

# OUR FINEST HOUR

A LIVING WORD ACADEMY OF LIGHT PUBLICATION



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The more restrictions and loss of liberty that are being enforced, the more we need to lean back into the arms of Jesus. Though His perfect peace overcomes all troubles, that does not mean we do nothing.

We must be pro active and join in with His plan. The commission that was given to Adam, bring Heaven to Earth.

In order to do that, we must join with the armies in Heaven, with our commander and chief Jesus Christ. What did Jesus say? "take up your cross and follow me". Lets follow Jesus and His ways.

Stay strong and trust in the Lord.

Mark Johnson  
14th August 2020

A Living Word Academy of Light  
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PO Box 1123  
Maleny QLD 4552  
Australia

[www.TheAcademy.org.au](http://www.TheAcademy.org.au)

For a Chinese version please contact:  
Glory Ministries  
[info@gloryministries.org.tw](mailto:info@gloryministries.org.tw)  
[www.gloryministries.org.tw](http://www.gloryministries.org.tw)



# THE COMING OF THE GIBBORIM

MARK JOHNSON

His strength is more than enough.  
And with His strength, arises the Gibborim.

**A**s this world continues to collapse into violence and disorder, God continues to provide hope. We must reach into His presence and abide with Him.

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*

*2 Corinthians 4:16*

When we let go of the troubles that surround us, and allow Him to renew our inner man, through spending time in His presence daily, His strength is more than enough. And with His strength, arises the Gibborim.

## **Gibbor**

The noun of Gibborin is Gibbor and it's used over 150 times in the Bible.

Gibbor - strong, mighty, heroes

The Lord is the strong and might one, when we lift Him up in our lives, He enters in, and strengthen us.

*Lift up your heads. O you gates!  
And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!*

*And the King of glory shall come in.*

*Who is this King of glory?*

*The Lord strong and mighty,*

*The Lord mighty in battle.*

*Lift up your heads, O you gates!*

*Lift up, you everlasting doors!*

*And the King of glory shall come in.*

*Who is this King of glory?*

*The Lord of hosts,*

*He is the King of glory. Selah*

*Psalms 24:7-10*

When we fight for God's people, His purposes and His Kingdom, He will strengthen us in the battle. When we stand for righteousness and uphold the standards of the Word, we can receive the strength of the Lord; a supernatural strength that knows no bounds and can overcome all enemies

*Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!"*

Gideon was a Gibborin. The only prerequisite for you to becoming a Gibborin is to be called, be willing and go and fight. Lets face it, you are already called! Now go when the Lord says GO!

**The Gibborin**

Who were the Gibborim? David and his men, Gideon, Samson and many others including Nimrod and the giants found in the Old Testament.

*And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.*

*Genesis 10:8*

*The Nephilim were on the earth in those days--and also afterward--when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.*

*Genesis 6:4*

Just as God has his mighty men, heroes, so too, the satan does. Gibborim are more than just well trained warriors, they are supernatural warriors, empowered by a spiritual source. Whether that be from God or from the satan.

As saved believers in Jesus Christ, that supernatural power is within you. We just need to let God arise within us.

*Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.*

**The Spirit of Might**

*The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*

*Isaiah 11:2*

In the coming days, particularly for the End-Times, the Spirit of Might will be released to empower those called for the End-Time battle. If we do not become a Gibborim, by the empowering of the Spirit of Might, you will be standing in your own strength.

Now is the time to ask for His strength, the Spirit of Might. We fight the little battles now to learn to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. We won't be fighting the giants until we fight the personal battles in our lives, where we learn from our mistakes.

When we learn to let go of what we think we know, and learn to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Then He will release us, then He will empower us with strength from on high.

**Praise**

When we praise Him it releases the power of God in our lives, even when things are going wrong. Praise takes us out of the picture, it lifts us above the circumstances and lets God take control. Praise is an act of surrender, we are surrendering all our battles to Him.

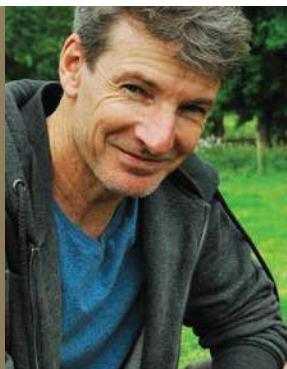
*And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.*

*Exodus 17:11*

*Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.*

*Psalm 144:1-2*

Mark Johnson  
Living Word Academy of Light  
PO Box 1123  
Maleny 4552 QLD  
Australia



www.TheAcademy.org.au



# PSALM 91



BRUCE ALLEN

Unrest, violence and lawlessness is on the rise.  
All of these things have been foretold in scripture.

**W**e are living in a season rife with peril and chaos on a daily basis. So many, including the christian community are fearful and uncertain what the future holds. The increase of natural disasters, wars, and rumors of war seems to be a daily topic of discussion in many parts of the world. Economies have been on the decline with many nations on the brink of a total crash of their economic systems. Pestilence (swarms of locusts), disease (covid-19) and looming famine have many in fear. Unrest, violence and lawlessness is on the rise. All of these things have been foretold in scripture (see Matt. 24 and 25). That being so, why is the christian community living in such uncertainty and fear? Is it because we do not truly know our Redeemer. Do we not truly trust in Him and hold to His word? Have we been feeding on the wrong thing?

Our late dear brother Neville often said that what an individual focuses on, eventually will be activated in their life. If our focus is continually upon what the propaganda media and the world system serves up we will become overwhelmed with the darkness that is trying to overcome us.

Another issue for the christian is the constant disparity of 'prophetic'

words being released. One says, "All is well, we will be blessed and prosperous", and the next prophetic word says, "death and destruction."

Who do we believe? Whom do we listen to? There are so many voices vying for our attention that we become overwhelmed with all the noise of these multitudes.

Lest I become just another voice, let me make this short and to the point: We need to turn to the Lord and His word and cling tightly to Him!

For many years the Lord has been establishing building blocks of truth in my life in preparation for these days. Some of them I've shared, such as Translation by Faith, Releasing the Glory, Incomprehensible Authority to name but a few.

In the last year my heart has been turned back to the Psalms, in particular Psalm 91. The testimonies surrounding this psalm in times of trouble have been awe inspiring. In a number of wars, as platoons and individuals were committed to reading/praying this psalm every day, those soldiers and platoons came through some of the most devastating battles without even a single wound when all around them many died.



God's word is our source of healing, wisdom, peace, protection, direction and the pathway to intimacy with our Lord. God's Word! That is what we need to focus on in this hour! He will make a way where there is no way as He has always done!

Let me say, this is only a dress rehearsal for the days of great difficulty that lie ahead. In this season we can learn where we have missed the mark. What do I mean? Character isn't so much developed under pressure as revealed under pressure? Do you like what you see? I want to include for you a personalized version of Psalm 91 from the Passion Translation that the Lord quickened me to build into my heart. It has brought strength and comfort when I have those times of having to look at what is happening in the earth. I am not moved. Rather I am strengthened and encouraged in the Lord that He brought each one of us to the Kingdom for such a time as this - that we may be the Light in the midst of a great darkness that is trying to descend.

As difficult as these times may seem, the opportunity to know the Lord in unprecedented and revelatory ways has never been more opportune. Call on Him in this hour! Make Jesus your magnificent obsession! Run into His loving embrace and find the shelter you need in this storm!

*Because I sit enthroned under the shadow of Shaddai, I am hidden in the strength of God Most High.*

*He's the hope that holds me and the Stronghold to shelter me, the only God for me, and my great confidence.*

*He will rescue me from every hidden trap of the enemy, and he will protect me from false accusation and any deadly curse.*

*His massive arms are wrapped around me, protecting me. I can run under his covering of majesty and hide. His arms of faithfulness are a shield keeping me from harm.*

*I will never worry about an attack of demonic forces at night nor have to fear a spirit of darkness coming against me.*

*I don't fear a thing! Whether by night or by day, demonic danger will not trouble me, nor will the powers of evil launched against me.*

*Even in a time of disaster, with thousands and thousands being killed, I will remain unscathed and unharmed.*

*I will be a spectator as the wicked perish in judgment, for they will be paid back for what they have done! When I live my life within the shadow of God Most High, my secret hiding place, I will always be shielded from harm. How then could evil prevail against me or disease infect me?*

*God sends angels with special orders to protect me wherever I go, defending me from all harm.*

*If I walk into a trap, they'll be there for me and keep me from stumbling.*

*I'll even walk unharmed among the fiercest powers of darkness, trampling every one of them beneath my feet!*

*For here is what the Lord has spoken to me: "Because you have delighted in me as my great lover, I will greatly protect you. I will set you in a high place, safe and secure before my face.*

*I will answer your cry for help every time you pray, and you will find and feel my presence even in your time of pressure and trouble. I will be your glorious hero and give you a feast.*

*You will be satisfied with a full life and with all that I do for you. For you will enjoy the fullness of My salvation.*

*Psalm 91*

Bruce Allen  
Still Waters International Ministries

PO Box 1001  
Chewelah WA 99109  
United States

StillWatersInternationalMinistries.org



# JOURNEY TO JUSTICE

Kent Mattox



If we go through the hard times with Him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with Him!

Like you, during the global pandemic that is Covid-19, I have had an opportunity for a supernatural reset in my ministerial and private life. We have long understood that just as Romans 8:17-25 tells us: "This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who He is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with Him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with Him! That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be

released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens. All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy."

As our capacities are being enlarged and our expectancy increases so does our anticipation. In the past months Holy Spirit has not only reset my priorities but He has given me a new set of lenses through which to see, a deeper ability to hear and revelation of knowledge to understand God's word in a new and revelatory way. Shawn Boltz recently gave me a

profound word and said, "Kent, God is going to give you a supernatural message from the word of God in the next few weeks and in it will be an anointing that will heal cultural rifts. This word will take you and your congregation to the next place with a new prophetic edge."

As soon as this word was released I began to receive a download of scriptures from the Lord. Then, someone sent me the book *Generous Justice*, by Tim Keller. I do not know who sent it as Amazon delivered it to my door without so much as a note! God does give good gifts to those who love Him! As I have researched this from a novice's perspective, I have begun what I believe is a journey to justice.

In Ephesians 1:15-19 we see Paul's heart for God's people:

*"That's why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn't stop thanking God for you—every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing Him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is He is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life He has for His followers, oh, the utter extravagance of His work in us who trust Him, endless energy, boundless strength!"*

*Ephesians 1:15-19*

What God is actually saying to us is that we need a paradigm shift, if you will, in the way that we think. Even though we are living in strange times, Solomon said it best when he stated, "There is nothing new under the sun." We know that to be true

because there have been plagues and problems from the beginning of time. What this particular crisis offers us is the opportunity for Christianity to find a new expression in the earth. Christianity as we have known it in the past will not be expressed in the same way in the future.

It is so important to God that His Kingdom is expressed with His intentions in this season that He has allowed the entire globe to pause so that He could rearrange our lives and slow us down enough to hear what He is saying so that we can step into this new season. I believe that what God has planned for this generation is so important that He stopped everything so that we would pause and really hear Him and begin to follow Him into this next age.

As we stepped into the Biblical year 5780, or 2020 on our calendar, we stepped into not just a New Year but a new era, a new age. Specifically, we have stepped out of a church age into a Kingdom Age.

Matthew 24:4-18 is really clear about what is happening, "Jesus said, "Watch out for doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities, claiming, 'I am Christ, the Messiah.' They will deceive a lot of people. When reports come in of wars and rumored wars, keep your head and don't panic. This is routine history; this is no sign of the end. Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Famines and earthquakes will occur in various places. This is nothing compared to what is coming.

"They are going to throw you to the wolves and kill you, everyone hating you because you carry my name. And then, going from bad to worse, it will be dog-eat-dog, everyone at each other's throat, everyone hating each other. In the confusion, false





preachers will come forward and deceive a lot of people. For many others, the overwhelming spread of evil will do them in—nothing left of their love but a mound of ashes. Staying with it—that’s what God requires. Stay with it to the end. You won’t be sorry, and you’ll be saved. All during this time, the good news—the Message of the Kingdom will be preached all over the world, a witness staked out in every country. And then the end will come.”

So, yes it is the end of an age, but it is also the beginning of a new age. This is the age in which the Kingdom of God will find its full expression in the earth. Everything that can be shaken is being shaken so we can receive a Kingdom that cannot be shaken. This is a real testing point for us, as followers of Christ, to ask, “Are we in the Kingdom or not? Are we trusting in the world’s kingdom or are we trusting in God’s Kingdom?” That is where we are as a people. Are we living in God’s Kingdom with righteousness, peace, happiness and joy? Or, are we living in the world’s kingdom with confusion, division, stress and anxiety? I am asking the Holy Spirit to help us all, as God’s people and followers of Christ, to shift, refocus, adjust our lens and be enlightened as to the cause of Christ concerning justice.

The nation of Israel was developed as a model through which God would demonstrate His goodness, mercy and grace to other nations of the world. The Israelites were meant to be such a blessed people group that other nations would be drawn to them because of the goodness of God being poured out in a community of people who had been enslaved to Egypt and who were considered to be of little or no value. It is through the nation of Israel the love, mercy and plans of God for the whole earth were meant to be established.

God is working to bring healing to creation and centers on communities of people where His love is shared with other human beings. Jesus came to reveal God’s eternal strategy of healing and as we look at the gospel, we have to see it through the lenses of restorative justice versus retributive justice. This is not justice that condemns wrongdoing, but rather justice that is restorative in nature. People, cities, nations, and governments are meant to function as restorative agents not retribution centers.

We are now in the moment that several Old Testament terms describing this healing strategy are being expressed. Micah 6:8 asks,

*“What does the Lord require of you? Do justice, love kindness.”*

*Micah 6:8*

Psalm 85:10-11 continues,

*“Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet, justice and peace will kiss.”*

*Psalm 85:10-11*

Heaven is invading our realm like never before. What is about to happen is that justice, truth, and peace are about to kiss each other and you and I are going to be right in the middle. That is what God is doing right now. This is what is being revealed in the earth realm as one age ends and another begins.

That is exactly what happens when Jesus steps onto the scene as the Messiah and begins to proclaim Mark 2:17 clarifying God’s strategy as He said,

*“I have not come for the well. I have come for the sick.”*

*Mark 2:17*

We see Jesus administer justice



immediately in His public ministry as He begins to express Psalm 89:14

*Righteousness and Justice are the foundation of God's throne. Steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.*

*Psalm 89:14*

*Hesed* is loving kindness and *sedeca* means righteousness or justice. These are prominent among biblical terms and often cluster together in a mutually reinforcing way. Loving kindness and mercy are not separate. Actually, they are one in the same.

Jesus shows us very clearly that God's strategy for healing is not just for insiders. Healing is for those who are considered to be outsiders. He never viewed sin as an attorney, that we are right or wrong, in or out, as retribution of justice. He viewed sickness or sin as a doctor or a therapist. We are sick or well and that is restorative justice.

In short order Jesus is eating with sinners which caused no small amount of outrage among the Pharisees. Jesus eating with sinners and politicians caused religious persecution and set the stage for a great teaching moment which is this: I have not come for the well. I have come to end a religious system that keeps anyone on the outside of God's plans and purpose.

In Acts 10:38, we read that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth Who went about doing good, healing all who were oppressed by the devil. The whole concept of a community of believers is to be who we are called to be, agents of healing. We are supposed to be healing agents for all of the world just as John 3:16 declares. God so loved the whole world, not only the Tribe of Israel, not just Christians, but the whole world that He gave His only begotten Son. God loves us and wants to bring healing to the nations

of the world. To give evidence of God's Presence Jesus offered direct forgiveness and healed people from diseases that had alienated them from the faith community.

Think about that for just a moment. Jesus shows up and He is not following religious and ritual protocol at all. He is eating with sinners, spending time with tax collectors *and* He has the power to heal. *And*, He is healing with intentionality; He is healing bleeding women who have not had access to the faith community for decades. He is healing blind people who were considered to be cursed so they had no access to the faith community. He is healing lepers, which under the law were unclean. Jesus shows up intentionally healing outsiders who have been condemned to be ostracized because they were considered unclean.

Jesus knows that righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne so He jumps in and charges His followers in Matthew 28:19-20 to do the same.

*"Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave His charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:19-20*

Our mission is not to just introduce people to Jesus or have them be saved, but for them to be healed, made whole and then become part of His army that is called to demonstrate healing and health to our spirits, then baptize and immerse people in the



concepts of the Kingdom of God. What we have learned from Jesus we now teach them. You may ask what happens then? The answer is they experience transformation and become agents of change.

Jesus is not preaching something new. He is actually revealing the heart of the prophets of the Old Testament that were crying out for justice.

Jesus begins to preach this message of inclusion and issuing God's people justice. He challenges His followers in Matthew 6:34.

*"Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."*

*Matthew 6:34*

He talks about the merits of Matthew 20:

*"God's Kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for His vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day, and went to work. Later, about nine o'clock, the manager saw some other men hanging around the town square unemployed. He told them to go to work in his vineyard and he would pay them a fair wage. They went. He did the same thing at noon, and again at three o'clock. At five o'clock he went back and found still others standing around. He said, 'Why are you standing around all day doing nothing?' They said, 'Because no one hired us. He told them to go to work in his vineyard. When the day's work was over, the owner of the vineyard instructed his foreman, 'Call the workers in and pay them their wages. Start with the last hired and go on to the first. Those hired at five o'clock came up and were each*

*given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they got the same, each of them one dollar. Taking the dollar, they groused angrily to the manager, 'These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun. He replied to the one speaking for the rest, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can't I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?' Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first."*

*Matthew 20:1-16*

Jesus is for justice. This is Jesus' message in Matthew 5:44-48.

*"To you who are listening, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you, if someone slaps you on one cheek, turn the other cheek, if someone takes your coat, don't withhold your shirt from them either, give to anyone who asked you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you do not demand it back, do to others as you would have them do unto you. Do even sinners love those who love them? And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners, lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full, but love your enemies. Do good to them and lend to them without expecting anything back. Then your reward will be great in heaven. And you will be children of the highest because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked, merciful just as your father is merciful. Do not judge. And*



*you will not be judged."*

*Matthew 5:44-48*

Judgment brings judgment. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned, forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:38 puts it this way:

*Give justice and mercy and it will be given back to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over.*

*Luke 6:38*

The question is will people measure it back to you and pour it back into your lap. My question is where is that church? Where is the church that is functioning in that measure of anointing? I have come to this conclusion, we all want Jesus' life, but we do not all want to adapt to His lifestyle.

We want to enjoy the benefits of His life without adopting His lifestyle. Jesus' lifestyle was what He taught us to live. His is the lifestyle Jesus called us to walk. In Matthew 7:22 there are those who say to Jesus,

*Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name." He said depart, I never knew you.*

*Matthew 7:22*

Those words, *Lord, Lord* are a Hebraic thought. Anytime someone says, *Lord, Lord*, they are talking about the justice, compassion and the mercy of God.

In Exodus 33, we see as Moses is introduced to God's glory how humbled he was as he said, "The Lord, the Lord God, Lord, Lord the Lord, the Lord God, denoting the attributes of God's mercy, long suffering, patience, kindness, compassion, generosity, and faithfulness. Jesus, in Matthew 7:20-24 21, is preparing His disciples and followers for the reality

of not being completely sold out for the Kingdom:

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name and in Your name drive out demons and in Your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!'"*

*Matthew 7:20-24*

That is strong and specific language. He is God of justice and compassionate love, but He does not know those who do not demonstrate any of these attributes to those who needed Him most, those on the outside of His covenant.

We may be saying, "Lord, Lord," but our lifestyles do not line up with Jesus' mandate for restorative justice. Retributive justice is such an ingrained part of our Western mentality that we believe Jesus paid for our pardon and that is all we need to go on about our lives. However, Jesus never preached that. He is not a way out He is The Way, The Truth and The Life. We want a form of the truth but we do not want to live The Way. In the early church, Truth was not known as a way out. Followers were called the people of The Way because they lived Christ's lifestyle.

In Acts 2 followers of Christ lived The Message of the Cross and the Kingdom of God. People demonstrated the way to live in community because they were taught The Way was not a destination but rather the person of Christ Jesus. Christian Communities birthed healing and restoration to the point that nobody among them lacked. These communities were such a healing agency they were



uplifting the poor, engaging the disenfranchised, had all things in common and full access to homes that were being shared. Cultures began to integrate and different people groups began to identify with one another. Community was birthed that had never been seen before. This prototype is what the church was originally designed to be.

As a culture we have moved far away from the original intentions of the world view and model Jesus demonstrated, exemplified and expected to continue on into perpetuity. Understanding the interpretation and translation of the Hebraic text is very important. New Testament translators render the Greek word for justice as righteousness and unrighteousness. The translation is not far off, but if we do not understand the context properly the word righteousness can cause us to have a predetermined outlook or a view. The language and intention of early church historians becomes very important as we dig deeper. In reality, to truly understand scripture with the right perspective we should read righteousness as justice, and unrighteousness as injustice. Justice and injustice have been translated as righteousness and unrighteousness.

The justice Jesus is talking about goes beyond strict fairness. It includes a generosity that surpasses what is expected without shortchanging His original commitment. He challenges those who question justice and generosity. In Matthew 20 Jesus asked concerning the parable of the day workers, "Are you envious because I am generous. You received the wage we agreed upon. That is the deal I cut with you. Why are you worried about these people? Matthew links justice with generosity toward those most in need.

Again we see a confrontation

between Jesus and the chief priests in Matthew 21:31. Jesus blisters them with this rebuke,

*"Tax collectors and prostitutes all enter the Kingdom before you do."*  
Matthew 21:31

Jesus is very strong as He looked at the religious leaders and said prostitutes and tax collectors will enter the Kingdom ahead of you. The way of justice here refers to restorative, not retribution of justice, a kind of justice that is inclusive and affects healing, not the kind of justice that is exclusive and affects alienation between the haves and the have nots.

Restorative justice and holiness is not the kind of justice that avoids sin, darkness and difficulties. Moreover, it is exactly holiness and justice that is willing to step into the middle of the darkest night of the soul and transform the situation, not avoid it. In Luke 10:25-37 the good Samaritan, the Levite, and the priest all saw the Jewish traveler bleeding and dying but neither of the religious leaders stopped.

In Matthew 23 Jesus Diatribe against the Pharisees of the day is scathing.

*"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees hypocrites. You tithe mint, Dillan cumin, yet you have neglected the matters of the law, justice, mercy, and faith. You take the little bitty things and you pick them apart and neglect the important matters, justice, mercy, and faith."*

Matthew 23:23

Does that remind you of the litany of, "You can't wear this, you can't wear that. Your hair has to be this, nutpicking the external things that matter least instead of the weightier matters of social justice. The final example from Matthew 24:3-14 Jesus describes the



end of the age, "Staying with it—that's what God requires. Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry, and you'll be saved. All during this time, the good news—the Message of the kingdom—will be preached all over the world, a witness staked out in every country. And then the end will come."

This expression of justice turns out to be acts of generosity and compassion.

*"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you helped me. And I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me."*

*Matthew 25:31-46*

Such acts embodied genuine justice in echoing the words of Jesus about His own vocation in Luke 4:16-21.

*"He came to Nazareth where He had been reared. As He always did on the Sabbath, He went to the meeting place. When He stood up to read, He was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, He found the place where it was written, 'God's Spirit is on Me; He's chosen Me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened*

*and battered free, to announce, 'This is God's year to act!' He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on Him, intent. Then He started in, 'You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place.'"*

*Luke 4:16-21*

I am convinced this is the message of Jesus. However, as I stated a few paragraphs ago we want His life, but not His lifestyle. Moreover, He never said, "Worship me" He actually said, "Follow Me." Don't you want to live this way? This lifestyle means come and follow Me, come and learn of Me. My yoke is easy. My burden is light. I will show you how to live the way of justice, the way of walking and working with God to bring about His healing strategy for the world.

This is what Jesus requested. He said, "If you want to follow Me, you are going to have to take up your Cross. If You keep trying to save your own life, in other words, if you keep trying to get your own justice, if you keep trying to defend your own rights, if you keep trying to get things to go your way at the expense of others, you are going to wind up losing your life. But if you will go ahead and lose it, then you will actually find it. Not only here, but eternal life in the world to come."

This is the way of Jesus and the way of justice. This is the healing strategy that will change our lives, families, communities, cities, nation and nations of the world. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you and begin to deposit the grace and faith to fully follow Jesus. The next thing you know, your people, your family, and your sphere of influence and everything around you will begin to be transformed by the healing restorative power of the Holy Spirit.

Kent Mattox  
Word Alive International  
Outreach  
122 Allendale Road  
Oxford, Alabama 36203  
contact@wordalive.org  
256-831-5280



[www.wordalive.org](http://www.wordalive.org)



# THE HARVEST TIME IS SHORT

Bobby Connor

The Lord is going to use mighty signs and wonders  
and marvelous miracles in these days

***// Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it."***

**Amos 9:13**

The year was 1992 the location was somewhere between Moscow Russia and Vienna, Austria I was standing in the aisle of an airplane 33,000 feet above the earth, speaking to one of the world's premier evangelists. My team and I had been in the historic Moscow Crusade with Dr. Billy Graham as he preached the gospel to the multitudes that filled the stadium. I was thrilled beyond words at the sight of thousands rushing forward each night to accept Christ as their personal Savior in response to the message of the cross. Dr. Graham's message of God's redemptive love drew countless thousands to respond to receiving new life and hope (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

Truly there is joy in the presence of God and the Holy Angels over one

sinner that is converted, think of the joy in heaven over this huge massive crowd of saved souls (**Luke 15:10**).

As Billy Graham and I conversed that night in the aisle of the plane, I explained to him how I had received a strong prophetic visitation from the Lord concerning this time of global harvest. I said, "The Lord is going to use mighty signs and wonders and marvelous miracles in these days to win multitudes of souls to Christ (**John 6:1-2**). I will never forget the love and compassion streaming from the voice and eyes of this great man of God as he placed his weathered hand upon my shoulder and looked so deeply into my eyes. Billy Graham said to me; "son I believe every word of that!" His words shot to the very depths of my soul. He continued saying, "Son, I was reared on a farm, and one thing I have learned about harvest time is it is short. Never forget: Harvest time is a short time."

Then Dr. Graham quoted the words of warning concerning delay given from the lips of the Master Harvester—our



Lord:

*"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest?' Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"*

*John 4:35*

Oh, how we must be reminded! The time to reap the end-time harvest is now. We do not have time to waste, nor is there any excuse for waiting. The Scriptures declare,

*"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"*  
*2 Corinthians 6:2 KJV*

The reason we are still here on earth is to share the gospel. Look at what we have to tell: good news. Do not be deceived into thinking that people don't want to hear what we have to report. We have good news to share with them! The Holy Spirit will anoint you to be a real witness of Jesus and His marvelous power and grace to save. *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"* (**Acts 1:8**). God has given you the power to share a clear witness about His Son.

### **All Are Invited**

*"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"*  
*Romans 10:13 KJV*

The word "whosoever" includes everyone and excludes no one. Through the cross of Christ, the door of salvation is open wide for all to come to new life in Jesus. The problem with the harvest is not in the invitation but in the proclamation. This can be seen in the questions Paul raises in Romans 10:14-15:

*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And*

*how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

*Romans 10:14-15*

If people are going to be saved, they must hear the gospel. We have been given a commission by the Lord Jesus. Hear His command in Matthew 28:18-20:

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:18-20*

We are under divine orders to *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"* (**Mark 16:15**). The Apostle Paul reminds us that we should always be ready to tell others about Jesus: *"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season"* (**2 Timothy 4:2**). God's heart is to see a great harvest saved. We are to give a clear message about Christ, yet with a humble and right attitude. When we are sharing with the lost we should never come across like we are somehow superior. We are only what we are because of the grace of God.

Jesus has promised to make us successful *"fishers of men"* if we follow Him (**Matthew 4:19**). It is the Holy Spirit who does the work. We are just the yielded tools in His hands. *"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure"* (**Philippians 2:13**). You are created and empowered by the Spirit to





accomplish great things for the kingdom of God.

### **A Clear and Simple Gospel**

The good news we share with the waiting world should not be vague or complicated. The Scripture teach that Christ Jesus is the only way to heaven (**John 14:6**). Though it has been said that "All roads lead to Rome," never forget that "All religions do not lead to heaven." The gospel brings the lost into a relationship with Jesus, the one who is able to save them completely. The only right covering for our sin is the precious blood of Christ.

We must make sure the gospel we share points to Christ and Him alone.

*"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"*

*Acts 4:12*

Christ is ready and able to save any and all who will, by faith, come to God by Him.

*"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them"*

*Hebrews 7:25*

We also must be careful not to make converts to a religious system, but help bring people into a relationship with the glorious Savior, Christ Jesus. Like Adam and Eve hiding in the fig leaves, man often seeks to run off and hide in the cover-up of man-made religion. No religious system or good works have the power to remove sin and restore a relationship with God. Just as the shedding of blood was required to cover Adam and Eve (**Genesis 3:21**), only the blood of the Lamb is capable of covering our sins.

We must point only to the Lord's atoning work and a relationship with Him, never the dead, dry and rotten covering of man-made religion. One

way to recognize these religious systems is that they make the gospel complex and complicated. Man-made religion will always have a lot of "hoops" we are required to jump through to attain our reward, whereas the gospel is simple and available to "whosoever will."

### **The Harvest Has Begun**

The harvest is not just coming—it has begun! Dennis Balcombe, the pastor of Revival Christian Church in Hong Kong, reports that each day more than 25,000 souls are being won in China. The doors are opening for many to go into China as short-term or long-term missionaries.

Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ reports that Muslims are being converted to Christ in record numbers—not through traditional means of persuasion, but through mighty signs and wonders. Many former Muslims have reported having a "divine visitation" which so impacted their lives that they are now saved and following Christ.

People are now hungry to hear about Jesus—though they are rightfully skeptical of those who come peddling man-made programs with puffed-up personalities. People want to hear about Christ and His power to save, heal and restore.

Recently my wife and I were coming out of a shopping mall in East Texas. There were three or four rebellious-looking teenagers dressed in hyper-punk clothes. The Lord said, "Bobby, go and share Jesus with them." I said, "Lord, they don't look as if they want to hear." Yet the Spirit very firmly said, "Go. Do what you are told to do." I did and was shocked at the response. There was great openness, and soon a crowd of these young people had gathered. I was able to openly and powerfully share Jesus with them. Many of the teens were truly broken and repentant as they gave their lives



to Jesus.

**It is not the harvest that is lacking, it is the reapers.**

Let's all surrender and ask the Lord to make us sharp threshing instruments (**Isaiah 41:15**).

I once was told of an elderly lady who was not able to get out of her bed, yet her heart was burning for souls. She prayed and asked God to provide some way that she could tell others about Christ. Suddenly she saw her telephone—practically her only link to the outside world. She was shut in, but not shut out. She began to call each person in her telephone book, and with a beautiful sweet anointing upon her, she was able to lead more than 8,000 people to receive Christ in one year over the telephone.

#### **Needed: Weepers and Reapers**

We must pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to fall upon our hearts and give us compassion for the lost. As the Psalmist promised, if we sow in tears, we will reap in joy:

*"Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him"*

*Psalm 126:5-6*

The Lord is looking for willing workers to send out into these ripe harvest fields. Not long ago, He spoke this word to the church through a friend of mine:

"I have placed My calling upon you and set you apart for My service. And yet you have also heard another call, for the world has also called your name. With its calling it has promised pleasures—both simple pleasure and sweet delights. You have not rejected My call, you have merely placed it on hold while you examine the other. How long will you waver between two opinions, double-minded and neither hot nor cold? Choose this day to pick up the call that I have given. Your call is waiting!"

Will you answer the call, saying, "Lord, here am I. Send me!" Jesus declares that the harvest is ready. The harvesters are what is lacking.

*"Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'"*

*Matthew 9:37-38*

We must be about the work that God has left us here to do—witnessing to a lost world. Jesus said,

*"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you"*

*John 15:16*

Harvest time is short. It is urgent that we ask the Father to help us bear good fruit—the fruit of increase for His kingdom. Let it not be said concerning our generation:

*"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved"*

*Jeremiah 8:20*

Bobby Conner  
Eagles View Ministries  
P.O. Box 933  
Bullard, TX 75757  
903-894-6481  
manager@bobbyconner.org

[www.bobbyconner.org](http://www.bobbyconner.org)



# WILL YOU MARRY ME



ANDY TIPLADY

Keep falling more deeply in love with the Bridegroom  
who is calling out for His Bride

**W**e are living in exciting times. Right before our eyes we are seeing Biblical prophecies being played out, and they are going to increase one after the other with increasing regularity. For example, look at what has happened in Beirut, Lebanon last week. Two explosions occurred near their most significant port practically obliterating a large portion of the city. Well over 100 people have died and many, many injured. Without question, what happened in Beirut is just one example of the existing reality, as it relates to the Bible. If you want to better understand how the destruction of Damascus will happen in one day, you were just given a window to look through. While thousands of tons of ammonium nitrate were stored in a warehouse in Beirut, without doubt Damascus is drowning in explosives of all sorts, especially those of a chemical nature. Tragic as it is, we have just witnessed how quickly a prominent city can be brought to ruin. Make no mistake, the words of the prophet Isaiah will surely be fulfilled:

*The burden against Damascus.  
"Behold, Damascus will cease from  
being a city, and it will be a ruinous  
heap."*

*Isaiah 17:1*

However, let's not be distracted by the prophetic voices that are permeating our airways. It is almost like everyone is jumping on the bandwagon to get their voices heard. One person says one thing and another voice says the opposite. They seem to totally contradict each other, especially over the Covid 19. I do not want to add my opinion to the mix. We know, from the Scriptures, that something like Covid 19 is just the start of things, the birth pangs, and such events will increase with alarming speed.

Here in Sheffield, England, we have been keeping the main thing, the main thing. So, what is the main thing you may well ask? Very simple. Keep falling more deeply in love with the Bridegroom who is calling out for His Bride to prepare herself for His return. This is every born again, Spirit filled



Christian's purpose and destiny. I need to make myself ready. This is our Father's plan from the start in the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation. A marriage, between His Son and His intended. If you want to know where we should all be, it is:

*When I found the one I love,  
I held him and would not let him go,  
Song of Songs 3:4*

And

*He brought me to the banqueting house,  
And his banner over me was love.  
Sustain me with cakes of raisins,  
Refresh me with apples,  
For I am lovesick.  
Song of Songs 2:4-5*

Don't we all want to be lovesick for His return? We are His Intended. I am His Betrothed. When this church age finishes, and we move into the next this is where I want to be.

*Who is this coming up from the wilderness,  
Leaning upon her beloved?  
Song of Songs 8:5*

Jesus will be coming back for His Bride and we have to make ourselves ready. So how do we start? We have to prepare ourselves in the right order, without jumping ahead or missing anything out. Our Father has a set pattern for marriage preparation, an order and it is good for us to follow His procedure, not our own. We have to be totally 'Kingdom' minded and get out of trying to build our own "thing". However, there is a warning. We are all called to this marriage, but Scripture tells us that not all actually make it. The Parable of the Ten Virgins, five wise virgins and the five foolish in Matthew 25. The five foolish don't make it in. However, Jesus gives

us another warning three chapters earlier:

### **The Parable of the Wedding Feast**

*Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding." '*

*Matthew 22:4*

We are all invited to the wedding. However, Jesus finished the parable off by warning us.

*"For many are called, but few are chosen."*

*Matthew 22:14*

All are invited but are we willing to stick to the procedure and order set out before us? Are we willing to pay the price? Are you willing to pay the price? What's it going to cost you? Everything. Whatever is keeping you from this, pay it now. We must get out of 'Babylon'. It'll be painful. How do I know? I'm in it. I want to have no hold of this world that will cause me to miss this call. I'm not in this for myself. My wife and I are paying the price. We are not in this for what we can get out of it. We're in it because we are in love with the One who has paid the bridal price with His blood because He is in love with us. Jesus will have His Bride.

In Revelation 19 we see this verse.

*He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*

*Revelation 19:13*

We see Jesus coming to make war and fight for His Bride. How do we ascertain this? Because in the preceding verses it is talking about marriage and the bride making herself ready. And it is only when she has made herself



ready, that Jesus returns.

*Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*

*Revelation 19:7*

*Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' "*

*Revelation 19:9*

This is, and has always been, high on our Father's agenda.

*who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

*2 Timothy 1:9*

This is His plan and His purpose, and He will have a Bride for His Son.

So how do we start on this journey? We must enter into and sign a 'Ketubah', a marriage contract, between ourselves and the Bridegroom Father. A marriage contract between two families. There are four steps to this covenant. And as mentioned before, you cannot go to step four without first going to the first step, then the second step, then the third and the fourth step will only be fulfilled at the marriage ceremony. I have been personally taking our church group through this whilst being in lockdown, via Zoom, for the past four months. (These talks are on [YouTube.com/bushfireministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbushfireministries)).

At 2:26 am on the 25<sup>th</sup> July I was taken in the Spirit where I met Neville Johnson. My wife and I love Neville and Jo, and Mark Johnson is a spiritual brother to me, and we are close to the family. Neville shared some very personal things with me that I cannot go into

any detail here. He handed me a scroll and explained what was written in the scroll. He was on an assignment and was very focused. He was very insistent that I pay careful attention to his words, which he had received from the Lord, together with our dear friend Brother Sadhu, who also was given a scroll from the Lord, a couple of days earlier.

In this encounter, Neville shared some key scriptures with me and handed me a scroll with it all written out. It is a mandate to prepare the Bride for His second coming.

*"Remember the Law of Moses, My servant,  
Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel,  
With the statutes and judgments.  
Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet  
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.  
And he will turn  
The hearts of the fathers to the children,  
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,  
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*

*Malachi 4:4*

*As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written:*

*'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
Who will prepare Your way before You.'*

*"Assuredly, I say to you, among those*



*born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*  
*Matthew 11: 7-15*

Then in Matthew 22:1-12 we read that Jesus is coming for His Bride and we are to get ourselves ready. People of God, make sure that you are not found in verse 5:

*But they made light of it and went their*

*ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.*

*Matthew 22:5*

We must be about the Father's business.

Remember the time? 2:26 am. It is a direct link to Revelation 2:26. This is about to happen to those who have overcome.

*And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—*

*Revelation 2:26*

We must overcome for we have to get ourselves ready for His return. Exciting times lie ahead.

Andy Tiplady  
Bushfire Ministries  
Sheffield  
United Kingdom  
andy@bushfireministries.co.uk

www.bushfireministries.co.uk

