.

The slaying of Goliath by David stands as proof that God had chosen and anointed a New Order. Jonathan was a witness to this dramatic incident. Jonathan became aware of the need to take a vital decision. **He could either take the path of least resistance thereby remaining in a system that God had rejected, or he could respond to the burning convictions of truth that pounded in his very being.** I believe, God knew Jonathan's dilemma, and gave him a degree of guidance when the Lord let him see that Saul's armour (human methods and certain past experiences) and his harness (human organization) had not and would not help Israel to face the enemy and his challenges. The Lord Jehovah made a display of the anointing that rested upon young David so that all Israel would see and choose Him.

A mistake historic Christianity and denominationalism has persistently made to this day is to reject the ways of God which they find unconvincing and foolish. They are ignorant of His ways! I have seen many young believers, full of zeal and anointing, come forward to face the challenge of the enemy, but they insist on bearing the old armour of man's traditions and theology, thus becoming

powerless to take on the enemy. If Saul's armour was powerful why didn't any one take on the enemy? We often see many young people suffering in Saul's armour, unable to meet the challenge of the times. These young ones are sent away to be trained in Saul's military schools (seminaries and theological institutions) only to return after several years to maintain a powerless army! The whole set up may look very convincing and attractive to the religious mind when compared to the training of the army in the wilderness! Stay away, dear brother, from such man-generated systems lest you miss God's will in your life.

Israel watched as David took FIVE SMOOTH STONES (the five-fold ministries) from the flowing brook (the present outworking of the Spirit). Beloved, the Old Order cannot accept the truth that Christ gifted the Body with apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Eph 4:11-13). These are new and strange weaponry to Saul! Yes, many of us have seen only two functioning ministries in India, those of evangelists and pastors. It's sad to see some young people start their ministry with the use of a rubber stamp that says, "Evangelist XYZ". After maybe several months or one or two years, the same person will change his rubber stamp to say, "Pastor XYZ"! Dear brother, that's the mark of the Old Order! Many in the Pentecostal and Charismatic realm continue to do the same thing today. They claim to move on without any specific anointing of God. May God help us to see that He is presently restoring and equipping His true ministries to the Scriptural five-fold pattern. These are the God-anointed ministries against which the gates of hell shall not prevail! There are many

who claim to personify the five-fold ministries today, without any true anointing, thus being instruments to misguide and mislead innocent souls. It's my earnest prayer that God may open the eyes of His people to recognize these true ministries for these are the ministries which God is raising up in His eternal plan. These ministries shall represent the true substance of Christ!

In view of these things, it is of little surprise we read that Jonathan STRIPPED himself.

1Samuel 18:1-4

(1) And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

(2) And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

(3) Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

(4) And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

We cannot but admire the humility and Christ-likeness of Saul's son here, for not many can step down from an assured place of authority. But Jonathan was able to see that it was necessary for him to step down so that David (Christ) could sit upon the throne of Israel (Church). Today, there are a handful of men like Jonathan who have stepped down from their places of authority, power and clout. They

have exposed, uncovered, and unmasked, themselves before the Lord, to enter into a covenant with the king of the Kingdom. And some of them have relinquished to Him their robe, representing their right to be a king. They have handed over to Him their own garments of righteousness as they have come to understand that He alone is our righteousness! The weapons they have used for many years to fight their own battles now belong to the Captain; even the girdle of strength is now in His possession. Like his father, Jonathan began so well in God, but it is the one who ‘endures to the end’ who receives the prize (Mt. 13:13). Jonathans of today, take heed to hear the voice of the Spirit and be willing to endure till the end!

Jonathan’s Hope

1Samuel 19:1-3

(1) And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

(2) But Jonathan Saul’s son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:

(3) And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.

God’s presence with David worked much envy and jealousy in Saul’s heart. No doubt Jonathan was stunned

to hear that his father openly and shamelessly eyed to kill David! Hereafter Jonathan attempts to bring Saul and David together. Many Jonathans of today often ask, "After all, if there is some give and take by one and all, why can't we all live in unity?" But Jonathan lived in false hope; it is a futile hope even today. The Bible plainly teaches that Ishmael and Isaac cannot inherit together.

Galatians 4:28-31

(28) Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

(29) But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

(30) Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

(31) So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

New wine cannot be contained in old wineskin. History has shown that whenever God spoke or moved afresh, there have been those who received the truth and those who rejected it.

It is a sad but an inescapable fact of spiritual life that TRUTH SEPARATES. It separates those who receive, from those who reject. There is a common feeling that separation or division is always an unmitigated evil. This is not the case. Division may be a work of the devil, but it may also be a weapon in God's armoury. The truth of the

Gospel brings division: it divides families, it divides husband from wife and it separates parents from children. There is no getting-away from this reality. The truth concerning water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism brings separation though that is not God's intention. At one time in my life one dear brother said, "We used to enjoy good fellowship with you until you went after this 'tongues business.'" Many of us have felt the brunt of such remarks that have come from those we loved and respected. But we could not deny what we have experienced in God. **God is calling His people beyond Pente-cost to HIS fullness and maturity.** This is what we see in David-, the New Order of God. We have often heard remarks such as, -"they are dividing the church", "they are stealing the sheep", "they refuse to co-operate with others", "they have become a cult", " they are exclusive people" and "they are false teachers". A man of God said, "**Every move of the Holy Spirit is a move of the Holy Disturber**". This truth can be seen right through the revivals from the time of Martin Luther until now.

Even though Saul allowed David to remain in his house peaceably, for a season, there was war again! It is so true that the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh (Gal 5:17). These are contrary the one to the other: so that *you cannot do the things that you would*. Yes, today's Jonathan also thinks that everything would work smoothly and fine if he could pacify his father's anger (traditional and fundamental resentment and antagonism for the new). However, let it be said, "Jonathan, you are hoping against hope. There will be unrest again because after a time, David's victory and revelation will once again rankle the

troubled soul of Saul." Beloved, it is inevitable that the Word (Sword of the Spirit) would cleave through unreality and religiosity, divide the true from the false, separate the wheat from the chaff, detach the soul (flesh) and spirit (Hebrews 4:12). **Those who try to patch the un-patchable and join the un-joinable will be unsuccessful.**

Many of today's Jonathans feel that the Old Order of Saul would change and eventually accept the presence of David's New Order. But this cannot and shall not happen for God has left Saul and his household. Saul is at war with David. He may seem to be happy with David outwardly for some time, but inwardly he is full of jealousy and envy. Saints, compromise will not work. Every time there is a revival in some church in Saul's organization or denomination, God moves; the anointing moves in with signs and wonders; and Saul seems very pleased with it. But after some time the old spirit of Babylon begins to work again; Saul cannot accept it. This we see very clearly in the history of the church.

*1Sa 18:11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said,
I will smite David even to the wall with it. And
David avoided out of his presence twice.*

Here we see how Saul (the Old Order) tries to fasten or pin down David (the New Order or system) against the wall which speaks of the system of man. **Saul was only prepared to receive David on his own terms!** The spirit of the Old Order will reject the new anointing every time, for it always wants to maintain full control under their name. It will always try to pin the new things of God to the wall of tradition and fundamentalism, which would render the

new as dead and ineffective, without the living power of God. But, not for long!

Some brethren in the ministry who have had an opportunity to visit the denominational churches which we had left and come out of have said to me, "Brother, things have changed in the old realm. It is no longer the same as when you were there. Now they give us a lot of liberty in worship. They even allow and agree to the laying of hands and prophesy." Beloved, we do well to desire them to accept the whole truth of God's Word, in its fullness, but the spirit that is in Saul will never allow it for long. Mark that down, dear saints!

This Walk Will Be Costly

Chapter 19 of 1 Samuel tells the story of how David had to flee Saul's house to save his life. We must remember that David at this point had many things to learn and master. A primary lesson he had yet to learn was that GOD alone is sufficient for all his needs. A question that one is prompted to ask is this: Did David really need Jonathan? Or was God big enough to take care of His own anointed one without Jonathan's help?

In Chapter 20 we see these young men, David and Jonathan, in conversation. Both David and Jonathan knew the ways of Saul by revelation, but only David had the boldness to admit and say Saul was wrong. On the other hand, Jonathan was halting and reluctant to confess that the Old Order could be capable of such things, by quickly declaring "IT IS NOT SO".

1Sa muel 20:1-2

(1) And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what is mine iniquity? and what is my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?

(2) And he said unto him, God forbid; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? it is not so.

We can meet many such broad-mind-ed persons (who, in fact, are unwilling to pay a price) who say, "It is not so." They are reluctant to accept the truth even after having witnessed several incidences and situations. The New English Bible renders verse 2 of Chapter 20 in this way, "*Jonathan answered him, God forbid! There is no thought of putting you to death. I am sure my father will not do anything whatever without telling me. Why should my father hide such a thing from me? I CANNOT BELIEVE IT!*" Today's Jonathans also speak the same language. They say, "It is not so, brother. I cannot believe it brother! There is no such thought, brother. You are simply imagining things, etc." Yes, there are many people today who are so tied to the house of Saul, the Old Order, in similar fashion. **Many refuse to pay the price to be part of His workings today in the earth.**

There are many believers who find it difficult to tear themselves away from the Old Order. They are undoubtedly attracted to the New Order, to the anointing and the true messages of the Kingdom, and some even

write saying how much the messages helped them to know the will and mind of God. They are hungry for God and are willing to make any sacrifice, pray, fast, go and give, just to have that anointing. But they cannot leave the Old Order! I have seen several young ones in the Lord having this problem. They find this separation hard. It is not that they lack a desire for the New Order, for there is an inner hunger for God. Like Jonathan they have some fine spiritual qualities. However, they do not pay heed to the voice of the Spirit saying, "COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE, THAT YOU MAY NOT BE PARTAKERS OF HER SINS, AND THAT YE RECEIVE NOT HER PLAGUES" (Rev 18:4). They are not willing to pay the price for this high calling in Christ. They are not able to get into the uncertainty of the 'wilderness' with the Davids (those of the New Order) of this day. They reckon they could be doing so much more, preaching to bigger crowds, winning more souls, sitting at Saul's table. They just can't see the reason for their separation. They say, "After all what is David doing? There is nothing, neither specific nor statistical, in what he is doing! He is just sitting in some cave in the wilderness with a few people around him."

The Jonathans of today attend Saul's banquets (seminars and conferences) that are dead and dry with nothing of the Spirit. Their com-mittee meetings, programmes and promotional meetings end in rivalries and strife. They see the in-fighting, arguments, squabbles, disputes and unhealthy spirit that prevail all around, but the Jonathans are unable to come away and separate themselves. Recently, I met a young man who was tired of the activities of the house of Saul. He said that their gatherings were consumed by splits and divisions for the

sake of position, honor and money. Why do they fight and divide if they have the same doctrines? The reason is that the house of Saul is ruled by the flesh, the carnal man. The Apostle Paul says to the church in Corinth, “*For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, re ye not carnal and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos, are ye not carnal?*” (1 Cor 3:3-4).

Some Jonathans think they could help God’s New Order by staying on in the Old Order of man-made denominations and organization. Dear friends, believe me, God will take care of David. But He desires Jonathan to be out in the ‘wilderness’ with David. **Jonathans! Your place in God today is there in the wilderness.** Remember, the wilderness is not a place of settling down, but a place of preparation and proving. **God is calling His true church in this hour to the wilderness.** It is here, that He shall prepare His Army for that final battle with the powers of darkness. If you desire to be in that company of overcomers, move out to the wilderness leaving the house of Saul.

Yes, Jonathans, THIS WALK IS GOING TO COST YOU EVERYTHING! You cannot say, I cannot believe it or I don’t think so, etc. You have to include yourself in those “despised few”. And it is going to hurt your sentiments and soulish desires. It will bring forth confrontations with men who perhaps loved you because you agreed to their ways in the past. You cannot be any more in the “I don’t want to hurt others” group. Look at the life of the Apostle Paul. He was misunderstood and he suffered at the hands of false brethren, for he says ...

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

- (8) *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;*
- (9) *Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*
- (10) *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

2Corinthians 4:16-17

- (16) *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*
- (17) *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;*

There is, in reality, a “FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERING” (Phil 3:10) that only a few desire to participate in. This was true in the life of David. Such was also the desire of Paul, the great Apostle of God. I praise God for this calling of God. **The motivation, “for me to live is Christ”, is worth every battle scar!** Praise the Lord! If David is in reproach, then we shall be willing to join him for we read in verse 13 of Hebrews 13, “*Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach*”.

May the natural ties to Saul’s house not keep us from this privilege of “bearing His reproach”. Beloved, this end time group of warriors and overcomers shall not love their

COME OUT OF HER...

own lives but they shall rejoice in being “counted worthy to suffer for His Name” (Acts 5:41). Listen to the voice of the Spirit, “buy the truth and sell it not” (Pro 23:23).

Finally, brethren, “His yoke is easy and His burden is light”.



THE SHALLOWNESS



1Samuel 20:9 And Jonathan said, Far be it from thee: for if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee?

1Samuel 20:11 And Jonathan said unto David, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.

In his early years, David was not able to surely and confidently know that God was more than able to keep him from Saul's evil intentions. God's plan for Jonathan was to separate himself from Saul and join David though David did not need Jonathans help. We see clearly, that the relationship between Jonathan and David was of a soulish nature rather than of a spiritual nature.

1Samuel 20:17 And Jonathan caused David to

swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

Human intellect and emotions can often hinder our walk in the Spirit. Jonathan had to learn to move in obedience and faith regardless of his preconceived plans, thoughts or his emotions and feelings! He was not willing to leave Saul and at the same time he also wanted to be with David. Many believers are like Jonathan. They are satisfied with their emotional attachments to one another. Their natural or soulful relationships and associations rule and govern their fellowship with believers. Their relationships are not based upon taking up the cross or offering a sacrifice. The Apostle Paul says in II Cor. 5:16, "*Wherefore hence-forth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more*".

I have seen many people move about in a soulish relationship with one another without having experienced the cross. One of the signs of a soulish relationship is that it brings about a lack of courage to speak the truth to one another. Where there has been an absence of a working of the cross and where there has not been any kind of sacrifice, the relationship between any two or more believers is bound to falter. Let me share an incident from the life of our Lord Jesus Christ found in Matthew Chapter 16 verses 21 to 24: *"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his dis-ciples how that he must go unto Jerusalem and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him saying; be it far*

from thee. Lord this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan; thou art an offence unto me; for thou savou-rest not the things that be of God but those that be of men. THEN said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me.”

Peter was moving in a soulish relationship with Jesus. But our Lord moved in the Spirit and used the word ‘Satan’ for him! The Lord was able to perceive the kind of spirit that was working in Peter. Peter, in his soulish or natural love for the Lord, told Jesus to avoid the way of the cross, thereby indicating the strength of his natural love, but not the true spiritual concern and affection that he needed to have. This happens with many of us even today. A true disciple is called to live by the cross. **Every true relationship must go through the working of the cross.** “*If anyone desire to be my disciple, let him deny himself that is, disregard, lose sight of and forget himself and his own interests and take up his cross and follow Me (cleave steadily to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and if need be in dying also.)*” Mat 16:24 (AMP).

Luke 14:26 (AMP) If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his [own] father and mother [in the sense of indifference to or relative disregard for them in comparison with his attitude toward God] and [likewise] his wife and children and brothers and sisters—[yes] and even his own life also—he cannot be My disciple.

This is a fundamental principle of the Kingdom of God. We are to cut out every soulish relationship from our life.

If not, it will hinder us. We have a striking example of the Levites who were chosen by God to be priests unto Him because they were willing to slay their fathers, mothers and beloved ones in the day Israel worshipped the golden calf.

Exodus 32:26-29

(26) Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp; and said who is on the Lord's side? Let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

(27) And he said unto them. Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and everyman his companion, and every man his neighbor.

(28) And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

(29) For Moses had said consecrate yourselves today to the Lord, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

Deuternomy 33:9

(9) Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word and kept thy covenant.

Jesus himself refused to have any soulish attachment

with his mother, brothers and others. "*There came then his brethren and his mother and standing without, sent unto him calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and they brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, who is my mother or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister and mother.*" (Mark 3:31-35).

One good quality in Peter was his willingness to be corrected. If some believers today were told to correct their soulish love relationships, they would immediately respond in anger, gather their friends, and finally leave the church! And if they happened to be members of an organized church, perhaps being members with great influence, they would not hesitate to have the pastor transferred! Beloved, in this move of God, in the New Order, we do not know any man after the flesh. Soulish relationships have to be broken. It is a call to work in the Spirit. **Only through the cross relationships can be strong and secure.** And only such a word can take you to your inherit-ance unhindered.

David's Place Was Empty

1 Samuel 20:24-25

(24) So David hid himself in the field: and when the new moon was come, the King sat him down to eat meat.

(25) *And the King sat upon his seat, as at other times; even upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner, sat by Saul's side, and DAVID'S PLACE, WAS EMPTY. .*

The ‘table’ in Scriptures represents fellowship, communion and a place of teaching, among other things. **David’s place at Saul’s table was empty!** In other words, the New Order was missing from “the king’s Table” which is of the Old Order. The king’s table lacked true nourishment. The prophet Amos had prophesied that a time would come when there would be “a FAMINE of the word of the Lord”.

Amos 8:11-13

(11) *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord Gad, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water but of hearing the words of the Lord:*

(12) *And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and from to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.*

(13) *In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst.” .*

It is staggering to think of the multitudes of believers today who are starving for true spiritual food and who remain under-nourished and consequently under-developed at Saul’s table. Isn’t it true that people, a whole host of them, are running from conference to conference, convention to convention, from one revival meeting to

another, from East to West and from West to East to get fresh food for their spiritual life? However, all their attempts end in more hunger because they are consuming and eating from Saul's table. Amos' prophecy is being fulfilled today before our eyes.

Let us take another look at the account of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. The young man in the parable experienced a famine although there was plenty to eat in his father's house! This was the result of wandering in his own understanding, will and wish. The Word says that the prodigal son began to eat the food of swine. Swine mainly feed upon leftovers, the stale food, and decayed remains; pigs never chooses to eat fresh food. **Beloved, there are many believers who are feeding upon yesterday's leftovers, the stale food of past preparations, while there is much in the Father's House.** While God wants to reveal His Person, His ultimate intentions and His present word and purpose for this age, many choose to feed upon the 'remainders' from some previous revival and divine move. Praise God for the revivals, but there is something more and something fresh today from His presence. Hallelujah!

Many believers are not able to eat anything more than the milk of the Word and hence they are spiritually underdeveloped today. The one who is taken up with milk is but a baby. If one has to grow up and become mature, one has to stop feeding on milk and begin eating and digesting some solid food. The Apostle Paul says to the Hebrew Christians.

Heb 5:11-14

(11) *Of whom (Jesus) we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.*

(12) *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the FIRST PRINCIPLES of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of STRONG MEAT.*

(13) *For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness for he is a babe.*

(14) *But STRONG MEAT belongs to them that are of FULL AGE, even those who by reason of use, have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*

What is this milk? Or what are first principles? We see them very clearly in verses 1 and 2 of Chapter 6 of the Book of Hebrews. "*Therefore LEAVING THE FIRST PRINCIPLES of the doctrine of Christ, LET US GO ON TO MATURITY; not LAYING-AGAIN the FOUNDATION of repent-ance from dead works, and offaith toward God, of the doctrine of BAPTISMS and of LAYING ON of HANDS and of RESUR-RECTION of the dead and of eternal JUDGEMENT.*"

Our preaching and teaching on Repentance, Baptism in Water and of the Holy Spirit, Healing, Resurrection and Judgment are just FIRST PRINCIPLES. **They are elementary or foundational steps. They are mere spiritual milk. This is not the full gospel.** When some people are baptized in the Holy Spirit they think that they have got a post-graduate degree! This is not so; it is only spiritual kindergarten. It is

only milk. Even if you teach these subjects in Greek and Hebrew they will remain milk! How sad that many people call this the full gospel, while it is only elementary or the beginning. Many are so excited today when they are served milk from the pulpit! Please check your own life right now as to what you have been listening to in those places you worship. The reality is that much of all that is being taught today by great and so called well known men fall into the category of "milk". It is so easy to gulp down milk and it does not cause digestive problems!! Look at the words of the Apostle Paul about the Corinthian church.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

(1) And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto BABES in Christ.

(2) I have fed you with MILK and not with MEAT: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

(3) For ye are yet CARNAL; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions; are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

It is not that Paul did not have revelations or deeper truths to share to the Corinthian church. He had, but they were not able to receive it. It was the same with the Hebrew Christians. Beloved, people of God, all that we see around us today in Christian circles talk of division, infighting, jealousy, envy and distrust. Do you know why? It is because they are only fed on milk. They are babes, even though some have been in the Lord for thirty years or more. **You cannot build a Body of Christ on milk alone.** No, Sir. You

cannot grow up into His stature feeding only upon milk. How long are you going to be drinking milk? God wants you to move on to eating some solid food. Several people are aware that they are not getting spiritual nourishment from their lifeless church groups and assemblies. And like Jonathan they are not willing to leave the place of inadequate nourishment and go to a place where they can be properly fed and cared for.

It is ironic that in later years Jonathan's own crippled son Mephibosheth, by the invitation of David, left Lodebar (a place of no pasture in Hebrew) and ate at David's table for the rest of his life (2 Sam 1:9). If the Jonathans of today could but discern that this table of the Old Order tends to bring them into bondage, they would be quick to change. It can even become a snare as we read in Psalms. "*Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap*" (Psalm 69:22). How can this be? It is because Saul always eats sitting next to the wall. The Sauls would never consider moving away from their deno-minational teaching, their tradition and the systems of man. Such Christians do not want to accept the reality that God is bringing about a change of diet for the Body of Christ.

Do you know that the people of God enjoyed a 'new diet' under the leadership of Joshua? "*And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna anymore; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.*" (Joshua 5:12). And David's place was empty, and well it should be, for this New Order recognizes that

they “cannot be partakers” of that which shall not build them up and help them to grow on to maturity. They are like the dove, a bird which is particular in its feeding, that never eats where other birds feed!

Jonathan’s Vital Decision

1Samuel 20:30-34

(30) Then Saul’s anger was kindled against Jonathan and he said to him, You son of a perverse, rebellious woman, do not I know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother who bore you?

(31) For as long as the son of Jesse lives upon the earth, you shall not be established nor shall your kingdom. So now send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die.

(32) Jonathan answered Saul his father, Why should he be killed? What has he done?

(33) But Saul cast his spear at him to smite him, by which Jonathan knew that his father had determined to kill David.

(34) So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food that second day of the month, for he grieved for David because his father had disgraced him.

Our heavenly Father has his own ways of helping us to understand the above passage of Scriptures. God had planned an experience for the Son of Saul that would cause

him to, once and for all, choose his destiny. Through this experience of persecution Jonathan learned of the true nature of his father. All he had to do was to question the old system. Note that David had undergone a similar incident in I Samuel 18:10-12. Here lies the crucial testing for Jonathan. Now he also entered into persecution like David, just because he questioned the Old Order represented in Saul. **However, having known his father's attitude and his determination to slay David, will Jonathan continue to remain in Saul's house or will he flee for refuge to the "captain of (his) salvation" (Heb 2:10)?**

There are those in many ranks who have in recent years been able to keep this new move of God "under the table" or "in the corner". Let us read the words of the Apostle Paul, "*For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also, speak freely; for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner*" (Acts 26:26). No one can push aside and hide the present workings of God. Then, there are others who have been mostly interested in the Lord's work in a social context and a Holy Spirit filled perspective. However, Jonathans cannot cover up and 'politically' conceal old feelings and motivations. Many Jonathans often get upset with Saul (the denominational old order and traditions of man). Beloved, getting upset is not going to change the situation. And let us not allow this kind of bitterness to harm our spiritual life, dear brethren! Remember that many who once followed your pioneer efforts and initiatives (as in Chapter 14) will be watching your moves and decisions. **Will you compromise by remaining silent in the Old Order or will you bring yourself and others out by faith, as did Moses.**

Hebrews 11:24-27

(24) *[Aroused] by faith Moses, when he had grown to maturity and become great, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,*

(25) *Because he preferred to share the oppression [suffer the hardships] and bear the shame of the people of God rather than to have the fleeting enjoyment of a sinful life.*

(26) *He considered the contempt and abuse and shame [borne for] the Christ (the Messiah Who was to come) to be greater wealth than all the treasures of Egypt, for he looked forward and away to the reward (recompense).*

(27) *[Motivated] by faith he left Egypt behind him, being unawed and undismayed by the wrath of the king; for he never flinched but held staunchly to his purpose and endured steadfastly as one who gazed on Him Who is invisible.*

Beloved, the responsibility to take a decision rested squarely on Jonathan's shoulder. However, for certain reasons he would not leave the Old Order. **Jonathan's natural ties were very strong. How about you, dear reader?**

Jonathan's Return To The City (Old Order)

1Samuel 20:40-42

(40) *And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry them to the city.*

(41) *And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.*

(42) *And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.*

What agony for David! Walking away from him was a man who at one time had moved an entire nation in battle! **Yet the shepherd said nothing, making no effort to persuade Jonathan of the folly and shallowness of his choice in this most decisive step of his life.** And so it is even now. **We weep with the Lord for those who go back once again “into the city” (their old ways, carnal feelings, methods, traditions).** In the ministry of our Lord, we see very clearly that He did not force anyone into following Him. The Scripture says about the enthusiastic rich young ruler “*Then Jesus beholding him LOVED HIM, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*” (Mark 10:21) He was sad when he was told to sell all that he had and give it to the poor and then follow the Lord for we read ; “*And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved; for he had great possessions*” (Mark 10:22). Although Jesus “LOVED HIM”, yet Jesus did not say

any-thing or persuade this young rich ruler to follow Him. On another occasion, Jesus spoke to those around him. *"Verily, Verily I say unto you except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood; ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day"* (John 6:53-54). The Jews therefore strove among themselves, wondering how this man can give them his flesh to eat (John 6:52). Many people could not receive His teachings because it was so difficult for the natural mind to accept. Jesus did not waste his time explaining to those people who had no hunger for reality and truth. *"Many of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it?"* (John 6:60). The Lord did not persuade, coax or plead! Finally, the Scripture says, *"From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with Him"* (John 6:66). He did not request anyone to follow after Him. **On the contrary, Jesus said unto the twelve, "Will ye also go away?"** This is the true Jesus of the Bible that is so different from the Jesus many preachers portray in their sermons. Jesus did not explain to them that His expressions had a deep meaning and even an allegorical suggestion. He did not simplify His words so that they would be able to understand what He meant. He wanted the people to trust Him and the words He spoke. He left the choice to them. It is the same today. The choice of following the Lord is yours. Do you have a true hunger and thirst for His Word?

Why would Jonathan who loved David (the new move of God/the present truth) deeply, refuse to stand with the king-to-be? As Jonathan had been fully convinced that

the Old Order (man's methods, traditions/denominational Christianity), needed change, why would he not align himself with the one who could bring it about?

"Jonathan Followed After His Artillery"

These words give us a clue as to why people find it difficult to move with the New Order. We have to remind ourselves that in Chapter 18, Jonathan had stripped and exposed himself before David; now, perhaps because of his wavering or an unexpected amount of pressure from the Old Order, he armed himself once again. So many believers today have spent years of training for leadership in Saul's house; they have prepared themselves to carry the banner of the Old Order. It is too much, to ask them to sacrifice their' 'artillery" (the traditions, the talents and human abilities, educational qualifications, theological degrees etc). Experience has shown me that some brethren and men in leadership, having been convicted of the deadness and decay in their denominations and organizations, return to the old fold because they are not able to adjust themselves to the change. **At one time they readily stripped themselves and came out of the Old Order of things, but then they return to it.** It is so sad that they get into the same things that they had left having paid a price, like Jonathan of old. Many cannot bear the uncertainty of the wilderness.

There are others who cannot part with their natural "weapons" and "defenses", their sharp intellect and clever minds, so that they could learn to walk with the David.

Thus they lose the opportunity to eventually rule with David. As Jonathan chose to use his natural means of protection, so others in this generation never really relinquish their own “artillery” (defense). Are you ignoring the nudge of the Spirit of God because you are concerned about your reputation and social status? Many today sit in their own pews and fans (that they had donated!) and feel satisfied that they can be filled with the Holy Spirit while remaining a part of the Old Order like a big fish in a small pond! They agree to come for some special meetings of the New Order and even give a big offering but they find it difficult to leave behind their “artillery” (reputation & status). They wish to acquire some mental knowledge by attending such meetings, but they fail to really know His ways. In the days of the Lord Jesus there were Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes who came to His meetings but did not leave their traditional, old religious order. He called them ‘hypocrites’ (actors) because they loved the uppermost rooms at feasts and the chief seats in synagogues (Matt 23:6-7).

“...but David Wept The More”

*1Samuel 20:41 And as soon as the lad was gone,
David arose out of a place toward the south,
and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed
himself three times: and they kissed one
another, and wept one with another, until David
exceeded.*

The final words “until David exceeded” relate to a most touching, yet disheartening scene. They kissed one

another and wept one with another, until David exceeded. David arose and departed: and Jonathan went back into the city. The Scripture says “*until David exceeded*”. Other translations say, “*but David wept the most*” (NIV), *but David wept the more* (NASB). Why is it that David wept more than Jonathan? **The man who discerns things by the Spirit, the one who knows and sees what lies ahead will weep more when others walk out of this calling.** David saw what would happen to Jonathan and Jonathan could never see that!

You read the lamenting voice of Apostle Paul in his words, “*For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed...*” (2 Tim 4:10). **Paul experienced the pain and agony of seeing several walking away from this calling, including his close brother and Apostle Barnabas.** I am sure Paul wept more. This is very true even today.

I would humbly submit that I have wept over several people who walked away from this call after having known and embraced it for a while. It breaks one’s heart. I have witnessed the sad end of some promising brethren. Some of them are no more in this world! They have gone away, while yet so young. They did not see to what end they were withdrawing themselves into, but I knew and could see it in the spirit. **Only those who can perceive in the Spirit will weep more as David did.** Let me say, in all brokenness, that even as I write these words, I weep for some who are presently walking away from this call in their arrogance, self conceit and pride!

We need to realize, that in this High Calling of God, there is no place for the flesh and the carnality of man. God is raising up a many-membered spiritual ministry that will declare this Gospel of the Kingdom until, “the secrets of the heart (are) made manifest” (1 Cor 14:25). Saints it is important that we may not walk “after the flesh but after the SPIRIT” (Rom 8; 4). May we be willing to lay aside the things that are gain to the flesh, and count them as dung, as the great Apostle Paul did. **Beloved, fear not to unlearn in order that you may LEARN!** Let us evaluate every area of our present walk in the light of the pure, fresh Word of the Lord!



THE LOSS



Jonathan's Great Confusion and Dilemma

As we come into Chapter 21 of 1 Samuel, David openly becomes an outlaw and an outcast to many of his former friends and 'brethren' such as Jonathan. David went through several experiences in his wilderness training. Each stop and each step of the journey through the wilderness was meaningful and significant, not only to him, but to all those who accompanied him and were preparing to rule in his kingdom. Saints, this is no less today if you are part of the David company. However, Jonathan was not willing to experience these trials with David. Jonathan had to face situations in Saul's house, that were much worse than he had imagined for Saul was only interested to walk in self conceit and his own set ways.

1Samuel 22:17-18

(17) And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.

(18) And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.

The Old Order pictured in Saul does not believe in anything that represents a genuine “Priesthood of believers”. Jonathan was able to see that in the eyes of his father everything that enshrined the New Order in David was unacceptable. Even the priesthood that ministered in the tabernacle was no exception. King Saul was responsible for slaying eighty five priests merely because they would not convey the whereabouts of David. One of the drawbacks of the Old Order is that it is offended by the “Body Ministry”, and plurality in leadership is not an acceptable norm. Saul represented that one-man show that must keep everything under its personal control.

Today, many churches though existing in the New Testament times are functioning according to Old Testament patterns and systems. Under the Old Testament, only those could be priests who were born of the tribe of Levi. The descendants of Aaron who had physical defects,

blindness, lameness, and blemishes specified in the law were disqualified from priesthood (Lev 21:16--24). In the New Testament order, priesthood is significantly different. Every believer who has had a genuine born-again experience is considered a priest unto God (1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6; Rev 5:10). In the former order the qualification for a priest was physical and human, but in the New Order the requirements for priesthood are spiritual and divine.

In much the same way, institutional Christianity, the Old Order of today, gives importance to physical and human aspects such as personality, talents, learning, and education. These are considered to be the apt criterion for ministry in the church. A charming personality, a theological degree, and eloquence are looked upon as the ministerial necessities rather than New Order emphasis of new life characteristics, such as submission and obedience to the Lord. It is not difficult to see why there is so much of stagnation today in the organizational church world.

The Scripture says very clearly, that the church should function like a human body; and just as a human body has different members with different functions, so also is the church, which is the Body of Christ, needs an organic set-up. How sad that in many places, what we have to-day is not the Body of Christ functioning in unity and harmony, but an anatomy lab where human parts (members of the body) without true life are kept on display as non-functional entities! This is the reason why the Old Order wants only one man (the pastor) to do everything from beginning to end! There is no functioning of the body as such. Unfortunately, there is no priesthood even in many

so-called Pentecostal churches which are Spirit filled. They accommodate some rich or famous men as their favorites to also function alongside the minister once in while. Thus what we find in many places is that sincere believers attend church meetings as spectators—they come and go unaffected by the word that was ministered to them. The Sauls of today prefer not to have anything to do with the New Order ‘priesthood’ and take a determined stand against the ‘upcoming’ priests. They do not like to give any place or opportunity to the Holy Spirit, that perchance He may manifest Himself “as He wills” (1 Cor 12:7-12). We read very clearly in the Bible,

Eph 4:16 For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love.

Saul’s order never gave itself to true plurality in leadership. In New Testament times, however, God’s pattern for His Church is clearly set forth in the Book of Acts where the only kind of church government is that of plurality in leadership. We see this plurality functioning in the churches at Jerusalem, Antioch, and Ephesus (Acts 18:18-19, Acts 20:17, 1 Tim 5:17) as well as in the Cilicia churches at Pergamum, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and Attalia (Acts 14:23) as well as the Cretan Churches (Titus 1:4-5), and the Judean Churches (Acts 11 :29-30).

It is significant to note, **that we never find the word**

“elder” (singular) used in relation to a local church in the sense of being the Elder over the church. Yet we find sufficient evidence to show that an elder was considered senior among the elders. So the pattern in the local church is a plurality of ministry, though **plurality is not equality**. This can be seen in the prominence given to Peter by the Spirit from the beginning of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 1: 15, 2:14, 38; 3:4-25, 4:8-12; 5:1-11). Some ministries function in lesser scope of authority than others. There are elders who teach in the local church and act as pillars, and there are some who assume greater responsibilities because of their spiritual abilities and calling. So plurality is not equality and you can never force spiritual equality because ministries vary in degree of maturity, calling etc. The New Testament and early church history confirm the fact, that all the churches had plurality of leadership and yet those who were senior among them, coordinated the work of God and exercised spiritual authority. Those among the elders who had less experience in spiritual matters were told to submit themselves to the elder (1 Pet 5:5). Though there may be some elders with great variety of maturity and calling and function, they are all elders and all are overseers over His people as well as feeders of the flock. Even today, a true Body of Christ would have plurality in leadership. These are appointed by God and not by or of man.

The present day Christianity has gone far from the pattern of God. The Old Order cannot and will not accept this new move of God, but will do everything to go against it. Remember, none of these elders in the Book of Acts came from a Bible College, but were raised by the Lord in

the local churches. None of the twelve apostles came from a Bible college nor did the Lord look for them in any religious institution of His day. **The Local church is the training centre for one and all.** For long the practice in the denominational, Pentecostal and Charismatic churches has been to get leaders from amongst Bible college graduates. These graduates function like baby-sitters who relieve the parents (churches) so that the ministers can indulge in their own pleasures. The Word says, "*The same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*" (2 Tim 2:2). The Lord shall bring forth that which He Has purposed. He who has ear's to hear, let him hear

Coming back to Jonathan, Oh, what embarrassment he must have felt having returned to the Old Order of Saul's house. What guilt and disgrace he must constantly have sensed! He was blamed by his father as well as by those like Abner, who was hungry for power and position in the system. Jonathan could find no real liberty in worship or ministry there. Beloved, this then is the price paid by those who dare to live on the fringes of what God is doing in the earth today! Jonathan's condition is explicitly set forth in the Epistle of James.

James 1:6-8(AMP)

(6) Only it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind.

(7) For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the

Lord,

(8) [For being as he is] a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything [he thinks, feels, decides].

This confused young man, Jonathan, was of "Two Minds". He must have been of all men most miserable of men knowing that God is with David. He longed to be in the midst of that Spirit-directed training and a part of the true life of a committed disciple. The tragedy is that those like him today sit daily at Saul's table, starving and yet knowing that God has prepared a "*table in the wilderness*" for David "*in the presence of (his) enemies*".

What motive could any man have for remaining in such a state of confusion? While many affirm that Jonathan was double-minded and confused, they forget to see the reality of their own lives in the light of God's word. Where are you? Are you starving at Saul's table or eating at the "*table in the wilderness*"?

Jonathan Misses the Kingdom

1Samuel 23:14-17

(14) *And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.*

(15) *And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood.*

(16) *And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.*

(17) *And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.*

Jonathan was aware of what is going to happen ultimately to the kingdom of Saul. He slips off secretly and visits David.

David had only a few people with him in the wilderness, but the blessings of God were ‘flowing’ there in Ziph. In Hebrew, Ziph means ‘flowing’. Jonathan knew that blessings and anointed power were flowing in David’s camp in the wilderness. Jonathan had good intentions to minister to David. He had a true vision. He had the revelation of the future kingdom of Israel. With confidence he could prophesy of the coming Kingdom (New order in David). None of the followers of David had as clear a picture as Jonathan. He had the revelation of the coming kingdom and he loved the anointing. However, Jonathan missed the experience in the wilderness: he missed the one experience he should have had at any cost! At that crucial time he was found missing! This is something we must note carefully. There are many today who, in a similar manner, sense that God is going to do a new thing and they boldly speak about it, but they miss the move of God in their life because of their attitudes. All those who heard Jonathan speak and prophesy would have expected him to

sit next to David, in all certainty, but this did not happen! It is one thing to have a revelation and yet another thing to walk in the reality of the revelation.

Beloved, you need to know that **you can prophesy right things and yet, totally miss those very things, and be rejected by the Lord in your own life.** Let me give you an example from the Bible.

John 11:49-52

(49) And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,

(50) Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

(51) And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;

(52) And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

The high priest was prophesying a right thing, and was accurate in all he said, but he was still one who was responsible for condemning Jesus to death. In Chapter seven of Matthew, the words of the Lord are very significant. People can prophesy the right things, but the Lord rejects them at the end if their lives are not right!

Matthew 7:21-23

(21) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord,

Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

(22) *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

(23) *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

This was so true of Jonathan. He prophesied that David would be made King of Israel and would sit on the throne, but Jonathan was not to be found next to David on that day because he was rejected. Not all those who prophesy in Jesus name shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven. Many of them shall be rejected in that day. How sad for a man like Jonathan to have lost the kingdom! And yet this is true of many people today. He that hath an ear to hear let him hear what the Spirit says.

It is worthwhile to note the spiritual principle that **compromise rides upon ambition. Jonathan wanted promotion without price!** It is no different today. Many believers lose out because they fail to follow this principle of God. Beloved, those who want God's best and highest must discern that the valid ministries in the Bible were all proven ministries! "*Before honour is humility*" (Prov. 15:33). Let all the Jonathans of today listen to what our Lord spoke to the mother of the sons of Zebedee. "*Ye know not (not realizing the cost) what ye ask*". If the son of Saul desired authority by sitting next to David in the coming kingdom

then he had also to learn that '*promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge; He putteth down one and setteth up another*' (Psalm 75:6-7). Many contemporary Jonathans are ambitious; they like and want the praise of men (man's worship). Some of them have a lust for power and for the "glory" (of the ministry). Still others genuinely want the anointing. To such as these the word of the Lord is, "Go into the wilderness, Jonathans, and stand with the David company of saints. Go out into the wilderness first!"

It was in the wilderness that men like Moses, Elijah, and Paul were prepared. And the supreme example of our Lord Jesus Christ is the pattern and the everlasting example for all His brethren. There is an army of believers in the wilderness even today. **It is a small, insignificant, reproached, and lied-about remnant, but it is anointed of God.** They are being prepared of God. Mighty men of war are being raised up, men who will soon go forth and in the power of the new Kingdom order, they will do what Saul and all his armies were not able to do. Saul began his reign with a battle against the Philistines, and for a while it looked like he would do well. He made good gains against the enemy, but after forty years on the throne, the Philistines were still around, and in fact, they overcame Saul in the end and hung his body on the walls of their false structures. This is what we see even today. The powers of darkness are playing havoc in the lives of half-hearted believers in institutional Christianity. **Beloved, let God cause you to be a "nobody" who is ready to go to the wilderness where you will be prepared by His hand.** It is in the wilderness that the Spirit will be able to mould and transform you into

a “somebody” for Him in these last days (Phil 2:5-11).

“Jonathan Went to His House”

1Samuel 23:18 And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

Note the two words ‘his house’. Jonathan did not go to Saul’s house, but to his own (Jonathans) house. Jonathan had made his choice. **A person cannot remain neutral in matters of choice.** Jesus said, *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon..... He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad either Make the tree good and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by his fruit”* (Matthew 6:24, 12:30,33).

How grieved the heart of God must be to see those who begin this walk by faith at their New Birth, but do not allow Him to “perform” and “finish” that which was begun in them. *“And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.”* (Php 1:6).

The call to the people who walk by faith and not by sight has always been *“Get thee out of thy (the place of idolatry) country and from thy kindred and from thy fathers*

house, unto a land (place or inheritance) that I will show thee” (Genesis 12:1). “Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people and thy father’s house” (Psalm 45:10.)

Jonathan could have saved himself from an early and need-less death had he taken this good counsel in the Word. And so it is today. Many spirit-filled Jonathans are choosing to remain in ‘their house’. A man’s “house” could mean anything, literally anything, that he places in value and priority above the will of God, such as: his doctrines, his attitudes, his prejudices and motives; his denomination, his property, his status , his love for money; and a whole list of other things and relationships that can not be listed here for want of space. **A man’s house is where he is king, where none can question him, and where his rule exists.**

The prophet Haggai encouraged the post-exilic people of God to build the house of God and not their own houses. *“This people say, the time is not come, the time that the Lord’s house should be built.” (Haggai 1:2) The problem is the same today. But the Lord said” is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?”* (Haggai 1:4). Let us apply this very word to our lives. It is the same today. People spend time and effort to build their comfortable “house”, for which they have plenty of time, but the house of God lies in ruins. People will be extravagant when it comes to their ‘house’ (church/denomination), but they have no time for the restoration of the Temple made of “Living Stones”, the inward sanctuary of the Lord. The Lord says, “Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink,

but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes" (Hag 1:6).

The ways of Christendom are truly perplexing and mysterious. We need to consider our ways in all seriousness. We read of great revivals, of mass healings, of thousands getting converted or being filled with the Spirit, but when the hour of testing comes, where is all the glory of which people have boasted? How many really continue to show evidences of salvation when the revival moves on to the next town? How many retain their healing when they return home? How many continue to be filled with the Spirit, when the crowds have dispersed? No one is suggesting that these healing crusades and gospel ministries are not genuine! Of course, there will be some which are genuine, but they do little, very little compared to what these ministries ought to be doing. They look for much; and then God blows upon their efforts in the great fanning-mill through which every work must pass, and the question is, where is the wheat? Does it seem to have disappeared with the chaff?

*"Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little;
and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon
it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of
mine house that is waste, and ye run every man
unto his own house." (Haggai 1:9).*

Is it not true, that the people assemble together to co-operate in some great mass effort for revival, and after it is all over, they run every man to his own 'house' (denomination/doctrine/church)? Back they go to their

little denomination and attempt to build with new converts. And God blows upon their work by His sifting and testing winds and, "Lo, it came to little." Hence the drought, the lack of spiritual power and blessing: the absence of any real progression or any rain of His Holy Spirit! God has called the drought, and therefore at His word, the Heavens have withheld their dew.

Let us not take the "building materials" meant for God's House (that is being restored by the Lord today) and attempt to build our own "House" with what belongs to God!

Beloved, hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

*"Is it time for you, (as Jonathan), to dwell in your ceiled houses, (paneled houses) and this house (God's True houses) lie waste?"
(Haggai 1:4).*



THE REJECTION



Rebellion – An Abomination

We do not see Jonathan and David meeting one an-other after they parted company in Chapter 23 of 1 Samuel. However, Jonathan had seen the demonstration of divine love and forgiveness in David who had spared Saul from death on two occasions. One would think that this would have taught Jonathan to realize that he would be safer with David in the wilderness, under the protecting and omnipotent hand of God, than with his temperamental father Saul in the palace. Jonathan had watched his father wander away from God, from time to time, until a day came when Saul even sought the counsel of witches. What a contrast!

“Saul inquired of the Lord, (and) the Lord answered

him not..." (1 Samuel 28:6). Day by day Saul became numb and callous, like Samson who wist (knew) not that the Lord had departed from him (Judges 16:20). In relation to the heathen (gentiles), a people without God, the Scripture says, "*In their spiritual apathy, they have become callous and past feeling and reckless, and have abandoned themselves (a prey) to unbridled sensuality, eager and greedy to indulge in every form of impurity (that their depraved desires may suggest and demand)*" (Eph 4:19, AMP). Such was the condition of Saul and his son, Jonathan, who in blind loyalty would not part from the company of Saul.

In 1 Samuel 28, we see the sad and pathetic incident of Saul consulting the witch of Endor. Most Christians would never dabble in the occult. It exists in many forms such as horoscopes, fortune telling, ouija boards, séances, palm reading, and magic. **Though most Christians are on guard about openly indulging in witchcraft and occult activities, little do they realize that in Scriptures rebellion is called witchcraft!** Multitudes of Christians are actively involved in acts of 'rebellion', which the Scriptures associate with witchcraft. In the Lord's sight, '*rebellion is as bad as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as bad as iniquity and idolatry*' (1 Samuel 15:23). Let none forget that rebellion was the root cause of the fall of Lucifer. When he was cast out of the heavens, he dragged a number of the angelic hosts, with him who were clothed with the same spirit of rebellion. **Every time one rebels against the authority of God, one is guilty of indulging in an act of witchcraft!**

In 1 Samuel 15, we see the disobedience of Saul in

sparing the King of the Amalekites and their best sheep. Saul's desire was to *sacrifice* the best sheep and oxen unto the Lord. However, God would never accept it as a sacrifice unto Himself, because a satanic principle was involved, and Satan would be glorified. **If rebellion is accepted as part of our normal service and work unto the Lord then Satan will obtain and enjoy glory even through our best sacrifices, services and ministry to God.** Satan laughs when a rebellious person preaches the Word of God, for in that person dwells the satanic principle. Everyone who questions God's Word, questions also His authority.. **It is shocking to note that it was not the sin of adultery or idolatry or murder that took Saul away from God but it was through a sacrifice that he was separated from God!** Saints, read what the Lord asks, "*Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD?*" (1 Sam 15:22) Today, many Sauls offer sacrifices (do ministry) with rebellion and disobedience in their lives. **Even a 'successful' ministry could take one away from God if it is devoid of obedience to His present word!** Everyone who questions the authority of God is in rebellion against God. One has to be very careful in life, especially in ministry, to do the will of God and to obey His authority all the days of his life.

Mention is made of two instances of rebellion in Chapter 16 of the Book of Numbers. In the first instance, verses 1 to 40 reflect the rebellion of leaders as the main issue. Secondly, verses 41 to 50 echo the rebellion of Israel as a congregation. It is in this context that we can see **that rebellion is contagious.** God's judgment came upon not just few ring-leaders but upon 250 leaders of Israel. People

of Israel saw the judgment of God upon hundreds of leaders and yet their hearts were rebellious. They were rebellious and continued to declare that Moses had killed their leaders (verse 41). And God judged them with a terrible plague! Yes, **God could bear the murmurings of Israel in the wilderness ten times, but He could not accept the rebellious spirit that arose against His authority even once.** Beloved, God may bear and forbear many sins, but when it comes to rebellion, the Lord draws a line because rebellion involves the principle of satanic arrogance, insurgence, revolt and uprising.

The one who continually lives in rebellion by rejecting God's will, questions the authority of God upon his life. Such a person shall end up like Saul. In his gross deception, Saul went to the extent of even consulting a witch! Just imagine, the Spirit of the Lord had once been upon Saul, causing him to even prophesy, but a day came when his heart was no longer receptive to the voice of God. God would not speak to him anymore! Many do not realize that they are being driven into such rejection through their rebellion and self-will. Let us be warned that God does not delay in judging the rebellious spirit. Anyone who continually lives in rebellion by rejecting God's will and questions God's authority repeatedly, will be judged by the Lord and shall finally end up like Saul.

And The Philistines Killed Jonathan

Remember, Jonathan's unwillingness to follow David into the wilderness was tantamount to deciding to remain in an Old Order or system which even tolerated Satanism!

The Bible warns us that “*the wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23). Saul’s sin was revealed in the defeat of Israel by the Philistines. So we read, “*Now the Philistines fought against Israel and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab and Melchishua, Saul’s sons ... So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men the same day together.*” (1 Samuel 31:1-2, 6). What an epitaph?

Those who persist in the traditions of man-made religious doctrines and traditions leave themselves open and vulnerable to demonic deception. The Philistines, who in type represent the demonic forces of the kingdom of darkness under allegiance to Satan, were responsible for killing Jonathan. The Bible teaches us that the primary aim of a demonic spirit is to deceive and mislead. **Jonathan and Saul eventually fell prey to the deception of “seducing spirits and doctrines of devils (demons)”** (Timothy 4:1). **Sincerity is no guarantee of protection against deceiving spirits.** Many genuine saints have been misled, as evidenced even by David and Peter, who were caught in the snare of evil powers. The Scripture says, “*Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel*” (1 Chron 21:1). To Peter, Jesus turned around and said, “*Get thee behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you are not setting your mind on God’s interest, but man’s*” (Mat 16:23). Demonic spirits are very active in the world today. Every believer needs to be on guard to watch against a possible attack by spirits of deception upon their lives. He that hath an ear, let him hear.

Let me say, "Be careful, therefore, Jonathan, for your father's house is now centered in self-delusion and demonic activity. Take heed Jonathan! Though at one time you could put a Philistine army to flight, but now you must live in constant fear of the Anointing. How is it that the son of Saul, is no longer a match for the enemy in the day of battle?" The answer is this: **what worked yesterday will not work today, because the order is changing and is continually changing!** Guard your mind, therefore, for the wheat and tares shall come to maturity at the end of this age. God is pouring out a river of His Spirit, but, simultaneously, there is also a wave of demonic deception that is sweeping through every religious corridor.

The Scripture warns us that in the latter days some will fall away (just like Saul) from faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the doctrines of demons (1 Tim 4:1). The Apostle Paul says that in the last days, difficult times will come for men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy (2 Tim 3:1-2). The Apostle Peter says that there will be many false prophets ... and there will also be false teachers who will secretly introduce destructive heresies ... and because of them the way of truth will be maligned ... their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment (2 Pet 2:1-4), then we stand in much greater danger. These are serious counsels from the Word of God that are meant for our generation and times.

When the love for God has been lost, when one

questions God's ways and methods and when one rebels against the Lord, then a way is made for the entrance of demonic spirits into such people. They find an easy to access into rebellious lives through situations and circumstances. What can the Lord do if people continually walk in their own ways, deliberately setting aside His counsel? Take account of the words of Isaiah: "*For this is a rebellious people, false sons, sons who refuse to listen to the instruction of the Lord*" (Isa 30:9, 10 NASB). The Living Bible says, "They tell my prophets, *Shut up—we don't want any more of your reports!*" Or they say, "*Don't tell us the truth; tell us nice things, tell us lies ...*" (Isa 30:10, 11 LB). The Apostle Paul also warns us, "*For there is going to come a time when people won't listen to the truth, but will go around looking for teachers who will tell them just what they want to hear. They won't listen to what the Bible says but will blithely follow their own misguided ideas*" (2 Tim 3:3-4).

Beloved, Saul's house, the systems of man, and the institutional Christianity of today, cannot accept "the love of the truth", but instead prefer "strong delusion", even to the point and time when they would "believe a lie" (2 Thes 2:10).

To this the compromising believer will suggest, "Stay in the Old Order, Jonathan! Remain in Saul's' house sitting next to his wall and the old system!" However, to settle down in a dwelling place that God has long ago rejected and forsaken is unscriptural. Besides, staying there will be idolatrous, dead and formal, carnal and rebellious! Perhaps God in these last days will renew Jonathan's conciliatory heart!

Many Christians today are struggling in the bondage of traditions and denominationalism. Many a time, it seems easier for a person with a non-Christian background to enter into the present workings of God, than for a denominational Christian to take a step of faith! The spirit of tradition and denomination is so powerful that many fear to go against it. They have been firmly grounded and rooted in their tradition, practice, habit, ritual and custom. They will always find it exceedingly difficult to break away from the Old Order. The Word of God seems to have little effect upon their hardened hearts. This is clearly evident from the fact that they are willing to ignore and disobey the clear and obvious commandment of God. They choose to favour their traditional and denominational teaching, however wrong that teaching may be in the light of God's Word! This is the power of traditions and denominations, beloved! Some-times, I am led to think that there is an evil spirit behind the tradition of man that makes it so powerful and strong.

Beloved, this is not the time for us to be self-satisfied and complacent! It is, rather, a time for action and moving on in God! Either we must move forward with Him, or we shall miss out on the greatest thing man has ever seen. **It is a time for each one of us to take some hard decisions, regardless of the cost and the pain.**

It is time for you, the Jonathans of the end-time, to leave your comfortable place in Saul's palace. Babylon (the apostate church) is going to fall and if you don't come out of her, you will find yourself falling away with her like Jonathan. The Word of the Lord is, "Come out of her, my

THE REJECTION

people. That ye be not partakers (fellowship) of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Rev 18:4 (AMP)

"I then heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out from her, my people, so that you may not share in her sins, neither participate in her plagues. [Isa. 48:20; Jer. 50:8.]"



THE END



The Wall of Bethshan

1Samuel 31:8-10 AMP

(8) The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

(9) They cut off Saul's head and stripped off his armor and sent them round about the land of the Philistines to publish it in the house of their idols and among the people.

(10) And they put Saul's armor in the house of the Ashtaroth [the idols representing the female deities Ashtoreth and Asherah], and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.

What a tragedy! What humiliation! What dishonor! What degradation to Jonathan, the son of King Saul, the man who would not “go forth” to David, the man who feared to bear “his reproach” (Hebrews 13:13)! He who had brought revival in Israel in the past was now but a “cast away” (1 Corinthians 9:27). The same Jonathan was stripped of all his pretenses and glory and become a warning in his death to every other Israelite!

The wall of Bethshan speaks forever as a memorial and solemn warning to those who refuse to leave the Old Order and who will consequently miss the greatest move of God in Christ that the earth has ever seen! Many sincerely, but mistakenly believe, that they will do more good by lingering in the old denominational order, ministering to those whom they love and encouraging them to remain in the strongholds of denominational Christianity where they have the safety of tradition, than by coming out and taking the risk of losing all they have. I would say in love to all the Jonathans, “You will encourage many to stay in , just like you. But soon a day will come when, not only you but all the sons of Saul will be slain by the Philistines; and their remains will be fastened to the wall of Bethshan!”

May we learn the lesson contained in the very name of that wall. “Bethshan” is derived from two Hebrew words, ‘Bayith’ which is rendered ‘house or family’ and ‘sha-an’ which is a word that means ‘to loll, to be peaceful or at ease’. The meaning of Bethshan, therefore, is the ‘house of ease’. The Scripture says, *‘woe unto them that are at ease in Zion’* (Amos 6:1). One cannot be at ease if

one desires to move on and dwell in Zion, the City of God. One cannot be indifferent. Let us listen to what the Lord said through Zephaniah, the prophet, *“And it will come about at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are stagnant in spirit, who say in their hearts, ‘The Lord will not do good or evil’!”* (Zeph 1:12 NASB). *“And I will punish careless men, living at ease”* (Moffats), *“and punish those who are complacent”* (NIV). Many Jonathans are at ease today. They believe that the Lord will not judge or harm them, in spite of their indifference.

Beloved, one cannot afford to be at ease in Zion; it will bring about a slow spiritual death. Surely, as the Word says, the Lord shall punish those who are stagnant and refuse to move on in God. The prophet Jeremiah says, *“Moab has been at ease from his youth, and he has settled (undisturbed) on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel neither hath he gone in captivity, therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed”* (Jeremiah 48:11). How clear His Word is? Yet today, many have remained at ease, like Moab, from their very beginning. They are a settled people who refuse to be disturbed from their status-quo. They refuse to respond to the Divine dealings and workings of God which they fail to appreciate. They love to be at ease in the valleys, refusing to take the trouble to ascend the high places. Therefore, the Lord says to them:

Jeremiah 48:11

Moab has been at ease from his youth, and he has settled on his lees [like wine] and has not

been drawn off from one vessel to another, neither has he gone into exile. Therefore his taste remains in him, and his scent has not changed.

Settling on One's Lees

In the olden days, wine was purified by pouring it from vessel to vessel, thus gradually purifying and distilling it. The Lord wants to change us progressively until we are eventually brought forth into His image and glory. **But if we 'settle on our lees', if we want to be at ease and refuse to be poured out from one vessel to another vessel (one state to another state) and if we reject His purifying methods, then our 'scent' shall remain the same.** The Apostle Paul says to the Corinthians, "*for we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing*" (2 Cor 2:15). We are to change our scent and become sweet smelling fragrance of Christ to God. One who is at ease will not bring forth a sweet fragrance.

Beloved, let us recognize that there are those whose scent has not changed for many, many years. Their testimony has remained the same, in some cases for over thirty long years! Their vision, their message and their emphasis has been the same over long periods of time. They are stagnant, inert, dull and dormant people. There is no challenge and freshness in their messages. They repeat the same messages, time and time again, because the 'fountain of life' has run dry. To break the monotony and bring some so-called change and freshness, they invite

speakers from other places to inject newness and sparkle temporarily, but their efforts are to no avail because the very root, the nub, the heart and the seed has lost its effectiveness. The majority will invariably choose to remain undisturbed and refuse to be poured from vessel to vessel; thus their sent ever remains the same! How about you? **Are you open for the Lord to disturb you and pour you from vessel to vessel (situation to situation)?**

Many Jonathans today do not see the need to prepare themselves for battle in the Day of the Lord. It makes no sense to them that God is raising up an army in the wilderness! They argue, "This does not match with the teaching of the imminent return of Christ." The 'house of ease' has been proclaiming that the Church of Christ will be taken away any moment for the past two hundred years, more or less. This is often called the any-moment-return of Christ! No other man-made doctrine has made the saints of God so insensitive to His voice! This emphasis has lulled them to sleep more than any other church doctrine. **While God is clothing His 'one new man' of Scripture with the 'whole armour of God' to enable him to 'withstand the evil day', all that Jonathans ever hear of is 'peace and safety'** (Eph 4:24; 6:10,13; 1 Thess 5:3). "Don't worry", the Jonathans are always told, "for the Lord can come any time now to rescue us out of this mess!"

Yes, Jonathan, Christ is surely coming again, **but not before the Bride of Christ is made ready, and not before a many-membered body of overcomers arises to subdue the enemy and put all things under their subjection** (Heb 1:13; 2:6-13; Eph 1:22-23; Rom 16:20; Rev 12:1-11).

Zepheniah 1:13-15

(13) Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof.

(14) The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

(15) That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

Zepheniah 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

The Jonathans who continue to live in the ‘house (church) of ease’, will be shocked to find themselves naked in the day of the Lord with no head and no armour! And it shall be true of them that they will be the very ones who will be plundered by the enemy. They will never have a chance to live in the new homes they have built. They will never drink wine from the vineyards they have planted. That terrible Day of the LORD is near. Swiftly it comes—a day when strong men will cry bitterly. It is a day when the Lord’s

anger will be poured out. It is a day of terrible distress and anguish, a day of ruin and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, of clouds, and of blackness. The silver and gold of the Jonathans' will be of no use to them on that day of the Lord's anger.

“How are the Mighty Fallen”

2Samuel 1:17-20

(17) And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

(18) (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)

(19) The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!

(20) Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

David wept at the news of the battle that had been lost and the death of Saul and Jonathan. We see such a deep spirit of brokenness in David. How the mighty had fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lay slain on a high place. We read of David's lamentation, “*O my brother Jonathan, you have been very pleasant to me... how have the mighty fallen in the midst of battle, and the weapons of war perished, I am distressed for thee!*” **The Davids of today mourn for those who were called to be overcomers, who at one time could overcome Satan, the roaring lion, but**

now have lost their shield of faith and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. They mourn for the vast potential for God that was wasted in all those who failed to choose His way; the utter waste of the Saul's house. This is so overwhelming! Yes, there is a deep mourning for umpteen young lives that will never mature and come to full state because of Saul's table. **The mourning is for those who, at one time could move mightily in spiritual ministry (with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and prophetic utterances), but are now nailed motionless to the wall of Bethshan!**

But why did this happen? The answer is found in the phrase 'high places'. The phrase 'high places' is used throughout the Old Testament in connection with idolatry. Israel was cautioned to abandon and forsake the 'high places' for these were places of idolatry. **An idol is simply anything or anyone we place above or ahead of our worship and devotion to God.** In other words, an idol is something that takes the place of true worship and devotion to God. Thus Saul and his house, his ways and his order, were idols unto Jonathan, who from childhood had learned that 'thou shalt have no other gods before me'. The Jonathans of today have put traditions and denominational order and methods ahead and above their worship and devotion to God. Their gods have usurped God's place in their hearts. By bowing down to the teachings of some great men, the Jonathans have forsaken their true King. They found it easier to obey what men say rather than to obey the counsels of our Lord. Is this the case with you?

Secondly, we find the phrase '*they were not divided*'. The Hebrew word for 'divided' is 'Parad', which means 'to

break through, to separate, spread or sever oneself'. We see, that Jonathan's downfall was the result of refusing to separate himself from the Old Order! His counterparts today will not allow the Word of God to sever and divide asunder, like a sharp sword all that belongs to the Old Order. Their soulish attitudes and motivations remain a hindrance to them and they cannot be set free to walk with God.

Heb 4:12 AMP

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.

In the Book of 2 Samuel, we find David taking over the kingdom, ascending to the throne, conquering the Philistines, bringing the Ark of God back to the Tabernacle where it belonged, and making plans to build God a permanent temple. That was the way the glory came back to Israel.

2Samuel 7:1 And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;

In Chapter 8 of 2 Samuel, there is a list of those who ruled with David. Jonathan is not among them, though he had such an intense desire to see that day. If someone had to be missing, why had it to be this man? He had longed to

see David on the throne. He longed to stand by David's side so that he may help him rule and reign. But he was not included in that list—what a great omission! Jonathan was one of the finest young men in Israel, one of the finest in the Bible. Why did God exclude Jonathan from standing by David's side on the day of David's kingship?

Friends, let us note carefully that God did not allow anything of the Old Order of Babylon to have a ruling part in the kingdom that He set up through David. Even so **God will not allow anything of Babylon to have a ruling part in the kingdom that He is setting up.** In David's time, that place to rule was reserved for those who suffered with him through Adullam and the wilderness. "*If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him*" (2 Tim 2:12). Sad to say Jonathan did not choose to suffer with him in the wilderness, so he could not sit with David in his kingdom. This grieved David greatly. He mourned much for Jonathan, for he loved him sincerely. Take time to apply these thoughts to the present time and generation. Our God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

It is Time to Choose, Ye Jonathans

God alone knows how many of you who have read this far have already come out of the Old Order of man's ecclesiastical system and are moving with Christ in the wilderness! **This message is primarily to those who have a hunger and a deep revelation of the Kingdom,** who know that God is moving by His Spirit, who realize that a New Order must take over soon, that we must come into a higher realm in the Spirit in order to conquer our enemies, the Philistines.

My heart goes out to those who have not been able to see why they must leave Saul's house. I feel sad for them, for I know that they are in a state of torment. On the one hand, they want to remain shackled to the Old Order in which they have been brought up, and at the same time they realize that there is a fresh anointing on the horizon. While continuing in the old denominational church some, in hiding, even keep in touch with the present Word of God. Let me say to those who are battling such an uncertainty, "Come into the wilderness with David and see how many you can encourage to move on with God! **Well, God didn't need Jonathan, but Jonathan needed God and David!"**

Yes, Jonathans, you don't have to perish! If you choose to be in His will in the present workings of God, a new day of the fulfillment of His purpose and glory will be yours. **If your ears can but hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church, you will hear the sound of an army being mustered for battle!** And those of David's band in the cave with David know what it is to be bound to the will of God! The time of preparation is so very necessary. **The restraints of the Lord are falling upon such lives and there is a pounding anticipation in the hearts of these men and women!** The world will see the nature and power of the risen Christ revealed in and through them!

In the beginning, David was alone. But 'day by day', many more flowed out from the 'house of Saul' to the wilderness to 'help' David come into all that God had desired.

*1Chronicles 12:22 For at that time day by day
there came to David to help him, until it was a
great host, like the host of God.*

Surely, as in the days of old, this great army of survivors will increase and abound until there is a great host, like the Host of God. **Be willing to bear the reproach and come out of her, beloved.**

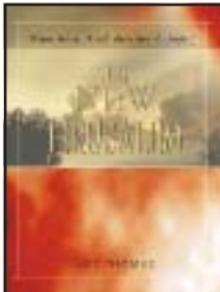
Find your destiny in God, saints. **Oh, my brethren, beloved in the Lord, seemingly small things are so important in this crucial hour!** Go all the way with Him. Let nothing hinder you to do so! It will be worth it all in that glorious day as we stand before Him and rule with Him.

Dear Jonathans, this can be your portion, if you choose. You do not have to fall.

Hear the Word of the Lord and live!

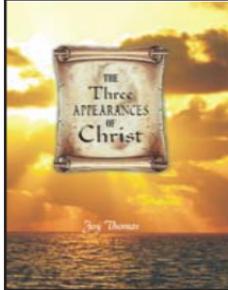
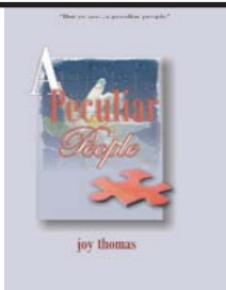


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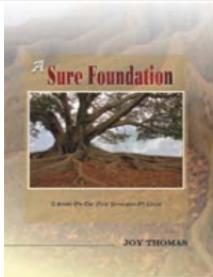
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