

A LIVING

HOPE



Teaching Notes
from September
2020 School

***This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both
sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence
behind the veil, Hebrews 6:19***

REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

A

Living

Hope

Teaching Session Notes taken from September/October 2020

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 2020.

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.

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Our mandate:

- 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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GOD THE CREATOR

Creating is a Divine capacity

Genesis 1:1

- In the beginning God (Heb. 'Elohim' – SC#430: *God, the Supreme God, or it can mean "gods"*)
- 2606 times the word "Elohim" is translated "God"
- It is not a "name" – it is a generic term referring to the One who is God
- All people have some concept of "God" whether they believe in God or not
- God created the heavens and the earth
- In **Genesis 1** the word "God" appears over 30 times in that single chapter
- God is the Creator – 'creating' is a divine capacity
- Only God can create
- **Hebrews 11:3** – God created everything out of things which are not seen, by His Word
- We make and invent things from things already made, whereas God created from things that did not exist until He created them

ELOHIM is YAHWEH

Root word of "Elohim" probably means "*strong*"

Some people try to make a big thing about the "plural" sense of the word "Elohim" to explain the "Trinity" – but the Bible does not try to do this. The testimony of the Old Testament is "**hear O Israel: the LORD [YHWH] our God, the LORD [YHWH] is one!**"

In **Genesis 2:4** – this "Elohim" becomes personal, revealing Himself as "Yahweh"

- He is YHWH Elohim – He uses His personal name
- **Exodus 3:13-14** – Moses could describe God as the God of Abraham..., but what is His name?? God responded that He is "I AM"
- **Matthew 14:27** – Jesus said literally to His disciples, "Take courage, I AM". [this was when Jesus came walking on the water].
- **John 8:58** – Jesus said, "I AM", and they wanted to stone Him for blasphemy.

God has a name – Elohim has a name

In **Genesis 2** – 11 times He is referred to as "YHWH Elohim" – YHWH means "self-existing, self-sustaining, the I AM"

Adam and Eve knew God by His name

From this point on God identifies Himself more than 6500 times in the Bible as YHWH which unfortunately in the English and many other language translations has been

translated as "LORD", [or the equivalent word for LORD e.g. in Swahili BWANA]. LORD is not His name.

The Creator is YHWH

WHAT DOES GOD CREATE?

- He goes further than just creating all the materials of the universe

1. Psalm 51:10

- God creates a clean heart in us

2. Isaiah 4:5

- God creates a covering of His glory above all His assemblies and all His dwelling places
- There is an anointing of the glory to cover us when we gather; God creates it, a dwelling place in the glory

3. Isaiah 57:19

- God creates the fruit of lips
- God can work in us to give us a pure word [voice]

4. Isaiah 65:18

- God creates Jerusalem (**Heb.11:10**)

5. Isaiah 65:17

- God creates a new heaven and a new earth
- We are looking for this – **2 Peter 3:13**

6. Isaiah 45:18

- Yahweh, the Eternal One, is the Creator

7. Isaiah 42:5

- The Creator gives us breath, He gives us spirit

8. Isaiah 43:1

- God created Jacob, a people
- We are a new creation people, One new man. "*We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus*" **Ephesians 2:10**

9. Isaiah 41:18-20

- God creates rivers in the desert, streams in the wilderness

10. Psalm 89:11-12

- God is the Creator of natural and spiritual things

11. Psalm 102:18

- There are a people yet to be created – we are part of a new creation, so we can praise Yahweh in the earth

- God is able to create a people

12. Psalm 104:30

- God sends forth His Spirit and they are created
- Can manifest in physical restoration of nature, animals etc.
- And God renews the face of the earth

13. Psalm 148:5

- God commanded and they were created – angels, heavens, earth, moon, sun, stars
- Creation continues to this day
- It is not only a historic creation of **Genesis 1**, but He is still creating!

THE CREATOR IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

a) Revelation 4:11 – *"You are worthy O Lord"* - it is difficult to know whether the one addressed as 'Lord' in this verse is the Lord Jesus or whether it is Yahweh

- The Greek New Testament did not have a name for God – they just called Him 'Lord'
- The Greeks only had one word for "Lord" – Gk 'Kurios', can mean, *sir, Lord, Master, controller* and can only know it is referring to God by the context
- **verse 8** *"holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty"* – in the Old Testament this would most certainly be "YHWH God Almighty" as in **Isaiah 6:3**.

John the Baptist was preparing the way for the "LORD", a reference to Yahweh, who was coming in the flesh. [see four clear references in the NKJV: **Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4; John 1:23**]

The New King James Bible at least carries the capital "LORD" through to New Testament where it is quoting the Old Testament Scriptures, so you can know when it refers to Yahweh, e.g. **Romans 10:13**.

b) Revelation 10:6

- Him who created heaven and the things in it, the earth and the sea and all things in them
- Him who lives forever – that is God, 'I am Alpha and Omega', says the Lord (**Rev.1:8**)

c) 2 Peter 3:4

- Doubters saying, "all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation"
- **v.5-6** – the same one who created everything also allowed all of His creation to be flooded with water

d) Romans 8:19-21

- Another reference to the Creator
- Even the natural creation is eagerly waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God
- Creation subjected to futility by the Creator
- This was done in hope that creation would be delivered
- Man brought a curse over all creation - an unseen system came on the earth through the wickedness of man, not willing to commit, submit and be accountable to God

- God's answer to lift off this system from the earth, is to manifest His sons in the earth!
- Creation, and we who have the first fruits of the Spirit, all groan

The New Testament reveals that Jesus the Messiah is the Creator!

Colossians 1:16

- Many do not understand the eternal nature of Jesus
- By the Son (of God), all things were created that are in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.
- Even all the demonic heavenly beings, and that spiritual world was created by the Son
- All things were created through the Son and for the Son.
- In the Son, all things consist (hold together)
- Everything was created by Jesus, for Jesus and through Jesus and it holds together because He wants it to
- Jesus is at right hand of God waiting till His enemies are made a footstool for His feet
 - His enemies are not the people, the human beings, but the spiritual forces behind wickedness

John 1:1-3

- The Word was God
- All things that were made, were made through the Word
- The Word created all things
- The Word was with God in the beginning
- The Word – *Gk. 'logos'*
- That Word is finally revealed as Jesus – **Jn.1:14**

Hebrews 1:3 - The Son made the worlds, the ages

John 1:10

- The Word was in the world, the world was made through Him
- The Creator came into the world He created but He was not received. They did not know Him

Ephesians 3:8-9

- God created all things through Jesus Christ
- Jesus Christ is the Creator; He is the One through whom all things were made!

Hebrews 1:8,10

- But to the Son He says, "You LORD (YHWH) in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth..."
- The Son is YHWH who created the heavens and earth!

What is the big problem with people not knowing who the Creator is?

Romans 1:20-32 – the problem is people begin to worship the creature and creation, rather than the Creator

- YHWH is the Creator of the –
- ends of the earth, and YHWH became flesh and dwelt among us

Ecclesiastes 12:1 - *"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth"*

We are to remember our Creator!!

ALL THINGS LIVING

Many things in the Scripture are described as 'all things living'

God is the God of Life; He is the God of the living.

He is the one who created life

INTRODUCTION

Genesis 1:21

- first mention of word 'living' "*God created ... every living thing that moves*"
- There has been a culture of 'death' in our governments, instructions, in our society: abortion, mercy killing etc
- BUT God is the God of the LIVING, He breathed life into His creation
- God loves life and He is life

Luke 20:38 - Jesus said "*For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him*"

- **v.37** Jesus, speaking from Moses "*Moses showed in the burning bush passage that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob*" – there is a resurrection

Gen.2:7 – Man became a "*living a being*"; we are a living soul

- God breathed into man the breath of life
- **'Breath'** Hebrew *'neshamah'*: *breath of life, breathing person, living soul. God literally taught man how to breathe.* [see Word Wealth SFLB at Ps.150:6]
- "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD" – **Psalm 150:6**
- **'Life'** Hebrew #2416 *'chay'* – *alive, fresh, strong, life*
- God made man as living beings that would live forever

1) THERE IS A 'LIVING GOD'

Jeremiah 10:10

- YAHWEH is the true God, the living God, and everlasting King

v.8 – a wooden idol is a worthless doctrine

Deuteronomy 5:26 – "*the voice of the living God speaking*"

- The living God speaks and we can hear Him

a) Matt.16:16 – Jesus is the Son of the Living God; there is life in the Son; the Living God in the flesh

b) Rom.9:26 – called sons of the Living God (**Hos.1:10**). We are sons of the Living God. (**Jn.6:57** – the Living Father sent Jesus). Our Father is alive, and we are sons of the Living God. We are to express the life of Jesus wherever we go.

- c) **1 Tim.3:15** – the house of God is the church of the Living God. The church belongs to the Living God – the place where truth is found. The congregation; the government
- d) **2 Cor.6:16** – you are the temple of the Living God – the dwelling place of the Living God. The Living God walks among us. This is corporate, the Living God dwelling in the midst of His church
- e) **Heb.12:22** – there is a city of the Living God. The city whose builder and maker is God. A functioning body of people
- f) **2 Cor.3:3** – the Spirit of the Living God. He is the One who writes on our hearts.
The Living God is to be trusted and is to be served.

2) **THERE ARE LIVING WATERS**

Jeremiah 2:13

- God names Himself as "*the Fountain of Living Waters*". If we forsake Him, we die. We need the living waters. God has the new wineskin for the new wine.
- You cannot contain the living water

Jeremiah 17:13

- 'they have forsaken YAHWEH, the fountain of living waters. YAHWEH is our hope; that is a fountain of living water for us.

Song of Solomon 4:15

- the bridegroom speaking about the bride says she is "*a well of living waters*". We are to be as fountains flowing out into the world

Zechariah 14:8-9

- speaks of a day when the natural light diminishes "*in that day it shall be living waters shall flow from Jerusalem*"
- A revelation of YAHWEH being King over the whole earth.
- The revelation that "*YAHWEH is one and His name one*"
- (**Matt.28:18-20** – '*baptise in the Name*' – only one name).
- Jesus said '*I and My Father are one*' (**John 10:30**)
- The revelation of the One God going out over the whole earth.

John 4:10-11 – Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman

- Jesus is the one who can give the living water
- **v.13-14** – when Jesus gives you the living water, that water becomes in you a fountain, springing up into everlasting life

John 7:37-38 – in context of Feast of Tabernacles.

- Jesus cried out 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
- "*He who believes in Me [Jesus], out of his heart [innermost being] will flow rivers of living water*" – this will flow out of believers
- The word 'rhema' is a flowing word, and will flow out of the believers.

- There are living waters, a proceeding word, bringing life and healing to everything in its path.

Revelation 7:17

- *"The Lamb will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of water".*
- The Lamb will shepherd you and will take you to a fountain, where you can drink and find life. God will wipe away your tears and heal you
- The pure word of God flowing from the throne of God
- The Shepherd sees then His people are thirsty and leads them to the living waters.

CONCLUSION

Romans 12:1-2

- present your bodies a living sacrifice
- By not being conformed to this world, but by being transformed by the renewing of our mind
- Allow His death to work in us, so that His life can flow from us (**2 Cor.4:10-12**)
- A living sacrifice – through His death, He gave life to many
- No longer living for ourselves.
- God is the God of life, and there needs to be a people of life in this generation.

Let the living word flow out of us into all the world.

BEING AN OVERCOMER

AN OVERCOMING PEOPLE

- God desires a people in this generation to be an overcoming people
- There is a victory to be won in the earth by His people
- We are called to overcome – to walk in victory
- Not to be a weak people, but a people having the power of God in our lives

Jacob overcame the 'flesh man'

Genesis 32:22-32

- Account of Jacob meeting a man from heaven
- Jacob was the second born
- Jacob [in the will of God] 'cheated' his brother out of the blessing
- Jacob fled for 20 years, now returning home, and having to face his brother
- That night Jacob was experiencing fear, doubt ...
- Then a 'man' appears and they wrestling
- **v.25 "when He saw that He did not prevail"** – Jacob was wrestling with God
- Jacob would not let go even with his hip out of joint
- **v.26 "I will not let you go until you bless me"!** – God change me, do something in me. I want to know that I am a different man. 'I need faith God; I need to change'
- **"What is your name" v.27.** JACOB – admitting who he was
- 'JACOB' meant *supplanter* or *deceiver* – he had to acknowledge his weakness before he could be transformed
- **v.28** Jacob is given a new name ISRAEL – one who prevailed with God and overcame.
From that day forth the people of God would be called 'ISRAEL'.
- We need to overcome the flesh and see the working of God in our lives.
- Jacob could see the 'face of God' in his brother Esau now (**Gen.33:10**)
- God wants us to learn how to overcome

JESUS OVERCAME

- **John 16:33** Jesus said "***In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world***"
- Jesus is the pattern, the example
- Born in a difficult time, people under oppression, both politically and religiously

Word Wealth in SFLB at Rev.3:5 [new edition]

Greek - '*nikao*' means *to gain victory*. Overcoming is the ultimate demonstration of the reality of one's faith in Christ and the way to His promised rewards.

Word Wealth in SFLB at Jn.16:33 - '*tribulation*' Gk. '*thlipsis*' means *pressure, oppression, stress, anguish, tribulation, adversity, affliction, crushing, squashing, squeezing, distress*.

- These are the things we are to overcome!
- Jesus has overcome these things – so we can overcome these things!
- Jesus gained the victory at the cross.

Revelation 5:2-5

- “who is worthy to open the scroll”?
- BUT ‘behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah ... has prevailed [overcome]’ He is worthy
- **v.6.** The Lion of Judah – the one who overcame is a Lamb – who has all authority, all power
- He is able to release the fullness of the Spirit into all the earth
- Jesus is the Overcomer, through His sacrifice He overcame
- **v.9-10** – a new song, there is one who has overcome.
- Because He overcame there are now nations, tribes and tongues who are able to be redeemed and overcome

Rev.17:14

- the beast [world rulers] make war with the Lamb
- ***"and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen and faithful"***

WE ARE TO OVERCOME

- We all face various trials in life; unexpected things that come against us; things that cause us anxiety, fear, worry
- How do we gain the victory over that?
- Natural reaction ‘How will I deal with this, what am I going to do about it’?
- God wants us to get the victory – we cannot control people.
- We are not to make things happen ourselves.

1 John 5:4-5 *"whatever is born of God overcomes the world"*

- the overcomer is in you; the ability to overcome is already in you.
- This is the victory that overcomes the world – our faith.
- Faith comes by hearing the word of God
- Get in a position with God where you can hear His word – the ‘rhema’
- Don’t do anything until you hear from God
- The one who overcomes the world is the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God [Matt.16:16-18].

1 John 4:2-4

- Antichrist – anyone that does not confess that Jesus came in the flesh
- **v.4 *"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"*** – greater is He who is in you, than he who is in the world! [Gal.1:15-16]
- We preach Christ
- We need to know the reality of what verse 4 says.

Revelation 12:7

- war broke out in heaven
 - **v.8** they did not prevail
 - **v.9** the devil cast out
 - **v.10** Now salvation, strength, the kingdom, the power of Christ – have come
 - The accuser has been cast down – he no longer has access to God's throne – because the blood is on the Mercy Seat in heaven above

 - **v.11** *"we overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to death."*
- 1) the blood of the Lamb** – we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, come in repentance, confess your sins, and know that you are forgiven. Do not feel condemned
 - 2) the word of their testimony** – **Ps.149:5-9** - confess the word.
1 Jn.2:13-14 *"the word of God abides in you and you are strong, and you have overcome the wicked one".*
 - 3) not loving our lives to the death** – the devil cannot trouble you if you are not afraid

Revelation 21:5-7

- **"I make all things new"** – it is done [Jesus said 'It is finished' on the cross]. Jesus finished the work
- **v. 7** *"He who overcomes shall inherit all things"*
- The overcoming people inherit 'all things'
- The hallmark of a son – is that he is an overcomer

Be encouraged to overcome!

DAVID'S THRONE

First in the Natural

2 Samuel 3:10

- Abner, the commander of Israel's army
- He knew what God had sworn to David
- To transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and set up the Throne of David over all God's people

Messiah – the King promised to David

2 Samuel 7:14a

- God will be the Father of the Messiah, and He will be His Son

v.12-13

- God is very involved in the life and future of David
- He will establish David's kingdom through David's seed
- The One who will come from David will build God's house and establish His Throne (the throne of David) of His kingdom forever
- first in the natural, then in the spiritual
- the changeover is prophesied here
- referring to a spiritual kingdom

Jesus is the Son of David

Matthew 1:1

- Jesus Christ, **the Son of David**, the Son of Abraham
- First important thing of genealogy of Jesus Christ is that He is the Son (seed) of David
- Why is this so important? Because Jesus is the fulfilment of the promise in **2 Samuel 7:12-14a** – He is the Seed of David, the Son of David, the King

God has established His King on Zion

Psalms 2:1-8

- In the midst of anti-christ nations doing what they want God has established a Throne
- "I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion"
- The Throne is established on Zion
- Jesus says, "I will declare the decree that YHWH said to Me, "You are My Son""

The Incarnation of Jesus through Mary

Luke 1:31

- The Son conceived will be called JESUS
- v.32** – The Lord God (the Lord YHWH) will give Him the Throne of His father David
 - David had been dead for about 1000 years
 - the Throne had not been in existence for about 580 years since the Jews went into captivity in Babylon

What is this Throne of David? - This Son will be called the "Son of the Highest" and he also calls David His "father".

- We are talking about an eternal throne, not natural, not political

v.33 – no end to His kingdom

- we are not talking about natural things, we are talking about eternal things
- He will reign forever

THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL, AND THE PROPHECY OF AMOS

Acts 15:14

- The council in Jerusalem met to discuss the very important issues of the day in regards to doctrine and whether the Gentiles had to keep Judaistic religion
- James (the Righteous) is like the Chairman of the gathering; he is the brother of the Lord
- God at the first visited the Gentiles (**in Acts 10**) to take out a people for His name

v.15 – the prophets agree with the experience of Simon in Cornelius' house – God always intended to reach the Gentile nations

The King was to be born in Bethlehem

Matthew 2:1-6 – The Magi came looking for the "King of the Jews"

- Written in the prophets (Micah quoted) about the King being born in Bethlehem, and **Micah 5:2** says this Ruler will come from the "days of eternity", from everlasting
- We are not talking about a natural kingdom, we are talking eternal things, things of the Spirit

Understanding the Tabernacle of David

Acts 15:16-17 - the quote of **Amos 9:11-12**

"After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down. I will rebuild it ruins and I will set it up, so that the rest of mankind may seek Yahweh, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name"

- God will raise up the Tabernacle of David which has fallen down, God will repair it, raise it up and rebuild it
- He is doing this that the people of God can possess the remnant of Edom (in the Septuagint = "mankind") and all the Gentiles who are called by My name
- There is something about that Throne of David that when it is established all the Gentiles can come into the kingdom!
- What is the "Tabernacle of David"? In the last few decades people have started 24-hour worship and prayer centres believing they are fulfilling this Scripture
- That is not the Tabernacle being referred to in this verse. It is not talking about the Tabernacle that housed the Ark of the Covenant in the days of David

David's tabernacle [tent] was not destroyed

1 Chronicles 16:1

- David brought the Ark up into a tent that David built
- This is not the "booth" that was destroyed and to be raised up

The Tabernacle of David refers to a dynasty

- The Tabernacle of David is referring to the restoration of the "Booth" (different to the "tent" that the Ark was in) of David, which is referring to the house, the "dynasty" of David
- In other words, there would be no kings on David's Throne until God comes to restore that Throne
- When that Throne is restored, all the Gentiles can come in!
- James was saying that this Scripture was being fulfilled in Jesus the Christ being raised up, and the Gentiles were now coming in!
- Jesus was given the "Throne of his father David" – **Luke 1:32**

1 Chronicles 17:11-14 is the same as in **2 Samuel 7:12-14a** – this was the promise that God gave David, that his seed [descendent] would sit on his throne forever, and the same one would be the Son of God

James declares that "the prophets agree"

Acts 15:15-17

- The prophets agree
- The Throne, the dynasty, of David will be restored
- It will be restored through the Son of David being raised up who will reign forever on David's Throne
- Why will the Tabernacle of David be rebuilt? To possess the rest of mankind – to see the nations saved and part of His kingdom

There is a purpose in all the shaking that is happening in the world

- **Haggai** says it is to bring the nations to the Desire of all nations (**Hag.2:6-7**)
- In 2020 with all the lockdowns to do with Covid-19 God is breaking His people out of the idolatrous dependence on Sunday congregational worship

The throne of David is revealed through the preaching of the gospel

Mark 1:1 – the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God – the gospel declares that Jesus is the anointed King

Acts 8:12 – Philip the Evangelist preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ - 2 important things: Kingdom of God, and name of Jesus the Messiah

Acts 5:42 – in every house the apostles never stopped teaching and preaching Jesus the Christ (the Anointed King)

- The church in general has preached **Saviour** not **Christ (Jesus = Saviour)**

ON WHAT BASIS IS JESUS BUILDING HIS CHURCH?

Matthew 16:16-18 – on the basis of the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God

Acts 15:16-17

- God says, "I will return...I will rebuild...I will set it up"
- There was no King in Judah/Israel for over 500 years until Jesus Christ came and rose from the dead
- Peter referred to this Christ being raised up in **Acts 2**

The eternal will and purpose of God was to raise up Jesus as the King to bring the Gentiles into the kingdom, and into the church (Acts 15:18)

- Jesus the Christ is the One who occupies David's Throne
- Christ is the "Anointed One, the Anointed King"

Jesus is ruling and reigning now!

Acts 2:25

Peter quotes **Psalm 16:9-11**

- The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus was fulfilling this and now He is at the right hand of YHWH

v.32 – God raised up Jesus

v.33 – Jesus is exalted to the right hand of God

- Holy Spirit then came from the right hand of God

1 Corinthians 15:25

- Jesus must reign till all His enemies are under His feet
- Jesus is reigning already!
- He is on the Throne now; He is waiting till His enemies are subdued by us preaching the gospel

Hebrews 10:12

- Jesus sat at right hand of God

v.13 – from that time waiting till His enemies are His footstool

Revelation 11:15

- The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He shall reign forever and ever!

- Finally, it is the Lamb who has the right to rule!
- The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is actually a Lamb on the Throne

Revelation 3:21

- The overcomers inheritance is to sit with Jesus on His Throne, just as Jesus was able to sit with Father on His Throne
- When John sees the Throne, He does not see "The Father and the Son", He sees the Lamb
- The throne of David is a reference to the Throne of God
- Solomon was a type of Jesus the Christ, a son of David who built the house of God
- Jesus is the Son of David who inherited, a greater than Solomon
- Jesus is not of a natural lineage, this is a kingdom reality

Isaiah 33:22

- YHWH is our Judge
- YHWH is our Lawgiver
- YHWH is our King
- YHWH will save us
- This is Jesus

Isaiah 9:6-7

- The government/kingdom will be on the shoulder of the Son
- He has five other appellations describing who He is
- Of the increase of government and peace, no end!
- Upon the Throne of David and His kingdom (this is close to 300 years after David died)

Isaiah 6:1-5

- Isaiah saw an amazing vision
- King Uzziah died and Isaiah saw the "Lord" – Adonai
- Sitting on a throne, high and lifted up and the train of His robe filled with temple
- **John 12:38-41** – this vision of Isaiah was when he "saw His (Jesus') glory and spoke of Him"
- Isaiah saw Jesus on the Throne, the Lord

Jesus is on the Throne of David

THE PURPOSE AND CONDUCT OF MINISTRY IN THE HOUSE

THE CHURCH THAT MEETS IN HOUSES

- In New Testament the church met in houses
- **Acts 20:20** – Paul testifies to elders in Ephesus, he taught publicly and house to house
- There are public meetings of church, which are mainly for evangelism, but other than the public preaching and attendance for prayer at the Temple in Jerusalem, the church of the New T met from house to house

Acts 19:1-10

- Paul went to Ephesus and established a teaching school that met every day in a public-school hall called the "School of Tyrannus"
- When Paul left there is no evidence that they kept using that hall for church gatherings because they met in houses

Where did the 3000 who were saved on the day of Pentecost meet?

- **Acts 2:46-47** – they met in the houses, daily.

In first 200 years of Christian history there were no dedicated church buildings, they met in the houses.

It is too easy for us to simply attend a church meeting, be a "good Christian", tithe, shake the pastor's hand, and then for six days we do not plan to see any others in the fellowship.

It is time for us to re-examine church and how we do it

- Discipleship is being taught the Word and shown the pattern

- Paul said, "*Follow me as I follow Christ*"
- Jesus said, "*Follow Me*"

There are two Greek words for "*follow*"

- i. to following behind
- ii. accompanying, walking with one on the way

Do not follow man-made doctrines

Most denominational churches and independent churches today still follow the "doctrine of the Nicolaitans"

- This is having a "clergy" class in the church who are appointed to preach the Word, bring the Table of the Lord and lead the meeting, and everybody comes and listens
- Most protestant churches are still structurally the same as the Roman Catholic church

- There is to be no emphasis on denomination, but a valuing of the Presence of the Holy Spirit
- We need the reality of Jesus, not a religious experience

God wants to be in your house!

- God wants to live in you and in your house where you live!
- God wants the Lord's Table to be received in your house
- When you start breaking bread in your house, you have established the church

Acts 2:42 – the first church with 3000 brand new baptised believers continued steadfastly in the i) apostles' doctrine; ii) fellowship; iii) breaking bread; iv) prayers.

- This is the lifestyle of the church

We are to meet from house to house and make disciples

- We encourage the church to meet in houses
- When there are too many it is time to send others out to plant another one

In the 1980s and 90s there was a big emphasis on "church growth" and people hired to help them get more people to "their church". Church growth happens by the Holy Spirit, not because of good business principles learned at University

In the 1970s, a man called Juan Carlos Ortez, a Pentecostal pastor in Argentina, started house meetings called "cell groups"

- The church grew enormously
- then many all over established "cell groups", just copying what Ortez was doing
- Ortez did not include the breaking of bread in the cell groups
- There have been many varieties of this idea over the last 40 to 50 years
- But they have not really been church in the house or church plants
- "cell groups" have been established to shore up the central congregational church, to keep people there
- Many times, the cell group had to listen to a tape of the sermon done on Sunday by the "Senior Pastor"
- You could not just join but had to be appointed to be there by the Pastor

We need to follow the New Testament pattern, not the man-prescribed pattern

- Man-prescribed pattern is: Pastor preaching, Worship leader, rent a building and "do church"
- God's pattern is **Acts 2:42**, ministers having a lifestyle of following Jesus that others can follow, copy, imitate

House meetings are to be dedicated to discipling all believers, introducing and giving attention to the "apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking bread and prayers" – this can actually happen anywhere

In our last 23 years of apostolic ministry we have established the church house to house

Benefits of establishing the church in the house:

- If everybody came to one congregational meeting, we would have about 75-80 people including children – we only do that occasionally, once or month or less
- five meetings are happening, one is a public meeting at SHILOH, and then 4 meetings in houses
- each house meeting has pastors/elders and disciples - they are the church
- They are part of the larger apostolic company but their first loyalty is to the saints who are in those churches
- There can be between 10 to 30 in each of those churches
- There are at least 5 preachers every Sunday, 5 worship leaders, 5 people ministering the Table of the Lord, children bring involved and included
- Meeting as the church in the house ministers to every age in the group
- The gospel is not about how many we can get to church on Sunday
- Our goal is to be the church and to make disciples of Jesus Christ

Through the Covid crisis, because most of our brethren had already been practicing house church, the restrictions did not affect them

- Others who had large congregational meetings and to start house meetings
- This is the pattern
- The numbers are contained by how many can fit in the house
- We practice **Acts 2:42** – this is the basis of the church life of the brethren

SCRIPTURES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS OF WHAT TOOK PLACE IN THE HOUSES

- The idea of the public dedicated building for worship related back to the Synagogue, the Temple pattern and even in the pagan temple pattern of there being “something about that building”
- We are to plant the Biblical church and release it to function
- The Church is not an institution, it is groups of disciples gathering together to do the first works of the church - making disciples
- The end of discipleship is sending out trained disciples to do the work of the ministry

a) Acts 1:12-26

- 120 disciples were meeting in a house, the same place where the Last Supper was held
- They prayed and waited in that house for 10 days

b) Acts 2:46

- All the new converts met from house to house, in multiple houses

c) Acts 5:12

- They held prayer meetings at that time in what was called “Solomon’s porch” – part of the Temple
- But the fundamental fellowship was in the house

d) Acts 5:42

- The apostles went into the houses to teach
- They went into every house, preaching and teaching Jesus the Christ

e) Acts 4:23

- When Peter and John were released, they went to their companions in a house

f) Acts 9:11-19

- After Paul had the experience with Jesus on the road, he was taken to a house in a street called Straight
- In that house he was healed, filled with Spirit, and baptised
- Sometimes we think we have to find some anointed, charismatic minister to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but all this happened with a disciple in a house

g) Acts 9:33-34

- Peter healed a paralysed man in his house

h) Acts 10

- The Gentiles gathered in the house of Cornelius

i) Acts 12

- Peter went to house of John Mark after getting out of prison miraculously

j) Acts 16

- Church in Philippi was planted in the house of Lydia
- After Paul and Silas were released from prison, they went to greet the brethren in Lydia's house
- Even in prison, after the earthquake, the prison guard was baptised and brought Paul and Silas to his house and they shared the Word there

k) Acts 28:30-31

- Paul had his own rented house in Rome
- He received all who came and he preached the kingdom of God and taught all the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ

Everything to do with the Christian life from salvation to discipleship and growth and miracles, all happened in the house

- **Romans 16:5, 10, 11, 14, 15** – five fellowship groups, house churches, mentioned that Paul knew
- This is a small reflection of the church in Rome, they met in houses, they met with households

There are many references in the epistles to church in the house

Normal church life, the conduct and function of the church, was undisputedly in the house

- The purpose is: multiplication of disciples, teaching the apostles' doctrine, functioning in fellowship, breaking bread at least once a week but even daily, praying, nurture new converts, disciple all believers

Stop going to church and start being the church!

TESTIMONY OF TITHING

Personal Testimonies

- In 1974 Jesus told me (Paul) to give \$40 of the \$400 bonus he received, never hearing about tithing before
- God gave Paul an offering to be part of an offering for an electric organ
- Tithing is the cornerstone of kingdom economics
- When we release the tithe, we release ministry
- Never say you cannot afford to do ministry for Jesus, just ask God how you can afford it and He will show you even if it is a very humbling way to go about it

We are to be led by the Lord in tithing and sacrificial giving
Do not try to do it in the flesh, people have ended up broke

TITHING IN THE SCRIPTURES

Genesis 14:18-20

- Melchizedek came to meet Abram, seemingly out of nowhere, no context given
- King of Salem (Peace)
- Brought out bread and wine
- Priest of God Most High
- "Melchizedek" means "King of Righteousness"
- He personally showed up to talk to Abram
- He blessed Abram
- Abram gave Melchizedek a tithe (a tenth) of all the spoils
- This was not under law, law was not there yet, Moses came over 400 years later
- There are churches who preach tithing as a law and there are those who do not allow tithing like a law
- We need revelation!

Genesis 28:10-22

v.22 – this Stone will be God's house and of all that You (God) give me I will give a tithe (a Tenth)

- in the place where Jacob met God and received revelation and the promises, he decided to be a tithing man
- we get money so we can give it! Not giving so we can get!
- we do not give out of a law oppressing attitude
- tithing for Abram and Jacob came out of a receiving a revelation and then tithing by faith

Tithing Under Law

1. Tithe was holy to Yahweh

Leviticus 27:30 – all the tithe of the land...is Yahweh's, it is holy to Yahweh – it belongs to Yahweh

2. Tithe was to support the ministers (Levites including the priests)

Nehemiah 12:44 – tithes gathered and apportioned to the priests and the Levites

- Supporting ministry

- Not to be used for the debt of buildings
- Tithe is to be used to support the ministers, to release ministry
- Buildings in Old Testament times were built out of offerings, not the tithe
- God set it up so that the people of God could be taught the law by the priests and Levites, servicing the nation

3. Tithing on the tithe

Nehemiah 10:38 – the principle of tithing on the tithes received

- **A tenth of the tithe** set apart to support other ministries (which we do to support apostolic ministers in mainly developing nations)
- The Storehouse was rooms in the Temple in Jerusalem for non-perishable foods that were given as tithes
- The priests who ministered by divisions every month were accommodated out of this tithe of tithe

4. Widows and orphans

Deuteronomy 26:12 – some of the tithe was used in welfare

5. You can redeem the tithe

Leviticus 27:31 - if you fail and get slack on tithing, you can redeem it by adding a fifth to it

- Zacchaeus promised that anything he had taken wrongly (stolen) he would restore fourfold - similar principle
- none of this is a "heavy" on people, it comes out of a desire to do this unto the Lord

6. If you tithe you can expect blessing

Deuteronomy 26:13-15 – if you tithe and do not use it on false worship, rogue ministers, but preserving the tithe where God appoints it, you can expect God to bless you

7. Tithe on the Increase

Deuteronomy 26:12 – the tithe of your increase, we are to tithe on the increase, not expected to tithe on the gross

- Do not give away your seed, the seed is capital and then the increase you make from planting your seed is what you tithe on

The Promise to those who tithe

Malachi 3:6-12

- God has a complaint against His people
- God said that His people had robbed Him in tithes and offerings
- We are to take responsibility for our own giving
- This brought a curse

- The answer is to bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be food in God's house
- God says to "try" Him in this, He invites us to put Him to the test in this

The blessing is:

- a)** Food in the house = the Word of God that feeds us
- b)** God will open the "windows of heaven" – Israel was in an agricultural economy and they could expect rain – (**Gen.7:11**)
- c)** God will pour out such blessing that we will not have room to receive it
- d)** God will rebuke the devourer for us – the devourer is the devil (**1 Pet. 5:8**)
- e)** Fruit of the ground will remain and be protected
- f)** Nations will call us blessed
- g)** We will be a delightful land

Tithing can be religious

Luke 18:12 – the Pharisee prayed with himself about fasting and tithing

- This is the wrong attitude to tithing
- He was proud

Jesus' attitude to tithing

Matthew 23:1, 23

- Jesus is teaching His disciples as well as to the multitude there
- Then He is also addressing Scribes and Pharisees
- They pay tithe of all sorts of small items
- But they neglected the weightier matters of the law: Justice, Mercy and Faith
- Tithing should be done in the context of Justice, mercy and faith
- Jesus said we should continue to tithe, which is an expression of the weightier matters of the law
- Jesus endorsed tithing

Matthew 5:17

- Jesus did not come to destroy the law and the prophets but to fulfill them
- v.18** – there is a fulfilment of the law in Jesus

Luke 11:42 – confirming verse

- **Keep tithing** but do it in the context/culture of justice and the love of God

Paul and Peter's epistles

- They did not talk about tithing directly

Acts does not talk specially about tithing but we see amazing giving going on in the early church

- Levites under the Old Testament given the tithe to live off while doing the work of ministry
- In the New Testament Paul affirms that those who give themselves full time to preaching the gospel should live off the gospel

Philippians 4:19 – the blessing of Paul the apostle to the church that was supporting him

- The glory of God released in your life, God supplying all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus
- It is important to bless the givers

Hebrews 7:1-10

- Many do miss the revelation of tithing in these verses

v.1 - Melchizedek initiated the meeting with Abram

v.2 - Abram gave Him a tenth – He was a King and Priest

v.3 – He is an eternal person, no beginning, no end, made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually

v.4-5 – Priests received the tithes under the law but consider how great Melchizedek is, that even Levi paid tithes through Abraham to Melchizedek (**v.9-10**)

Tithing in the New Testament is to Melchizedek

The King of Righteousness, King of Peace, Priest of God Most High

- It is Jesus who is a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek
- We tithe by revelation to Jesus the Messiah, the King and Priest

**Tithing and giving is in the Lord,
entering a supernatural realm of God's provision**

THE SERVANT MESSIAH

Servant with 'S' – referring to Messiah

Acts 3:13 – context is that Peter & John went to pray and met the lame man and in the name of Jesus released healing to him. Many gathered because of what happened

- **v.13** the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob glorified His Servant Jesus.
- Jesus is God's glorified Servant
- **v.14** He is also called the Holy One, Just
- **v.15** the Prince of Life, who died and rose again
- **v.16** the healing happened through faith in His name

'Servant' – Greek #3816 *pais* – refers to a boy or girl, a child not defined by age; the sense of a boy or a girl serving in the house, slave or servant (especially a minister to a king).

WHO IS CALLED 'GOD'S SERVANT?'

1) Abraham – Gen.26:24

- God promises to bless Isaac for His servant Abraham's sake. Abraham was God's servant, because he served God's purposes.
- When we are servants of God as Abraham was the seed that comes forth from us is blessed
- **Gen.18:3** – Abraham called himself a servant of the Lord

'Servant' - Hebrew #5650 *ebed* - a servant. The servant was not a free man, but subject to the will and command of his master, but one might willingly and lovingly submit to his master (**Ex.21:5**). A 'bondslave/bondservant'; one who chose to remain in their master's service even when not obliged to do so – a son/servant

- Abraham was that type of servant

2) Moses – known for being God's servant

Numbers 12:7-8 – God spoke face to face with Moses as servant

Heb.3:5-6 – Moses was faithful in God's house as a servant

- In Christ Sonship and servanthood come together
- Moses only knew servanthood
- Christ served as a Son

3) David was called God's servant

Ps.89:20 – God goes looking for his servant, with a heart to serve His purposes

- There is an anointing for servants
- For David an anointing to be a King
- **Ps.78:70-72** – God chose David
- David God's servant, shepherded God's people
- **Acts 13:36** – David served his own generation by the will of God.

- God's servants are instruments in God's hands to do His will in their generation

4) Nebuchadnezzar

Jer.43:10 – even the king of Babylon is called 'God's servant'

What does this mean?

- You are a tool in God's purpose to bring His will to pass
- A servant is a tool in God's hand to be used for His purpose

THE PRECIOUSNESS OF HIS SERVANTS

- **Ps.34:22** – Yahweh redeems His servants
- **Ps.69:36** – the seed/sons of God's servants inherit Zion
- **Rev.7:3** – the servants of God are sealed
- **Rev.19:2** – God avenges the blood of His servants
- **Rev.22:3-4** – the servants are at the throne of God, seeing His face, serving Him.

THE SERVANT MESSIAH – IN ISAIAH

Some references are to God's people

Some references are to Messiah

We are a body of people serving His purposes in the earth

The servant is the Son on mission

Isa.41:8-10 - Israel, the people of God, are God's servant

- They are chosen by God
- They are the seed of Abraham, the sons
- **Gal.3:29** – we, the sons of God, are the seed of Abraham
- We serve as sons
- Abraham is God's friend (**Jn.15:15** – we serve as friends of Jesus)
- Friends know what is in the Father's heart, so they serve in a different way (**Jn.15:14**) – friends have a willing, loving obedience to Jesus.
- God is raising up a servant in the earth, it is His sons who will serve His purpose in the earth

Isa.42:1-9 – Messiah is God's Servant

- God is drawing attention to His Servant – pay attention to Him
- This one is chosen, elect
- God's soul delights in Him
- God's spirit is upon Him, He is anointed
- He will bring forth justice to the nations

v.2 – He is not a protester, not trying to get attention on Himself

v.3 – the heart of the servant: He is not going to intimidate people into His purpose.

- He brings life
- justice for truth, He is going to restore truth in the earth
- Jesus is the 'truth'

v.4 – He will not fail or be discouraged.

- this is Christ in you the hope of glory – we will not fail or be discouraged.

- the purpose is to make everything right and to bring forth His teaching/His law in all the earth (**Rom.1:9**)

THE MISSION:

Isaiah 42:6 - the Servant Messiah will be given as a covenant, a light to the nations

v.7 - to open blind eyes,

- set people free from prison

v.8 - God will only give His glory to His servant

- When we come into Christ, we come into that glory too

v.9 – this is a new thing that God was declaring – in Him we become one new man

- The servant is the son on mission

The mission outworked

Matthew 12:15

- Jesus healed them all

v.18 – quote from Isaiah.

- The servant Messiah is busy everywhere doing the will of God

Isaiah 52:13

- My Servant is raised up, exalted and extolled (**Phil.2:5-11**)
- But He was marred more than any man
- God came as a bondservant, humbled even unto death
- But God raised Him up and gave Him a name above every name.
- Kings will shut their mouths.

Acts 3:25-26

- God's servant was sent to bless us – as the seed of Abraham, He is sent to bless us.

Acts 4:24-30

- The apostles considered themselves to be God's servants
- They prayed in the name of God's Holy servant, Jesus
- Signs and wonders are done in that name

Mark 10:41-45

- Whoever desires to be great – shall be your servant
- If you desire to be first, you shall be slave of all
-

**Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve
In the kingdom of God, service is rulership!**

THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH

We are a people who are preparing the earth for the coming of the LORD
There is a ministry that we are to be part of

The Prophecy of Malachi

Malachi 4:1-6 – the day is coming!

- The wicked will be burnt up
- LORD of hosts = YAHWEH of armies (**James 5:4**)
- The 'hosts' or 'armies' are His people (**Ex.6:26,7:4**)
- This people, this army, are to prepare the earth for His coming
- We are to hasten the day of His coming (**2Pet.3.11-12**)
- **Jer.23:29** – the word of God is like a fire and like a hammer
- **Luke 12:49** – Jesus came to send fire on the earth
- The fire is the word that brings judgement
- In **Rev.11:4-5** – fire comes out of the mouth of the two witnesses – two olive trees, two lampstands – the witnessing church, in the spirit and power of Elijah
- The word they speak is like a fire

Mal.4:1 – the wicked will not be able to come back, they will be totally removed, no root nor branch

v.2 – a time of restoration, a time of healing

'Healing' – *marpe'*: means - remedy, restoration of health, cure, medicine, tranquillity, deliverance, refreshing.

- The healing is in His wings
- Then His people can 'go out' – a sending of His people who have been healed

v.3 – when you go out you will trample the wicked, (**2Cor.10:6** – punish the disobedience all around us)

- the wicked shall be ashes under the soles of our feet

v.4 – remember the law/teaching

- Moses and Elijah both mentioned in this last book of the Old Testament
- remember the Law and the Prophets
- the church needs to be brought back to the teaching
- Come out of man-made things, come back to the teaching of the apostles

v.5-6 – speaking of a great restoration

- father/son relationships being restored
- fathers back to sons, sons back to fathers

Jesus transfigured on the Mount

Matthew 16:28 -17:5

- Jesus took three of His disciples up the mountain
- Jesus was transfigured before them
- Moses & Elijah appeared to Him
- Peter wanted to 'camp' there in that experience
- God spoke 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well please. Hear Him!'
- Listen to the SON

Jesus speaks of Elijah

v.10-11 – Elijah is coming first and will restore all things

- **Acts 3:19-21** – Jesus held in heaven until the restoration of all things

v.12 – Jesus says that **Elijah has come already**

v.13 – speaking of John the Baptist. The Prophecy has partly been fulfilled, but there is still more to come.

- there is a greater restoration to come
- we are to be expecting and experiencing a great restoration in these times

Looking at John the Baptist

Luke 1:15-17 – the angel prophesying to Zacharias – the father of John the Baptist

- John would be filled with the Spirit from his mother's womb
- he recognised the Messiah
- turning the people of God back to God
- go before Him [Jesus] in the spirit and power of Elijah
- John was going to be fulfilling Malachi prophesied
- make ready a people prepared for the Lord
- this is the work of the ministry that we are called to now

Turning the hearts of the Fathers to the Sons/Children

- 'Turn' #Gk.1994 means: *to revert, convert, to turn about, to return, to turn back* [Elijah raised a son named Elisha – a pattern of father/son relationship (**2 Kings 2:12**). A release of the spirit of sonship, he began to walk in the same power, the same anointing, receiving the double portion, his inheritance]

- Breaks us out of religious practice, release the fathering spirit among us, so that we can be about our father's business as family
- Restoration of father/son relationships – this spirit is here among us, working in the midst of us now
- This is one of the restorations that has to happen before the coming of the Lord
- Even creation is waiting for this restoration to happen (**Rom.8:19**)
- **Phil.2:19-22** – Paul had Timothy – he was 'likeminded'
- Timothy had a proven character, he served as a son with his father in the gospel
- Serving together as family in the gospel – this is the 'structure'
- This is the army – a family serving together, joined in heart and spirit

There is a release of the spirit and power of Elijah to be received.

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

"Doctrine" has is about the '*washing of the water of the Word*' - it is exciting!

JESUS SPOKE THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

John 7:16-17

- Jesus said, "*My doctrine is not Mine but His who sent Me*"
- If you desire to do God's will, you will know if the doctrine is of God
- The doctrine works powerfully in our lives
- "The doctrine" – the word God gave to Jesus, it has power, it saves, it changes and transforms people

Peter preached the doctrine in Acts 2

- If you received the doctrine from Peter, concerning Jesus, they would receive the Holy Spirit and be transformed (**Acts 2:36-41**)

What is the doctrine of God?

- It is not intellectual or boring
- It is the revelation of the Word coming into our spirits, and as we respond to that Word by faith, we change
- We experience the reality of the doctrine, experiencing the Holy Spirit enabling us to live in the kingdom (**Romans 14:17**)
- We get brought into the will and purpose of God by receiving the doctrine

The ultimate purpose of God

Ephesians 1:10 – He is gathering together in One all things in Christ, things in heaven and earth

How is He doing this? Some of it is a mystery but we know there will be a new heavens and new earth, a restored creation (**2 Pet.3:13, Rom.8:19-21**)

- Only the doctrine, the Word that is sent, can accomplish God's purpose
- There needs to be a preacher who is sent so that the doctrine, the gospel can go forth (**Rom. 10:14-15**)
- God uses the doctrine to keep us on course for His purpose

THERE ARE MANY ANTI-CHRIST DOCTRINES

- i) Doctrines of men – **Colossians 2:22**
- ii) Doctrines of demons – **1 Timothy 4:1**
- iii) Various strange doctrines – **Hebrews 13:9**
- iv) Every wind of doctrine given by men in their trickery, we are to grow up to know the true doctrine - **Ephesians 4:14**
- v) Doctrines of the Pharisees and Sadducees – **Matthew 16:12** - they are still around today! Religious and unable to recognize God

These doctrines do not lead to life, but to death

Matthew 7:13 – Jesus said it is wide the way to destruction

THERE IS ONLY ONE DOCTRINE

1. Jesus Christ is the Doctrine (the Word) made flesh

Luke 24:25 – Jesus was able to expound from Moses, prophets and all the Scriptures, the things concerning Himself

- Jesus taught from all the Scriptures and believed all the Scriptures

John 1:14 – The Word became flesh and dwelt among us

v.18 – Jesus, the Only begotten Son, has fully declared (revealed) God, made Him known

Hebrews 1:1-3

- God has spoken to us by His Son
- Nothing was made apart from the Son; He spoke the universe into being
- The Son upholds all things by the Word of His power

Hebrews 3:1 – Jesus as the Apostle fully represented God to man

- An important part of His apostolic mission was to raise up 12 apostles to carry on the mission
- Jesus Himself is the Doctrine, the manifestation of God

2. All that Jesus taught is “the Doctrine”

Matthew 24:35 – His words will by no means pass away

- The Words of Jesus are eternal truth

Luke 4:17-19 - Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures

- His life fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah
- Jesus began His public ministry preaching the gospel of the kingdom – **Mark 1:15** – this is “the doctrine”

Mark 1:22 – Jesus taught as one having authority, not like the scribes who speculated on the Scriptures

- This doctrine delivers people from demons – **Mark 1:27**

John 7:16-18

- If you speak from yourself, you are seeking your own glory
- If you seek the glory of the One who sends you, you are true
- To speak “the Doctrine” you must be sent
- Jesus had no other private agenda
- God can only speak like this through the Son, a son
- Sons speak “the Doctrine”

3. Like Jesus was sent, so the apostles were sent

Jesus trained His apostles, taught by example and sent them out and they came back to report to Him – **Luke 10:17-19**

- Also, **Matthew 10:40** – He sent them out to do what He did

John 17:8

- Jesus gave the apostles the words that the Father gave Him

- As a result of this Jesus was able to commission His apostles in the same way the Father commissioned Jesus – **Matthew 28:18-20** – *“teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”* – they were to teach “the doctrine”

4. The Doctrine that Jesus passed to the apostles became known as the “apostles’ doctrine”

Acts 2:42 – the early disciples continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine...

Romans 6:17 – a life-changing doctrine, revelation that is life-changing – *“yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered, being made free from sin”*

- Paul got his doctrine from Jesus (**1 Corinthians 3:15a, 1 Cor. 11:23a**) – the doctrine came by revelation from Jesus Christ
- **Galatians 1:15-16** – Paul preached the doctrine – the Son of God is the doctrine

1 Timothy 6 – Paul teaches the relationship between masters and slaves

- **v.3-4** – the doctrine accords with godliness, produces godliness

5. The apostles’ doctrine includes “all Scripture”

2 Timothy 3:16 – All Scripture (not some) is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine...

Titus 2:7 – we are to show ourselves a pattern of good works; in doctrine: integrity, reverence, incorruptibility

- We are to be true to the Word, having integrity to only share what the Word says, not what we think it should say
- We have to be willing to re-look at the Scriptures and make sure we are staying very simply with what is written
- Do not base any doctrine on “assumptions”
- We are to treat the Word with integrity, reverence and incorruptibility
- We are to get rid of our bias and only speak the Word

2 Timothy 4:3

- Time comes when people will not put up with “sound doctrine”
- Their own desires and itching ears will cause them to heap up teachers that support their false doctrine

2 John 9

- We are to stay within the boundaries of the doctrine of Christ – then we have God, Father and Son
- The doctrine of Christ is first a revelation who Jesus is
- All the Scriptures reveal Jesus
- We are to remain and abide in the doctrine of Christ
- By staying in this doctrine of Christ, we grow to know and love Jesus and He reveals our Father to us as sons

6. The apostles' doctrine is taught through the five ministries that Jesus gave

How do we come to one faith (**Eph.4:4-6**)? By the teaching of the one doctrine, the apostles' doctrine

- **Ephesians 4:11-13** – Jesus gave us the five ministries...till we all come to the unity of the faith (one faith), to the knowledge (= full knowledge, Gk *'epignosis'*) of the Son of God, to [into] a perfect man..."
- **"into"** better than **"to"** – God is bringing us **"into"** the One who is perfect, not pushing us **"to"** perfection
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – Jesus became a sin offering for us so we might become the righteousness of God in Christ!
- God sees us in Christ and credits us with the righteousness of Jesus while we are in the process of being transformed from glory to glory (**2 Cor.3:18**)
- He sees us **"justified"**, in credit with God, no debt
- **Hebrews 10:14** – by one offering He has perfected forever those who *"are being sanctified"* – He sees us as perfect even while we are on the way to maturity

Ephesians 5:26-27

- Jesus washed His Bride with the Word to present her to Himself a glorious church
- Jesus does this washing of the water of the word through the ministries He gave (**Eph.4:11-13**)

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

- God from the beginning chose us for salvation:
- By sanctification of the Spirit
- By belief in the truth – the Word

7. The doctrine of God is to fill every place and will gather together in One all things in Christ

Acts 5:28 – the doctrine of God is the preaching and teaching of Jesus the Christ – **Acts 5:42**

- The apostles counted it a pleasure to suffer shame for doing this
- Does the doctrine you preach make known Jesus the Christ?
- What doctrine are you speaking?
- This doctrine filling every place will accomplish God's eternal purpose to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of YHWH (**Habakkuk 2:14**)
- Anything less than the doctrine will set us off course, stick with the doctrine

God will fulfill His Word

- A glorious bride church will arise ready for her Bridegroom (**Eph.4:13, 5:27**)
- Sons will manifest and see their adoption completed with a resurrection body (**Romans 8:23**)
- Creation itself will be delivered through the manifestation of sons of God – **Romans 8:21** – we are being prepared for this and it is in the process of happening
- **2 Peter 3:13** will be a reality – a new heavens and a new earth
- **All things will be brought together in Christ** – **Ephesians 1:10**

In Acts 1:1 Luke says he had written about the things that Jesus had begun both to do and teach

- In **Acts** Luke gives a continuing account of Jesus' ministry happening through a many membered Body, the disciples
- The Word was being made flesh in them; Christ formed in them
- People noticed they had been with Jesus – **Acts 4:13**
- Now it is our turn
- We are an apostolic people, being sent to continue this ministry of Jesus in our generation

**Jesus Christ is the doctrine and all the Scriptures point to Him.
Only "the doctrine" given by God through Jesus to His apostles has
power and authority to fulfill His eternal purpose and to
"gather together in ONE all things"**

ASPECTS OF APOSTOLIC **DOCTRINE**

The term "*apostolic doctrine*" comes from **Acts 2:42**, they continued in the "*apostles' doctrine*"

What is the apostles' doctrine?

- Jesus told his disciples in **Matthew 28:20** "*teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you*"
- When Jesus sent the apostles out in **Matthew 10:40**, He said, "*If they receive you, they receive Me; if they receive Me, they receive Him who sent Me*"

We are living in the days of the restoration of all things according to **Acts 3:21**

- We are part of the restoration of apostles in the church
- Over church history in last 1900 years there is very little written about apostles
- It is only very recently that we have been talking about apostles again, and appointing people as apostles (in last 20 or 30 years)
- Jesus has been sending apostles, if you receive them, you receive Jesus
- True apostles come in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, not a denomination or organisation, or network
- Many ministers have not learnt how to think outside the denominational box and so their teaching is confined to a denominational doctrine
- There is "church doctrine" and then there is "apostles' doctrine", the teaching of the Word

Matthew 23:39

- You will not see Jesus till you say, "*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD (YHWH)*" - You will lose the opportunity to have Me in the midst
- True apostles come in the name of Yeshua, not in the name of Judaism, Christianity or some name of Christianity

Sowing a vision! A prophetic foundation!

Isaiah 60:1-7 - Arise and shine for your Light has come

- The glory of Yahweh has risen upon you
- Darkness will cover the earth, thick darkness the people
- The Eternal One will arise over you and His glory will be seen upon you
- Gentiles shall come to your light, Kings will come
- Sons and daughters will come to you from all the nations
- You will be radiant and your heart will swell with joy
- All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered to you – the sons of Ishmael (Kedar and Nebaioth) – prophetically possible to believe many Muslims will be saved
- The rams are the Imams and the flocks are the congregations of Islam
- They will be accepted in the altar of YHWH

ASPECTS OF THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE

1. The Great Commission

- Many churches and modern ministries ignore the great commission
- Primary command given to the apostles

Mark 16:15-16 – go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Believe and baptised and be saved

- Those who believe in Jesus Christ are to be baptised
- These days most evangelists preach some strange message and call people to raise hands and come forward and lead them in a prayer to be "saved"
- Most evangelists do not even think of baptising new believers
- But Jesus said "He who believes and is baptised will be saved"

Matthew 28:18-20

- All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus
- Make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name...
- Not have new Christians classes to prove we can be baptised
- We need to drop these man-made practices and practice apostolic doctrine
- We are not to argue about apostolic doctrine but just do what is written
- Apostles today are calling the church back to apostolic evangelism
- "Baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit" – to this day ministers baptise in this formula without ever saying the name
- It is clear that the name of the Son is "Jesus" (**Matt.1:21, Luke 1:31**)
- We totally agree with what Jesus said to do but we look to the apostles in the Book of Acts to see how they obeyed Jesus' command – **Acts 2:38** - repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ...
- We must believe what is written is the Word of God
- If apostles do not speak according to the Word, do not hear them

Acts 1:8

- You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you
- This will make you witnesses in Jerusalem to the ends of the earth
- Evangelism without the Holy Spirit is very hard work, Holy Spirit gives us the power

2. Perfecting the saints

- Much of the ministry in the church today is based on the conviction that we need to get people to heaven

Colossians 1:24

- A deep level of suffering he went through to be an effective minister
- He learnt to rejoice in his sufferings for the church
- He did this for the sake of His Body, the church
- Being an apostle is not easy, it is because of a deep desire to bring the church to maturity that apostles are willing to go through sufferings (**Galatians 4:19** – Paul in travail – birth pangs - to see Christ formed in the saints)
- The suffering is necessary and has a good purpose in mind

v.25 – God gave Paul a stewardship of grace – to fulfill the word of God

- apostles are motivated and deeply moved to release the Word of God
- what is the fulfilment of the word of God?
- v.26** – it is to make known the mystery – this is apostolic language
- many mentions of the mystery in the New Testament
- this mystery has been hidden from generations until now
- but now that Jesus has died and risen again and given five ministries, this mystery of the glory can be revealed, having knowledge and experience of the glory of God
- releasing to the nations the knowledge of the glory of God
- v.27** – Paul sums up the calling to ministry
- the revelation of the mystery is: Christ in you, the hope of glory
- through the teaching and preaching of the apostles and other ministries, the saints are to have the glory of Christ in them revealed
- v.28** – Him [Christ] we preach
- warning (admonishing), teaching with all wisdom (the way of maturity) to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus
- this is what we do as ministers
- v.29** – to this end apostles and ministers are to labour/work by the power of God

3. Building the church

- This is not speaking of building a structure to meet in
- Not speaking of extending buildings and competing over how many attend
- One "church" of 300 could become 30 churches of 10 people if it became apostolic
- Apostolic is focused on discipling, training and sending – more leaders, more ministers, more opportunity for growth
- Growing the church is not about how many people but are the believers being disciplined to grow to maturity to fulfill God's will

Matthew 16:15-18

- Who is Jesus?
- You are the Christ the Son of the living God
- Jesus said that on that rock (the rock of revelation of who Jesus is, the same Rock that followed the children of Israel in the wilderness, Christ – **1 Cor.10:4**)
- Jesus said He would build His church on that Rock
- The gates of Hades will not prevail against that church

v.19 – keys given

We are to build the church according to the pattern that Jesus gave us

Ephesians 4:8-11 – In Christ's ascension Jesus gave five gifts to the church

v.12 – these ministries are given for the equipping/perfecting of the saints

- they will do the work of the ministry they have been given
- we are building the church the way the Bible says
- Jesus builds through the five gifts He gave
- they will build up the body of Christ

v.13 – until we all come...to maturity

➤ **Christ as Son is building the house of God – Hebrews 3:3**

4. Preparing for the Lord's return

Ephesians 5:22-33

- Paul teaching of Christ and Church in context of marriage
- Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her
- When word is preached and taught it is used by Jesus to wash, sanctify and cleanse His church
- **V.26-27** – Jesus will present her to Himself a glorious church without spot or wrinkle

We prepare for the Lord's return by sanctifying and cleansing the church through teaching the word, bringing the church to a glorious and pure, perfect Body

- The purpose of "sermons" is not to encourage the brethren to feel good and go home
- The responsibility of ministers is to bring the church up to walk in maturity, to bring the church into the knowledge of the glory
- Jesus will be revealed more and more through His church, not getting her ready for a sneaky rapture

2 Thessalonians 1:10 – He is coming in that day to be glorified in the saints – not coming to take a fear-filled church out of the world

1 John 3:2-3

- Now we are children of God, not knowing what we shall be
- When Jesus is revealed we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is
- If we have this hope, we purify ourselves just like He is pure

5. Exalting in tribulation

Romans 5:3-5 – "tribulation" means: *pressure, stress*

- Justified, peace with God, by faith we access into grace that makes us stand
- Saved people experience this
- So we rejoice in hope of the glory of God
- Every born-again believer has a hope of seeing the glory of God, but it has been limited by people preaching that we see it only when we die and go to heaven
- We are to teach the church how to handle tribulation
- This wonderful saving grace also enables us to experience the glory of God
- This wonderful grace also enables you to glory in tribulation

Many Christians have been bewitched – "you have to watch out for the tribulation, you do not want to be here when the tribulation comes..."

- Are you rejoicing in the tribulation of Covid-19 in 2020?
- How have you handled it?
- Have you accessed the grace to exalt in the tribulation?
- The normal Christian life is to live through tribulation and we as ministers are to equip the saints to know how to handle it
- Tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance, character, and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint because God has poured out love in our heart by the Holy Spirit

Philippians 3:10-11

- Paul prayed a dangerous prayer – “Oh that I might know You and the power of the resurrection and the fellowship of Your sufferings...”

6. Apostles are to show the prophetic revelation of the Old Testament and its fulfilment in the New

- i) Law was given through Moses
“Law” means *teaching, instruction* – is summed up in ten commandments
 - 1st four commandments are about loving God
 - 2nd six commandments are about loving people/neighbour
- ii) **Romans 4:3, 9, 13, 20** – understanding the faith of our father Abraham
- iii) The Book of Genesis is the book of beginnings
- iv) Teach the brethren about the Tabernacle that Moses was commanded to build according to the pattern
 - We understand worship in Spirit and truth through the Tabernacle
- v) We need to teach the brethren The Feasts of the LORD (YHWH) – these are not fulfilled in what we can do, they are a prophetic map showing us the journey we are on from the Cross to the Glory, from Passover to Tabernacles, from Egypt to the land of Promise

FINALLY

What is the apostles’ doctrine?

- **It is the teaching of the Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16**
- **It is the whole counsel of God – Acts 20:27**
- **It is the revelation of the mystery – Ephesians 3:5**
- **It is the deeper wisdom of God – 1 Cor. 2:6-10**
- **It is Christ revealed – Phil. 3:8-11**
- **It is the preaching of Christ – Acts 5:42**

The final picture we have of apostle Paul in the book of Acts is seeing *him* ***“preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no-one forbidding him”*** – Acts 28:30-31

A LIVING HOPE

Hope is being restored

In these days hope is being restored and revived
God is restoring hope into the hearts of His people

The Hope of the Gospel - Colossians 1:23

- Continue in the faith...not moved away from the hope of the gospel
- The hope we are talking about is "the hope of the gospel"
- The truth of the gospel becomes our hope

The Hope of Glory - Colossians 1:27

- The revelation of the mystery is...Christ in you, the hope of the glory
- Since the day Christ came into us when we were born again, we have had hope
- There is a good ambition to experience more and more of the hope
- Our foundation is to be that Christ is in us, not just around us
- Because Christ is in me, I can have hope that I will be perfected, growing to full maturity with the rest of His Body

The Hope of the Word - Galatians 5:5

- Hope is the Word of God, hearing the Word we have hope in the promises
- How do we lay hold of the hope? By faith
- Hope is set in the parameters of the promises
- By faith now I enter into the hope
- Faith is the action by which we lay hold of the hope

The Hope of the Promises - 2 Corinthians 3:11-12

- The glory that was on the face of Moses was passing away and giving way to the greater glory
- This hope gives us boldness of speech, boldness to speak out His Word, the hope of the promises

The Hope of Righteousness - Galatians 5:5

- Righteousness is not incremental; it does not keep getting more and more
- We lay hold of the "hope of righteousness" by faith
- By faith we are made righteous; lay hold of the Word by faith
- Righteousness comes through believing the hope
- **Genesis 15:1-6** – Abram believed in YHWH, and in what YHWH was showing him; this made him righteous
- we are not trying to improve in righteousness; we are to lay hold of the hope of righteousness by faith
- hope paints the picture and by faith we enter the picture

Hope remains - 1 Corinthians 13:13

- these three remain: faith, hope and love/charity
- these are eternal realities/qualities, not temporary, not for a season
- God is full of faith; God exudes hope and God is love

The Hope that is unseen - Romans 8:25

- If we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it
- v.24** – we were saved in this hope – but hope that is seen is not hope
- Blessed are those who do not see, but believe

Partakers of the Hope - 1 Corinthians 9:10

- We are partakers of this hope
- As we labour in the gospel, we do it in the hope
- Hope gives meaning to our work
- It answers the question, "why am I doing what I do?"

The God of Hope - Romans 15:13

- God is the "God of hope"
- We are to abound in hope, that makes us positive, happy
- We hear the Word and this fills us with hope
- Our destination is a "new heavens and a new earth"
- Our hope is that we are going on to perfection

The Scripture gives us Hope - Romans 15:4

- We are to desire the pure word, not trying to shore up our own beliefs
- The things written before were for our learning
- Through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures we have hope
- We are to be related to the Word of God
- The Scriptures give us hope

Rejoice in the Hope - Romans 12:12

- We are to rejoice in the hope
- Do you rejoice in the hope? That very often gets fired in us when others around us are speaking the hope
- Hope can deliver us from depression, hope replaces the negativity and darkness that is sometimes lurking there

Saved in this Hope - Romans 8:24

- We are saved into the hope of glory, of coming to full maturity in Christ, even unto a perfect man, into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (**Eph.4:13**)
- It is easy to believe when you can see, but you need to have faith in what you cannot see to lay hold of the hope

There is Hope for Creation - Romans 8:20

- even creation was subjected to futility, but in hope
- God does not hate creation; He loves it and said it was good
- There is hope, there is a future

In Hope believed - Romans 4:18

- Abraham, contrary to hope, in hope believed
- Everything in Abraham could have said, "this is ridiculous"
- He knew this would have to be a supernatural thing

Hope does not disappoint - Romans 5:3-5

- We are able to exult in tribulation by the grace given and be enabled to stand
- This will cause growth in patience/perseverance
- This produces godly character; enduring even when it is very difficult
- Character then produces hope
- Hope does not disappoint because love of God is poured out
- **The Glory Cycle:** grace -> tribulation -> patience -> character -> hope -> Holy Spirit -> love

Things Hoped for - Hebrews 11:1

- Now faith is the substance of things hoped for
- Faith is the evidence of things not seen
- Hope is given, faith is the operation of having that hope internalised in you
- Hope is based in His promises; we believe in what we hope for

Confidence of the Hope - Hebrews 3:6

- We are the house of God "if"
- We need to hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end
- Hang on firmly to the confidence (having faith together), confidence is faith
- This guarantees our placement in the house of the Son

The Full Assurance of Hope - Hebrews 6:11

- We are to be diligent in keeping full assurance of hope till the end
- Hold fast, even if you are put in prison for it
- Keep the good confession

The Promise gave Hope - Hebrews 6:13-20

- God made a promise to Abraham and that promise gave hope

v.18 - hope is set before us;

hope brings strong consolation

1 Corinthians 14:3 – prophetic word brings consolation because it releases the promise of God (hope)

- **we are to lay hold of the hope**

v.19 - this **hope is as an anchor of the soul**

- it is sure and steadfast
- this **hope brings us into the Presence** behind the veil
- being in the glory gives us even more hope
- what is happening behind the veil is complete
- **through hope we enter in the veil**

v.20 - it is an anchor because Jesus, who saved our souls, is the One drawing us into the glory

There is a Doorway of Hope - Hosea 2:14-15

- God is calling the woman out of the valley of "Trouble" [Achor] through a doorway of hope; God will speak comfort to your soul
- As a youth the woman used to sing, God says 'I will cause her to sing like that again'

v.16 - you will no longer call God your master but He will be your "husband"

v.23 - God sows this purified bride in the earth; God will have mercy on her

- Those who are not God's people (the Gentiles) will be called "My People"
- God wants to give us personally a door of hope, bringing us back to a purity, holiness and wholeness inside of us – a pure foundation in our lives
- God also is speaking to the corporate Body today; He wants them to be His people
- God is going to bring those who "are not His people" to become "His people"
- God is calling for a church – ministers need to let go of the 'church'. The church does not belong to the ministers – the whole church is to relate to Jesus

Prisoners of the Hope

Zechariah 9:11

- There is hope because of the blood of the covenant
 - Prisoners set free from waterless pit
- v.12** - return to the stronghold – Zion, the place of faith, experiencing God's powerful presence
- you "prisoners of hope" – whatever you heard when you were young in Christ, it is real, you can believe for it
 - God declares that He will restore double for you – the doctrine of sonship has been restored to us (**Eph. 1:5**)
 - Jesus is promising to restore us as sons (**2 Kings 2:1-12** – the story of Elisha)
 - We are predestined to be the sons of God inheriting double-fold
 - We receive the blessing of the Father and the Son

Preparing for prayer – Prophetic Word:

Zech. 9:13 – Judah is the bow

- "Judah" = praise, God is going to bend the bow of praise!
- First "bow" in the Bible was a "rainbow" – promise, hope
- God fitted the bow with "Ephraim" – he is the arrow; Ephraim" means *double fruit*
- God wants to put double fruit in the bow of praise
- God also is raising up the sons of Zion
- They will go against the sons of Greece (man's philosophy as opposed to God)
- Are we, as Ephraim, willing to be fitted in the bow of praise?
- Sons of Greece are behind all the ideologies/philosophies/dogmas and "isms" and anti-Christ doctrines
- God is raising up the sons of Zion – this is the nature of the warfare in the prayer meeting

Hope in God – do not be depressed; the way to deal with heaviness on the soul, is through hope

- **Psalms 103:1** – that is the answer to depression

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

WHAT IS THE HOUSE OF GOD?

- God has always wanted to dwell with His people on the earth
- God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden (**Gen.3:8**)

WHAT IS GOD'S HOUSE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Genesis 28:10-22

- Jacob was on the way to Syria and slept in a certain place on a stone

v.17 – when Jacob woke up after a dream, he said, ***"How awesome is this place, this is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven"***

- he had heard God speak to him, had an awesome vision, and he realised this was the revelation of the house of God

v.22 – Jacob also tithed in response to this revelation

- The house of God is where God speaks,
- it is a place where there is a connection between heaven and earth

The First Sanctuary for God

Exodus 25:8

- God instructed Moses to build a sanctuary in order to dwell with His people
- God wanted a place to dwell with His people
- This was a tent – the Tabernacle of Witness, which Moses build exactly according to the instructions God gave him

The next Dwelling Place - The Temple that Solomon built

1 Kings 9:1 – the Temple is called the "house of Yahweh"

2 Chronicles 3:1 – Solomon began to build the "house of Yahweh"

- this was called the house of God – a place for God to dwell

2 Chronicles 6:2 - Solomon built God an "exalted house"

All around the edges of the Temple, there were many chambers and rooms

- places to dwell
- **1 Kings 6:5** – side chambers were made all around the house of God and this is where people dwelt like the gatekeepers, priests, dignitaries
- **There were many rooms, places to dwell in the house of God**

A house for all nations!

Isaiah 56:6-7

- God's house is called "A house of prayer for all nations"
- It is a house for all people to come to, not only for the Israelites
- All people were to be drawn into this house

GOD'S HOUSE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 21:12-13

- Jesus drove all the moneychangers out and then quoted from **Isaiah 56:7**
- Jesus even identified the house as "My house"
- **God's house is to be a "house of Prayer"**
- v.14** – healing is to happen in the house of God

Jesus is the Builder of the house

Hebrews 3:1

- Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession
- **v.3** Jesus is the Builder of the house

We are the house

- **Heb.3:6** Christ is a Son over His own house, whose house we are
- this is not a natural building but a spiritual building, made up of people
- Jesus wants to dwell in us, with us

The house is the Church

1 Timothy 3:15

- the house of God is the church of the living God – the congregation, the people of God are the house
- there is a way to conduct ourselves in the house of God – like with Moses there were very clear instructions on how to behave and approach God
- the house of God is a place of truth, a place where we hear and receive the truth
- the main foundational truth to be found in the house is **v.16** that **God was manifest in the flesh**, the revelation of who Jesus is

There are many places to dwell in God's house

John 14:1-2

- In My Father's house are many dwelling places ('mansions' in the Gk means *places to dwell*)
- Jesus wants us to come and dwell with Him in His Father's house
- Jesus was going to the Cross to cleanse us from sin so that now God by His Spirit can live in us – we become the house, dwelling with Jesus

It is a spiritual house

1 Peter 2:5

- We are as living stones, we are built together to be a spiritual house, a house for God

2 Corinthians 6:16

- God will dwell in them and walk among them
- God wants to dwell and be amongst us

**God has always been intent on establishing His dwelling place
with us on the earth**

Revelation 21:3

- The Tabernacle of God is with men
- He is not taking us away somewhere but coming to dwell with us

Hebrews 10:19-21

- Jesus is the High Priest over His house
- His blood made the way for us to have a "room" in His house
- The way has been made by Jesus for us to be in the house

WHO IS BUILDING THE HOUSE?

Matthew 16:18

- Jesus said "I will build My church" – the church is the house
- it is built on revelation of who Jesus (**v.16-18**)
- Jesus is the Builder of the house and it is built on Him

How is the house being built?

1 Corinthians 3:11

- The foundation is Jesus Christ

Ephesians 2:20

- The ministries of apostles and prophets provide a foundation for the house of God
- They bring the revelation of who Jesus is

We need the five ministry gifts of **Ephesians 4:11** to build the house

- Evangelists bring in living stones
- Pastors nurture the new believers, shepherding them and laying foundations
- Teachers are discipling the believers, teaching the word

Ephesians 2:21

- There is growth, it is a holy temple coming forth in the earth
- v.22** – built together for a dwelling place for God in the Spirit, a corporate dwelling place for God, it is in the Spirit

House is also called the "Body of Christ"

1 Corinthians 12:12

- One body, many members, so also is Christ – the Body of Christ is a many membered Body

Ephesians 5:23

- Christ is the head of the church, the Saviour of the Body (**Col.1:18**)
- This church is being built up into Him, the head (**Eph.4:15**)

We individually are the house of God – **1 Cor. 6:19**

We also corporately are being built together for a dwelling place for God in the Spirit (**Eph. 2:22**)

God wants to dwell with us and He wants us to dwell with Him

Psalm 23:6 – we will dwell in the house of Yahweh forever

Psalm 27:4 – that I may dwell in the house of Yahweh all the days of our life – the heart we are to have

God has a purpose in His house being built

Haggai 1:8

- Build the house that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified

**God wants a dwelling place to take pleasure in
and for His glory to be seen in it**

THE FIRST CHURCH

Built on revelation

Matthew 16:15-18

- Jesus asked His disciples, "Who you say I am?"
- Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"
- Peter got a revelation from heaven
- Jesus said He would build His church, on that revelation
- The church belongs to Jesus, and He is building His church

The Promise of Jesus

Luke 24:49

- Jesus will send the Promise of the Father on them
- It was a promise of empowering, "*endued with power from on high*", to equip His disciples to do the work

Acts 1:8 – confirmed here, Holy Spirit will give power to witness and do the work that Jesus commissioned them to do

This church was birthed in prayer

Acts 1:12-14

- They were all together, 120 people in all, they continued in one accord in prayer and supplication
- They were seeking God's will
- They were led by the Spirit to replace Judas
- They knew there must be "12 apostles in place"
- **Revelation 21:14** – 12 apostles of the Lamb as the foundation for the walls of the holy city

Acts 1:21-22

- Criteria to be the 12th apostle – been with Jesus from baptism to ascension
- Matthias was chosen and numbered with the 11 (**v.26**)

Empowered by the Holy Spirit

- The promise of Jesus was fulfilled

Acts 2:1-4

- Pentecost had "fully" come
- the Holy Spirit came with awesome signs and manifestations
- Tongues were spoken by the Spirit giving them utterance and many heard them in their own languages

They were released to preach

Acts 2:14

- Peter stood with the 11 and began to preach

- **v.14-36** – Peter preaching boldly Jesus Christ, using Old Testament Scriptures to prove who Jesus was
- **Jesus is both Lord and Christ**

v.37

- the affect was people cut to the heart wanting to know what to do

How to enter?

Acts 2:38 - the answer:

- repent (change mind),
 - believe (Peter's preaching the Word),
 - baptised in name of Jesus Christ for sins remitted,
 - receive the gift of Holy Spirit
- this promise is for you and those far off (v.39)
 - these are foundational steps for everyone to enter the church, the house of God
 - these foundations are listed in **Hebrews 6:1-2** and they must be laid in every believer's life if they are to go on to maturity

v.41

- 3000 souls added to the church through being baptised
- the birth of the church

The First Church

Acts 2:42 - they continued steadfastly in the

- apostles' doctrine – **Matt.28:20** – all Jesus taught and commanded us to observe
- fellowship – Greek '*koinonia*' means: *sharing, unity, close association, partnership, participation, communion, contributory help*
can only be brought about by Holy Spirit, cementing the saints to the Lord Jesus and each other
- breaking bread – the Lord's Table, Communion,
Jesus gave us the Table to partake of on the night He was betrayed
(Matt.26:26-28)
Jesus said we were to remember Him. "Proclaiming the Lord's death till He comes" **(1 Cor.11:28)**
- prayer – this is corporate prayer, **(Acts 4:23-31)** - they prayed and the place was shaken and they were further filled with Holy Spirit to speak Word boldly, there is anointing, power, revelation released through this prayer

**these are the first practices of the early church
that are to be continued today!**

The outworking of the first works

Acts 2:43-47

- signs and wonders
- sharing and caring
- meeting together daily
- breaking bread from house to house

- e) having favour with all the community
- f) the Lord added to their number daily

The Church is to grow up in all things

- the whole body of Christ is to grow up and come to maturity

Ephesians 4:11-12

- five ministries given to do work of ministry
- for saints to be equipped, body built up

v.13-16 is the picture of the church coming to maturity

- coming to measure of stature of fullness of Christ – this is the measuring stick
- not remaining children being easily deceive
- learn how to speak the truth in love to each other
- we grow up into the head, Christ
- all parts of the Body doing their part, edifying itself in love

Ephesians 5:27

- this church will be presented to Jesus as a glorious church, without spot or wrinkle

God's goal is a glorious church in the earth!

The Great Commission in Mark - Evangelism

Mark 16:15-16

- Preach the gospel to every creature
- "gospel" – Greek: '*evangelion*'
- To preach has got to do with "preaching the gospel"

- a) **Preaching the gospel**
- b) **Baptise those who believe** – souls are added
- c) **Releasing anointing of the gift of the Holy Spirit – Acts 2:38** – in **Acts 8:16-17** – Philip was not able to release the gift of the Holy Spirit but the apostles came and helped to bring people into the baptism of the Holy Spirit

The Pastor

- The evangelist needs to hand the new baptised believers to the pastor
- The pastor's primary role is to nurture – feeding the milk to get the saints growing (**1 Pet.2:2, John 21:15-16**)
- The Pastor is to establish the saints in the six foundational principles of Christ (**Heb.6:1-2**) – making sure that the person you are discipling is born again and experiencing all the foundations
- The goal is maturity

The Teacher

- The teacher is the primary discipler, teaching the Word
- Not locked away in a Bible School
- The Teacher should be able teaching among all the house churches
- The churches are to be led by a "plural leadership"

Philip the Evangelist – Acts chapter 8

v.4 – the scattered ones went everywhere preaching the Word

v.5 - Philip went down and preached Christ to them, he was preaching to the city,

- he was speaking in public

v.6-8 – many signs and wonders done; people set free

v.12 – Philip preached the things concerning the "kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ"

- then baptism happened in the "name of Jesus", the name Philip was preaching
- what is the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? We baptise in the name of Jesus and you get everything!

Philip did not have his intercessors going in to the city before him, he went preaching Christ and he overcame the strongman, Simon the Sorcerer in that city

God bears witness with signs and wonders

Hebrews 2:4

- God bearing witness to the preaching of the Word with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will
- God has to do the miracles

Paul did the work of the evangelist

Acts 19:1-7

- Paul went to Ephesus and found some disciples there
- Paul asked if they had received the Holy Spirit
- They had not even heard of the Holy Spirit
- He preached Jesus to them, baptised them in the name of Jesus and laid hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit
- Paul, an apostle, was doing the work of the evangelist and fixing the foundations that were not laid in the lives of those disciples

The Evangelist obeys the voice of God

Philip in Acts 8 had great success – men and women were believing the preaching of Philip

- If Philip was living in the 21st century he would have “started a church, called himself ‘pastor’ etc...”
- We need to stay with our ministry gift, be perfected in that gift and only change if God changes it
- What happened next for Philip?
- An angel spoke to him – leave the revival, go on the road to Gaza, there is an appointment for you
- Philip was secure in that gift, able to leave the revival without an issue, he obeyed the angel

Acts 8:34 - He meets an Ethiopian eunuch in his chariot

v.35 – Philip preached Jesus from the Scriptures that the man was reading

v.36 – Philip had preached Jesus beginning at **Isaiah 53**, but by the time he is finished the eunuch wanted to be baptised

- the qualification for baptism is “you believe with all your heart” – so children can be baptised! We then need to disciple them after they are baptised
- the faith is “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (same revelation as Peter in **Matt.16:16-18**)
- Philip was happy with his confession and baptised him

v.39 – then Philip was taken away by the Spirit, evangelists can move around very fast

v.40 – Philip was found at Azotus. He then preached in all the cities. Itinerant, he kept preaching, city to city.

Philip was later in Caesarea with a family, more settled down, but still called “the evangelist”, not a ‘pastor’ now! (**Acts 21:8**)

This evangelist was prepared to leave a revival to speak to one man

- Philip preached so effectively to the Ethiopian that this man was able to take the gospel into Africa.

An evangelist preaches:

- Christ – **Acts 8:5**
- The kingdom of God – **Acts 8:12**
- The name of Jesus Christ – **Acts 8:12**

- We are privileged to be in the restoration of the name and understanding Jesus the Christ

Timothy, an apostle, exhorted to do the work of the evangelist - 2 Timothy 4:5

- Do the work of the evangelist
- All of us, no matter what our ministry is, should never forget, and always include, the work of evangelism

What ministry was Peter exercising on the day of Pentecost?

- Evangelism – 3000 souls added
- Evangelists are to equip the saints in evangelism

Paul and Barnabas were sent out as apostles

Acts 14:21-23 – what did they do?

- Preached the gospel (evangelism)
- Made disciples (teaching)
- Exhorted and warned (prophet and/or pastor)
- Set the church in order (apostle), appointing elders

Philip continued in Evangelism - Acts 21:8

- Paul and the team came to the house of “evangelist” Philip
- Philip stayed faithful to the work of evangelism, not trying to be a pastor
- He hosted the church in the house as an apostolic and prophetic team converged

The evangelist preaches, having been discipled

What else is known of Philip?

Acts 6:1-7 – he chosen and appointed as a deacon

- **Philip was**
 - i) **filled with Holy Spirit,**
 - ii) **filled with wisdom,**
 - iii) **had a good reputation** – testimony of a changed life

What about Peter?

John 21:15-17

- What ministry was Peter? An apostle (**Matt.10, Luke 9, Mark 3**)
- Jesus is telling Peter in these verses to shepherd the flock
- Peter as an apostle is still to have the heart of a pastor

Paul told Timothy to do the work of the evangelist

Jesus told Peter to keep a pastoring heart

Even all ministers should still have the heart of a pastor

But we stay with the primary gift we have been given

Peter in house of Cornelius doing evangelism – Acts 10

- House is full and Peter preached Jesus Christ
- They believe, filled with Spirit and baptised them

What about Paul?

1 Timothy 2:7

- Paul was a "preacher" – work of evangelist
- Paul went into Athens all alone but still preached publicly Jesus Christ (**Acts 17**)
- As an apostle he did the work of the evangelist
- He was also a "teacher" – **Acts 13** in Antioch

There are crossovers in the ministry

We have a predominant gift and call but not neglect to do the work of the other ministries

- We are to see the whole functioning and not become to singularly focused on one aspect of ministry

What are evangelists to do?

They are to preach and they are to demonstrate to the disciples how to do the work of evangelism

- We need to give ourselves to the work of the ministry
- The evangelist reaches out into the world
- The message is the gospel

Should evangelists become pastors – only if very clear call of God

Most evangelists become pastors so they can get an income

We need to see evangelists raised up in our midst, supported and working in the apostolic team

Evangelist is a powerful preaching ministry

JESUS WAS THE EVANGELIST

Luke 4:43 – He needed to preach in other cities also, not settling down to "start a church"

Conclusion

Jesus is the Rock foundation (**1 Cor.3:11, Matt.16:18**)

House of God built on foundation of apostles and prophets (**Eph.2:22**)

- New Testament apostles and prophets who reveal the mystery of Christ – **Eph.3:5**)

Then the **evangelist** comes and brings in the stones for the building, the new believers

Then the pastor and teacher begin discipleship

Then we need the apostles and prophets again to bring the church to maturity

We are believing for **Acts 3:21** to be realised – Jesus is received in heaven until the times of restoration of all things

**All things are to be restored for the Lord to come
He is coming for a glorified church
We are part of this great restoration**

CONSIDER YOUR DESTINY

Lamentations 1:9 – written by Jeremiah

- It is a lament
- Jerusalem - "*she did not consider her destiny*" – her collapse was terrible

What was the issue with Jerusalem? She did not consider her destiny!

We need to consider our destiny

- We need to remember, consider, bring to mind, think about – our destiny. What does the word of God say about our destiny?

God wants us to know our destiny – we were born for such a time as this. We are in a period of history because God ordained it to be so. God created us to be in this generation.

- Consider your destiny, where you are today in the plan of God. We are people of destiny!
- What were you made for?

God has a purpose

Col.1:16 – By Him all things were created ...

- Everything created by the Son of God, through the Son of God, for the Son of God – this is our destiny
- We only find out our destiny when we come to know Jesus
- We can become part of His purpose, destiny

If we continue on the path of 'sin' we will miss the purpose of God that we were created for. You were created to worship God and to fulfill His destiny for your life.

Sin causes us to fall short

Rom.3:23 - sin causes us to fall short of the glory of God

- We need a Saviour to take away our sins, the things that have been stopping us from entering into the glory

Matt.1:21 – JESUS will save His people from their sins, prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life that is in God.

We need a prophetic vision

Proverbs 29:18 – '*revelation*' is prophetic vision – where there is no prophetic vision people cast off restraint

- We are heading somewhere – towards the destiny
- This will enable us to go through many trials and disappointments because it is worth it
- You can see the purpose in the suffering and tribulation
- We need hope – a prophetic vision

'revelation' 'prophetic vision' – same word also in **1 Sam.3:1** – when Samuel was a boy there was no 'prophetic vision'

- There was no purpose in life
- **v.21**- but then YAHWEH appeared again in Shiloh
- The Word of God brings revelation and prophetic vision

1Chron.17:15 – God's promise to David – 'vision' same word as 'revelation'

- [see WW at 2 Chron.32:32 Heb.#2377 *chazon*: a dream, oracle, vision from God]

Habakkuk 2:1-3 – write the 'vision' [same Heb. word]

- Write down what is in your heart
- What is the vision that you have been given?
- This is your destiny, it can set a course for your life
- Then revisit that vision, so that you keep it in your mind
- When you get released in the prophetic vision, you are released to 'run' with it
- We need patience, it will surely come to pass, you will find yourself walking in it

'**Destiny**' – Heb.#317 *achariyth*: the outcome, the after part, the end, future, latter end, posterity

- We are to live in the now, filled with the hope of what is the outcome.
- What is the destiny of what you are living right now?

Future

Jer.31:15-17 – "there is hope in your future" [destiny]

- Your children shall come back
- The children of God will come back into the land, into their inheritance
- Inheriting the nations, come back into the will of God
- Come back from the land of the enemy

Psalms 37:37-38 – "the future of that man is peace"

- The destiny of the blameless/upright man is peace
- The destiny of the wicked will be cut off

Jer.29:10-11 – "to give you a future and a hope"

- God has good thoughts towards us
- He has a destiny for us, God never leaves us in a place of no destiny

Latter days [destiny]

Gen.49:1 – "tell you what will happen to you in the latter days"

- Jacob is prophesying destiny over his sons
- A prophetic word can speak destiny into our lives – confirming what God has put in our hearts
- A vision can show us our destiny – setting a course for our lives
- (**1Tim.1:18** – by the prophecies made concerning you, wage the good warfare) – stand on the word that God has given you

Isaiah 2:2-4

- Come to pass in the 'latter days' ...
- The mountain of the LORD's house shall be established
- All nations will flow to it
- The nations are getting taught His ways – discipleship
- We are in this destiny, we are walking in it
- This is our corporate destiny

Deut.4:29-31

- Seek YAHWEH when you are in distress, not in the will of God
- If you are not in your destiny – there is a way back, you can get back into your destiny if you seek God and turn away from what you had slipped away into.

New Testament

End – Gk. #5056 – *final outcome*

James 5:11 – seen the 'end' intended by the LORD.

- There was a destiny for Job, God brought him through into his destiny

1Peter 1:9 – the outcome [end] of our faith is the salvation of our souls

- In spite of going through various trials – there is a promised destiny

1Tim.1:5 – 'purpose' of the commandment (v3) is love from a pure heart ...

- Our destiny is to function out of love from a pure heart from a good conscience and a sincere faith

The Bible is full of people of destiny: Moses, Daniel

Gal.1:13-16 – Paul – "it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb"

- Paul had a sense of destiny
- We are not to try and fulfill our destiny ourselves
- We can only fulfill our destiny by obeying Jesus
- We are called through His grace
- God will reveal His Son in us (v.16) – so that you can preach about Him. Preach the one who lives inside of you

This is our destiny to preach Jesus in the nations

PLANTING THE CHURCH

TWO OR THREE GATHERED IN HIS NAME

Matthew 18:19-20

- If two agree on earth, it will be done by My Father
- If two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them
- This is an unlimited verse
- This verse is given in the context of church discipline, binding and loosing, and prayer in agreement

THE FIRST WORKS

When this church begins to practice the “first works” (**Acts2:42**) then wonderful things take place

- 3000 souls committed to the “apostles’ doctrine, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayers”

Revelation 2:1-7

- After commending this church on some things then Jesus brings up an issue

v.4 – I have this against you, you left your first love

- How do we rekindle the first love?

v.5 – Remember from where you have fallen

- in the midst of everything you are doing, you are not really building your relationship with Jesus
- in the bigger context, we have fallen from our fellowship with God in the garden of Eden, we have fallen from our intimate relationship with God, where He covered us
- God wants us to come back to that deep, intimate relationship with Him

Repent and do the first works – we are to repent and do something

- “Repent” means *change your mind, consider your situation and decide what you need to do*
- Repentance are to lead you to faith, we act by faith, we hear from God and then do what He says (**Rom.10:17, Heb.3:15** – will to hear His voice and do not harden your heart)
- What are the first works? They are works of faith

What did the first church do?

Acts 2:42 – they continued in a committed way in four things:

- i) apostles’ doctrine – Word,
- ii) fellowship – loving each other, every person is important,
- iii) breaking of bread – restoration of Table of Lord has been popular and controversial, in the houses,
- iv) prayers – corporate prayer

If we do not do this Jesus will remove the Lampstand from the midst = no longer be a church

v.6 – but there is one more commendation – they hate the deeds of the “Nicolaitans”

- “Nicolaitans” in Greek means *victors or conquerors of the people*
- this was having a clergy and laity class where there is a “clergy” that bosses all the people

LOOKING AT “PLANTING THE CHURCH”

- Many think that to “plant a church” you need to hire a place and build a structure, get some plastic chairs, get microphones and some musical equipment and put up a name on a banner
- However, planting the church actually starts with “evangelism” – we need to come back to “doing the work of the evangelist”
- We have seen the establishment of apostolic schools and that is going well, but we need to make sure we are not neglecting the work of the evangelist

To plant the church, you simply need two or three disciples to start practicing the first works of **Acts 2:42** and reach out from there

The goal is not to build congregations – our work is to make disciples

- Our goal is to see hundreds or even thousands of church plants, many house churches
- Turn the buildings into centres for training and discipleship that service the house churches
- Making disciples, meeting in classes and meeting house to house

We need a shift – to consider afresh that Evangelist is one of the five ministries and that Timothy, as an apostle, was still exhorted to do the work of evangelism

Evangelism → New souls → Discipleship → Trained & Equipped → Send out → To plant the church in a new area (2 or 3 disciples gathering together in Jesus name)

We are not looking at numbers to “prove our ministry”

Philip left the numbers to witness to one soul (**Acts 8:26**)

Discipleship

- 1st nurture (milk of the Word – **1 Pet.2:2** & Foundations of **Heb.5:12-6:3**)
- 2nd meat/solid food – **Heb.5:13**
- 3rd mysteries, hidden manna, wisdom – **1 Cor.2:6-8**

This has been restored in many places

Now we are looking for a revival of evangelism

In **Acts** there was addition of disciples and then there was multiplication (disciples start making disciples – **Acts 6:7**)

Then **Acts 8:4** they went everywhere preaching the Word (they were trained disciples)

Our goal is tens of thousands of church plants among the nations

- Little groups, beginning with 2 or 3 who are sent out to meet in their local area in a house
- We are making disciples who can be sent out to plant the church – doing the “first works” (**Acts 2:42**) in that area
- The church is planted house to house
- Turn the structures into discipleship and training centres
- People even from regions can come there to get training

What is the major work of the evangelist? –

- Preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Also, the evangelists are to baptise, **Acts 8:12**

Review what you are doing

Have a look at what you have – but what is the vision?

What is the purpose of the classes?

- Are you doing it in the context of being able to send out the disciples into the harvest **Matt.9:37-38 – Matt.10:1** – Jesus the Lord of the harvest sent the 12 out on their first mission
- **Luke 10:2** – harvest – Jesus sent out 70 others two by two
- The prayer for more workers is answered by sending them out

Take trainees with you, take disciples with you so they can observe the work of ministry and be part of the ministry

- It is time to send out, go out and take disciples with you
- We need a plan for evangelism

How often do these church plants meet?

As often as possible, the first church was meeting daily and from that 2 or 3 gathering they reach out in evangelism

Let the work multiply house to house

The pattern of the apostles

Acts 14:21-23

- a) They preached the gospel – evangelism
- b) They made disciples
- c) They were itinerant
- d) They did the pastoral work of following up the saints
- e) Exhorted them to continue in the faith
- f) Taught them to go through tribulations
- g) They appointed leaders/elders

Paul Galligan saw the pattern in Myanmar in 1998

- short-term training schools,
- and meeting in house churches

The goal is to fill the earth with disciples/sons (Habakkuk 2:14**)**

- Jesus plants sons in the world (**Matt.13:37-38**)
- We need to give back up when we start sending out – to back up those who are sent out to do the work by continuing to visit them and offer training through training schools
- When there is back up for the fruit (disciples/sons) then we will see multiplication
- After multiplication comes “filling the earth” and then a “subduing” (**Gen.1:28**)
- Before we know it, the earth will be filled, the enemy will be subdued and we will exercise godly dominion

**“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YAHWEH,
as the waters cover the sea”
Habakkuk 2:14**

THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

It is actually the "Royal Priesthood of all believers"

- Forget all our ideas about what a king is
- Forget all our ideas about what a priest is

TIMES OF RESTORATION

Acts 3:20-21

- Heaven must receive Jesus until the times of restoration of all things which God has spoken by the mouths of all His holy prophets since the world began

Biblical understanding of restoration

- If you had stolen you had to restore what was stolen and add more to it
- "Restore" – when something is restored in the Scriptures it is always increased, multiplied or improved so that its latter state is always better than its original state
- When were all things lost? In the garden – relationship with God, eternal life, sonship, the ability to rule in a godly way over creation
- Everything is being restored plus...

A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD – KINGS AND PRIESTS

1 Peter 2:4-9

v.5 – we are living stones...a holy priesthood

v.9 – we are a "royal priesthood, a holy nation..."

Revelation 1:5-6

- Firstborn is connected to priesthood – Jesus is the Firstborn from the dead
- Jesus is the ruler of the kings of the earth
- Jesus has made us "kings and priests to His God and Father"
- This is a royal priesthood

Revelation 5:9-10

- Redeemed by the blood out of all tribes
- Made us Kings and Priests to our God
- We shall reign on the earth
- This is the fulfilment of something God started at the very beginning but was lost

Isaiah 61:2-6

- Jesus read from this passage in the Synagogue (**Lk.4:18-19**)
- We shall be "trees of righteousness"
- These "trees" will rebuild, raise up, repair

v.6 – we shall be called the **priests of Yahweh**, the servants of our God

THE BEGINNING OF THE PRIESTHOOD

➤ **Kings have dominion, rulership**

Genesis 1:26-28

- Let Us make man in Our image
- According to Our likeness
- Let them (man) have dominion
- God made man (male and female) in His image
- God blessed them...fruitful, multiply, fill earth, subdue and have dominion

Luke 3:38

- Who was Adam? The son of God
- Before anything else, Adam was a son
- God wanted sons and daughters to cover and fill the earth
- Out of the position of being a "son" God gave Adam the command, commission, to rule and reign over His creation

Zechariah 9:10

Word Wealth on "*dominion*" – sovereignty, dominion, jurisdiction, rulership...to rule, to govern, to reign, exercise authority

➤ **Priests minister**

Genesis 2:15

- God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden
- God planted a garden and put the man there... "**to tend and keep it**" [KJV – 'to dress and keep']
- **SC Heb #5647 'dress'** – to work, serve, labour, worship, minister, to work in ministry
- This is Adam's priestly aspect of ministry, he was to tend, dress, serve, work in ministry in the garden
- Adam dwelt in the garden – this was where he met with God - this was the 'house of God' and Adam was to serve there

Adam as a son, was given the destiny of being a king and a priest

The 'garden' represents the 'house of God' – the place of His presence

- We are the garden
- God wants us to learn how to conduct ourselves in this garden, tend to it, dress it, worship and minister in it (**1Tim.3:15**)
- God uses the language of a garden to describe us (**John 15:1-8**)

MELCHIZEDEK

Genesis 14:18-20

- Melchizedek came to meet Abram
- He was King of Salem and priest of God Most High
- He seemed to appear out of nowhere
- "Salem" was a title, not a city – if it was a city it would have been a pagan city – "Salem" means "Peace"

- It is a title - He is King of Peace and his name means "King of Righteousness"
- **Psalm 110:4** – a messianic reference, says 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek' – he was a king and a priest
- That priesthood existed in the beginning
- Adam was created to be in this priesthood

A 'son' created to be a priest

- **Firstly Adam**

- God created Adam a single man/son, but Adam failed to achieve God's purpose

- **Secondly the children of Israel – a corporate son**

Exodus 4:22

- Say to Pharaoh "***Thus says YHWH, 'Israel is My Son, My Firstborn'***"
- Israel is a corporate son
- Every Israelite was meant to be a "Firstborn Son"
- "***Let My Son go!***"(v.23)
- **v.23 "That He may serve Me"** – "serve" = dress, tend, conduct ministry – same word as **Gen.2:15** [function as a priest to God]
- If you refuse to let Israel go, then Pharaoh's firstborn will die
- One corporate Son called to be a nation of priests

Exodus 13:1

- Consecrate all the Firstborn
- The firstborn belonged to Yahweh

v.11-12 - set apart all who open the womb

v.13-15 - all firstborn of man shall be redeemed

Exodus 19:5-6

- 'a special treasure to Yahweh, above all people'
- **v.6** - Israel was to be a "***kingdom of priests and a holy nation***"

Adam was meant to produce a nation of kings and priests

Now God is creating the nation of Israel to be His nation of kings and priests, a corporate son

- God has never changed His plan

The Children of Israel rebelled against God

Exodus 32 – the children of Israel made a god for themselves & worshipped a golden calf

- **The Levites appointed as priests**

v.19-26

- Only the **tribe of Levi** joined Moses on "Yahweh's side"
- God had wanted all His people to be kings and priests

v.27-28

- Levi obeyed Moses
- Only one tribe of the nation now became priests
- This was not what God wanted, but Israel had failed to fulfill God's purpose
- Now Levi was the tribe of priesthood

Numbers 1:44-53

- Moses is taking a census of all Israel, all the tribes
- The Levites were not numbered among them
- Levites are appointed over the Tabernacle of the Testimony, over all to do with the Tabernacle
- Levites will set up and pack down the Tabernacle
- If any other tribe tries to do it, they were to be put to death
- No other tribes permitted to be priests

Numbers 3:12-13

- Levites were taken instead of every Firstborn of the children of Israel
- Israel had failed in their destiny to be this holy nation, a kingdom of priests
- So instead of every Firstborn, the Levites will be Yahweh's

Numbers 3:44-45

- The Levites shall be God's

Israel lost their destiny; but God still continued with plan A

NEW TESTAMENT

God sends His Son

- We are back to a single Son
- The priesthood of Aaron/Levi failed, it was not perfect, it did not bring life or make anything perfect

The Son is to be the firstborn among many brethren

Romans 8:29

- We are predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son
- Adam was made in image of God – it was lost
- It is now being restored in Jesus
- Now Jesus is the ***"Firstborn among many brethren"***
- God starts again – He started something new through His Son
- God is renewing, restoring

Colossians 1:15

- The Son, Jesus, is the image of the invisible God – Adam should have been this, to grow up in maturity as a son in the image of God (a king and priest – one who rules and serves in the house)
- Jesus is the Firstborn over all creation – from this Firstborn will come a nation of firstborn
- We are firstborn because we are born again, a new creation
- If we are born again, we are part of the firstborn
- Now God is fulfilling the natural in the Spirit
- Adam lost all the authority and rulership – being a king under the King of kings and a priest under the High Priest

v.16-18

- the single Son is creating a corporate son, He is the Head of the His body

How does this priesthood of all believers' function?

Hebrews 9:11-12

- Christ came as the High Priest of a more perfect Tabernacle, not of this creation

Hebrews 7:1-3

- Melchizedek means *King of Righteousness*
- King of Salem means *King of Peace*
- He remains a priest continually
- This Melchizedek could only be Jesus, an Eternal person, no beginning or end

Jesus is the Creator, He created Israel – a prince with God

The Son of God, reconciled us to the Father, justifies us, so that now we can become His sons, and as mature sons we begin to walk in the authority as kings and priests

Hebrews 7:16 - this priesthood functions by the power of an endless life

- **v.19** - now there is the bringing in of a better hope, a hope of perfection
- **v.22** - this priesthood brings in a better covenant
- **v.25** - this priesthood can save us to the uttermost

In the past God has used denominations and churches in revivals and blessed and used them for His purposes in many ways

- But the denominational set up today bears no resemblance to the plan of God as set out in the Scriptures
- We are called to be priests in the order of Melchizedek
- Our understanding of kings and priests has been totally marred
- Our model of a priest is Jesus
- The church has nothing to do with organisations, denominations
- In the Word, God has showed us how He wants His house to be built

The operation of the priesthood

Ephesians 4:7-16

- Jesus gave gifts that release grace
- He gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers
- They were given for the "***equipping of the saints***" – training them through discipleship to become kings and priests, to bear the image of Jesus, the Son
- The 'gifts' are to do the work of the ministry
- God's house is to extend all over the world, through living stones, not through any human structure
- When people have a function or ministry, this does not put anyone above another, they are there to serve, build up and edify the Body

We are living in the days of restoration – Jesus is restoring us back into His original intention, a nation of kings and priests filling the earth, cultivating, and caring for one another, knowing how to conduct ourselves

- **Zechariah 9:9** – that is a King in the kingdom of God
- **John 13** – Jesus washed His disciples' feet – that is a King in the house of God
- **Luke 10** – Good Samaritan – that is the kingdom of God
- **1 Peter 5:5** – submitting one to another, be humble

Kings serve, priests minister and nurture in the kingdom of God

- No authority structures, we are accountable by loving, committed relationships
- The gifts of the Spirit are for the edifying and building up of the body, to be used by anyone
- **Romans 12:1** – present your bodies as a living sacrifice – the work of a priest
- Church is family, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters – not a business enterprise

Jesus made Himself of no reputation – we do not need to try and build a reputation

- Why did Jesus do this? Because He loved His creation

Ephesians 5:21 – submitting to one another in the fear of the Lord

Ephesians 4:13

- ministries given till we all come to the unity of the faith...to perfect man...to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ
- **v.14** – not remaining children tossed to a fro
- **v.15** – growing up into Christ
- **v.16** – the whole Body and every member contributing to the upbuilding of the whole
- **v.24** – putting on the new man – that “new man” is the everlasting priesthood of Melchizedek, the Lord Jesus Christ

**We have been made “kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign of the earth”
Revelation 5:10**

OVERCOMING AND THE GREAT BATTLE

A Battle for the Truth!

We are in a battle for truth, contending for the faith. It is a day when we are to publish the truth.

A day of the truth of the word piercing the souls of men and cutting to the heart.

- We must be equipped to stand and be victorious.
- God is raising an army of deliverers – **Obadiah 21**
- God is mustering an army for war. This army will prevail because the victory has already been given.

THE OVERCOMING CHURCH

Revelation chapters 2 and 3 – these are letters to the churches

The First Church - Rev 2:1-7

- "Left" – *forsake* (They left their first love)
- "First" – Gk#4413 – *protos* – means first in rank, the principal thing
- They left the priority of loving Jesus
- To overcome we need to go back to the first works (the things that are of priority – **Acts 2:42**)
- **v.7** - to him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God
- Life will be flowing (perfect communion and fellowship with God)

The Second Church - 2. Rev 2:8-11

- Do not fear the things that you are about to suffer
- We need to realise that Jesus is in control of the devil
- that you may be tested
- for a determined period of time
- Jesus sets the limitations
- Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life
- The overcoming church is willing to go through some suffering, recognising that Jesus is in control. They are faithful even unto death.
- **v.11** – he who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death

The Third Church - Rev 2:12-17

- I have a few things against you
- The doctrine of Balaam – speaking of false doctrine; false teaching
- (**2 Peter 2:13-17, Eph 5:26-27** - no spots or blemishes will remain)
- These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, covetous practices

- The Doctrine of Balaam in our day is the prosperity gospel – it takes you to a false Jesus
- The overcoming church overcomes this doctrine
- **v.15** – The doctrine of the Nicolaitans (conqueror of the people)
- We see this today when the clergy is separate to the people (a superior class of people instead of servants to the people)
- The overcoming church is a family
- **v.17** – to him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat (hidden wisdom/revelation – **1 Cor 2:6-8**)
- God ordained this hidden wisdom before the ages for our glory
- He will also give us a new name (a new nature/authority/character)

The Fourth Church - Rev 2:18-29

- **v.20** – you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants
- Jezebel is a serious issue
- in the spiritual context it is going to another gospel, or going after a different Jesus (**2 Cor 11:2-4** – we have been betrothed to one husband)
- Jezebel hates true authority, she hates fathers and sons
- this spirit hates the truth being spoken plainly
- **v.24** – knowing the depths of Satan (**Isaiah 8:12**)
- **v.26** – to him who overcomes I will give power over nations (**Psalms 2:9** – power to inherit and bring the word of God to nations)

The Fifth Church - Rev 3:1-6

- the 'trendy' church – worldly [seeking to please the crowds]
- under the false impressing that they are 'alive', but Jesus says they are 'dead'
- they recognise men and not the anointing
- **v.4** - there are a few in the midst who are looking for Jesus
- **v.5** – he who overcomes will be clothed in white garments
- Having a confession of Jesus will enable us to overcome (**Matt 10:32**)

The Sixth Church - Rev 3:7-13

- they were like a remnant group
- Jesus is the One who *'opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens'*
- There is an 'open door'
- Have a little strength, kept My word, not denied My name
- Will be kept in the time of trial
- hold fast the word of life
- if you overcome you will be pillars in the house of my God (**1 Timothy 3:15**)

The Seventh Church - Rev 3:14-22

- this church loved the riches of the world
- they didn't understand the eternal purpose of God
- they were comfortable in their situation (lukewarm)
- anoint yourself with eye salve that you may see
- **v.20** - Jesus wants to come into this church

- **v.21** – he who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne (ruling and reigning with Jesus)

THE OVERCOMING CHURCH IS READY FOR BATTLE

They are overcoming the wicked one and learning to become mature.
There is an army being raised up.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

- The dry bones live
- Prophecy to the bones (speak the rhema word of God – the present truth)
- Surely, I will cause breath to enter you and you shall live
- **Eph 4:11** – the 5-fold ministry gifts are given to equip the body
- The word of God sets in order the body (these dry bones)
- There was a rattling/shaking – the dry bones started to come together with this shaking (bone to bone – **Eph 4:12** – set in order)
- The work of the ministry is for the body to form
- **v.9** – Prophecy to the breath
- Once the body is formed, it is ready for the breath
- **v.10** – breath came into them and they lived and stood on their feet – an exceedingly great army
- **v.14** – I will put My Spirit in you and you shall live
- **v.15-28** – this army has one King and one Shepherd (One New Man)
- All the promises of God are in Him (Jesus) – the house of God is made up of Jew and Gentile

Ezekiel 38:16 – God is in control of this battle

- I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me

Ezekiel 39:11 – the enemy is going to be buried in Israel (**1 Cor 15:25**)

- **v.29** – this body will live in the presence of the eternal God
- Bringing forth the revelation of the city of our God

Rev 16:14-16

- A gathering against Christ
- A gathering to the battle of that great day of God Almighty

Rev 19:11-21

- The Word of God – riding on that horse, going out to the battle
- There are armies in heaven clothed in white linen – they are with the Word of God
- Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword
- The beast and false prophet are cast into the lake of fire

The army is being raised!

OUR WALK WITH GOD

There is a glory in our walk with God!

- A walk is a very pleasant thing, a comfortable thing
- A walk is not a run, you do not get out of breath
- The pace can be set for the youngest to the oldest

How to walk with God

- How to have a pleasant stroll with God throughout your life

Consider where you are heading - Lamentations 1:9

- They did not consider their destiny
- We consider where we are headed, it is towards God

The walk starts when we are "saved", He puts our feet upon a Rock and puts a new song in our mouth

Continue in the walk - Hebrews 3:6

- We are Christ's house if we are firm to the end
- We are to keep walking with God

Jacob had a walk, back to his mother's land to look for a wife

- On that walk he slept near Ai, and he had a revelation of God (**Gen.28:10-22**)

It is a walk of faith - Hebrews 11:8

- Abraham went out by faith not knowing where he was going
- Sometimes we do not know where we are going but we know God is in charge and walking ahead of us
- **v.13** – 'pilgrims', people who left their homeland looking for a new life, someone on a journey, maybe a spiritual journey, wanting to get somewhere
- **v.14** – we are heading towards a homeland
- they could have returned if they recalled where they came from
- let's not dwell on the past but keep moving forward
- we are to press forwards

Don't give up - Philippians 3:12-15

- I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me
- Forgetting what is behind, reaching forward to those things which are ahead
- **v.16** – let us "walk" by the same rule
- there is a danger in getting stuck in places, even "good" places
- we are to keep walking, there is an upward call, "Come up here" (**Rev.4:1-2**)
- we are all at different levels of maturity, to the degree we have attained let us so "walk"
- the strong are to bear with the scruples of the weak

- people are at different stages of growth and we are to walk with them to help them along
- the manifold wisdom of God will be declared – there is a wide variety of believers, appreciate the Body of Christ
- among all the denominations there are truly born-again people
- in the glory there are no denominations, just blood washed saints
- Jesus is building and will build His church

Other Scriptures about our walk:

Revelation 3:4 - They shall walk with Me in white

3 John 4 - The children are “walking” in truth

- This brings joy

1 John 2:6 - Walk just as Jesus walked

- Prayer life, rising early to seek God and wait on the Lord

1 John 1:7 - Walk in the light as He is in the light

- No dark secrets, stay clean

1 Thessalonians 4:1 - How you ought to walk and please God

- There is a proper way to walk with God

1 Thessalonians 2:12 - Walk worthy of God

- who calls you into His own kingdom and glory

Colossian 4:5 - Walk in wisdom

- Do not be a time waster

Colossians 2:6 - Walk in Him, Christ

- Rooted in Him
- It is a walk of thanksgiving

Colossians 1:10 - Walk worthy of the Lord

- fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work

Ephesians 5:15 - See that you walk circumspectly/carefully

In the Bible there has been some tremendous walks

- 1. Around Jericho in Joshua 7-8** – a warfare walk, that accomplished a great victory
- 2. The walk to Emmaus (Luke 24)**, it was a walk talking about Jesus from the Law of Moses, Psalms and Prophets and then they see Jesus
- 3. The biggest walk was the Exodus, from Egypt to the Promised Land** – led by Moses who was led by God, it could have been shorter but they went around the desert for forty years. We can also be walking a while until we learn the lesson. They walked in an orderly way, having positions to walk in. Every tribe had a banner/standard. We have a banner – Yahweh Nissi – we can always look for that banner and be fine.

- 4. Elijah went on a walk/run** – after defeating the prophets of Baal – he went on a long walk/run to Horeb – we need to run with endurance the race set before us. It is a marathon.

WALKING WITH JESUS

When we are walking, our feet touch the earth, they can get dirty.

- Jesus washed the disciples' feet – the body was clean but only the feet need washing
- We wash our feet through fellowship with one another, being cleansed from our sin by the blood in the fellowship (**1 Jn.1:7**)

Ephesians 1-2

- Our position in Christ, of rest, with Him in heavenly places
- The Jewish day begins at sundown – their day begins with rest
- We begin everything from our rest in Jesus, through what He has accomplished for us
- "and evening and morning was the first day..."
- After rest we walk

God will direct our walk - Isaiah 30:21

- You will hear a voice behind you saying "this is the way, walk in it"
- If we are moving it is easier to turn
- It is better to start moving and then God can direct you

Enoch had a good result we should aspire to

- Enoch "**walked with God**" and then he was not for God took him (**Heb.11:5**)

WE ALL HAVE A PARTICULAR 'WALK WITH GOD'

1 Corinthians 7:17 - As the Lord has called each one, so let him walk

- We all have a particular "walk with God"
- Your personal walk with God
- You cannot contribute to the Body if you are not walking with God yourself
- God loves to see our face and hear our voice

Father will reward you openly if you shut yourself in with Him in secret (**Matt.6:6**)

Ephesians 4:1 - Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called

Ephesians 5:2 - Walk in love

Ephesians 2:10 - God prepared good works beforehand that you should walk in them

- Do you seek God to walk in those good works?

Hebrews 3:6 - Remain firm to the end

- Christ has laid hold of you for a purpose
- We are heading towards an amazing city
- We are strangers and pilgrims on the earth

Jude 20-21 - Building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

- On this walk we have a responsibility to build ourselves up
- Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word (**Romans 10:17**), read the Word out loud, especially verses that have spoken to you
- Pray in tongues, what a gift
- King David built himself up in the LORD (YHWH) when discouraged
- Keep yourself in the love of God – stay in the place of loving God, giving Him the priority
- Looking for the coming of the day of God (**2 Peter 3:12**)
- We must be looking ahead on this walk

MAINTAINING OUR FAITH

- Five wise and five foolish virgins (**Matt.25:1-13**)
- Keeping lamps with oil and lit
- **1 Samuel 3:1-3** – before the lamp of God went out in the Tabernacle – the lamp was going out in those days, but the original instructions were that it should never go out
- in those days, there was no widespread revelation until Samuel was called and God began to bring revelation again to the people of God through Samuel
- the five wise virgins kept their lamps trimmed, oiled and lit!
- We are to maintain that relationship with Jesus

Revelation 21:24

- The nations of those who are saved will **walk** in its light
- The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple
- The Lamb is its Light

**God walked in the garden with Adam
We are walking with Him now
and will continue to walk with Him into the future
We want to experience Jesus more and more**

JESUS THE APOSTLE

Consider Jesus the Apostle

Hebrews 3:1

- Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus
- It is written to "holy brethren" – set apart
- To "partakers of the heavenly calling" – sharers in the heavenly calling
- As such we are to consider and weigh up and give attention to the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus

What the apostles wrote is in the Bible, it is the book of God

The "apostles' creed was a creed written by Bishops

The Bible will tell you about God

When you want to know about Maths you read a Mathematics textbook

If you want to find out about God, read the Bible

We are told to have a confession of Jesus Christ as the Apostle

- Jesus the Apostle is the only foundation – Jesus the Christ is the foundation and He is the Apostle

2 testimonies

a) of Jesus the Apostle

b) of Jesus the High Priest

- Jesus has been preached as the Saviour (only 17 times mentioned in New T)
- Jesus is the Christ is the foundation (mentioned over 550 times)
- Jesus the High Priest gets us up into heaven – into His heavenly presence
- Jesus the Apostle is all about heaven coming to earth

Jesus the Apostle is the builder of the house of God

- as prophesied about the Christ – **2 Sam.7:13**
- **Matthew 16:16-18** – on this Rock (revelation of Christ, the Son of God) I will build My church (house – **1 Tim.3:15**)
- Apostolic task is to build the house of God
- Apostolic role is to make known the Father, the Sender

Apostles come in the name of the one who sends them

- Apostles never come in their own name, or the name of a denomination or group – they come in the name of the One who sends them, Jesus

We are given grace and apostleship

Romans 1:5 - Through Christ, the Messiah, we have received 2 powerful things

- a) **Grace** – enabling power of God

- b) Apostleship** – the gift of the apostle and the power that is innate in that gift (all the five gifts are loaded with grace to release to the Body to see it grow – **Ephesians 4:7-11**)
- This brings nations to the obedience of the faith for the name of Jesus
 - This gift is so powerful, filled with authority and grace to speak to nations
 - Apostleship opens doors to nations
 - Churches are meant to be “apostolic”, not denominational
 - Denominations “fall short”, they miss the mark
 - We need to come back to the apostolic way
 - Apostles represent Jesus Christ

The Role of the Apostle

John 14:9

- Jesus, “show us the Father”
- If you have seen Jesus (the apostle of God), you have seen the Father
- God can open our eyes to see the Father in Jesus

Matthew 10:40

- If they receive you (the apostles), they receive Me (Jesus) and if they receive Me (Jesus), they receive Him (Father) who sent Me
- Receiving the one sent = receiving the One who sent

The apostolic revelation is the revelation of the Father in the Son

- You cannot go to Bible School to become an apostle
- When we say that SHILOH apostolic company sent us, we carry a revelation of the apostolic company
- Apostolic company has no boundaries, it is all about Jesus and the Father
- It is not a network

John 6:29

- This is the work of God – believe in Him whom He sent
- If you believe in Jesus, the Apostle
- If you receive the apostles, you will receive Jesus, the Apostle, the One Sent
- When we are commissioned to go, having received the grace, then through the gift of the apostle, which comes with delegated authority, we are sent ones
- We are sent with grace and apostleship (the delegated authority of the Apostle, Jesus Christ)

We are sent for two purposes

- i)** To reveal Jesus – those who receive us have their eyes opened
- ii)** To build the house of God

- The commissioning of the apostleship commands attention

The mystery is being outworked

- Eyes of people are opened when they receive true apostles
- Revelation flows, people see Jesus, they see the Father in the Son
- People look for mysteries in the wrong places, in Freemasonry and other societies, even Christians get caught up in these places, even their ministers
- But the true mystery is the mystery of Christ being revealed through apostles
- **John 3:34** – He whom God has sent, speaks the words of God, and God does not give Him the Spirit by any measure

Jesus was the Word in the flesh

- **John 1:1, 14** – The Word – became flesh

John 14:21

- If we walk in the revealed Word of God, He will manifest Himself to us, make Himself known
- We have not picked up a “dogma” but we have picked up the Word of God
- Jesus will manifest, make Himself visible in and to us
- **v.23** - even the Father and Son will make their abode with us!

Through opening the Scriptures, Jesus is revealed

Luke 24:13-35

- Jesus was not recognized by these two walking on the road
- They did not “see” Him
- William Tyndale was burnt at the stake for translating the Bible into English. The bishops had him killed because they did not see Jesus in him, that is, because they were antichrist.
- They were like the people in **Acts 7** who killed Stephen
- Stephen was sharing truth; they did not see Jesus in him
- **v.25-26** – slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken
- **v.27** – He expounded in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself
- when they broke bread, their eyes were opened and they “knew Him”
- these disciples were foolish and slow of heart
- Jesus proceeded to give an awesome revelation from the Scriptures and then He opened their eyes to see Him by revelation

Acts 2:42 - Time for us to hear the apostles’ doctrine

John 7:16-17

- My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me
- When we speak the pure Word of God, people come alive
- This is the doctrine of God
- If anyone wills to do the will of God, people will know concerning the doctrine whether we speak from God or not
- Only speak the Word
- We have authority to the degree we accurately represent the Word

v.18 – we are to seek the glory of the One who sends us

- seek the Word and the ones who speak the Word
- If we speak our own message, people may marvel at us and think how wonderful we are (**Eph.4:14** – beware)

When the Word became flesh, we beheld the glory
The glory is revealed when the Word of God manifests in the flesh

John 17:4 - Jesus said He had finished the work He was given to do

- This was the apostolic work he had finished as it was before the Cross

v.18

- Now Jesus could send the apostles He raised up, just as the Father had sent Him
- Just as Father had sent Jesus (the Apostle), now Jesus sends the apostles to represent Him in the world

The Apostolic Work is in the earth

The High Priestly work is in heaven, in that the Blood is on the Mercy Seat in heaven

- There is a work to do in the earth, we have a purpose to fulfill in the earth
- To build the house of God
- To preach the kingdom of God in the earth
- Jesus came to reveal the glory of the eternal God in the flesh
- Jesus is God manifest in the flesh in the earth
- Knowing Jesus as the Sent One is the key to receiving the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God

Appreciating the name

John 17:6 - Jesus manifested the name of the Father to the men he gave Him

John 5:43 – Jesus came in the Father's name

John 10:25 – the works Jesus did in the Father's name

The 3rd commandment is to not take the name of the Lord in vain

- In Old T days the name was "Yahweh", never to be blasphemed
- **Mark 14:62** – Jesus said, "I AM" when asked if He was the Christ, the Son of the Blessed – He is the I AM, Yahweh
- **Jesus carried the name, always representing the Father**
- We are to be faithful to carry the name, never blaspheme the name

Word Wealth John 12:13

- **Name** in Gk 'onoma' is used in classical Greek and Hebrew "*shem*"; *it is used to refer to all that the name implies: rank, authority, character, reputation, representative. 'Onoma' can be used as synonymous with the individual.*
- Jesus' name is synonymous with the Father, He represents the rank, authority, reputation and character of the Father
- There are no distinctions between Jesus and the Father – **John 10:30**

YAHWEH ONE, AND HIS NAME ONE

Zechariah 14:9 - YHWH shall be King over all the earth

- YHWH one, and His name one
- There is a day when YHWH will be king over all the earth
- This is prophetic of changeover of Old to New
- When Jesus had risen from the dead, He told His apostles that "all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" – **Matthew 28:18**

John 18:37 - Are you a king then? For this cause I was born and came into the world

- Jesus openly saying He was a king
- Jesus is the King

Revelation 19:16 - The revelation of Christ on a white horse

- "King of kings, Lord of lords"
- How many King of kings can there be? One

When YHWH is king over all the earth it will be:

YHWH one and His name one!

YHWH will be fully revealed in the King, and His name would be one with YHWH

- Jesus means "YHWH saves"
- In New Testament it is declared that Jesus is the King
- If Jesus has all authority in the earth then that makes Him King over all the earth and the fulfilment of Zechariah's prophecy

Jesus is King now; He is exalted to the right hand of God – **Acts 2:33**

- We are not selling visas to heaven, we are preaching Jesus the Christ, the King

Matthew 28:18-19

- Go and make disciples and baptise them into the name...
- The name (singular) of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Acts 2:38 – be baptised in the name of Jesus the Christ for the remission of sins

- **Only the name of Jesus can take away your sins**

Acts 8:16, Acts 19:5 – the key word is "Jesus"

Jesus is the name that reveals God