

*The Appearance
of the
Glory*

Teaching Session Notes taken from September 2021
SHILOH Apostolic Training School
REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

This Manual has been compiled with shorthand notes from each publicly taught session of the SHILOH International Training School, September 2021.

These notes can help as an aid with the CDs or DVDs or USB for each session or they can be used as a guide to study the topics and verses mentioned.

This manual is also invaluable as a teaching aid for you to teach directly from the Scriptures, with the help of these notes. All the sessions from the school are available on You Tube and Spreaker, and can be accessed from RMA website.

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- Making disciples, Matt. 28:18-20,
- Training & equipping workers for the harvest,
Matt.9:37–10:40, Lu.10:1-20
- Bringing the church to maturity by fathering sons, Gal.4:10
& 1Cor.4:14-17

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THE APPEARANCE OF THE GLORY

THE APPEARANCE OF THE GLORY

Titus 2:13

- Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ (NKJV)
- In literal version of J.P. Green, "looking for the blessed hope and **appearance of the glory** of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ

This is theme of this school – the "appearance of the glory"

"Appearing" – Gk *'epiphaneia'* – a manifestation, can refer to the past coming of Christ, the present manifestation of Christ in the midst of His people, and the future manifestation of Christ at His coming [parousia]

Past – The appearing of our Saviour so we could get saved

- **2 Timothy 1:10** – revealed by the "appearing" of our Saviour, Jesus Christ – through this appearing the grace of God was revealed (**v.9**)
- Refers to Jesus coming as the Son of God in the flesh
- We can now all receive the grace and be saved because He appeared

Future – Jesus will appear in the context of His coming

- **1 Timothy 6:14** – we should keep ourselves in a certain way until the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ
- **v.15** – He will manifest His appearing in His own time; it is an event that will happen when He wills it
- **2 Timothy 4:1** – He will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom
- there will be a full manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ when He appears and judgement will happen
- **Matthew 24:27** – it does not have word "appearing" in it but it does talk about "lightning flashing from east to west"

Present – We are able to relate to God through Jesus Christ continually

- **1 Timothy 3:16** – God was "manifested" (Gk *'phanero'* – to render apparent, to unveil) in the flesh
- this is present in our experience
- God is rendered apparent; we see Him in Jesus

John 14:21 – Gk *'emphanidzo'* – manifest

- Jesus will love us and manifest Himself to us if we love Him and keep His commandments
- *'emphanidzo'* – cause to shine, appear, come to view, reveal, exhibit, make visible, present oneself in the sight of another (*Word Wealth* **John 14:21**)

Jesus explains how He will manifest to us in this age

- **v.22** – how will you manifest yourself to us and not to the world?
- **v.23** – if you love God and obey Him your life will be blessed because **the Father and Son** are manifesting [dwelling] in you
- **Titus 2:11**
- The grace of God that brings salvation **has** appeared
- This grace teaches us to live right in the **present age** – living discretely, soberly

Now – in the present: “looking” for the blessed hope - Titus 2:13

- And “the glorious appearing” – the way it is written is future when Jesus appears, but if we read the text more literally, we are looking for the “appearance of the glory”
- That is, looking for His glory now
- the appearance of His glory in our experience more and more as we follow Him in the context of His corporate body
- Time to grow up, to no longer remain babies, but partake of the word of righteousness (**Eph.4:14-15; Heb.5:12-14**)

What is this hope? What are we looking for?

→ It is the hope of glory

Now

Colossians 1:27

- Christ in you, the hope of glory
- It is not “will be”, but “in” you

2 Corinthians 13:5

- Do you not know yourselves that **Jesus Christ is in you?**
- The qualification is that you believe in Jesus and are born again; He lives in you
- The appearance, manifestation, revelation of His glory is to be experienced now. This is the only way that His glorious church (**Eph.5:27**) can manifest in the earth, fully prepared for His coming

Hebrews 2:10 - Bringing many sons to glory

- Does not mean taking many souls to heaven
- The context is bringing forth many sons in the earth to walk in His glory

What is the blessed hope?

Hebrews 6:18-20

- This hope is an anchor for our souls and this hope is in the Presence of God behind the veil
- We are inextricably linked to Jesus, like an umbilical cord, behind the veil
- **This is Present** – our soul is anchored behind the veil

Titus 2:13

- Glorious appearing of NKJV suggests **future** like in **2 Tim.4:1**

We are to see the Lord – the appearance of the glory

- the good news is that Jesus can manifest now!!
- Paul says, "I saw the Lord" (**1 Cor.15:8**) – his experience of **Acts 9**
- Do you hope to see the Lord? He can manifest Himself to us, very often in a significant moment of our lives

Who else saw the Lord?

2 Peter 1:16 – Peter refers to the experience of the Mount of Transfiguration

- Peter, James and John were eyewitnesses of the majesty of Jesus when He was transfigured
- They saw the Lord, they saw Jesus in all His glory
- There was a manifestation of the glory (**Matt.17:2;3,5&6**)
- Peter says we saw the power and the coming (Parousia – the coming of the Lord)
- Peter saw beyond the veil, it was all self-evident, they saw Moses and Elijah
- Peter is getting us ready for the coming

Jesus will come and manifest Himself to us (John 14:21-23)

Ephesians 3:21

- To Him (Father) glory in the church (ekklesia – the people of God) by Christ Jesus to **all generations!!!!!!**
- The glory is to be in the church in every generation!!!
- **Now and ongoing!**
- **Never-ending revelation of glory in the church**
- The glory is in the midst of His people

The early Reformers had the attitude that their meetings were 'Coram Deo', meaning 'gathering in the Presence of God'

- It is the cultivated Presence, we are to cultivate the Presence of God
- We must value the anointing, never tread underfoot the holy anointing
- We are to pray, and then lay hands on
- Laying on of hands is for impartation, not prayer
- Paul prays that Christ would be at home in us (**Eph.3:17 'That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith'**).

Ephesians 5:27

- Christ will present to Himself a glorious church
- A corporate Body being released in a locality where the glory manifests through the Body

How will this glorious church come to maturity?

Ephesians 5:26 – by being washed by the water of the word

1 Corinthians 12:7

- 'manifestation' of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Greek '*phanero*' – bestowal, 'phan' refers to the 'face'
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit are there to manifest God's face, to reveal Him to His church
- Look for the manifestation of the Spirit when we come together

Walking in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- Receive "the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God"
- "for it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ".

**We are to be "looking for the blessed hope
and the appearance of the glory
of our Great God and Saviour
Jesus Christ"**

A BETTER COVENANT

JESUS THE MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT

Hebrews 8:3-6 – He is Mediator of a better covenant, established on better promises

In the Old Testament the people were under the old covenant

- Serving the copy and the shadow
- Moses had seen the pattern in the heavenly realm
- This was the earthly tabernacle – dwelling place of God
- He had to build exactly according to the pattern

In the New Testament we have the real house of God, under the New Covenant

Eph.2:19-22 – we are members of the household of God

- Built on foundation of apostles and prophets
- Built into the cornerstone
- Fitted together, to be a dwelling place of God in the spirit
- The spiritual house of built of living stones (**1Pet.2:4-5**).
- In the New Testament there is an order/pattern to follow

GOD IS BUILDING HIS HOUSE

- not a copy; it is us the people of God, the body; the church

Hebrews 8:6 - Christ has a more excellent ministry

- Jesus is the Mediator

1 Timothy 2:4-6 - "One God, and one Mediator between God and men, Himself, the Man Christ Jesus".

- God Himself is the Mediator! Because God came in the flesh, He can represent God to man, and man to God
- God in the flesh (**1Tim.3:16**)

Jesus is 'the Mediator of the new covenant' - Hebrews 9:15

- He is able to redeem us, that we can receive the eternal inheritance

Hebrews 12:22, 24 - We have come to the heavenly Jerusalem

- To Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant
- The old covenant people came to Mt Sinai
- But in the new covenant we come to Mt Zion
- There we find Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant
- There is a new mountain to come to
- We are not people of Sinai, we are people of Zion
- This is a better covenant

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS IS THE BOOK OF 'BETTER THINGS'

1. Heb.1:4 "better than the angels"

- All the angels worship the Son
- Jesus can command the angels what to do
- He has a more excellent name than the angels

2. Heb.6:9 "Better things"

- There are better things for us, things that accompany salvation.
- The better things are for now
- Let us go on to perfection

3. Heb.7:7-8 "the lesser is blessed by the better"

- Melchizedek is the 'better'
- Abraham is the 'lesser'
- We have a better priesthood than Levi
- Jesus is our eternal High Priest – the one we tithe to; the one who lives

4. Heb.7:19 "a better hope"

- The law made nothing perfect
- Through the better hope we can draw near to God
- We have a hope of perfection; a hope of the glory
- We can now draw near to God
- This is the 'blessed hope'
- Under the new priesthood there is perfection

5. Heb.7:22 "a better covenant"

- Jesus is the guarantee of the better covenant
- Why? Because He is a Priest forever, it is eternal
- **Heb.7:24-25** - He has an unchangeable priesthood
- He always lives to make intercession for us
- He can save us to the uttermost

6. Heb.9:23 "better sacrifices"

- The tabernacle was to be purified by the blood of animals
- But the heavenly tabernacle is purified by a better sacrifice
- **v.24** Christ did not enter the holy place made by human hands, but into heaven itself
- Christ is the better sacrifice – He took His blood into heaven itself
- We are purified by His blood

7. Heb.11:16 "a better, a heavenly country"

- We have a better homeland
- God has prepared a city for them
- We are to desire a heavenly country
- We come to that city by being born again – Zion

- Set your mind on things above, not on natural things
- **Heb.11:10** – the city whose builder and maker is God
- The Lamb is the light of this city.
- **Gal.4:21-28** - contrast of things
- Things that are symbolic – these are the two covenants.
- Bondwoman is symbolic of old covenant
- Freewoman is symbolic of new covenant
- Sinai – bondage, natural Jerusalem
- Jerusalem above is free – the new covenant
- We are children of promise **v.28**

8. Heb.11:40 “something better for us”

- All the heroes of the faith did not inherit
- (**Eph.1:10**) – all things come together in Christ
- God will bring all things together in Him, being made perfect together

9. Heb.12:24 “blood of sprinkling that speaks of better things”

- the blood of sprinkling speaks of old covenant
- **1Peter 1:2** – we now come under new covenant
- Abel’s blood cried out for justice
- **Luke 23:34** - Jesus said ‘Father forgive them’
- Better – more useful; more advantageous; more serviceable

10. Heb.8:6 “better promises”

- A promise of the Old Covenant [**Ex.19:5-6**]
- ‘if you do this’ then ‘I will’ – the language of the old covenant
- There are promises for obeying

1 Peter 2:9-10 believing on the cornerstone

- But you who are believe are a chosen generation
- You are a royal priesthood
- You are a special people, now the people of God
- Having obtained mercy
- We are the people of God – the new covenant people

Hebrews 8:7

- The problem with the old covenant was the people, they could not keep it
- (**Jer.31:31-34** it was as a marriage covenant)
- The old covenant was broken
- **Heb.8:8** - God said He would make a New Covenant
- Not dependant on the people – that would not work

Hebrews 8:10

- **this is the New Covenant:**
- **1) I will** put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts – God will do it
- **2) I will** be their God, and they shall be My people

- **3)** All shall know Me, from the least to the greatest
- **4)** their sins and lawless deeds I will remember no more
- In the New Covenant – God will do it!
- These are God’s promises about what He will do
- We access these promises by faith

We have a better covenant.

We are the people of God.

Let us grow in the understanding of the covenant we are in.

HIGH PRIEST OF **GOOD THINGS TO COME**

“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is, not of this creation” **Hebrews 9:11**

- What a marvellous statement!

What are the good things that Jesus as the High Priest is bringing to us? **Hebrews 9:11**

- The Messiah is the High Priest

Psalm 110:4 – reveals and confirms that Jesus is the High Priest, but of the order of Melchizedek

- Yahweh swore and would not relent, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”
- This statement is 3000 years old
- David was talking about something that already existed, even before Abraham
- The Messiah would be “priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”

Hebrews 3:1

- Exhorts us to consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession
- We are meant to have a confession of Jesus as both the Apostle and as the High Priest
- The High Priest is working with us to bring us into these good things to come
- He is not continually offering sacrifices – He is a forever person, eternal, not of this creation, comes from somewhere else (**Matthew 2:6, Micah 5:2** – The Messiah was born in Bethlehem but came from “the days of eternity”)
- We are talking about Melchizedek, the King/Priest

Hebrews 7:1-3

- A forever man who appeared to Abram
- Melchizedek – means “King of Righteousness”, there can only be one King of Righteousness – God, the God-Man
- King of Salem – means “King of Peace” [**Isa.9:6** – the Prince of Peace]
- Abraham tithed of all he had to Him

Hebrews 9:11

- Christ, the Messiah, came as the High Priest of the good things to come
- Through the High Priest, we are to take out all the good things that God has for us
- We can reach in and receive from the High Priest Jesus the Messiah

The good things

Ephesians 1:3-11

- Blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ
- Chosen in Him before the foundation of the world
- Predestined to become a son
- Accepted in the Beloved
- Redeemed by the blood
- Forgiven of sins
- Grace abounding toward us; and much more!

This is an example of the "good things" that have been given to us through the High Priest

What is a High Priest?

- Pagan civilizations had priests
- This goes back in human history
- Through Biblical history Aaron and his sons were appointed the High Priests and all other nations had Satanic priests
- High Priesthood was passed down the family in the Bible

The priest offered sacrifices

The most important act of the High Priest is to be able to offer suitable sacrifices

- The most important sacrifice was on the Day of Atonement, taking the blood of the goat into the Holy of Holies to atone for the sins of the people for that year
- Only the High Priest can do certain things
- The sad part was that the people never changed; so every year they were back at the Day of Atonement to have their sins atoned for (**Leviticus 16**)

But Jesus came and offered one sacrifice that perfects us forever – **Hebrews 10:14**

Now we are made kings and priests in the order of Melchizedek – **Rev.5:9-10**

Entering the tabernacle not made with hands

Hebrews 9:11

- Aaron and his sons could never achieve this
- Christ entered the tabernacle not made with hands, the heavenly one
- We are to see beyond the veil
- God's people entering beyond the veil
- The Feast of Tabernacles is the final feast on the calendar where we come to dwell with Him and He with us
- Only blood of Jesus can make us not guilty
- Only Jesus can do this!
- We are introduced to another realm, behind the veil, being ushered into the presence of God through Jesus the High Priest, who has gone before us

The nature of the kingdom that we have entered

John 18:36-37

- Jesus' kingdom is not of this world, not from here
- Jesus came into this world to bear witness of the truth
- The truth is that there is a kingdom that is not of this world! Jesus is the King

- We are seeking for that Kingdom and the King who is not of this world
- Jesus is the Way (**Jn.14:6**)
- We do not come by way of religious observance, serving in copies and shadows of the true, rather than the substance which is Christ (**Colossians 2:16-17**)
- Stay focused on Jesus; look to Jesus; believe in Jesus; dig [search] for Jesus
- Christ in you, the hope of the glory – **Col.1:27**
- We want to apprehend that for which Christ laid hold for us – **Phil.3:12**
- Great men and women of faith walked in faith but did not receive the promise – this is the challenge of Christianity, to walk by what we believe
- We are to examine ourselves to see if Christ is in our life (**2 Cor.13:5, 1Cor.11:27-28**)

The perfect sacrifice

Hebrews 9:14

- Blood of Christ can cleanse our conscience from dead works to serve the living God
- **Ephesians 1:7** – redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins
- **Christ offered Himself through the Eternal Spirit** – Holy Spirit, One Spirit (**Eph.4:4**)
- God does not dwell in temples made with human hands, do not waste time on buildings, be in the sanctuary of God, where two or three gather in name of Jesus (**Matt.18:20**)

Under the Law the priest had things to do daily, weekly, monthly and annually (3 feasts)

Now we have been cleansed from an evil conscience to **serve the living God**

In New Testament, service is coming out of a voluntary heart of submission and love, wanting more of God in our lives

- This comes through humility and believing

A Body has been Prepared

Hebrews 10:5

- A body You have prepared for Me
- This in first instance was the body that Jesus came in, in the womb of Mary
- In the Spiritual instance there is a Body where the Christ dwells
- God has prepared for Christ a Body, to manifest His glory, His goodness, His power and beauty

Serving in the Spirit

Romans 1:9

- We **serve** the living God in our spirit in the gospel of His Son
- Paul's conscience was cleansed and now he served God in his spirit in the gospel
- We are to serve in the spirit, so as to harness our souls to obey in the spirit

The blood of Christ is one of the good things

Hebrews 13:20-21

- The blood of the everlasting covenant
- It is the blood of Christ Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the Sheep

Ephesians 2:13

- Brought near by the blood of Christ, whether Jew or Gentile

Hebrews 10:19

- The blood gives us entry to Most Holy Place, behind the veil

Hebrews 9:12

- Eternal redemption through the Blood
- We have a better covenant, a new covenant
- In the New Covenant, it has all been done

Access to the Heavenly tabernacle

Hebrews 9:23-24

- Heavenly things needed better sacrifices to be purified
- Christ is the better sacrifice
- On the earth, Jesus never entered the Temple, only the courts
- He was not a priest under the Old Covenant order of priesthood, He was not a Levite, nor of Aaron
- He taught in the porch and precincts, but never entered the Temple
- But now He has entered into heaven itself, to cleanse the heavens by His blood
- Demonic forces do not have any access to God now, the blood has cleansed the heavens now, Jesus has now dealt with the Devil

Jesus will appear the second time

Hebrews 9:26

- Jesus appeared to put away sin once for all by the sacrifice of Himself
- The moment Jesus comes into our life, we lose our sin consciousness, sins are dealt with
- **v.28** Christ offered once to bear the sins of many, on the Cross
- He will appear a second time apart from sin, for salvation – perhaps coming from **Lev.16**, the high priest under the law would go in twice on the Day of Atonement, first for his family, then for the people
- Jesus died and rose and appeared to many (the first time)
- Jesus will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to usher us fully into His glory

The Glory will cover the earth

- **Numbers 14:21** – the glory will fill the earth as we prepare for His coming
- **Habakkuk 2:14** – the “knowledge of the glory of Yahweh” will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea
- This is the revelation and inspirational teaching of the Word of God, opening us up to the glory

He is a Minister of a New Covenant – some more good things

- He ministers forgiveness and eternal life

Before the Law was given

Genesis – human beings living with God on the earth before the law was given

Melchizedek – a revelation of the High Priest in the realm of faith

Genesis 14:18-20 – Abram met Melchizedek

- More than 400 years before Moses brought the Law
- Melchizedek turned up
- Abraham is the father of all those who believe, because he believed in the eternal God
- Abraham met Melchizedek long before the Levitical priesthood
- Christ came as the High Priest in the order of Melchizedek
- God makes a big effort to bring understanding in the Book of Hebrews of the revelation of Melchizedek

**Jesus Christ is the priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek
and the High Priest of the good things to come!**

A RISING STAR

The Eternal Day has Begun

Hebrews 9:26

- Jesus dying on the cross was the "end of the ages"
- From the time of the Cross onwards, men and women could now believe in Jesus and have eternal life
- The eternal day has already begun

Romans 13:11

- Now it is high time to awake out of sleep
- The night is far spent, the day is at hand
- Salvation is near

v.12-14 – the armour of Light is the Lord Jesus Christ

Gen.1:3 – Let there be light – God is doing that now, separating the light from the darkness

- The Light has come now

The Son is the image of God

Hebrews 1:1-3

- The Son is the "brightness of His glory"
- The Son is the "express image of His person"
- Light is connected to the "image"

Colossians 1:15

- He is the image of the invisible God
- The image was described in Hebrews as the brightness of His glory
- Man was made in the image of God

John 1:14

- Word became flesh and dwelt among us
- We beheld the glory
- Glory was manifested and demonstrated by grace and truth
- This gives us a picture of what God intended for Adam and Eve, mankind
- We missed out on this but it is now being restored

Prophecies about the Messiah

God raised up Israel and took them out of bondage

He gave them the law and wanted that to influence the nations around them

- Prophecies about the coming of the Messiah
- He would be what Adam and Israel were not

Numbers 24:17

- Balak, King of Moab, wanted a prophet to curse Israel, he asked Balaam

- No curse was forthcoming – instead a prophetic utterance
- *"I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near"*
- *"A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Sceptre shall rise out of Israel"*

"Star" – Hebrew *'ko-kawb'* – a "shining", a blazing, figuratively it means a "prince"

The Star will come from the East

Matthew 2:1-2 - the wise men came seeking the 'King of the Jews'

- We have seen His Star in the East
- This star was pointing to the Star that was rising

"East" – Greek – a rising up, used of sun rising, rendered 'Dayspring'

Matthew 24:27

- Lightning comes from the East and flashes to the West
- So the coming of the Son of Man will be like this
- East is place of the dawning, the rising of light

Ezekiel 43:2-7 - not speaking of a physical temple

- The gate that faces towards the East
- The glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the East
- The earth shone with His glory
- The Glory came into the temple by way of the East
- The glory filled the temple
- Where God will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever
- Jesus is the fulfilment of the temple that Ezekiel saw

Jesus is the fulfillment

Revelation 1:12-16

- His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength

v.20 - messengers connected to stars

- lampstands are churches – giving light
- Jesus in the midst of His house, His Temple

Isaiah 60:13-14

- The place of God's feet is us, the Body, and we are coming to glory

Ephesians 5:25-27

- Christ will sanctify and cleanse the church by the washing of the word to present her to Himself a glorious church
- This is happening through the ministries that He gave (**Eph.4:11**)

Jesus is the Star

"Star" – Greek *'aster'* – physical body, but this star proclaimed the arrival of the Star (prophetic of Messiah)

- metaphor of Christ as the Morning Star, figuratively as the "Sun of Righteousness" (**Mal.4:2**)

Revelation 22:16 - Jesus is the "Bright and Morning Star"

- The Morning Star rises in the East just before the Sun

But the Star is also corporate ...

Luke 1:78

- The "Dayspring from on High" has visited us
- Zechariah prophesying about John the Baptist preparing the way of the Messiah
- The Dayspring gives "light" to those who sit in darkness
- "Dayspring" – Lit. 'dawn'
- There was a new day dawning
- The coming of the Messiah was bringing in a new day
- The Light would get ever brighter
- The more we are separated from the darkness, the more the light shines – we have a personal responsibility to become holy, separated to God
- The other way to get brighter is to add more lights together

Revelation 2:26-28

- Overcomers will rule with and like Jesus according to **Psalm 2**
- Overcomers will be given "the Morning Star"
- Jesus said He was the Bright and Morning Star (**Rev.22:16**)
- Christ will be in us, the Morning Star in us
- The Star and the Sceptre will come out of His people (**Num.24:17**)
- The Morning Star will emanate from His Body
- Christ in us, the hope of glory (**Col.1:27**)

"Dayspring" – Greek '*anatole*' – dawn, dawning, a sun rising, a rising of light

- Jesus said, "I Am the Light of the World" (**Jn.8:12**)
- This was the rising of an everlasting light
- The world at that time was in darkness until Jesus came

The Light has Come

John 1:6-9

- John came to bear witness of the Light
- The Light that gives light to every man coming into the world
- The Dayspring has come! The Dawning has come!

Matthew 5:14-16

- Jesus says, "You are the light of the world"
- Jesus, as the Light of the world, was going to go back to the Father, ascend to the right hand
- But His disciples are a "city set on a hill" – Zion
- His disciples are a lamp
- The Light was going to leave, but He would come back and live in His people
- The light gets brighter as the living stones come together

Now we are to 'shine' forth

2 Corinthians 4:5-7

- We preach Christ Jesus the Lord
- God who commanded light to shine out of darkness (like Genesis)
- Same God shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ
- We have this treasure in earthen vessels
- While we are on earth in our physical bodies, we have this light, this treasure
- The Light is to be getting brighter and brighter
- The Sun of Righteousness is rising – the Sun rising is a metaphor for the resurrection of Jesus but also a metaphor for the light getting brighter and brighter

2 Peter 1:16-21

- Peter, James and John saw His coming
- The prophetic word is confirmed (by the experience on the mountain with Jesus)
- We heed this word until the **"day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts"**
- They saw Jesus shining, the Light rising, at the Transfiguration, they saw the coming
- The Coming is the culmination of light and glory
- He is coming in His Body
- They saw the coming in Jesus' Body, He was changed
- The glory is appearing, we are being changed from glory to glory (**2 Cor.3:18**)
- There will be a completion of that "day"
- The Morning Star has risen in our hearts – Jesus is living in us by His Spirit
- NKJV "morning star", KJV "day star" – the 'day star' is the Sun
- The Sun in all its brilliance is to arise in us
- Jesus gives the "morning star" to the overcomers, the sons of God

The Light is in Us

Revelation 21:22-27

- Now and future
- No temple in the New Jerusalem
- Lord God Almighty and Lamb are the temple
- Glory of God illumines it - Lamb is its light
- We have come to this city (**Heb.12:22**), we are part of the spirits of just men made perfect
- No need of sun or moon
- The Lamb is in us, the Light is in us, the Lamb emanates from us, His glory, His light
- No night there – no more night for us (no more spiritual darkness)
- The Day is getting brighter and brighter
- Nothing that defiles can enter

Hebrews 1:1-3

- Son is the brightness of His glory: "brightness" – a shining forth
- Jesus is the Firstborn Son of many sons (**Romans 8:29**)
- "express" – complete similarity – He is the express (complete similarity) image of His Person

- We were made in the image of God; it is all about reflecting/manifesting His glory
- The glory is grace and truth, love, power, authority emanating as light

Hebrews 2:10

- Jesus is bringing forth many sons to glory
- He is the Firstborn of many who will be just like Him
- This is the glory we are being transfigured into
- This is the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (**Ephesians 4:13**)
- Christ is the measure, He is the glory

Galatians 4:19

- Paul was in labour of birth again "until Christ is formed in you"
- The goal of the ministry to see Christ formed in His people
- When Christ is formed in us He manifests by glory
- Christ is the Day Star, the Dayspring from on high, rising in us

2 Corinthians 3:18

- We are being transformed into the same image
- We are not God, but we are in His image and His likeness
- We are not divine, but we are partakers of the divine nature (**2 Peter 1:3-4**)
- God wanted that image of who He is to cover the whole earth (**Gen. 1:26-28**)
- That image is expressed by glory, and the glory is to cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (**Hab. 2:14**)
- We once were sinners, but now we do not live in darkness
- We want to walk and have fellowship in the Light

Prophetic Scriptures that we are living in the reality of now

Isaiah 46:12-13

- Salvation in Zion, for Israel My glory
- We are His glory – we are being changed
- He wants to be married to someone comparable to Him

Isaiah 62:1-3

- Righteousness goes forth as brightness (**Heb 1:3**)
- 'brightness' – glitter, illuminate
- Salvation as a lamp that burns
- All will see this
- We will be a "crown of glory" in Yahweh's hand
- This is speaking of the days we are living in now

Isaiah 60:1-3

- Arise, shine, our Light has come
- Glory of Yahweh has risen upon us
- Darkness shall cover the earth (moral, spiritual, intellectual darkness)
- Yahweh will arise over earth – the Morning Star is rising
- His glory will be seen upon us and nations shall come to the Light
- We are the Light of the world

John 17:22-23

- The glory which the Father gave Jesus, Jesus gave us so that we can be One as the Father and Jesus are One
- Jesus in us, Father in Jesus that we may be perfect in One
- Then the world will know God sent Jesus
- Jesus wants to manifest through His people – we are the Corporate Star rising so that the world may believe

1 Corinthians 15:50-52

- Our final victory
- Here is a mystery, a secret
- We will not all die, there will be a living generation that ushers in the full brightness of this day
- We shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye
- Remember Jesus compared His Coming to the lightning flashing from the East to the West (it is instant)
- In that atomic second, we shall all be changed
- The dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed
- The full glory of God will shine forth!
- What happens then? All creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God, having been brought into full glory
- Creation will be able to breathe again, set free from its bondage, the sons have made it into the full glory

**We are to grow in glory, rise in glory,
shining ever brighter until the Day dawns
and the Morning Star fully rises in our hearts!**

THE MYSTERY OF THE BODY

We need to understand the term 'Body of Christ'

- In the Old Testament the term 'body' is not used
- But we are to understand the body of Christ in these days

There is a shift

- A shift from 'servanthood' to 'sonship' – from Moses to Joshua
- A shift that is generational – denominations have served God's purpose, but it is now time to come out from among them
- God's plan is a Body

Hebrews 10:5 – "A body you have prepared for Me"

- Firstly, a physical body prepared for Jesus, when He came into the world
- But secondly a body is prepared for Him to indwell

- 'Prepared' – is the same Greek word as 'framed' in **Hebrews 11:3**
- 'framed' Greek '*katartizo*' – set in order, equip, adjust, complete what is lacking, make fully ready, repair, prepare

Jesus is the pattern

- Jesus is the firstborn, the pattern – we are to be like Him.
- When we look at Jesus, we are seeing the body of Christ

1 Timothy 3:16 – God was manifested in the flesh ...

- This is mystery of godliness, it is without argument
- This is a confession of truth – God appearing as a man, in a body, on the earth

John 1:1 - the Word was God

- **v.14** - the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory
- the glory is seen in the body!

Col.1:19-20 - in Him all the fullness should dwell

- Literally - 'All the fullness was pleased to dwell in Him'
- Jesus released 'the fullness' to those who touched Him

Col.2:9 – 'all the fullness of the Godhead' dwelt in Him bodily. Christ is the fullness of God

The Temple is His body

John 2:13-21 – Jesus went up to the temple

- He made a whip of cords and drove out all who bought and sold in the temple
- Jesus said, 'do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise'
- The Father's house was on the earth – it was to be a place of prayer for all nations

- The Jews asked Him what gives you the right to do this?
- Jesus said 'destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up'.
- **v.21** – 'but He was speaking of the temple of His body'
- There is a 'body'

1 Cor.3:16 – do you not know that you are the temple of God; and the spirit of God dwells in you.

- Through his death and resurrection, Jesus is raising up a new temple;
- it is called the body

2 Cor.6:16 – you are the temple of the Living God

- They will be My people
- Now a many membered body is being raised

There is one Body

Eph.4:4 – 'One Body' – the Father is in His body

- The fullness of God dwells in His body
- Do people see Jesus in you?

1 Cor.12:12-13 – as the body is one, and has many members ... being many, are one body, so also is Christ

- **v.13** – by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body – we are baptised into Christ
- Baptism is what places us into the Body
- we are immersed into His death, burial and resurrection
- all baptised into the one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free ... all made to drink into the one Spirit
- **v.12** – this body has many members – Christ is a many membered body
- Christ the anointed one has now become a many membered body – it is corporate
- Christ in you the hope of Glory (**Col.1:27**)
- the world is yet to see the manifestation of this body in the earth.
- The fullness of the Godhead wants to manifest in this many membered body.

Christ is the Head of His body

- The body is one – Christ and His people
- **Col.1:18** – He [Christ the Son of God] is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.
- After His resurrection, His body had changed, after He had been to the Father and taken His blood into heaven. He could now appear in a locked room.
- **Eph.1:22:23** – God put all things under Christ's feet, and gave Him head over all, to the church, which is His body – the body is the fullness of Him.
- Filling all things with His presence

- Wherever you are, you are an expression of Christ into that place, you are the fullness of Him
- This is how the glory fills the earth

Where is Christ the Head?

- **Eph.1:20** – seated in heavenly places
- But He is also in us!
- The 'right hand' speaks of the place of authority
- In your spirit you are in heavenly places and in your body you are on earth
- Christ the Head is in heaven, but His body is on the earth
- The life of heaven can actually flow out through the body – into the earth
- The body of Christ can manifest the glory of God in the earth

Isa.66:1-2 – God looks on the one who has a humble and contrite heart, and who trembles at My word. God dwells in His people – they become His footstool

Lamentations 2:1- God's footstool is His people (**Ps.110:1**)

- (**Heb.10:13** – waiting till His enemies are made His footstool)
- Before salvation, we were enemies of Christ, but when we are born again, we become His footstool – His dwelling place, His body.
- **Ps.99:5** – we worship at His footstool

The Body Grows

Eph.4:11 – after His ascension Jesus gave gifts

- Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers
- These are ministry gifts given by Christ to His body
- These ministries are being restored to the church today, He is raising them up
- **v.12** – the gifts are given for a purpose

- **to equip the saints.**

SC #2677 - '*equipping*' meaning: to make fit, preparing, training, perfecting, making fully qualified for service. Means to 'set a bone during surgery'.

- The ministries are given to set the body in order, to help the saints find their placement in the body, so that body can function
- **To build up the body of Christ** – to edify the saints, so they are fully qualified for service
- When every member is in the body, doing what they are meant to be doing, properly fitted together, then the glory will manifest

Eph.4:13 – 'till' the ministries are to function 'till'

- We all come To a perfect man – the corporate Christ, the Messiah functioning through a many membered body

1 Cor.12:23-27 – all parts of the body are important, we are to know where we are to be, there we will be secure. No division in the body, but members should care for one another.

- If one member suffers – all suffer
- You are the body of Christ, members individually
- Christ is the Head of His body – He is our covering. You can't leave the body! We are all meant to be part of the ONE body

1 Cor.12:28 – God's appointment in the church ...

- What can manifest in the body

We are to Partake of His body

1 Cor.10:16-17 – the cup ... is it not the communion/fellowship of the blood of Christ; the bread ... is it not the communion/fellowship of the body of Christ

- The Lord's Table is a wonderful revelation of the One Body
- **v.17** "for though many, we are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread"

**We are to grow together as that one body
There is a body that is growing
that will manifest the glory of Christ in the earth.**

BUILDING THE HOUSE OF GOD

JESUS IS THE LIVING STONE

1 Peter 2:4

- Coming to Him, a Living Stone
- Do you know Christ as the Living Stone?
- Rejected indeed by men but chosen by God and precious
- **v.5** - we are living stones being built up a spiritual house

He is the foundation and the cornerstone

1 Peter 2:6-8 - quoting from **Isaiah 28:16**

- A stone laid in Zion, for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation
- A foundation stone; there is only one foundation, **1 Corinthians 3:11** – Jesus Christ
- A Tried/Tested Stone – proven, faithful, true

Another mention of the Stone

Genesis 49:22-24

- "From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel"
- The Messiah is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel
- We come to this Living Stone

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, this Stone was tested, tried and proven

- **John 2:16-21** the Temple is referred to as the 'Father's House'
- **v.19** Jesus said destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up
- **v.21** He was speaking of the temple of His Body being raised from the dead
- The people were thinking carnally, His disciples remembered this and believed the Scripture after He rose from the dead
- This is why He is a "Living" Stone
- He has been proven through His death and resurrection that He is "Living"

There is a shift happening here to see what really is the "Father's House"?

- **Hebrews 9:11** Christ came with the "greater and more perfect Tabernacle...not of this creation"
- Jesus came to bring something totally new, a new creation
- It is not made of human hands, it is totally made by God, His name on it

What is the house of God?

Matthew 24:1

- Disciples wanted to take Jesus on a tour of the Temple, showing Him the buildings of the Temple

- **v.2** - not one stone will be left here upon another
- there is an undoing of those stones and rebuilding of different stones, living stones
- the literal 'temple' is not now the house of God, it will be destroyed

The Glory of the 'latter' will be greater than the 'former'

Haggai 2:6-9

- God will shake heaven and earth, sea, dry land, nations
- The house of God covers everything
- The nations will come to the "Desire of All Nations"
- God will fill this house with glory!
- The glory of the latter house will be greater than the former and there will be peace
- Jesus was bringing in something so much greater, we are in the days of the latter house being built, God's house

Built of Living Stones

1 Peter 2:4-5

- You also as "living stones"
- "You also" – you are a part of this, we are not separated from Jesus the Living Stone
- You are being built up a spiritual house
- We are now partakers of Christ, "who He is" is now who we are

John 14:19

- The world will not see Jesus anymore, but you will see Jesus (by revelation)
- The eyes of our understanding will be opened
- Because Jesus lives, we will live also!!!
- "You also as living stones"
- We are being built on the revelation of Jesus Christ
- We are of that new creation, living also in that resurrection life
- When we come alive in Christ, we become His building material, stones

This is a spiritual house, it is in the Spirit of God, you need revelation to see it

The House is a Dwelling Place for God

Ephesians 2:19-22

- Members of the "household of God" – in this house you find God
- Foundation of apostles and prophets – these ministries lay the foundation of Christ, bringing out the riches of Christ, the deeper wisdom
- Jesus Christ Himself is the Chief Cornerstone, we measure up to Him
- True apostles and prophets preach Christ
- Whole building fitted together, growing into a holy temple in the Lord
- Dwelling place of God in the Spirit, He inhabits us
- No mixture, it is a "holy temple"

We are the House

Hebrews 3:4-6

- Every house is built by someone; but the Builder of all things is God
- Christ, as a Son over His own house, whose house we are
- This spiritual house has someone over it – Christ, the Son

- We are His house
- The nature of this house is that of sons
- Jesus is bringing many sons to glory – **Heb.2:10**
- **John 8:35** – slaves do not abide in the house, but sons abide in the house forever!
- **A household full of sons**
- The ones who have the Spirit of the Son in their hearts crying “Abba, Father” – **Gal.4:7**

The House belongs to the Living God - [1Tim.3:15]

Hebrews 3:12

- Beware of having an evil heart of unbelief departing from the “living” God
- This house is made up of “living” stones
- We are staying with and in the living God
- Exhort one another daily
- **v.14** - we have become partakers (sharer, participant) of Christ
- sons partake with Christ of the inheritance
- everything that is of Christ is also ours now

John 14:20

- At that day you will know that I am in My Father and you in Me and I in you
- We need to see Jesus is in the Father, He is the glory of the Father, the express image (**Heb.1:3**)
- When we see Jesus then we start to see who we are in Him
- Then you will see that I am in you – Jesus Christ living in us – we are the house
- We are partaking of Christ, in that life
- **v.21** Jesus will reveal Himself to those who love Him and keep His commandments
- **v.22-23** - through the Word, revelation and understanding comes
- “keep His Word” – abide in His Word, in the beginning was the Word
- Father and Son will make their Home in us
- Knowing the Father in the Son, knowing the Son in the Father
- One God and Father who is above all, through all, in you all (**Eph.4:6**) – the house of God, the Father’s house

A royal priesthood & a High Priest over the House

1 Peter 2:5 - A “holy priesthood” – this house of God is a “holy priesthood”

Hebrews 10:19-21

- A new and living way into the Presence through flesh and blood of Jesus
- We have a High Priest over the house of God!
- The nature of the household is also that of a priesthood

Hebrews 9:24

- The house of God is not made with hands
- Christ did not enter the copy of the true, but into heaven itself
- Now He appears in the Presence of God **for us**
- We are included! Not for Himself, but for us!
- “we also as living stones”
- He wants us in the heavenly place, abiding in the presence of God

Hebrews 10:19-20

- We enter into the holiest; It is a new and "living" way
- **v.24** - this is corporate
- "let us" consider one another to stir up love and good works – **Col.3:14** – love is the bond of perfection
- in the context of having the High Priest over the house of God
- **v.25** - exhort one another daily as you see the Day approaching
- the Day is the day of the appearance of His glory
- we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves

1 John 1:7

- Walk in the light as He is in the Light
- We have fellowship with one another
- There is a communing in the Light in this household of God
- The blood then cleanses us

What sort of priest is Christ?

Hebrews 5:5-6

- God said to Christ "You are My Son..."
- God also said, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"

Hebrews 7:1-3

- King of Salem, priest of God Most High
- Made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually
- He was a King and a Priest
- We have a High Priest over the house, we are a "holy priesthood"

Revelation 1:5-6

- We are washed from our sins by His blood and made kings and priests to His God and Father
- Jesus has made us kings and priests

**Because Christ is High Priest over the house,
we have the nature of kings and priests also
The house of God is made of kings and priests**

- Priests minister to God, drawing near
- Kings rule and reign with Christ, advancing His kingdom and glory in the earth

JACOB'S DREAM - Genesis 28:10-22

- a ladder set up on earth, its top reached heaven
- angels of God ascending and descending; Yahweh at the top of the ladder
- Yahweh blessed Jacob with the same promise made to Abraham of a seed blessing all nations

A Revelation of the House of God

- **v.17** - this is the house of God, the gate of heaven

The High Priest, Christ, went in to heaven itself, as the High Priest over the house to appear to God for us

- "angels" – messengers (human or heavenly)
- What were these messengers doing ascending and descending?
- Kings and priests – as priests ascending to the throne from the earth
- Then being sent with authority as kings into the earth
- Ladder – **John 1:51** – Christ is the fulfilment of the ladder, the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man (**Col.1:20** – all things in heaven and earth reconciled in Him)

Ephesians 3:8-10 – this house of God penetrates through the heavens, a direct flow from heaven to earth, displacing principalities and powers

- Now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church (the house of God, the holy priesthood) to the principalities and powers in the heavenlies – they bow their knee to Jesus, being manifested through the Body
- Yahweh stood at top of ladder – there is someone over the house of God – The Son of God, the High Priest is God manifest in the flesh, the I Am, over the house of God, the head of the church

The house of God is being built in the earth

Ephesians 2:21-22

- Built together; Fitted together
- We are to be "together"
- As living stones
- We are sons, a holy priesthood, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves, being together

Daniel 2:34-35

- A Stone cut out without hands
- This stone struck the feet of the image
- The image was destroyed with no trace of it left
- Now the Stone became a mountain filling the whole earth
- The Living Stone, with the living stones being built on it fill the earth
- **Isaiah 2:2-4** – come and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh and to the house of our God
- Many nations will flow to it
- This Stone breaks the kingdoms of this world

The house of God is on the mountain of Yahweh

It will fill the whole earth

The nations will come to it

GROWING UP FROM 'ME TO US'

Philippians 3:7-17

It is important to 'be reminded'

Philippians 3:1

- The voice of a spiritual father speaking
- Not tedious to tell you again what is important
- **2 Peter 1:15** - Peter was careful to ensure there was a reminder of these things (**v.5-7**) after Peter left (died)
- He wants the saints to be equipped to continue without him

Beware!

Philippians 3:2

- Beware of dogs (very insulting) – male homosexual prostitutes
- Beware of evil workers – those who plot and plan to do evil
- Beware of the "mutilation" – to ruin it, in context of hurting, destroying and doing damage – the 'mutilation' are those of the circumcision who have believed in Jesus and are trying to enforce circumcision on new Gentile believers
- How dare you touch Gentile believers in their flesh out of a religious conviction coming from the law
- Today we have all sorts of 'mutilators' promoting weird sexuality, even in the so-called church

Philippians 3:3 - We are the circumcision

- We worship God in the Spirit
- We rejoice in Christ Jesus putting no confidence in the flesh

What is the circumcision?

Colossians 2:11-12

- In Christ we were circumcised with circumcision made without hands
- It is the circumcision of Christ
- It happens through baptism into Christ, cutting off the body of the sins of the flesh and having His resurrection power released in us
- It is a spiritual circumcision

Worship God in the Spirit - John 4:24

- Those who worship God must worship Him in Spirit and truth

Paul had all the 'religious' qualifications

Philippians 3:4 - Paul said he could have confidence in the flesh, in external things, in religious observance

- Paul said if you want to compare me with others according to the flesh, I am more than they all

Phil.3:5-6 - all the religious qualifications

- Paul's religious record was spotless
- Paul's religious pedigree as a Pharisee and a Hebrew

Paul counts all those things as 'loss' that he might gain Christ

Phil.3:7 - so begins Paul's individual testimony of change

- all these things that were once important and "gain to me" are now accounted as "loss for Christ"
- we do not add Christ to our life
- we come out of what we were into Christ
- we once put our confidence in outward things; now we have confidence in Christ

v.8 - all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus

- we discover excellence in Christ
- "my Lord" is "the Lord of me" literally
- count those things as "rubbish" that I may gain Christ
- we are willing to let things go that we had confidence in before

PAUL'S INDIVIDUAL TESTIMONY – Phil.3:9-14

Righteousness through faith

v.9 - this is all in the realm of "me", it is individual, Paul's individual testimony:

- to be found in Christ (**Colossians 3:3** – my life is hidden with Christ in God)
- my righteousness comes by faith in Christ, not through adherence to the law
- **Romans 10:3-4** – they did not submit to the righteousness of God, Christ is the end of the law to all who believe
- we are called to believe in Jesus Christ
- **Romans 10:6-8** – righteousness of faith is not dependant on our religious zeal in whatever practice but the righteousness of faith comes by the "word of faith" coming from our heart and out of our mouth
- hearing the word and obeying it
- **Romans 10:9-10** – confess with your mouth and believe in your heart
- each of us individually must be saved, born again, that we believe in our heart that Jesus is the Son of God, died and rose again and can confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord

That I may know Him

Philippians 3:10 - That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection

- That I might know the fellowship of His sufferings, to share in His sufferings
- To be conformed to His death, the result will be that we will experience the resurrection from the dead (**v.11**)
- This is "me", "I", all individual
- We all need a personal testimony that is properly established
- "know" – Greek 'ginosko' – intense of the verb "to know", perceiving, understanding, recognizing,

- Paul is striving in his spirit to seek Christ, to know Him more and be different
- We need to be serious about going after God, be a committed person
- Paul is talking about a different lifestyle, experiencing the resurrection, knowing Christ more deeply
- We have to let it all go, let go of what you had and what you did not have

'Press on' to 'lay hold'

Phil.3:12 - Paul is in prison at the time of writing this letter

- Paul says that he has not attained or arrived
- he is not yet perfect or fully mature
- he is pressing on to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of him
- we are to pursue God's plan and purpose for me
- we need to get to the goal

Forget what is behind

v.13 - Paul is telling us how to live in this age

- he is not worried about if he is going to heaven or not, he is concerned with fulfilling the purpose of God for his life on the earth
- "apprehended", laid hold of
- we are to forget those things which are behind: the mistakes, failures and the emotional paralysis that comes because of our past
- we are to reach forward to what is ahead
- learn to deal with the memories that are binding you at the moment; otherwise they will stagnate us

There is an upward call

v.14 - I press toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus

- goal, prize, upward call
- goal – are you living in victory, are you radiating Christ to others in your lifestyle, we live out what we believe
- prize – there is a reward, we do things for Jesus and there is a reward
- we cannot reach this goal on our own
- we are on an "upward call"
- Then we find each other; there is a fellowship of those who are pressing towards the goal
- The call is not about what is happening in heaven but God's purpose on the earth

Now there is a shift from "me" to "us"

A corporate body

v.15 - "therefore, let us"

- the "us" is the corporate Body, the church
- we are to join together in this
- are you willing to join this corporate "us"; the church on earth, the many membered body?
- the "us" is as "many as are mature"

"mature"— Word wealth at **James 3:2** – “perfect” Greek *‘teleios’*, that which has reached an end, finished, complete, perfect. When applied to a person it implies consummate soundness, being whole. Maturity.

There is a wisdom for the mature

1 Corinthians 2:6 - We speak a wisdom among the mature

- The wisdom and mysteries of God are for the mature
- God wants us to grow to maturity to understand the deeper teachings and mysteries of God’s Word

Philippians 3:15

- When there are mature ones, there are many who can speak the Word and minister
- God will reveal to you what you do not understand
- If you want to press in, God will open up the revelation

Let us walk together

v.16 - to the degree – there are stages of growth

- to the level of maturity we have arrived at, let us walk together in the same rule
- “rule” – is like the pattern

Let us follow the pattern

v.17 - join in following my example

- “Be fellow followers with me” – this is the apostolic company
- note those who so walk; you have “us” for a pattern
- we become a pattern people, each individual but walking together in the same way, the same pattern, the same mind
- the apostle should be able to set a good example for others to follow
- it should be a liberating experience where you realize the call and are blessed and covered to walk out the call
- we can be part of a company and set a pattern that others can take hold of and live out themselves

The pattern is simple – it includes

- partaking of the Table of the Lord in your home and meeting Jesus at the Table,
- prayer (individual and household),
- reading the Scriptures (read the Bible every year)

Each of us needs a personal testimony, properly founded in the faith, then becoming part of an apostolic company, a pattern people

We are to be pattern people
From “me” [individual] to “us” [corporate]

THE KING'S BRIDE

- **The King is Jesus, at the right hand of God**
- **We are the Bride of the King**
- The "Bride" was significant in the Old Testament and now
- The way God treated and looked at His people as the Bride has not been looked at very much
- The "Bride" is not something that "will happen" but "has happened"

The New Covenant is a marriage

- Despite God loving His people as a husband through the Old Testament history, His people still went astray broke the covenant

AT CREATION

Genesis 2:18-24

- God provided for Adam a 'helpmeet', a wife
- This was the first Adam
- Eve was created from his bone and his flesh
- She was called "woman" = "taken out of man"
- She was in the image of God but created in a different way to Adam
- The two became "one flesh"
- The First husband and First wife

A NEW COVENANT

- Introducing the 2nd Adam, the Last Adam
- His Bride was created in the same way
- We are bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh (**Eph.5:30**)

Romans 5:14

- "Adam, a type of Him who was to come"
- The First Adam was a type

Ephesians 5:30

- We are members of His Body, of His flesh and of His bones
- The Second Adam's wife
- **v.31** quoting from **Genesis 2:24** – the two will become one flesh
- **v.32** this is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and His church
- the Corporate Church is Christ's Bride, created spiritually from Him

1 Corinthians 15:45 - There are two Adams

- 1st – created from dust
- 2nd – a life-giving spirit

Fulfillment in the 2nd Adam

- We as the church are created in the Spirit from Christ, and the two shall become one in Him
- This is the marriage
- God knew that Adam and Eve would sin and fail and had already planned for the second Adam to bring the restoration and bring the fulfillment of the marriage
- The Bride exists now, not just in the future
- We are to serve Christ our Husband as a "helpmeet"

Romans 5:14

- Adam was a type of Him to come and so Jesus came as the 2nd Adam to redeem lost humanity
- Lost humanity was His Bride

Ephesians 5:25

- Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her
- Christ died for His Bride, His people
- The church was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world (**Eph.1:4**)
- This was a plan already set in order before God created the world

For God so Loved ...

- From Genesis to Revelation is a story of love, sadly a story predominantly of one-sided love, God loved
- The wives of many of the patriarchs are examples, shadows of the Bride that God desired
- God so "loved" the world – 'agape' – how a husband is to love his wife
- God sent His Son to restore the failed marriage of the Old Covenant

The Bride was unfaithful

John 4:4 – Christ was compelled to go through Samaria

- The woman at Samaria had five previous husbands (representing apostate people of God who went astray from God) **v.17**
- Christ came to set us free, to take on the unfaithfulness of His Bride to set her free
- Paul explained that the first husband has to die for a woman to be free to marry again – **Romans 7:2-3**
- Now we have been set free to marry another,
- the One who rose from the dead – **Romans 7:4**

Covenants are a marriage

- Christ died for us and rose and ascended to the right hand of God in the heavenlies
- We died and have been raised with Him, seated with Him – the King's Bride
- We go through the death to marry another (through baptism)
- Now we can rule and reign with Him as kings, priests and the bride

God declared Himself a husband in the Old Covenant

Isaiah 54:5 - Your Maker is your Husband

- He is your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel
- He is called the God of the whole earth
- The Redeemer is the Husband

EXAMPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Ezekiel 23 – two sisters – Oholah & Oholibah

- God's Old Testament Bride did not obey, change or learn
- Because He loved them, He would discipline them
- This chapter deals with how God deals with His Old Testament Bride
- God looks at the intimate union of a marriage as of great importance as it relates to His union with His people
- Two harlot sisters; two women, the daughters of one mother

v.4 - "They were Mine" says YAHWEH (Israel and Judah – His Church)

- The generations created from them continued to commit harlotry (unfaithfulness in marriage)
- Samaria is "Oholah" (Her Own Tabernacle)
- Jerusalem is 'Oholibah' (My Tabernacle is in her)
- 'Oholah' made her own Tabernacle
- 'Oholibah' – had God's Tabernacle in her

v.5-10 - Oholah went after foreign gods, idols, Assyrians

v.11-21 - Oholibah became even more corrupt, the one most close to Yahweh,

- the one in whom God's Tabernacle was, Babylon came into her and she was unfaithful
- This is the worst thing that can happen between a husband and a wife, to separate in this manner
- No god but Yahweh, if you serve another god, it is like being a harlot, a prostitute

v.18 - her nakedness was uncovered

- she uncovered herself, her sin was exposed
- in the garden Adam and Eve became naked but God covered them
- God alienated Himself from Judah/Jerusalem
- He was no longer in her

➤ **But the plan was to bring her back and restore her**

Who is the New Jerusalem?

➤ **The Church**

God, through Christ, would bring a people back to Himself

- A people who have His Tabernacle within them
- Humanity that had served foreign gods, committed adultery and had been unfaithful, would be able to come back to Him, by having their sins released
- When we are born again, we become the true Tabernacle, the true Temple, the true Jerusalem

- Those two sisters chose not to be His Bride
- Christ has a new Bride

- We are His helpmeet, His helper comparable to Him
- We are to serve Him

Revelation 21:2-4

- New Jerusalem (Oholibah) coming down out of heaven from God
- Prepared as a Bride, adorned for her husband (**v.2**)
- 'Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people' (**v.3**)
- **v.9** – this is the Lamb's wife

**We are the redeemed "Oholibah"
[My Tabernacle is in her]**

JESUS THE APOSTLE

Consider Jesus the Apostle

Hebrews 3:1 – “Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus”.

- Jesus is called the Apostle
- Not much is said about Jesus the Apostle
- We are to grow in our understanding of Jesus the Apostle

We have received 'grace and apostleship'

Rom.1:5 – Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations.

- God wants to us to achieve obedience to the faith, it is through grace and apostleship
- Apostleship has to do with authority
- The word comes with power and authority
- The word is to be obeyed

What is an apostle?

1 Cor.12:28 – God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers ...

Ephesians 4:11 – He gave some to be apostles ...

- 'Until' – **Eph.4:13**

Word wealth at **1 Cor.12:28** on 'Apostles'

SC #652 '*Apostolos*' – a special messenger, a delegate, one commissioned for a particular task or role, one who is sent forth with a message

- What the apostle carries, is released into the body, so that the whole body becomes apostolic
- The apostle carries authority, kingly, governmental authority
- An apostle represents Christ, an apostle is an apostle to the body, not a particular denomination

Apostleship = Commission (**Matt.28:18-20**)

- The Great Apostleship [Commission]
- The apostles delegated to go to the nations with the message, and to make disciples

Apostle – one sent with a message

- comes from Gk. *apostello* – to send with the authority of the sender, to set at liberty
- Brings freedom to obey Jesus, to do what the word says – no denominational control

Jesus was 'sent' by the Father

Luke 4:18 – Jesus proclaims 'He has sent Me' this was His commission.

- Jesus was anointed and sent, He had the authority of God
- Sent by the Father; when the Father sends you, you are covered, you have the Father's backing

Lu.4:43 – "for this purpose I have been sent"

- To preach the gospel to many cities

Matt.15:24 – sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel

Jesus raised up 12 to be apostles

Matt.10:5; 16; 40 – in the context of Jesus sending out the 12 apostles

- His major work was to raise up the 12
- Jesus the apostle is the great 'discipler'
- **v.5** the 12 were 'sent out'; representing the sender, and fulfilling the purpose for which they have been sent
- **v.16** sent out as sheep in the midst of wolves!
- Religion is a 'wolf' – it will want to persecute the church; it wants to control the word of God
- The apostolic sending is our covering, it is the covering of Christ
- **v.40** – He who receives you, receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.
- If you receive the one sent, you receive Jesus the Apostle, and if you receive Jesus, you get a revelation of the Father
- If you receive Jesus, you receive the Father who sent Him

The Task of the Apostle

- The task is the mission: **Matt.16:16-18**
- To build the church, and the church is built on the revelation of who Jesus is.
- The church is built by revelation
- **Hebrews 3:3** -Jesus is the builder of the house
- it is Jesus the Apostle who is building the house
- Jesus the apostle came from heaven to earth to represent God to us, to build the house of God in the earth
- **Hebrews 3:6** – we are the house that is being built

The Role of the Apostle

- to represent the Father, to make the Father known in the earth

Matt.10:40 – receive the Father who sent Jesus

- **Jn.14:8-9** – Jesus said "He who has seen Me has seen the Father"
- if you receive Jesus, you receive the Father. Jesus and the Father are One!
- **Jn.14:10** - I am in the Father, and the Father in Me!
- Jesus came to manifest the Father to us
- He is the visible manifestation of the invisible God

Jesus represents the Word

- **John 1:1 & 14** – Jesus the Apostle is the Word in the flesh
- When you meet a true apostle, you are going to get the word
- **John 3:34** – anointed and sent speaking the word
- Apostolic ministry is opening the word of God to those he was sent to
- **1Cor.4:6** – not go beyond what is written
- God is restoring apostles to the church to bring revelation, to see God's purpose
- The revelation comes on what is already written

John 7:16-17 - '*pempo*' Greek #3992 translated as 'sent'

- Doctrine is the doctrine of Him who sent Him
- Jesus the Apostle did not speak on His own authority; He was a 'sent' One
- Only speak the word of God
- **Rom.10:15** – sent to preach [sent = 'apostello']
- Need to be trained, disciplined, then able to be sent
- Know how to conduct yourself in the house of God

The Apostolic prayer of Jesus

- **John 17:3** – we only know the true God through Jesus Christ whom He has sent – that is eternal life
- **v.4** – Jesus glorified the Father on the earth – this is the apostolic work.
- Jesus fulfilled his role and his task.
- **v.18** – now the ones who had been trained could be sent into the world.
- sent as apostles into the world
- The 12 now could have the glory in them and be sent into the world to manifest His glory in the earth

Jesus the Apostle is among us and

He sending us to manifest His glory

We are sent with grace and apostleship to the nations.

SEVEN SIGNS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

About John's Gospel

- John wrote his gospel in a different style to the other gospels
- Introductory notes to the book of John in New Spirit Filled Life Bible tell us that in place of the many miracles and healings in the Synoptic Gospels [Matthew, Mark & Luke], John uses seven carefully picked miracles, which serve as 'signs'.

Word Meaning

Sign - SC# 4592 GK 'semeion' – [in KJV this word is translated only twice as 'sign' in John's Gospel; it is mostly translated as 'miracle' or 'miracles'; in NKJV it is translated mostly as 'sign']

- Meaning: – *an indication, especially something supernatural: - miracle, sign, token [evidence of], wonder*
- Vine's Dictionary: a manifest deed, having in itself an explanation of something hidden and secret. In John's gospel this word is used as a token or evidence of divine authority and power being manifest.

The Purpose of John's Gospel

John 20:30-31

- John's purpose in writing his gospel:
- *"These things are written that you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His name"*
- There were many other signs that were not written down
- John wanted people to understand who Jesus really was – the Christ, the Son of God (God in the flesh)
- The signs and miracles recorded are for the purpose of revealing who Jesus is

Some believed the signs, others did not

John 3:2

- Nicodemus knew Jesus was a Teacher come from God because he recognized that the signs Jesus did were from God
- There was evidence of divine authority and power

John 7:25-31

- Discussion going on about Jesus and who He is
- Jesus made a declaration about who He was, He was from God, sent from God
- They knew the Christ would come performing signs
- There were those who did believe and those who did not believe
- Jesus really wanted His disciples to know who He was

THE SEVEN SIGNS

1. TURNING WATER INTO WINE - John 2:1-11

- There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee
- Mary, the mother of Jesus, expected that Jesus would do something about the lack of wine

Jesus said - "My hour has not yet come" v.4

- This was after Jesus' baptism, after the Voice declared Jesus to be the Beloved Son and He was anointed with the Holy Spirit [**Matt.3:16-17**]
- **Jn.1:32-34** – John the Baptist also testified that this (Jesus) is the Son of God
- **Jn.1:49** – Nathaniel declared Jesus to be the "Son of God, the King of Israel"
- Jesus knew who He was and that there was an appointed time for the outworking of His purpose on the earth "My hour has not yet come"
- In **John 7:6 & 8** He also said this about going to the Feast of Tabernacles
- also in **Jn.7:30 & 8:20** – no one could lay a hand on Jesus because 'His hour had not yet come' – everything happened according to the preordained plan of God

An amazing miracle happened – normal water turned into real wine

John 2:11 – this was the beginning of signs that Jesus did

- What was the purpose? He manifested His glory
- The sign was done so that Jesus would manifest His glory
- **Jn.1:14** – John declared that 'we beheld His glory'
- the glory was seen through the signs; evidence of His divine authority and power
- The result was that His disciples believed in Him

2. NOBLEMAN'S SON IS HEALED - John 4:46-54

- **v.54** – this is the second sign that Jesus did; it was in Cana of Galilee again
- **v.46** - "nobleman" was a royal official, wealthy, a man of prominence and he heard that Jesus could heal and went to Him and implored Jesus
- This man is desperate for an answer and wants Jesus to come and heal his son
- This man persisted and pursued Jesus
- **v.48** – Jesus knew that unless people saw signs and wonders, they would by no means believe
- Jesus wanted people to believe who He was
- **v.49** – The nobleman pleaded with Jesus 'Come down before the child dies'

The nobleman believes the word spoken

- **v.50** – Jesus said, "Go your way, your son lives"
- The man believed that word – faith came into his heart, he was able to go on his way (peace came)
- A picture of supplication: persisting in prayer until there is an answer, a word that brings faith – even though we may not yet see the answer, but we have peace

The result

- **v.51-53** – an awesome miracle has occurred
- the result was the nobleman and his whole household believed in Jesus
- The purpose of the signs: that they would bring the recipients to faith in Christ

3. **HEALING OF MAN AT POOL OF BETHESDA - John 5:3-9**

- A pool named "Bethesda" – 'house of kindness'
- Many sick were around this pool waiting for healing
- **v.5** – man had infirmity for 38 years, still no healing
- **v.6** – Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be made well?"
- **v.8** – Jesus commanded the man to rise up and he immediately was healed of the infirmity, up and walking
- an amazing demonstration of His divine authority and power
- It was done on a Sabbath!! This stirred up the religious leaders

- **v.14** Jesus told the man: sin no more otherwise a worse thing will come upon you
- God is the only one who can forgive sins
- **v.16** – the Jews wanted to kill Him because He did this on the Sabbath

'Making Himself equal with God'

- **v.17-18** - Jesus told them God was His Father
- the Jewish authorities then knew Jesus was making Himself equal with God
- two charges now – blasphemy and breaking the Sabbath
- **John 10:30** – Jesus and Father are One
- **John 14:8-9** – If you have seen Jesus, you have seen the Father
- Jesus was clear about who He was as the Son of God
- **Philippians 2:5-6** – Jesus was in the form of God and did not consider it robbery to be equal with God
- before He came on the earth He was in the form of God and now He came as God manifested in the flesh
- the Jewish leaders could not accept this even though His signs were pointing to this

4. **THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND - John 6:1-14**

- **v.2** - A great multitude followed Him because of the signs, it was the signs that attracted the people
- **v.5** – Jesus asked Philip 'where can we get bread for everyone to eat'
- there were 5000 men plus women and children all needing to be fed
- **v.6** - Jesus was testing Philip as He knew what He was going to do
- **v.11** - Jesus took loaves and gave thanks and distributed to the disciples and the disciples distributed to everyone sitting down
- this miracle happened through the hands of the disciples
- **v.12** - everyone was fed and filled
- had the disciples fully got the revelation of who Jesus was? No, and yet the miracle was happening through their hands

Could this be the 'Prophet'?

- **v.14** - some people believed that Jesus must be the Prophet who was to come into the world
- **Deut.18:15,18** – they knew Moses had prophesied that a Prophet would come
- this sign was a similar sign to Moses and the children of Israel in the wilderness who were fed with manna everyday – could this One be that Prophet?

- **v.32-33** – Jesus picks up on this saying, ‘Moses did not give you the bread from heaven but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven’

Jesus the I AM!

- **v.35** Jesus says “I AM the Bread of Life”
- “I AM”, the same words spoken to Moses out of the Burning Bush, revealing the name of God
- Jesus is the I AM who is the Bread of Life, He is Yahweh in the flesh, the real heavenly Bread and life-sustaining power of everybody who believes

5. WALKING ON WATER - John 6:15-21

- The disciples still had not got the revelation of who Jesus is
- This sign/miracle is also recorded in **Matthew 14:22-33 & Mark 6:45-52**
- **Matt.14:22** – immediately Jesus made His disciples go into the boat and He went up the mountain to pray (get out of here and I will talk to My Father)
- **Mark 6:52** – they were greatly amazed...they had not understood about the loaves because their hearts were hardened
- The miracle of the loaves and fish had not penetrated their hearts to give revelation of who Jesus was
- **John 6:16-18** - a great wind blowing, night-time, stormy, waves
- **v.19** - Jesus comes walking on the water and they think it is a ghost and are afraid

Jesus reveals Himself as the I AM

- **v.20** - literally Jesus said, “I AM, do not be afraid”
- **Matt.14:27** – “Take courage, I AM”
- Jesus was again revealing Himself to be the “I AM”, Yahweh
- **Matt.14:28** – Peter literally said, “If You are...” and he began to believe and even walked on the water a little way; but then took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink
- **Matt.14:29** – Jesus reaches out to him and says ‘why did you doubt?’
- we are to believe who Jesus is
- **Matt.14:33** – the result was the disciples got the revelation - “truly You are the Son of God” and they worshiped Him
- you only worship God. They realized Jesus was God manifest in the flesh
- An awesome revelation of who Jesus is
- The result was they worshiped Him; Jesus revealed Himself as the I AM and the One with power even over the elements

6. HEALING OF THE MAN BORN BLIND - John 9

The works of God prove who His is

- **v.2** - disciples trying to figure out who is to blame for the man’s blindness
- **v.3** - Jesus responded that it was neither the parents nor his fault but that the works of God should be revealed in his life
- these ‘works’ are the signs; the evidence of God’s divine authority and power
- **v.6-10** – the man went to the Pool and washed and came back seeing
- **v.11** - this man was not sure who Jesus was
- He knew it was a man named Jesus

- **v.16** - the Pharisees said He could not be from God because He broke the Sabbath
- **v.25** – the man was clear a miracle had happened ‘once I was blind but now I see!’
- **v.31** - the man born blind recognises that this Man must be from God and tries to give the leaders a lesson
- **v.34** - the man was excommunicated from the synagogue, cast out

Jesus found him after he had been ‘cast out’

- **v.35** - Jesus found him on the outside
- sometimes we need to come out, we must come out of the religious system to truly find Jesus
- Jesus asked him an important question - “Do you believe in the Son of God?”
- **v.36** – the man wanted to believe but did not know who He was

Jesus is the Son of God

- **v.37** – Jesus answered “you have seen Him and He is talking to you”!
- finally, the man understood that Jesus is the Son of God!
- **v.38** – his response “Lord, I believe” and he worshiped Him
- Jesus received the worship, the man now had faith and believed Jesus was the Son of God
- **v.40-41** - Jesus now moves this discussion from physical blindness to spiritual blindness
- we need spiritual sight to see who Jesus really is!

7. RAISING OF LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD - John 11:1-44

- Took place in Bethany, where Mary, Martha and Lazarus live
- **v.2-3** - Lazarus was sick; and the sisters sent and informed Jesus
- they knew their friend Jesus could help them

This ‘sign’ was going to glorify the Son of God

- **v.4** - Jesus’ response was that the sickness would not result in death but it would be for the glory of God and that the Son of God would be glorified through it
- Jesus knew what was going to happen
- **v.5-6** - Jesus stayed where He was for two more days; He did not rush to Bethany
- **v.7-8** - Jesus said was now time to go back up to Jerusalem
- disciples were not eager for this
- **v.11-12** - time to wake Lazarus up but the disciples were still not understanding
- **v.13-14** - Jesus spoke plainly ‘Lazarus is dead’
- **v.15** – He wanted His disciples to believe
- **v.17** - Lazarus already in the tomb for four days when Jesus and His disciples arrived at Bethany

Martha has a revelation of who Jesus is

- **v.20-27** - an amazing conversation between Martha and Jesus
- she knew Jesus could heal and if He were there Lazarus would not have died
- Martha had faith and some understanding of the resurrection at a future time
- Jesus spoke and said: “I AM the Resurrection and the Life”
- another “I AM” saying of Jesus – Yahweh in the flesh

- if you believe in Jesus, you will never die
- Martha responds with a wonderful confession of faith, "You are the Christ, the Son of God"

Jesus in intercession

- **v.33** - Jesus comes to the tomb
- He groaned in the spirit and was troubled
- **v.35** - Jesus wept
- **v.38** - Jesus again groaning in Himself
- sounds a lot like intercession going on deep within Jesus
- Jesus did not have to feel sad; He already knew what was going to happen and that it was going to give glory to God

Romans 8:26-27 – the Spirit makes groanings which cannot be uttered, sometimes we do not have the words to say but we rely on the deep spiritual groaning within us that sometimes brings tears

The Glory of God manifest

- **v.39** - take away the stone
- **v.40** – Jesus says 'if you would believe you would see the glory of God'
- **Jn. 1:14** – the glory is to be seen
- **v.41** – Jesus prays a prayer - "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me"
- Jesus had not spoken anything except that He groaned and wept
- Father had heard the deep groanings and intercession
- **v.42** - He prayed this particular prayer out loud for the sake of the people believing
- **v.43** - Lazarus, come forth! Life restored to him; an amazing sign that was evidence of the divine authority and power of Jesus, testifying to who He was
- **v.45** – the result was that many of the Jews "believed in Him"
- bringing glory to God through the Son of God [**Jn.11:4**]

THE PURPOSE

John 20:30-31 – began by looking at these verses

- But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

Jesus earlier had revealed Himself to Thomas

John 20:27-28

- Jesus said to Thomas 'Do not be unbelieving but believing'
- Thomas got the revelation of Jesus, "My Lord and my God"
- **v.29** - Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe

**Let us be ones who believe and receive
the revelation of who Jesus is!**

THE ELEMENTS

2 Peter 3:10

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

2 Peter 3:10

- The "elements" will melt with fervent heat
- What are the "elements"?
- Will there be a nuclear holocaust to wipe out the earth?
- The heavens will pass away? What heavens will pass away?
- What sort of heat will melt the elements and the earth?
- What is the "day of the Lord"? It comes like a thief in the night
- We can read these things at a superficial level and get freaked out

2 Peter Chapter One – preparing for the coming

- Peter is building up the saints to continue in "these things" (**v.5-11**)
- Then he leads up to sharing about his experience on the mountain with Jesus when He was transfigured (**v.16-18**)
- We are being prepared for the coming of the Lord
- We made known the "power and coming (Gk. 'Parousia') of the Lord Jesus Christ"

2 Peter Chapter Two – beware of destructive doctrines

v.1-3 – Destructive doctrines being promulgated

- Today there is much destructive doctrine around
- There is ever-increasing glory, not ever-increasing doom
- We are to grow up to maturity to be sons of God in the earth

v.4-11 – False teachers will eat their own vomit

v.12-17 – Depravity of false teachers

v.18-22 – Deceptions of false teachers

2 Peter Chapter Three – God is not 'slack concerning His promise'

v.1-2 - it is not tedious or grievous for Peter to keep reminding the saints of the same things

- we need to keep teaching and preaching Jesus the Christ until the city is filled with the doctrine (**Acts 5:28**)
- doctrine of Jesus Christ the Son of God and the rule and kingdom of God now
- Peter is presenting the Word as the Old Testament (words of the prophets) and the New Testament (the commands of the apostles)

v.3-4 - scoffers saying "where is the Coming?"

- they forgot about the flood of Noah

v.5-6 - world that then existed was destroyed by water, perished

2 Peter 3:7 - the world that now exists is reserved for fire

- What is the "fire"? It is the judgement on ungodliness and of ungodly men

v.8 - the day of the Lord is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day

- do not try and work out for yourself when you think this will happen
- God's timescale is different to our thinking

v.9 - The Lord is not slack

- He is holding things up because He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance
- God has good plans for us today
- God is exercising "longsuffering" over all the evil so that we can repent

"Day of the Lord"

v.10 - Day of the Lord comes like a "thief in the night" - it is unexpected

2 Peter 3:12 – "day of God" - what will happen in the "day of God"

- **2 Thessalonians 2:2** – speaks of the "day of Christ"
- **Luke 12:39-40** – Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect (also see **Matt.24:43-44**)

2 Thessalonians 1:10 – speaks of "that Day", when He comes in that Day,

- we are living in the day of the Lord that He is coming
- remember that the day of the Lord is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day
- He comes to be "glorified in His saints", Christ will be seen in the saints in the day when He comes

The "Day" is a day of judgement

2 Peter 3:7 - Heavens & earth are being preserved by the same word & reserved for fire

What are the 'Elements'?

- "elements" – SC#4747 – Greek "*stoicheion*" – what are these elements? Is it the physical matter of the earth?

Where else is the word '*stoicheion*' mentioned in the New Testament?

Galatians 4:3

- When we were children, we were in bondage under the "elements" of the world
- We are not in bondage to physical elements
- **Romans 8:15** – we have not received the spirit of bondage to fear again – the element here is "fear"
- This is not a material element, fear is an invisible element

Galatians 4:9

- You turn again to the weak and beggarly "elements" (rudiments in the Spanish, "principles")

- "elements" of the world are actually evil spirits that use the rituals of the law, or culture, or tradition, or of animistic religions to enslave and condemn (whether Roman Catholic, Pentecostalism)
- "elements" are evil spirits using any sort of religion to keep people in bondage
- We should not come under those elementary principles that are based on fear, deception, outward appearance

Colossians 2:8

- Do not be cheated by the "basic principles (elements, rudiments) of the world"
- Elements are in same category as "philosophy, empty deceit, according to the tradition of men – catholic, aboriginal, political party"
- Not according to Christ

Colossians 2:20

- We died with Christ to the basic principles (elements) of the world
- Why then do you subject yourself with regulations...according to the commands and doctrines of men
- "elements" are commands and doctrines of men that we submit to and come under bondage to
- But we have died with Christ to these things
- We do not need follow these elements anymore
- Do not live as though you are still under them
- Why then do you still prepare your food according to Jewish tradition, keeping the Sabbath day religiously

Hebrews 5:12

- The "first principles" (elements, rudiments) of the oracles of God
 - These are the basic elements of the Word
 - The basic principles of the Word
 - You will never grow up to fully understand the Word unless you have the basic elements laid
 - They are in **Heb.6:1-2** – the six elements, foundations
- From the brief study above, we can see that 'stoicheion' refers to the elementary teachings of the world, the way the world works, the traditions of men, the commands of men

2 Peter 3:10, 12

- Peter is not referring to "physical matter" when he uses the word "elements"
- He is referring to ungodly practices based on ungodly principles even involving ungodly spirits

What will be destroyed?

2 Peter 3:10 - "both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up"

- What does this mean?

Genesis 6:13 - God said, "I will destroy them (the wicked people) with the earth"

- Did God "destroy" the earth?

- Not in the sense of causing it to dissolve or disappear,
- He submerged it in water and destroyed the wickedness but the physical matter of the earth still remained
- Similarly in Peter, the earth does not need to be destroyed in the sense of vanishing, but the wickedness on the earth will be dealt with - destroyed
- Do not worry about a nuclear holocaust
- The earth is not destroyed literally; but all that is evil on it will be destroyed, as it was in Noah's day

What is the "Fire"?

- The fire referred to in **2 Peter 3** is not talking about literal fire

Other references to 'fire' in Scripture

Genesis 15:17 - Referring to God's Presence

- "smoking oven and a burning torch"
- God's Presence represented by fire, in a burning torch

Leviticus 9:24 - "fire came out from before YHWH"

- The fire burnt the offering
- A supernatural fire, it came from the altar to consume the offering

Numbers 11:1 - YHWH's anger aroused, the fire consumed them

- This is the fire of judgement
- We are waiting for a judgement of fire, supernatural

Exodus 32:20 - Fire is a sign of total destruction and divine judgement

Jeremiah 23:29 - Is not My Word like a fire?

- What will consume the enemy?
- The Word of God is like fire, it destroys and burns up

Exodus 3:2 - The angel of YHWH appeared in a flame of fire from the midst of the fire

- Supernatural fire
- This is a Theophany [Theo meaning 'God', Phany meaning 'face'] – a revelation of His face, an appearance of God
- A similar happening with Gideon in **Judges 6:12**

Exodus 24:17 - The sight of the glory of YHWH was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain

- The fire is the Presence of God

Hebrews 12:29 - Our God is a consuming Fire!!

Acts 2:2-3 – There appeared to them divided tongues as of fire

- Sound of a mighty rushing wind came
- Who has turned up? God, by His Spirit had come
- The Holy Spirit came like wind and fire (spiritual things)

What manner of persons ought we to be?

2 Peter 3:11 - A way out

- Since all these things will be dissolved
- What manner of persons ought you to be when these things happen?
- We need to be found to be living in holy conduct and godliness
- We should serve God with godly fear for He is a consuming fire

- Let all the elements in me, the things I am in bondage to, the secret addictions in our hearts and thoughts be burned up by the fire of God
- There are a few elements in us to burn up, the way we think, the way we feel, it is time to let God burn them up

- **v.12** - we are to be looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God and behaving accordingly

- **v.13** - the good news: we are looking for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells

JESUS' INTERPRETATION OF THE WHEAT AND TARES

Matthew 13:40-43

- Tares are gathered and burned in the fire at end of the age
- The result will be the righteous shining forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father

v.37-38

- the Sower = Jesus, the Son of Man
- the field = the world
- the good seed = sons of kingdom
- the bad seed/tares = sons of wicked one
- harvest = the end of the age
- the Son of Man will send out His angels

"angels" = literally 'messengers', clearly a translator's choice if it is a heavenly or earthly messenger

- Son of Man will send (*apostello* in Greek) His messengers
- maybe this is the sending of apostles and other ministers of Christ
- they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend and those who practice lawlessness
- those messengers "will cast them into the furnace of fire" – spiritual, through the Word of God being preached and taught

How is this warfare going to go forward?

Matthew 24:14

- The gospel of the kingdom (the government of God) will be preached in all nations as a witness then the end will come
- It seems the "gospel of salvation" has gone through just about every nation on earth
- But Jesus said, "this gospel of the kingdom"
- This government is spoken of in **Isaiah 9:6-7**

- The government of God is to come on the earth
- We are talking about dealing with the elements of the world in people
- We are to spread out in the society we live in, and by preaching, teaching and discipling, be bringing people into the kingdom of God

Exercising judgement

- How do we as the saints' exercise judgement in the world?

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

- This mighty power of God is used to pull down strongholds, pulling down deeply entrenched belief systems
- We cast down arguments like evolution, and other doctrines
- Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ – we need to do this, replace our thoughts and fears with the truth of the Word of God
- When we come to the point of learning to do this we can then “**punish all disobedience**” around us

**We are to be looking for a new heavens
and a new earth in which righteousness dwells**

WHICH JESUS DO YOU WORSHIP?

What did the apostles preach?

Acts 5:42

- Daily in the temple and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus the Christ

What authority did they have to do this?

Mark 16:15-16 – Jesus instructed them:

- Preach the gospel to every creature
- He who believes and is baptised will be saved
- These signs will follow ...
- Their authority came from Jesus

Matthew 28:18-20 – Jesus commanded them to Go

- The authority was the authority of Jesus: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me"
- Make disciples, baptise and teach

Romans 1:5-6 – Paul confirms this:

- Through Him [Christ] we received grace and apostleship [the commission] to bring nations to obedience to the faith
- The authority came through Christ

The apostles obeyed the commission given by Jesus

Romans 16:25-27 - The apostles spoke the Word that Jesus spoke to them

- Paul says: 'to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ' **v.25**
the gospel in **Mark 1:1** – "the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" - this is the gospel we preach; it was hidden; but now it is being made manifest and is being made known to all nations
- it is being manifested through the preaching of the prophetic Scriptures
- they preached Jesus the Christ from the prophetic Scriptures; it was previously hidden but is now made manifest

Jesus is found in the Old Testament Scriptures

Luke 24:25-27 – Jesus on the road to Emmaus with two disciples

- **v.25** - slow of heart to believe in all the prophets have spoken
- **v.27** - Jesus expounded to them in all the Scriptures (Law of Moses, Psalms, Prophets) the things concerning Himself

- Jesus called them “foolish ones” as He was expecting them to have believed in what was written concerning the Christ

Luke 24:44-45 – Jesus opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures - they got revelation

- All things must be fulfilled that was written in the Law of Moses, Psalms and Prophets concerning Jesus the Messiah

Acts 8:35 - Philip, one of the seven deacons, was sent by God to an Ethiopian Eunuch, who was reading from the Prophet Isaiah

- Philip preached Jesus to him beginning at that Scripture

-

➤ **The Old Testament Scriptures were what the apostles and disciples preached from concerning Jesus the Messiah**

Luke 24:46 - It was written and therefore it was necessary for the Christ to suffer, die and rise the third day

- **v.47** - now repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations
- this is what is to be preached, proclaimed, the good news
- we are not to preach a “modern Jesus” but the One who is the “same yesterday, today and forever” (**Hebrews 13:8**)
- They preached Christ from the Old Testament Scriptures
- We are to believe in the Jesus of the Scriptures

Preaching Jesus in the Book of Acts

Acts 2:22-39 - Peter preaching on the day of Pentecost

- Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God with miracles, wonders and signs
- Peter quotes from Old Testament in **v.25-28**, quoting from **Psalms 16:8-11**, and saying this is fulfilled in Jesus the Christ
- The patriarch David, who wrote this Psalm, is both dead and buried and was not talking about himself
- Speaking of the One promised to David, and this Psalm was speaking of the resurrection of the Messiah
- “This Jesus”, God has raised up
- Another quote from Old Testament – **Psalms 110:1**, referring to the exaltation of Christ Jesus
- Then the command to repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ
- Powerful preaching of Jesus the Christ from the Old Testament Scriptures
- Peter had seen Jesus teaching and preaching from the Old Testament
- They preached the resurrected and ascended Christ
- Not only about Jesus suffering and dying for sin, but preaching the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Scriptures
- This gospel is the power of God unto salvation and the power of God to set us free (**Rom.1:16**)
- The glory and power of God was in the midst

Acts 2:40-47 – the church was birthed

- The people revered this new community
- The glory of God was manifesting in the midst, the kingdom was manifesting

Acts 3:12-21 – taking every opportunity to preach Jesus

- The lame beggar who was laid outside the temple is now healed and everybody knew about it
- Now they are seeing him leaping around
- Peter takes no glory to himself, but seized on the opportunity to preach Jesus
- Peter is preaching Jesus, the Holy One, the Servant, the Just, the Prince of Life
- No softening the edges, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, calling people to repentance
- We are at the end of the age; we need to be doing what the apostles did
- The hour is late and we are to be about preaching and teaching Jesus the Messiah
- It is not the time to be living for ourselves

v.18 – preaching the things foretold by God’s prophets that Christ would suffer

- Christ has now fulfilled the prophetic Scriptures

v.19-23 - times of refreshing will come, and times of restoration of all things

- do not let anything hinder us from running the race that He has set before us
- our allegiance must be to Jesus before anything else
- Jesus is the Prophet that Moses said would come

Acts 5:27-33 - You have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine/teaching

- Peter said, “We ought to obey God rather than men”
- Jesus exalted to the right hand to be Prince and Saviour and to give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel
- Exalted to “right hand” – it is the place of all authority (**Matt.28:18**)
- “Prince” – ‘author, beginner, originator...of life’
- “Saviour” – deliverer and rescuer
- **v.32** – Peter was a witness of these things and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God gives to those who believe
- **v.33** – the result was that the Jews plotted to kill them and were furious
- Do not soften the edges, repent, be serious with Jesus, there is forgiveness of sin

➤ **Also see: Acts 9:20-22, 13:26-41, 18:24-28**

Why must we continue teaching and preaching Jesus the Christ?

The Gospel is to be preached in all the world

- **Matthew 24:14**
- this gospel of kingdom will be preached to all the world as a witness to all nations, then the end will come

To expose false prophets

- **v.11** - many false prophets will rise, deceiving many
- **v.24** - false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive if possible, the elect

- In these days there are many different Jesus' preached
- **Jehovah's Witness** - teach a "different Jesus" to the Jesus in the Scriptures
- **John 1:1** – they changed this verse to say that the Word was 'a god' instead of "God"! They preach a false christ, they are deceivers
- **Mormon Church** - use Jesus' name and say they are the "church of the latter day saints"
 - They teach that Jesus is the literal son
 - It is a different Jesus, not the Jesus of the Bible
 - They speak about how Scriptures were "corrupted" and how the book of Mormon is what you need
 - They are deceivers

To make known the truth of who Jesus is

1 Timothy 4:1

- The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith
- They will give heed to "deceiving spirits and doctrines (teachings) of demons"
- We cannot depart from the Word, the written Word
- We are to submit to the Word, nothing but the Word, not a confession of faith above the Word - Stay under the Word
- The power of deliverance comes from the Word so you can see who Jesus really is
- If Jesus was not God, if He was not "Immanuel" [**Matt.1:23**], if He was not God manifest in the flesh [**1 Tim.3:16**], then there would be no forgiveness of sins,
- God is the only one who has never sinned and He became a Man
- Heaven and earth will pass away but the words of Jesus will not pass away
- God's Words are spirit and life, not legalistic, they give life!
- It has to be the Jesus of the Bible, the One true living God

Which Jesus are you worshipping?

1 John 2:18-27

- Many antichrists have come, this is a sign it is the last hour
- They went out of us but were not from us
- For example: Jehovah's Witness came out of the Body – they left, they were not "of us". Their founder was deceived by a deceiving spirit
- They have a different Bible - "New World Translation", it is not the truth

v.20 - we have an anointing from the Holy One

- because of Jesus the Messiah, the gospel, we have an anointing
- now by the anointing we know all things, we will not be deceived

v.22 - liars are those who deny Jesus is the Christ

- they deny the Father and Son, this is antichrist

v.23 - if you deny the Son, you do not have the Father

- if you acknowledge the Son, you have the Father also!!
- listen to people carefully, do they preach Jesus or do they just talk about "God"

Do not be deceived

- **Colossians 2:1-10**
- People can be deceived with persuasive words (**v.4**)
- Smooth words draw people away (charismatic)
- Anyone who preaches another gospel let them be damned/accursed (**Gal.1:8**)

- **v.6** - as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him
- rooted, built up in Him, established in the faith
- we need to be so established in the foundations so we can teach others

- **v.8** - beware of being cheated through philosophy, empty deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the basic principles of the world (religion, culture – it is all of the earth); not according to Christ (from heaven, it brings liberty and freedom)
- having a form of godliness but deny the power thereof

In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead

- **v.9-10** - in Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily
- This is the Jesus we are to worship; preach; speak of
- In Him is the fullness
- you are complete in Him
- He is the head of all principality and power

Which Jesus are you worshiping?

NOAH BUILT AN ARK

By Faith Noah prepared an ark

Hebrews 11:7

- By faith Noah...prepared an ark for the saving of his household
- He was divinely warned of things not yet seen
- Moved with godly fear
- By which he condemned the world

Faith is real

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for

- Faith is a substance – it is not ethereal, not floating around
- Faith is real and substantial
- It is the substance of things hoped for
- You only need faith the size of a mustard seed to see a mountain move; in that seed is the power to make a bush, to become a tree
- It is the evidence (confidence) of things that are not seen
- By faith we embrace what we have not seen yet
- By faith we have evidence of what we have not seen
- We entered the realm of His glory in worship, where we hear but do not speak – by faith
- God rewards our faith because faith has within it the evidence of what we do not see

Faith gives us a testimony

v.2 - by faith the elders obtained a good testimony

- do you have memories of walking by faith, walking with God
- faith is of God and it works

By faith we understand creation

v.3 - by faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God

- this verse stands against the teaching of evolution
- we believe God created by faith
- it is by faith we understand the creation
- God spoke and the world came into being
- creation came forth because God said so
- everything visible was made from things that were invisible
- God is in the invisible

By faith Abel made his sacrifice to God

v.4 - by faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice to God than Cain

- God was the first one to shed blood on the earth by killing an animal to clothe Adam and Eve's nakedness after they sinned
- **Gen.3:24** – God drove out the man and placed Cherubim to guard the way to the Tree of Life

- God did not shut the gate but showed that there is a way to approach God
- God set up a sanctuary, Cherubim, that covered the Presence of God
- there was a "flaming sword" guarding the way so if you knew the secret you could approach God at sanctuary, and receive again from the tree of Life
- Abel knew to bring an animal sacrifice as the way to approach God
- **Gen.4:3** – Cain brought the "fruit of the ground", the work of his own hands
- **Gen.4:4** – Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock and the fat
- Abel got the revelation by listening in a submissive way to his father, Adam, telling him how God took the blood of a Lamb and clothed them with its skin
- Cain failed to exercise faith; he did not obey; he did not bring the right sacrifice; he came his own way
- Abel's offering pleased God

By faith Enoch walked with God

Hebrews 11:5 - By faith Enoch was taken away and did not see death

- Enoch pleased God; Enoch "walked with God"
- His faith enabled him to walk with God
- He did this for 300 years
- His firstborn son was "Methuselah" which means "when he dies it will happen"
- Methuselah was 969 years old when he died and in the year that he died the flood came

Without faith it is impossible to please God

Hebrews 11:6 - Without faith it is impossible to please God

- We come to God believing that He is
- He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him
- When we cry out to God believing, He delivers us
- Make sure you have a walk with God and testify of it

NOAH'S TESTIMONY - Hebrews 11:7

1. By faith - Noah was a man of faith
2. Noah was divinely warned - Noah was able to hear from God
3. Noah walked in godly fear - he put God first and consulted God about everything
 - we are to wait on God and get clarity
 - the fear of God is good if it comes out of faith
 - I will obey God and have feelings of terror when I am not obeying Him
4. Noah prepared an ark - he did what God said to do
 - **Romans 10:17** – faith comes by hearing the word of God
 - when you do what God says to do, no-one can make you feel bad
5. Noah saved his household
 - you can save your household to by building an ark
 - be careful not to exalt prayer as the main thing, the Word is the main thing (**John 1:1**) and we are to continue in **Acts 2:42**, the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. I hear some saying today 'it is all about prayer', 'prayer is the most important thing'. They make it sound like all we have to do is pray pray pray!

- 6. Noah condemned the world
 - our testimony condemns the world
 - by obeying God our very behaviour will condemn the world
- 7. Noah by faith became heir of righteousness which comes by faith
 - **Philippians 3:9** – righteousness which is from God by faith

Noah found grace in the eyes of Yahweh - Genesis 6:8

- **Ephesians 2:8** – saved by grace through faith
- **Romans 1:5** – we have received through Christ, grace and apostleship, we have received an awesome grace and commission
- Noah also received grace and a commission in his generation – to build an ark

Noah was a just man – Gen.6:9

- The just shall live by faith (**Hab.2:4**), sins forgiven
- he was perfect – he walked in integrity, he owns up to his mistakes, easily corrected
- he walked with God

GOD COMMISSIONED NOAH TO BUILD AN ARK

- The whole human race was facing annihilation, destruction, but God raised an alternative
- God gave Noah a commission; to build an ark

Given clear instructions - Genesis 6:14-16

- Noah was building an ark

God gave the pattern

For the Ark - v.22

- Noah obeyed, and did what he was commanded
- God showed Noah the pattern

For the Tabernacle

- God also showed Moses a pattern of how to build the Tabernacle
- This was the ark for another generation

For the Temple

- God also showed David through the Spirit the plans for the temple and then Solomon was commissioned to build it
- The pattern was given

For the Church

- The Church in the New Testament is being built by Jesus, the “ekklesia”,
- Jesus’ governmental congregation in the earth
- He has given us the pattern

➤ **We are involved in building an ark; an ark of salvation**

A changeover from Old Testament to New Testament - Peter 3:20-21

- An antitype to the ark saving the eight souls through water
- In the days of Noah God waited for the ark to be prepared
- God waited 120 years for the completion (the Divine Longsuffering)
- How is God's longsuffering working today? **2 Peter 3:9** – the Lord is longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish but come to repentance
- People need the ark described to them so they can repent
- Get involved in this great project of God, building the church

What is being built in our day?

- The church, the house of God and the Divine Longsuffering is waiting again until it is complete
- God is waiting for the church to be complete so that He can condemn the world
 - o *"antitype" – something that corresponds to the previous thing*

The doorway into the ark is through "baptism"

- "Baptism" is not the removal of the filth of the flesh (only the blood can do that) but is the answer of a good conscience toward God
- Baptism is the doorway into the ark
- **Romans 6:3-4** – as many as are baptised into Christ Jesus
- "Baptism now saves us...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ"
- Noah built an ark, we are building an ark

Building the Ark in our generation - Ephesians 2:19-22

- An outline of the instructions to build the ark of our generation
- There is a household of God – all the people living in the house
- The church at Ephesus is the archetype of the church that is being built (Jew and Gentile)
- As born again, baptised and Spirit-filled believers we are the people of God
- There is only one people of God
- There is only one Body, one church, one people of God
- We are no longer strangers and foreigners
- "members" of the household of God – family, relationship

Foundation of apostles and prophets - v.20

- Built on the foundation of apostles and prophets
- The house of God is supposed to have been built on the ministry gifts of apostles of prophets in the New Testament (**Eph.3:5** – in other ages this was not known to the sons of men, but now is being revealed to His holy apostles and prophets. This reference is not to Old Testament prophets)
- The foundation of the church is those apostles and prophets who can lay the foundation of the revelation of Jesus Christ – **1 Cor.3:10-11**
- here we are in the 21st century to call the church back to its foundation
- Jesus Christ is to receive glory in the church (**Eph.3:21** – glory to Jesus in every generation)
- We can only be about the Father's work in our generation

Jesus Christ the Cornerstone – Eph.2:20b

- Jesus Christ Himself is the Chief Corner (Stone)
- if you do not have this the whole house will fall down
- the walls are built upon and into that Cornerstone

1 Peter 2:4-10 - We come to Jesus as to a Living Stone

- Another beautiful description of the ark
- It is built around Christ the Living Stone
- We are being built up into Him a spiritual house
- Peter says the Living Stone is the Chief Cornerstone (**Isaiah 28:16**), an elect, precious, foundational cornerstone
- When the builders rejected Him, then the Stone was set in place and became a Stone of stumbling and a rock of offense
- This is marvellous

Built together into a holy temple - Eph.2:21

- in whom the whole building is fitted together
- we are fitted together into the Cornerstone
- this is all to do with the revelation of who Jesus is
- Jesus said He would build His church – the ark
- anyone in the ark, the church, will be saved from the fire that is coming on the ungodly
- in that day one will be taken and the other left

As in the days of Noah – Noah built an ark

Matthew 24:37-40

- The coming of the Son of Man will be like the days of Noah
- People will be living normally until the flood came and “took them all away”
- Who was taken away in the days of Noah? The wicked were taken by the flood
- Who will be taken and who will be left? The wicked were taken, the righteous were left
- Noah stayed on the earth and the others were taken into judgement
- In these days there will not be a flood of water, but a judgement of fire, supernatural fire

A dwell place of God in the Spirit

Ephesians 2:21

- We are growing into a holy temple (sanctuary) in the Lord
- This is referring to the Presence of God in the Holiest, the inner sanctuary
- As this temple is being built, we are looking forward to travelling to the nations and joining together in this holy temple
- This temple is being built in every nation

- **v.22** - in whom (the Lord) we are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit
- we want to grow in the glory

Yahweh sat enthroned at the flood - Psalm 29:10

- Where was God during the flood? Was God worried if the ark would work?
- Who is sitting as King of the judgement that is coming this time? Jesus is at the right hand

Jesus birthing the New Testament Church - Acts 2

- Many came rushing in
- The doorway was opened, 3000 believed and baptised
- Repentance, faith, baptism, receiving Holy Spirit were the doorway into this ark, the church

We are to build an ark in our day

It is the apostolic restoration

- We are not building it the "church" way
 - We are not building it the "Jewish" way
 - We are not building it the "cultural" way
 - We can only build it through Jesus Christ, the Chief Cornerstone
-
- We do not know the day, be ready and be prepared for the return of the Lord
 - The church is being built. It took 120 years for the ark.
 - We have need of patience and need to be faithful to the word!

There is an ark to be built!

There is an ark being built!

STIRRING UP THE GIFTS

Stir up the Spirit

We need to be stirred up to seek for the gifts.

Haggai 1:12-14

- **v.12** – the people feared the presence of YAHWEH
- **v.13** – YAHWEH said 'I am with you'
- **v.14** – YAHWEH 'stirred up the spirit'

2 Tim.1:6 – stir up the gift that is within you

- SC #329 GK – '*stir up*' means to rekindle the flame
- Stir up a desire for the gifts

We have received Grace

- **1 Cor.1:1-2** – those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus – called saints; with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **v.4** – the grace of God given to you by Christ Jesus
- grace is tangible, it works in your heart
- the gifts easily operate when we are 'soft', when we are experiencing the grace
- thank God for the grace

- **1 John2:20** - The anointing that we seek – is in us
- Whatever you have experienced in Christ is in you

We have been enriched

- **1 Cor.1:5** - 'enriched' – made wealthy in everything
- This is spiritual wealth, blessed with every spiritual blessing (**Eph.1:3**),
- This includes the gifts
- enriched by what you speak; the words of God
- and in all knowledge

The testimony of Christ was confirmed in you – 1Cor.1:6

- '*confirmed*' = established or made sure in you
- Christ in you
- the realm of stirring up the gifts is in the realm of the Spirit. (Heb.11:6)

So that you come short, lack, no gift – 1Cor.1:7

- don't limit God, God wants to release gifts to all
- God has given the gifts, we are to use them
- the gifts build up the body

GIFT = *charisma* - SC #5486

- Means: joy, cheerfulness, gifts of grace that release joy; it is a free gift, a miraculous faculty
- Be open to what God wants to do through His gifts

Spiritual gifts can be imparted - Rom.1:11

- Gifts can bring an establishment in the person

Gifts of God are irrevocable - Rom.11:29

- God does not take back the gifts

Seven gifts given at creation - Rom.12:6-8

- Given by grace; should be used
- Can even be in unsaved people
- You can ask God for the grace to function in any one of the gifts
- The gifts are for the body – not for ourselves

Each one has received a gift - 1 Peter 4:10

- Minister it to one another
- Serve each one with that gift, as a good steward of the manifold grace of God

Do not neglect the gift that is within you - 1 Tim.4:14

- Given by prophecy with laying on of hands
- '*neglect*' means: do not become careless
- Value the anointing, treat as holy the anointing; Use the gift for God's glory

Spiritual Gifts – 1 Corinthians 12

- **1 Cor.12:1** – concerning spiritual gifts; gifts given by the Spirit
- **v.3** no one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit
- the gifts will always exalt, give glory to, Jesus
- **v.4** there are diversities gifts
- different ministries (**Eph.4:11**)
- **1Cor.12:28** – ministry gifts: 1st Apostles, 2nd prophets, 3rd teachers ...
- **v.6** – the same God who works all in all
- **v.7** - gifts are given for the profit of all
- **v.8-10** – Spiritual gifts: word of wisdom; word of knowledge; faith; gifts of healings; miracles; prophecy; discerning of spirits; tongues; interpretation of tongues
- **v.11** – distributed to each one as He wills
- **v.12** – all as part of one body to manifest Christ

Earnestly desire the best gifts – 1 Corinthians 12:31

- it is great to have the gifts - but they need to manifest through love
- they are gifts of grace to encourage and to set free

'Pursue love, and desire [*burn for, pursue ardently, desire eagerly or intensely*] spiritual gifts' - 1 Cor.14:1

THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

The church in general has not understood who Jesus is and so has remained with a very limited view of His purpose.

Colossians 1:18 is our text for this message

- We are the body of Christ; we are caught up in Him; it is a mystery – He is in us and we are in Him
- **“He is the head of the body, the church”**
- **“the firstborn from the dead”**
- *‘pre-eminence’* – means first place in rank and influence
- **“in all things Christ has pre-eminence”** – what is influencing you: newspapers, media, internet? Does Jesus have the first place of influence in your life or are you still allowing other things to influence your decisions and direction?

All the fullness, dwelt in Christ Jesus

v.19 “it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell” [*the Father that* – has been added by the translators]

- Literally - ‘it pleased all the fullness to dwell in Him [Christ]’ or ‘because all the fullness was pleased to dwell in Him’
- God is ‘all the fullness’ [a name of God]
- When you meet Christ, you are meeting ‘all the fullness’ – there is nothing of God that is lacking in Christ
- ‘fullness’ GK#4128: *‘pleroma’* - means completion, that which fills [as of contents], copiousness, so full that nothing else can be packed in, a town without any empty houses, a ship completely full of cargo, not able to squeeze another thing in
- Jesus the Messiah is the fullness of the Godhead – He is full of the copiousness of God, all of God Himself dwelt fully in Christ! Do you know Jesus in this way? He is not a part, a measure or a portion of God – but the fullness!

Jesus reveals Himself as “I AM”

- **John 8:58** Jesus reveals Himself as ‘I AM’ – in whom all the fullness dwelt. Therefore, the Jews wanted to stone Him
- **John 18:3-6** – Jesus in the garden, the troops and officers are coming to arrest Him
- **Jesus stepped forward** towards the trouble facing Him – may we also, knowing the fullness of God now in us, learn to step forward towards the trouble we face, being on the front foot and not defensive, but taking the initiative and the lead in the situation
- **v.4** Jesus asks ‘whom are you seeking?’
- **v.5** they said ‘Jesus of Nazareth’ Jesus answered “I AM” [not I am ‘He’ as translated in the NKJV]

- **v.6** 'Now when He said I AM, they drew back and fell to the ground' – the troops were involuntarily smitten by this momentary unleashing of His inherent power as God! [notes at bottom of New Spirit Filled Life Bible for **John 18:6**]
- **Jesus was in complete control of His own arrest**, He revealed Himself in that moment as God, Yahweh, the I AM and then allowed the soldiers to arrest Him
- All the fullness dwelt in Jesus!
- **Col.1:15** - Jesus is the image of the invisible God, all the fullness was pleased to dwell in Him – He is the visible expression of the invisible God, when you see Jesus (perceiving who He really is), you see God

Do not be deceived

- **Col.2:8-10** - Don't be cheated – plundered, taken captive
- Beware of cultural things taking you away from Christ
- Beware of the Christian religious traditions, and denominational beliefs and strongholds that will take you captive
- Anything that is not according to Christ, will cheat you, deceive you
- We do not need Jesus **and a little bit of something else** – all the fullness of the Godhead is in Jesus, we need to discover who He is, that is all we need!
- Base your life according to Christ and His word
- All the elements of the world will melt (**2 Peter 3:10-12** – same Greek word for 'basic principles' is translated as 'elements'), but Christ, who is the fullness of God, will remain

The fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ

- **Colossians 2:9** "for in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily"
- Godhead: GK #2320 *'theotes'* - Means: divinity; the word stresses deity, the state of being God
- All the fullness of the 'state of being God', dwelt in Christ; there is nothing lacking in Him; He is the completion of the Godhead, the full complement of Deity
- All that makes God who He is, dwelt in Christ
- **v.10** – 'and you are complete in Him'; not lacking anything
- We are partakers, sharers, in the Divine nature (**2 Pet.1:3-4**)
- Through faith and baptism we enter into Him, into Christ and so we enter into all the fullness of the Godhead and have access to all the fullness of the Godhead – we can know the Father in Christ, we can be filled with the Holy Spirit in Christ, we can be filled with power, love, joy... in Christ – all the Divine nature we can access and discover in Christ
- 'complete' GK #4137 *pleroo* - Means: to cram; to level up a hollow; to be furnished; to satisfy; to finish and to fill.
- our satisfaction is in His fullness, our wholeness is in His fullness
- **Eph.3:19** – filled [4137] with all the fullness [4138] of God" – this is God's plan, to have a Body filled with all the fullness of God
- not only Jesus Himself now, but His whole Body filled with all the fullness of God!

Christ the Head of the Body – Colossians 1:18

- **Eph.1:17-23** - this power worked in Christ to raise Him from the dead, and to seat Him far above ...
- Christ has been given **Head over all** – principality power might dominion and every name is under Him
- He has been given to the church and we are His **Body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all!**
- [**Col.2:10** - complete in Him **who is the Head of all principality and power**]
- God wants to bring His church into the full awareness of who He is.
 - **1 Pet.3:22** - angels, authorities and powers are subject to Him [Christ]
 - **Ps.110:1-2** 'rule in the midst of your enemies'
 - Christ has preeminence; Christ has come, He is ruling now and has all Authority, first place in rank and influence!
 - **Ps.110:5** – He is bringing judgement on leaders of nations
- The only foundation is Jesus Christ; the resurrected Messiah (**1 Corinthians 3:11**)
- **Ps.18:43** – David wrote '**you have made me the head of the nations**' – this is prophetic of Christ being raised up to be Head of the nations

He is the beginning - Col.1:18

- Beginning - #746 *arche* - means a commencement, or concretely, chief in order, time or rank
- Can be translated 'principality' (as in **Eph.1:21, 3:10, 6:12, Col.1:16, 2:10**) referring to demonic princes who carry authority
- Christ is the '*arche*', the chief, the Prince (**Isa.9:6**)
- **John 1:1** "in the beginning [*arche*] was the Word" – The Word was in the Beginning – "In the beginning God created..." (**Gen.1:1**) – Christ is the Beginning and God created all things in Christ!
- Christ is also the 'End' – All of creation is in Him from beginning to end!
- **Eph.3:9** the mystery was hidden, but it has now been revealed the God created all things through Jesus Christ – Jesus Christ is the Creator and Beginning, being the Source of all authority and the Chief over creation
- **1 Cor.10:1-4; 5&6** – the Rock was Christ – apostle Paul attributes all the workings of God with the people of Israel to "Christ" – Paul made no distinction between God and Christ – Christ judged the children of Israel, they tempted Christ, the Rock was Christ!
- Out of the rock flowed the river that gave drink to many
- **Rev.3:14** – 'the Beginning of the creation of God'
- Christ is the beginning, the chief, the source of all creation – having all authority over creation and being the commencement of the creation itself, the Beginning point
- **Col.1:16** – "For by Him [the Son of God] all things were created"
- All created **by Him, through Him and for Him**
- He is the Beginning and the End

The mystery understood by revelation

- **Eph.3:2-3** - Paul received a dispensation of grace
- 'by revelation He made known to me'
- Revelation is coming into something you couldn't see before, it is having your eyes opened to what has already been written!
- We need revelation so we can know Him
- The mystery was made known by revelation

- **v.4** - read and come to understand the knowledge of the mystery of Christ
- **v.5** – we are to come into a fellowship in the mystery
- it is revealed by the Spirit and made known by God's holy apostles and prophets
- **v.6** – the Messiah is for everybody, for all nations, Gentiles included in the mystery of Christ, because the issue is not that Jesus was naturally, in the flesh, a Jew, the issue is that His nature was actually God, the fullness of God!
- The Gentiles are now 'fellow heirs of the same body' (**Ps.2:6-8**)
- **Gal.3:8** – all nations shall be blessed in Christ, coming in to a new nature

In Christ there is one new man

- He has created in Himself, one new man (**Eph.2:15**)
- He is all the fullness of the Godhead
- Christ is a whole new man – He is the Lord from heaven (**1 Cor.15:47**), and now in Him we partake of the divine nature (**2 Pet.1:3-4**)
- We are Created in Christ Jesus (**Eph.2:10**)
- The Man from heaven
- We are to enter into Him
- Don't go back to Adam, be in Christ
- Christ has brought forth a whole new creation – come out of the flesh and enter in to all the fullness of God!

Be found in Him, not in our own righteousness

We are to be the righteousness of God in Him

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES – Part One

The Feasts of YAHWEH

Leviticus 23 – Tabernacles is at the end of the year; The final feast

- The seventh month – a number that denotes completion and perfection

v.4 - they are the “feasts of the LORD (Yahweh)”

- in the gospels they are referred to as “the feasts of the Jews”
- holy gatherings, holy convocations/assemblies
- they are proclaimed in their seasons
- there was always a preceding trumpet sound to come up to the feasts

Passover: v.5 - 14th day of 1st month – Passover

Pentecost: v.15-17 - seven sabbaths after wave offering

- after 50 days, offer new grain offering
- wave offering was fulfilled in resurrection of Christ
- 50 days later was Pentecost (Feast of Weeks)
- Passover – provision of Calvary, through faith in Jesus
- Pentecost – receive the Holy Spirit

v.17 – two wave loaves – baked **with leaven**

- Jew and Gentile baptised into One Body (**1 Cor.12:13** – given to drink of the One Spirit)
- “leaven” speaks of evil and sin
- at Pentecost, new creation birth of the church, there was still “leaven”
- the fire of the Spirit harnessing the working of the leaven in our lives
- we are now called to reckon ourselves dead to sin from that day on
- the sin principle is still there and we need to learn to walk in resurrection life
- we are invited to drink and receive the Holy Spirit
- Not all believers then go on to perfection
- We are to go on to the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and to Feast of Tabernacles; We are to move on to other things in God

Tabernacles: v.24

- seventh month (1st month – Passover; 3rd month – Pentecost)
- largest harvest of all is about to be produced
- Passover to Pentecost was Barley and then came Wheat harvest
- oil, corn, wine – this is Tabernacles
- e.g., Ruth, a Gentile Bride, in the field with the maidens, first experience was “barley harvest” (Passover)

- then she moved in the fields at "wheat harvest" (Pentecost)
- then the marriage with Boaz – a glorious picture of the gospel

The Blowing of Trumpets: Leviticus 23:24

- 1st day of seventh month; a sabbath, memorial blowing of trumpets
- each feast began with a blowing of trumpets
- before every move of God, there was a blowing of a certain kind of trumpet, a message preached to herald the restoration of a certain truth
- the seventh piece of furniture in the Tabernacle, in the Most Holy Place, is the "Mercy Seat" which is called in the New Testament "The Throne of Grace"
- there is a trumpet being blown to call God's people into the Most Holy Place, to fellowship in the deeper things of the veil
- there shall be no servile work (no work as servants/slaves)
- every phase, stage and development of the saints is on the basis of grace working through faith
- this is the gospel of the grace of God, it is God working in our lives, understanding the grace of God in truth, grace teaching us to live righteously, godly and soberly in the present age (**Titus 2:11-13**)
- Day of Atonement is about to dawn
- The blowing of the trumpets is calling the people to what is ahead

Day of Atonement: v.27

- 10th day of 7th month – Day of Atonement
- a day to afflict your souls, a lot of things happening in this hour, the judgements of God in the earth, to teach us righteousness, we are called to get the religious, denominational spirit out of us, the things of the flesh removed
- we are in the realm where there is an able adversary, seeking to devour us but we learn to resist him steadfastly in the faith (**1 Pet.5:8-10**)
- prophetically this is God dealing with sin in the church to produce true holiness
- "10" speaks of suffering, the suffering saints in the church go further, they reign (**Phil.1:29, 2 Tim.2:11-13**)
- **v.34** – then the Feast of Tabernacles itself; on 15th day of 7th month
- Feast of Tabernacles, dwelling in Booths
- 7 days to Yahweh
- the "law of Moses" is the gospel according to Moses

Some thoughts on Trumpets

Numbers 10:1-10 - Silver trumpets

- 2 silver trumpets made of one piece;

Silver speaks of redemption: Redemptive message of Old and New Testament

- Calling of the assembly and journeying of the camps
- Use them! Understand the harmony of Scripture – the Old is in the New revealed, the New is in the Old concealed

Calling leaders to come together: it is to call us together

- Truth never divides the church but calls us together, false doctrine divides!
- Call to leaders to come back to sound doctrine, to preach the Word in and out of season (**2 Tim.4:2**), even rebuking and exhorting

Sons blow the trumpets: The sons of the priests were to blow the trumpet

- The sons are responsible to study, seek out and search the Word of truth (**2 Tim.2:15, Heb.5:13**)
- Trumpets in the hands of the sons, the Word in the hands of the priests – the voice of the Spirit and the Word of God
- Moses – 2 trumpets; Joshua – 7 trumpets [Joshua 6:4]

Trumpets blown at the Dedication of Temple – 120 trumpets (how many in the upper Room in **Acts 1-2**)

- 120 is the "end of all flesh" – **Genesis 6:3,13**
- The end of all flesh comes in the 7th month
- Sinless, putting off the old man with his sins and walking in the new man

Alerting the people of God, to come ...

- Sons were required to blow the trumpets and let people know of the feasts
- When God visits His people at these feasts, we are to blow the trumpet
- Some saints have already moved on in their experience that are tasting of the powers of the age to come (**Heb.6:4-5**)
- Some are blowing trumpets for the different feasts like Passover and Pentecost
- But there is something happening in the church, there is another sound
- The trumpet needs to make a certain sound so that the church can be prepared
- We take Passover and Pentecost with us but we move on

Heralding a prophetic message

- It was a long day – historical, redemptive and prophetic messages in each of these feasts
- The end-time restoration season, we are hearing a new sound, the anointed blowing of trumpets
- We are the result of the latter-rain outpouring
- We are born for revival, there is a hunger for more of God
- Restoration truths, foundational teaching
- Beginning of 20th century, Asuza St, outpouring of Spirit
- Messengers of the New Covenant (**Eph.4:11**)
- **Matt.24:31** – messengers sounding the trumpets
"angelos" – messengers of God, messengers of the gospel, gathering together His elect (a continual process)
- **2 Thessalonians 2:1** – concerning the "Coming" (Parousia) of the Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him

Jesus sounds the trumpet

- The blowing of the trumpet, the gospel message, Passover message, Pentecost message, Tabernacles message
- We are to come into wholeness and completeness

Trumpets in the book of Revelation

Rev.1:10 - Trumpets fill the book of Revelation, trumpets of judgement, glory, revelation

- John was "in Spirit" on the Lord's Day (not Sunday)
- We are in a new dimension, we are now "in Spirit"
- About 5 times John mentions this
- He was in Spirit (similar to Paul being caught up – **2 Cor.12:1-4**)
- The "emperial" day – the day of the King
- Jesus Himself, the Messenger of the Covenant, blowing a trumpet, preparing the people for the Feast of Tabernacles; Bringing us to the marriage feast

Revelation 4:1 - Trumpet announcing Day of Atonement

- Door opened in heaven, showing things that must take place
- 7 churches, all applicable to us, correction and commendation
- Last Church mentioned in **Rev.2-3** – the last message to overcomers is to sit with Jesus on His Throne
- The transition from Passover to Pentecost and from Pentecost to Tabernacles
- There is a transition trumpet between Rev.3 & 4 – bringing us up to the throne!!
- Ruling and reigning in life (**Romans 5:17**)
- We are reigning now in Christ with Him in the heavenlies
- We shall also reign in new bodies, but it is happening now
- We are introduced to the throne ('thronos')

Revelation 4 - mentions the "throne" more than any other place in the New Testament

- This is in the Most Holy Place - We enter in by the blood
- The coming glory (7 churches are from Ephesus to Laodicea)
- There is a **glory of Passover**, a **glory of Pentecost** and a **glory of Tabernacles**
- We are to embrace all of it and we are moving from glory to glory
- We are doing all we can to apply what we are learning now
- The spirit man inside us comprehends these things

To enter the glory, there will be suffering

Romans 8:18 - The sufferings of the now time

- All who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution – **2 Tim.3:12-13**
- Those who have suffered in the flesh have ceased from sin
- Suffering from family members, friends etc
- Not worthy to be compared with the coming glory that will be revealed to us

1 Peter 5:1 - The elders among you I exhort

- Out of eldership comes the ministry gifts (**Eph.4:11**)
- A witness of the sufferings of Christ
- A partaker of the glory that shall be revealed
- We are partaking, sharing, in the glory now and it will be revealed
- The saints and believers who want it will move on into glory

The Seventh Month

- **Tabernacles is in the 7th month**; The church will enter into Tabernacles
- No doubt this includes the transformation, the changing of our bodies into immortal and incorruptible bodies

- 7th month is the end, the last season
- Many things we know now, will come to pass; the word of God will come to pass
- We must not ignore or refuse this feast

Genesis 8:4 - the ark rested in the 7th month

- 3 chapters on the message of the deluge/flood
- The ark was a vessel to carry God's people through to the new – today is the church
- Christ is building His church with 3 sons (apostles, prophets and teachers – **1 Cor.12:28**)
- There are no coincidences; the ark rested on the 7th month
- New creation, new land, new beginning
- 17th day of 7th month – in the time of Tabernacles which began on 15th of month
- Always preserve the principle of seeing the historical, redemptive and prophetic (**Matthew 24, Hebrews 11:7, 1 Peter 3**)

1 Kings 8:1-6 - They assembled in the 7th month for the feast

- Solomon assembled all the people to Jerusalem in the presence of the King
- We see here the "end of all flesh" which will also include our complete change of the body
- Massive gathering of the priests, the leadership
- To bring the ark back to its right place; Ark of the covenant brought back to its place
- Christ, as the Head of the church brought into His right place
- We are appropriating and accepting this truth
- Time to make Jesus King! He is the Head
- Head of His church, ruling, reigning, as priest and King
- **2 Chronicles 5:1** - David was a picture of Christ, the King
- He was the King in the wilderness, in the days of the flesh of Jesus
- Solomon is the picture of the exalted, glorified Christ
- The church will be finished in the 7th month

Holding fast to the Head

Colossians 2:18-19 - Meaning of "Colossians" – correction but also colossal, a monstrosity (2 heads)

- If we do not hold Christ as the Head, we will be a "monstrosity", having multiple heads
- Apostle Paul's message was to produce sons
- Let no one beguile you of the prize (running for the prize/reward), connected to the throne, ruling and reigning, the crown
- Not holding the Head; we must hold fast to the Head

Growing into a deeper understanding of the church

- a great realm of new understanding, this is a highlight of the Feast in the 7th month

Nehemiah 8:1-3 - They gathered together as "One Man"

- One Body, One New Man
- **Eph.4:1-6** – One Body... - the seven ones
- Only the new creation can believe these things

- This was at the "Water Gate" of the Word of God
- Brought the Law, the Word before all the assembly and all who could hear with understanding; "understanding" mentioned in **v.2, 3, 8**
- This was in the 1st day of the 7th month
- **2 Chronicles 7:1** - When Solomon finished praying the fire came down from heaven and consumed the offering
- When Jesus finishes His praying/intercession then the fire will fall

Day of Affliction/Time of Incense

- John the Baptist promised at time of incense
- Our bodies will experience complete redemption

High Priestly ministry

- Day of Atonement – day of His appearing [**Leviticus 16:17**]
- High Priest has gone in
- No one can go in until He comes out
- Took off garments of glory, put on linen, then he washes and comes into His garments of glory again and reveal Himself to the people
- **Hebrews 9:24** - Went into heaven itself to appear in the Presence of God for us
- Jesus now appears as our High Priest for us
- **v.25-26** - now once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself
- **v.28** - Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many
- unto them who look for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation
- this is the time of the new body

**Have ears to hear the trumpet call
to come to the Feast of Tabernacles**

OF THE INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT

Jesus: born a Child, became a Son

Isaiah 9:6-7

- **v.6** – a child is born; a son is given
- Children are born, sons are given – sons are ones who have come to maturity and can carry the responsibility of the government, the kingdom!
- In the Scriptures – the age of 30 was the age of inheritance, a time to manifest what they were destined for.
- Jesus at the age of 30 came for baptism, the voice spoke from heaven 'this is My beloved Son'
- From that time Jesus manifested in the earth as the Son – He began to walk in the government of God, bearing the responsibility of the government of God in the earth!
- Jesus born a Child, but He became a Son

The Government upon the shoulders of the Son

- Jesus said 'the Kingdom of God is at hand' (**Matthew 4:17**)
- 'government' #4951 Hb. *misrah*: rule, dominion, government, can be defined as an empire
- The heavens opened over Jesus at His baptism, the Spirit of God came upon Him and remained
- The Spirit of God, the government, came upon His shoulders from that time (fulfilling the prophetic word – **Isaiah 11:1-2**)
- He began to preach - **Mark 1:14-15; Matt. 4:17**
- The gospel is the good news of the King and His kingdom
- The gospel of the Kingdom of God, the gospel of the government of God – on the earth now, and forever
- Repent and believe in the King – come into His kingdom
- **Eph. 2:1-3** – once we were under a different government [the prince of the power of the air], the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, we did whatever he inspired us to do and walked in the flesh
- **BUT there is a new government**
- Jesus coming into the earth changed everything, He brought a new kingdom
- Now the government is on His shoulder
- We come under a different King now, and a different government, we are submitted to Jesus as the King and Lord and are under His government
- A Kingdom of love, joy, peace and righteousness in the Holy Spirit where the King loves you – **Romans 14:17, Colossians 1:13**

- The government of God increases each time someone enters into His kingdom by the new birth, as another person submits to His rulership and becomes obedient to Him
- We are growing in our obedience to the King and so His government increases in us the more we submit to His Word and direction in our life!

His NAME – the name of the Son will be called:

- **Wonderful! -Judges 13** – Manoah and his wife; the Angel said 'My name is wonderful' (**v.18**)
 - **Counsellor**
 - **Mighty God** – El Gibbor – “God the Hero”, “God the Champion”, “God the Valiant Warrior”
 - **Everlasting Father**
 - Heb.2:13**, the Son became a Father – the authority is passed on.
 - Isa.53:8-11** – He will see His seed – He has spiritual children through His death and resurrection
 - Heb.2:10** – through Christ God is bringing many sons to glory
 - The Son has become our Everlasting Father and we now come into the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ [**Col.2:2**]
 - **Prince of Peace**
 - The Chief of Peace; **Col.3:15** – called to be at peace in One Body
 - Peace is the 'umpire', let peace rule (umpire) in your hearts – follow the way of peace – Peace is a vital hallmark of the kingdom
 - The God of Peace will crush Satan under your feet – **Rom.16:20**
 - Be governed by the peace and walk in victory over Satan and his domain
 - His peace is increasing, becoming greater in us and more pervasive as more and more people experience the peace of the kingdom of God!
- This government works internally then manifests outwardly

There will be an 'increasing'

- **Isaiah 9:7** - of the increase of His government there will be no end
 - 'no end' SC Heb.#7093 means: an extremity, an end, at the end of time
 - 'increase' SC Heb.#4766 *makeh*: abundance; greatness
 - There will be no end to the increase of His empire
 - His peace is increasing
 - His glory is increasing
 - His kingdom is increasing
 - This is happening without end, no limit, no extremity!
- The trumpet blowing is – it is time to make Jesus King

Upon the throne of David – Isa.9:7

- Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me
- The King would come from the family line of David
- **2 Sam.7:12-14** – the prophecy of the Son coming; a Son of David
- The promise was of a King, a kingdom, and a House – and this son of David would be the Son of God
- Jesus is the King already, and He is coming – we are not waiting for His rule to come, He has taken His place as King, **“For He must reign till He has made all His enemies His footstool” 1 Corinthians 15:25**
- He is already on the throne – King of kings and Lord of lords.
- He is already seated far above (**Ephesians 1:20-22**)
- He has all authority in heaven and on earth – **Matthew 28:18** – this is absolute, there can be no greater authority given than this
- **Zech.14:9** – He is now King over all the earth and His name is One!

God gave man dominion

- **Genesis 1** – what happened at the beginning
- **v.26-28** – man to have dominion
- man created in God’s image – the expression of His rulership and of who He is – the earth is to be filled with people in the image and likeness of God
- the will of God is to be done on earth as it is in heaven
- the image is connected to the glory – when we bear the image of God we are actually bearing the glory of God, revealing His character and nature
- Christ is the image of God (**2 Corinthians 4:4**) – and Christ is in you now; we are to grow up into that image – no flesh getting in the way, so only the image of God can be seen in us. The glory of God being seen in the earth
- Adam was **made in the image of God – Christ is the image of God!!**
- We were made in the image of God, to be like Christ, in His image!

- God said: be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, have dominion over it

The increase of His government comes through sons

- The increase of the Government comes through sons, those who have grown to maturity who can bear the government
- The house is a house of sons, it is a family expressing the rulership of God
- Through the house the government gets expressed
- The house is actually the place of God’s throne (**Ezekiel 43:7**)
- His government is expressed through the sons
- Expressing the image of God, there will be peace, righteousness and joy [**Rom.14:17**]

We are to be fruitful – produce more sons – Gen.1:28

Hab.2:14 – the knowledge of the glory will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.

- The plan of God was to fill the earth – with heaven, with the glory, with His government
- God wants to dwell with men in the earth (**Rev.21:3-4**)

- God wants the earth to be like heaven and this happens through His government increasing
- It happens through sons
- **Ps.72:19** – let the whole earth be filled with His glory, let it be established

Subdue the earth

- 'subdue' SC Heb#3533 means: to tread down, to conquer, to subjugate
- There is an enemy to subdue
- Walk in victory over the enemy
- 'who are you listening to' – don't listen to the wrong voice. Faith comes by hearing! We will obey the voice we are hearing – God's Word always brings peace, assurance, rest – never fear or anxiety or worry
- Stay under the word

Have dominion

- 'dominion' SC Hb#7287- means to subjugate, tread down, rule
- even the creatures obey God
- God's dominion is expressed through His nature – He is not a tyrant but His authority comes through His love and goodness
- **Ps.110:2** 'rule in the midst of your enemies'
- Have dominion, in the midst of your enemies as kings and priests
- **Ps.72:5-8** – the righteous shall flourish – this is the day of Messiah – we can expect to flourish in the kingdom of God
- There will be abundance of peace
- He shall have dominion from sea to sea ... to the ends of the earth – absolute rulership over all the earth!
- It is happening through His people, we are the body of Messiah, the fullness of Him filling the all in all, extending His rule to the ends of the earth (**Eph.1:23**)
- We are the branch that is extending out – **Zechariah 6:11-13** – A branch of Kings and Priests
- Branch out – that is how the Government is extended.
- The command to subdue is to us now – make disciples of all nations (**Matt.28:18-20**) – the nations are subdued by the word of God having its dominion, through discipleship and teaching

Solomon had dominion - 1 Kings 4:24-25

- Solomon inherited the peaceful kingdom
- He had dominion over all the kingdoms
- He had peace on every side
- Each man under his vine and fig tree – a picture of kingdom peace – no one making them afraid

A Rod from the stem of Jesse - Isaiah 11:1

- A rod from the stem of Jesse
- A Branch will grow out of his roots – what is the Branch? Could it be the corporate Messiah!
- Rod – the Messiah

- Jesus is the root and offspring of David – **Revelation 22:16**
- Branch – the increase, the growing out of the Messiah – the Body
- **v.2** the Spirit of YAHWEH shall rest on Him
- We are members of Christ now, He is the Head, we are the body
- The seven-fold spirit of God is in the Messiah and thus in His Body!
- Wisdom and understanding; counsel and might, knowledge and fear of the Lord

A Man whose name is BRANCH - Zech.6:11-13

- **v.12** behold the Man whose name is the BRANCH
- From His place He shall branch out
- He shall build the temple of YAHWEH
- He shall bear the glory
- Sit and rule on His throne
- Crowned as the King, He shall be the Priest
- We are the Branching out of the Man whose name is the Branch
- Messiah is Jesus and also His Body now! A Body of sons! A Body of Kings and Priests like Jesus Himself

The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of YAHWEH

Isa.11:4 - strike the earth; slay the wicked

- **v.6** the result – there will be peace, no more destroying or death
- **v.9** the earth shall be full of the knowledge of YAHWEH as the waters cover the sea – the fulfilment of the New Covenant promise that they will all **know Me from the least to the greatest – Hebrews 8:11**
- God’s holy mountain will cover the earth – Zion will be everywhere, not just a particular physical place, but Zion will cover the whole earth!
- This is the increase of His government – everything changes and comes back into order, under the dominion of the King through His sons, the branches
- It is happening through a people, sons branching out – kings and priests

**Of the increase of His government
and peace there will be no end**

THE APOCALYPSE OF THE GLORY

Restoration of 'all things'

- We are living in the days of the restoration of all things – **Acts 3:21**

What are some of those things?

- Light – Father of Lights, sons of light
- Glory – Father of Glory
- Kingship – understanding the authority
- Priesthood - a nation of kings and priests
- Marriage – where the two have finally become one
- Friendship – Moses was a friend of God, **John 15:13-16** – Jesus calls us friends
- Love – God is love
- Family – not everyone sees these things

There is a need to 'contend earnestly'

We need to contend earnestly for the faith in these days – **Jude 3**

- Not everyone wants to do this because it takes time, effort, discipline

The Children of Israel had seen signs and wonders

- **Numbers 14:1-2**
- The people who had gone through Passover, being saved by the blood of the Lamb
- They had plundered the Egyptians
- They had gone through baptism (Red Sea) and Egypt, Pharaoh, the world was left behind and they began a new life
- They came to Sinai, received the law on tablets, they experienced Pentecost
- The Law is the "Tree of Life reborn" the Bread of Life – Jesus truly is the Bread
- They received the Tabernacle, God dwelling in the midst and Canaan was right there

Yet they complained, and were disobedient

- **v.2-3** - the people complained and said, "Why did YHWH bring us here to fall by the sword"
- having put their hand to the plough, they wanted to go back
- they became unfit for the kingdom of God
- **v.4** - they wanted to select a leader and go back to Egypt (like a dog returning to the vomit)
- **v.5-8** - they were on the verge of walking into their inheritance
- the spies had brought a bad report and now fear gripped the people

Joshua and Caleb saw things differently

- **Numbers 14:9** Joshua and Caleb tried to encourage the people
- the enemies' protection has departed from them
- they are our "bread"
- the congregation wanted to stone them (**v.10**)

Moses intercedes for the people

- **v.19** - forgive them
- **v.20** - Yahweh listened to Moses, he was a friend to God
- Yahweh pardoned them

YAHWEH will fulfill His purpose in the earth

- **Num.14:21** - but truly as I live, the earth will be filled with the glory of Yahweh
- what had Israel missed out on?
- They were called to be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation
- The light and glory is going to be brighter but the darkness will increase also

We are to come into our inheritance - Romans 8:12-17

- **v.12** - if you live according to the flesh, you will die
- **v.14** - if you are led by the Spirit, you are sons of God
- **v.15** - Spirit of adoption/sonship we have received
- **v.17** - there is a suffering to go through to come into the glory
- we suffer with Christ so we can be glorified together
- we do this together with Him, He is in us and doing an amazing work in us

We are to be transformed

- **Romans 12:1-2** - We are to offer our bodies to God as a living sacrifice
- Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind
- "transformed" – Gk *'metamorphoo'* – when used as a verb it means to be changed into another form
- We are to fellowship and feast on the Word so that our minds are renewed and this causes us to be changed into another form
- Jesus on the mountain of Transfiguration was "changed into another form"
- On that mountain there was an apocalypse (unveiling, revealing, disclosure) of the glory
- **2 Corinthians 3:16-18** - When we turn to the Lord the veil is taken away
- We are transformed (changed from one thing into another) as we behold the glory of the Lord
- There is a transformation taking place together
- We are learning to live together, speak the same things, be in one accord
- Wonderful work of transformation taking place as we begin to walk in our inheritance

Enter into sonship

- God spoke to Moses to tell Pharaoh to "let My Son, Israel, go!" (**Ex.4:22**)
- Israel was a corporate Son
- Israel failed to express and enter that Sonship; God sent His Son – Jesus

Predestined to be conformed to the image of the Son - Romans 8:28-30

- We know all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose
- "purpose" – Gk *'prothesis'* – a setting forth, a deliberate plan, a proposition, an advanced plan, a design
- God has always had a design, an advanced plan to have a Son in the earth
- "Out of Egypt I called My Son"
- He wanted Adam to have many sons and daughters in the image and likeness of God
- God is working out His eternal purpose through His Son, Jesus the Messiah, and His Body, the Corporate Son
- We are now at the "end of the ages" where the plan is being worked out
- He foreknew, He predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son – His Son is the pattern, the prototype
- He, Jesus, is the Firstborn among many brethren
- Called, Justified, Glorified
- We have been glorified in God's eternal purpose and we are being glorified as we go through the process
- The glory will be revealed, apocalypse = to take the lid off, there is coming a time when the lid will be taken off and the glory will be seen

Perfect through suffering - Hebrews 2:5-10

- World to come not put in subjection to angels
- Man has been given that place, given him dominion, all things under his feet (Adam's destiny)
- We do not yet see all things put under man
- But we see Jesus!!!!
- Crowned with glory and honour
- It was fitting for God to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings in order to bring many sons to glory!
- Suffering is necessary to inherit perfection
- Glory is always connected to suffering

Suffering leads to Glory - Romans 8:18-19

- Sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory
- If you want the glory, you have to go through the sufferings
- The glory is to be revealed in us – Christ in us
- Creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God
- "Glory" – **John 2:11 Word Wealth in NSFLB** – Gk *'doxa'* – originally an opinion or estimation in which one was held. New Testament *'doxa'* becomes *splendor, radiance and majesty, absolute perfection residing in Christ and evidenced by the miracles He performed.*
- This is the glory to be revealed in us
- Many do not believe for this; they think this can only happen once Jesus has come back

- They will not enter the inheritance that we can have now – the same sort of thinking that the Children of Israel had when they could have entered Canaan – the giants are too big
- This is the glory which Jesus is wanting to reveal in us

We are being transformed - Philippians 3:20-21

- Our citizenship is in heaven
- Jesus will transform our lowly body to make it conform to His glorious body
- We can see this as our individual bodies
- But we can also see this as the corporate Body
- We are being transformed to His glorious Body

This is not a copy or reflection of His glory

- This is His glory, Christ in us, the glory
- We are not reflectors, the glory is placed in us
- He is bringing many sons to glory
- We are to be the manifestation of God's glory all over the earth
- This is creation's hope, it is groaning for the sons of God to be revealed, waiting for us to fully enter our inheritance

Coming to Maturity - Ephesians 4:13-14

- Jesus gave gifts to the church (**Eph.4:11**)
- 'till we all come to the unity of the faith'
- Does this happen in heaven? No, this is happening on the earth
- We are coming to a "perfect man" (corporate), having the glory of God
- "to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"
- **v.14** - that we should no longer be children
- God does not want us to remain children tossed to and fro
- we are to be no longer tossed to and fro, God's intention is for us to grow up
- this is why we need to come to the unity of the faith, the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man...
- we need to be rock solid in the earth
- we need to know what we believe; this is all happening here
- when we come to this maturity, the Bride is ready and prepared for Him to come

There will be a 'revealing', manifestation - Romans 8:19

- "revealing" - #602 '*apocalupsis*' – frm. 601 – *to take the cover off, to unveil, disclose*
- Something needs the veil taken off, there is a veil that is preventing the full manifestation
- A sudden disclosure, an unveiling
- Creation is waiting for this apocalypse, the revealing of the sons of God

God wants to dwell with His people - Exodus 25:8

- Build Me a sanctuary to dwell in the midst of My people
- We are the fulfilment
- **Exodus 40:33-34** - Tabernacle was finished
- Moses finished the work

- The glory of Yahweh filled the Tabernacle
- God gave Moses clear instructions how to build it
- **1 Chronicles 28** - God gave David the plans by the Spirit how to build the temple
- Solomon built it; he received clear instructions

A vision of God's permanent dwelling place

- **Ezekiel 43** – God does not give detailed instructions to Ezekiel of how to build the temple
- It is just a vision and Ezekiel is told to write down what he saw
- **v.1-2** - the glory comes
- **v.5** - brought in to the inner court, the glory filled the house
- **v.6-7** - this is the place of My Throne, the soles of My Feet and where I will dwell forever
- **Ezekiel 47** – this is the same temple; water was coming out of the temple
- Ezekiel saw a vision of the glorious temple but no instructions how to build it
- He saw God's permanent dwelling place, living stones built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit

Jacob had a vision of the House of God - Genesis 28:10-22

- **v.16** - Jacob's dream - 'surely Yahweh is in this place and I did not know it'
- **v.17** - this is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven
- he re-named the place "Bethel" (House of God)
- the house of God is the gate of heaven
- heaven will fully invade the house of God, and we will be transformed into another form
- we are the gate of heaven; our Head is in heaven and we are on earth

Open the gates and let the King of Glory in - Psalm 24:7

- Lift up your heads O you gates!
- The King of glory shall come in
- Who is this King of Glory? Yahweh of Hosts
- Where does He live?
- The King of Glory will come in to His dwelling place
- We are the gate of heaven

The glory of the latter house is greater than the former

- **Haggai 2:7** – Solomon's Temple was glorious but the eternal house will be even greater
- The sanctuary/garden of Eden was glorious – Adam was to "tend and dress" (language of priesthood) and rule and have dominion (kingship)
- Adam was to rule and be a priest in the house of God
- That was the former house and the latter will be greater
- The house that Jesus is building will be greater than any of these houses
- We are coming to the apocalypse/revealing/manifestation/disclosure
- Nothing in Scripture is there by accident
- Every word has significance, and we need revelation of the Spirit to show us

There will be a glorious appearing

- **Matthew 24:25-27**
- False christs, false prophets will arise to try and deceive the elect
- Jesus will not come in a secret way
- He will come as lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west
- It is not a localised flash of lightning
- Those everlasting doors will open, heaven will open, the Bride is ready for Him to come in to her
- There is a flash, unmistakable, Jesus has come
- For us it is glory
- For those who refused it is darkness, terror
- But for us it is glorious
- All the saints coming with Him and we are caught up
- Creation erupts, peace, abundance, fruit, all of creation springs to life
- In the beginning it was "Let there be light"; It ends with Light
- In the beginning "the two will become one"; It ends with the two becoming one
- Those who were called to tend the garden are back and properly tending the garden

We shall rule and reign forever on earth

HOW DO WE FILL THE EARTH?

The Creation Mandate - Genesis 1:26-28

- Make man in His image; male and female
- Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue and have dominion

a) Be fruitful

- Fruitfulness is based on our relationship with Jesus Christ
- When Adam first saw Eve he called her "Woman" because she was taken out of man – two become one flesh, produces fruit
- Homosexuality never produces fruit
- When the church is properly united with Jesus there will be unlimited fruitfulness
- **Ephesians 5:22-33** speaking of the relationship of Christ and the church
- Who will make disciples?

b) Multiply

- The children you have are brought up so that they can also have children
- Spiritual sons brought up so that they can have spiritual sons
- **Matthew 13:38** – the good seed are the sons of the kingdom, they are planted in the earth
- Fruitfulness turns into multiplication when the first generation of sons begins to have children also
- Then sons can be sent into every corner of the earth who will be able to make disciples

Making disciples

- **Acts 16:1** - The mandate from Jesus was to make disciples
- A certain disciple named Timothy
- **v.2** - well-spoken of by the brethren
- Paul took him on team with him
- he grew up in the midst three local churches in his area and he is the fruit of those local churches discipling him
- **Acts 9:10** - A certain disciple in Damascus named Ananias
- The Lord Jesus appeared in a vision to him
- He is even bold enough to talk back to Jesus in the vision
- The pedigree of this disciple was that of being quite comfortable in a relationship with Jesus
- When Ananias went to the house he said, "Brother Saul..."

c) Fill the earth

- As we multiply how do we fill the earth?
- **Matthew 9:37-38** - Harvest is plentiful, laborers are few

- Send out laborers is the answer to filling the earth
- Laborers must be taught and equipped
- We are to be producing workers who can go out
- Jesus gave us the example of sending them out two by two – **Luke 10**
- **Acts 6:1** - Numbers of disciples was multiplying
- How was this happening?
- **Acts 5** – judgement on Ananias and Sapphira brought on a great revival of discipleship
- **Acts 5:42** – the end was daily teaching and preaching Jesus the Christ in the temple and in every house without ceasing

Some thoughts on “teaching and preaching”

- **Teaching format and nature**

- **Matthew 5:1** – Jesus was **seated** in an open field to teach His disciples
- there needs to be an environment where disciples can ask questions and seek further light from the Word

- **Preaching format and nature**

- stand up and proclaim, not sitting down
- challenging, speaking out
- **Isaiah 8:20** – how to judge a preacher, does he speak according to the Word (Law and Testimony)?
- **John 7:37** – Jesus stood and cried out (issuing a trumpet call)
- very often the prophet preaches
- To fill the earth, we need to be fruitful and then the fruit needs discipleship, so they can make disciples who will make more disciples
- Children growing in the image of God who will make disciples and be filling the earth
- Preaching and teaching the name of Jesus Christ and the things concerning the kingdom of God – **Acts 8:12**

Children grow up to become sons

- the bringing up of children, to become sons
- sons are disciples that are now of age to walk in the inheritance
- sons are according to **Philippians 2:6** – fully mature son is equal with His Father
- not only making disciples but bringing up sons
- if we don't raise sons we will die lonely

Sons have an Inheritance - 1 Peter 1:3-5

- in saving us and bringing us into the resurrection life of Jesus Christ, we are brought into an inheritance

Inheritance:

- incorruptible
- undefiled
- does not fade away
- reserved in heaven for you

- e. kept by power of God
- f. through faith
- g. for salvation
- h. ready to be revealed in the earth

- We come into our inheritance when we are of mature age – in the Bible the natural age was 30 (Jesus was 30 when He came to Jordan for baptism)
- this is the age of sonship, the time of inheritance, becoming the sons of God
- **Hebrews 2:10** – through Jesus Christ being perfected through that which He suffered, God is bringing **many sons to glory**
- The disciples grow up to be sons, on the way they have learnt to be workers/laborers, knowing what to do
- Kingdom is found in the world (the field)
- Kingdom teaching and preaching is fairly new
- The earth is our inheritance (**Matth.5:5**)

→ After filling the earth what will be the result

D) We will start to subdue the enemy

- **Psalm 118:22** – the Stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone
- the Day of Yahweh is the day that the Cornerstone was set in place
- having victory over the enemy; this victory will manifest as the church grows to maturity (**Eph.3:8-11**)
- for those who do not receive the Cornerstone, it will be 'a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence' (**1 Peter 2:8a**)
- the church that is being built has total victory over the enemy!

E) We have Dominion – exercising dominion

- **Matthew 16:19** - I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven
- Kingdom authority
- **Matthew 18:18-19** - Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven
- 2 or 3 gathering in the name can bind and loose
- Sons have this authority
- In right order 2 or 3 can bind and loose with agreement of heaven
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**
- Not warring according to the flesh
- Might in God to pull down strongholds
- Dominion theology
- Casting down arguments and idols and imaginations

From fruitfulness to multiplication - 2 Timothy 2:2

- Apostle Paul → Timothy → Faithful people → others also
- Purity of the doctrine will be preserved
- Abide in the doctrine that you have heard and seen in me
- Busy about the work of making disciples

In Church history there is not much if anything written about how they made disciples
Maybe closest in Protestant history was the Moravians who lived for the mission, setting up communities that could support themselves and the mission

Our relationship with Jesus will cause us to be fruitful

- We want to impart to the disciple all that we have received
- Timothy cannot become Paul but he can be benefited, matured and able to receive the inspired word for himself from his relationship with Jesus

A Principle

- The two will become one
- Head and Body
- Fruitfulness will result in the earth
- The children need to grow up and have children
- Foundations must be fully laid
- Discipleship needed in order to grow up
- Then training and equipping for leadership

Further comments

- In all of this we need perseverance
- **2 Cor.12:12** – perseverance is sign of the apostle

Grace and apostleship - Romans 1:5

- Through Christ we have received grace, unending grace
- and apostleship – the apostolic authority, the commission
- The fruit of that is “obedience to the faith”
- The Commission and the means to fulfil the commission
- **Matthew 28:18-20** – it is apostolic commission
- **John 17:18** – Jesus was able to send the apostles into the earth in the same way Jesus was sent
- We are meant to be an apostolic people
- Apostolic is a reality of the gospel working and spreading
- Apostleship comes out of an individual call – **Acts 1:25**
- Apostleship is a sphere of apostolic ministry – **Galatians 2:8** – Peter and Paul, reaching all nations
- Do not rely on people who are inconsistent and unreliable
- Sometimes we can be so keen to get the job done that we appoint ones who are not equipped and ready – **1 Cor. 4:15-17, Phil.2:19-22**
- There is no one like a son – sons are faithful, sons are true and sons are beloved
- Most revivals people have gone to a place, a building to be part of it
- The revival today is a people, not a place

What did Jesus do?

- **Matthew 4:19** – follow Me
- **John 17:18** – sent out those He had trained in ordained ministry
- All in the context of raising sons

Growing up – children → young men → fathers

- **1 John 2:12-14**
- Am I called? Grow from little children to becoming a disciple, a learner
- Then from a learner to be an apprentice – learn how to do it – Young men
- Who are the good seed? The sons of the kingdom, those who are becoming fathers

Be Fruitful

Multiply

Fill the earth

Subdue it

Have dominion

This is God's purpose!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES – Part Two

Three Aspects: Historical, Redemptive, Prophetic

“Keep the Feast” – apply, guard, observe, apply it

- God wants us to apply the message
- We need to hear what the trumpet is saying today
- The trumpet is the message that God is bringing today to His church

Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles

- **Leviticus 23:4** - These are the feasts of YHWH
- Holy convocations, assemblies

Hear the trumpet and come to the Feast

Lamentations 1

- The church can camp at a feast, stay there and be happy there
- The church can be camping around Passover – around the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ – the work of the Cross, including the ascension
- We are to grasp this and apply it, not just in a shallow way, but identifying with Christ in this
- We are the righteousness of God in Him
- We need to hear about this so that faith will come by hearing and hearing by the Word (**Rom.10:17**)
- We are hearing now about the Feast of Tabernacles; we need to hear the trumpet of Tabernacles so we can be brought into this realm
- We need to keep teaching about Passover and Pentecost but moving on into Tabernacles
- Jesus is blowing the trumpet among the golden lampstands (the churches) – **Rev.1**

Lamentations 1:4 - Gates desolate, for the people are not coming to Zion for the feasts

- The reason why there is apostasy and shallowness because the church has not been coming to the feasts

Feast of Tabernacles in 7th month

- Trumpets and Day Atonement precede the actual feast
- Noah’s Ark rested on Ararat in the 7th month
- The church will rest on Zion (**Heb.12:22**)
- We are heading for a great day of affliction, humbling, fasting, repentance, tribulation - this urges us on into the Feast of Tabernacles
- It is the feast of Ingathering

- They left their places, denominations, areas and dwelt together for seven days in fellowship, in booths
- There are battles, trials, struggles in the process to bring us into new holiness, not struggling with the old nature
- Transformation comes from a renewed mind (**Rom.12:2**)

Sins Atoned for by Blood

- **Leviticus 16** - the Day of Atonement corresponds to reconciliation and redemption of Christ in the New Testament
- Atonement = covered, but Jesus put away sin once for all by the sacrifice of Himself
- **v.12** – took a censer of burning coals full of fire taken from the altar of incense
- The blood is applied twice – at Passover but also at Tabernacles
- this is the blood continuing to work
- “hands full of incense” – cloud of incense will cover the mercy seat
- incense – prayer, intercession, fire – the cloud is to cover the mercy seat
- High Priest takes fire, incense and blood into the Most Holy Place
- the blood sprinkled on the mercy seat to cover the broken law, to redeem us from all the just demands of the law (tablets in the ark)
- we are free from all the law – while saints are living in legality they will not come in fully to the glory
- the blood was shed on the earth in Passover to cover our sins

The Day of Atonement - Leviticus 23:27

- 10th day - all the High Priestly ministry of **Lev.16** happened in this day of Atonement
- He put aside all his holy garments of glory to put on linen garments - a picture of Christ putting aside His glory and becoming a man (**Phil.2:6-8**)
- Fire always speaks of judgement on sin, Satan, Adamic nature
- 10 speaks of testing, the ten commandments (which tests us)
- The righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us not by us (**Romans 10:1-4**) and we learn to abide in Christ by the Holy Spirit
- We are going into a time of great testing (**Revelation 2:10** – tribulation 10 days)
- There is a suffering of the saints in this hour, a concentration

Christ entered into the Tabernacle in Heaven

- **Leviticus 16:23-24** - Aaron comes into the Tabernacle
- Christ came into the true Tabernacle in heaven itself
- Aaron shall put off his linen garments and put on his garments of glory and come forth; Linen garments were bloody
- He puts on the garments of glory to come out and appear before the people
- Linen to approach God, Glory to come forth before the people
- **Hebrews 9:24** – Christ entered into the true, now to “appear” in Presence of God for us, once for all at end of the ages He “appeared” to put away sins once for all...He will “appear” a second time for salvation
- High Priest would come out to appear unto the people
- Jesus who has entered into heaven will appear unto us a second time for “salvation”
- including the salvation and redemption of our bodies

A time of Incense - Luke 1

- When God wants to do something there will be a time of incense, handfuls of incense
- Preceding the coming of Jesus into the earth there was incense
- John the Baptist's father, Zacharias, was ministering in the temple with incense when the angel appeared to him
- **v.10** – multitudes outside the temple at the hour of incense – there is increasing amounts of worship and prayer being offered in these days
- The incense was preparing a people for the coming of the Lord, the release of the Spirit of Elijah to prepare God's people

Incense – the prayers of the saints

- **Revelation 8:1-6** - the day of the Ingathering
- Seventh seal, seven trumpets, seven messengers, seven trumpets
- Golden censer, "much incense"
- We are coming into an hour of much prayer and worship, intercession, Spirit-led prayer, the incense being poured out
- Offering the incense with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar
- This is all the prayers of the saints down the ages
- The golden altar is before the Throne; this prayer is before the Throne
- This is beyond the veil; we are seated in Christ in the heavenly places
- Smoke of the incense with the prayers of the saints
- Fire of the altar – judgements in the earth, is all on the basis on Calvary, fire and prayer brings the judgement
- The High Priest is going to appear; Jesus Himself will come on the scene
- **1 John 3:1-3** - we will be like Him when He appears

We will appear with Christ in glory

- **Colossians 3:1-4** - since you then be risen with Christ, set your mind on things above
- we will appear with Christ in glory

He will be glorified in His saints - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

- These saints knew trouble, strife, persecution, affliction
- The fire is coming, He is being revealed from heaven with His mighty messengers
- Vengeance on those who do not know God and who disobey the gospel
- Everlasting destruction at the face of the Lord (**Rev.6:16**)
- He will be glorified in His saints

Waiting for His appearing

- **1 Thessalonians 1:10** - we are to wait for our High Priest to appear
- The people of God waited for the High Priest to come out of the Most Holy with the news that the sins were dealt with for the year
- We are "waiting for the Son from heaven, whom God raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come"
- We are busy in our waiting, "occupy till He comes"
- No true believer tastes of the wrath to come

- **Philippians 3:20** - our citizenship, commonwealth is in heaven
- From whence also we look for the Saviour from heaven
- We are waiting for His appearing from heaven
- He will change/transform this lowly/vile body that it may be conformed to His glorious body
- This is our anticipation at the Feast of Tabernacles
- He subdues all things to Himself, creation and humanity, mortal to immortality, a chemical change – the last enemy will be destroyed (**1 Cor.15:24-25**)

A time of harvest - Leviticus 23:37

- The river manifested fully, joy, glory, all the fruit, the harvest, the blessing all brought at this time of the Feast of Tabernacles
- Excess of offerings at this time
- The glory of the Cross, Christ, redemption
- **v.39** - 15th day when gathered the fruits of the land
- 2 sabbaths at this time: 1st day and 8th day are sabbaths
- all things in this day – **Romans 8:32** – He gives us freely all things, the deep things (**1 Cor.2:10-13**)
- growing up into Christ in all things – **Eph.4:15**
- this is completion, perfection, the glory filling His people in the earth
- redemption complete, it begins with the forgiveness of sins through His blood (**Eph.1:7**), but redemption goes further than that
- do not grieve the Holy Spirit, sealed until the “day of redemption” – **Eph.4:30**

Complete Redemption

- **Romans 8** - The chapter of redemption being completed, sons of God, co-heirs of the inheritance, adoption
- **v.22** - All creation groans and travails until now
- **v.23** - We have firstfruits of Spirit, the anointing, the down payment, the guarantee
- the fullness of the inheritance – the redemption of our bodies
- we are to receive the implanted word to save our souls (**James 1:21**)
- we have a hope for a new body
- **v.24-25** - there is a full cleansing coming, we are saved “in this hope”

1 John 1:7 - Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us – but what context?

- God is love and God is Light – we need both, light penetrates
- We are to walk in the light – this is a continually cleansing
- This has to do with fellowship
- This is total transparency – we have fellowship with one another and the blood does its work in us
- Blood deals with sin
- Word deals with spots, blemishes and wrinkles

John 2:13

- Jesus cleansed the Temple twice
- Passover, Tabernacles
- New birth/regeneration/justified/imputed righteousness (Passover)

- There is a greater cleansing, maturity, God visiting His Temple (**Malachi 3**)
- We are to seek God
- This is a complete sanctification (**1 Thess.5:23**) of spirit, soul and body
- This is the Feast of Tabernacles

The eighth day of the feast

- A blameless people
- Totally pleasing to God
- Like Enoch

Tabernacles is the feast of fullness

- At the end of all the gospels – Passover (Cross)
- Acts – Pentecost, Holy Spirit coming
- Epistles to Revelation – bringing us to Tabernacles

Two prayers of Paul – in Ephesians

- **Eph.1:14-19** - Essentially Pentecostal in its nature
- **Eph.3:14-20** - Tabernacles in nature
- 2 prayers in this epistle, this is distinctive
- Ephesians had deep teaching from Paul for three years, heavenly
- Bows his knees
- These prayers are a gift and a given
- “Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith” – Tabernacles
- This is dwelling, abiding in your heart deeply with God
- Length, depth, width and height – we come to the fourth-dimension realm – this is the depth, the deep things of God that are coming, all things coming to us
- Love of Christ passes knowledge (**1 Cor.13:8-10** – gifts will cease finally when we are made perfect in love, knowing as we are known)
- We are to go beyond the knowledge realm into the glory
- Filled with all the fullness of God
- Anointing of Holy Spirit is not the fullness
- God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we ask or think

This is Tabernacles – being filled with all the fullness of God