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VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3

OUR FINEST HOUR

A LIVING WORD ACADEMY OF LIGHT PUBLICATION



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



We will be hosting Moving Further with the Lord 2024 in Maleny again, coming this February. If you are able to join us we would love to see you at this life changing event. Preparing you for the last days before the return of the King.

We have limited seats for this event, don't miss out, register on our web site. Live streaming is also available.

www.TheAcademy.au

Stay strong and trust in the Lord.

Mark Johnson

29th September 2023

A Living Word Academy of Light
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Jose Roco

Enjoy Your Years of Life



God is asking you personally to rejoice,
because Jesus is coming back again

We have entered the Jewish calendar 5784. It is a time of reflection and renewal.

It may sound strange that God is encouraging us to enjoy the rest of our life years in such a challenging, changing world.

The world promotes better living under its coming one world government and one world religion. But the Bible says tribulation days are ahead.

On the mean time whilst preparing for end time living, let us live according to Gods will and ways.

How can God ask us to rejoice?
Because our salvation draws nigh.

Keep your eyes at things above, for the King of kings and the Lord of lords, Jesus Christ will return to earth from His heavenly domain to rule and reign on earth for 1000 years.

Enjoy Your Years

Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes

to see the sun. So if a man lives many years, let him rejoice in them all. But let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. Everything to come is futile. Rejoice, O young man, while you are young, and let your heart be glad in the days of your youth.

Walk in the ways of your heart and in the sight of your eyes, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment.

So banish sorrow from your heart, and cast off pain from your body, for youth and vigor are fleeting.

Ecclesiastes 11:7-10 (BSB)

I know that some of us are living for our necessities day by day. I know that it has been tough even to the point that you began to question what is the purpose of living. But inspite of all this, God is asking you personally to rejoice, because Jesus is coming back again.

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.



Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NKJV)

You who know Christ or have a deep relationship with Christ, are blessed and your future is bright despite of the days of darkness that you have to confront in the future.

What ever suffering or discomfort you may have to go through on your earthly life time, it is nothing compared to the bliss that you will enjoy during the reign of Christ on earth our Saviour.

Remember darkness cannot swallow the light but the light overcomes the darkness.

During the time of the Lord Jesus on earth, He confronted the priest that they could not discern the times ahead.

Discern the Time

(Matt. 16:1-4)

Then He also said to the multitudes, "Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming'; and so it is. And when you see the south wind blow, you say, 'There will be hot weather'; and there is. Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not discern this time?"

Luke 12:54-56 (NKJV)

For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:13-14 (NKJV)

God is indeed encouraging us all to discern the situation of our life. To know the promises of God who does not change His mind.

The Benefits of Wisdom

My son, if you accept my words and hide my commandments within you, if you incline your ear to wisdom and direct your heart to understanding, if you truly call out to insight and lift your voice to understanding, if you seek it like silver and search it out like hidden treasure, then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God.

For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;

He is a shield to those who walk with integrity, to guard the paths of justice and protect the way of His saints.

Then you will discern righteousness and justice and equity—every good path.

For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will delight your soul.

Discretion will watch over you, and understanding will guard you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perversity,

Proverbs 2:1-12 (BSB)

When God promises something it is a certainty that it will happen. Because He is God. Everything is possible for God.

God's Unchangeable Promise

When God made His promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater to swear by, He swore by Himself, saying, "I will surely bless you and multiply your descendants." And so Abraham, after waiting patiently, obtained the promise.

Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and their oath serves as a confirmation to end all argument. So when God wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of the promise,



He guaranteed it with an oath. Thus by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be strongly encouraged.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus our forerunner has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 6:13-20 (BSB)

Put yourselves in a situation where you can discern the situation of your life.

Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.

Malachi 3:18 (NKJV)

It is a time to reflect and renew our lives in Christ. No matter what happens you will survive in Christ.

Everything that we own or have in this life does not belong to us.

Yes we have work hard for what we have yet I tell you it is not ours.

We all came from God and it all belongs to Him.

To secure what we currently have, we need to give it a purpose.

Use it to further the increase of the Kingdom of God.

Otherwise we will lose it or it will dwindle slowly away and not be replenished.

I know that most of us have accumulated wealth for the future, for our retirement, for our emergencies, for even to leave as an inheritance for our children and grandchildren.

I am not telling you how to use or disperse what you have but if you commit this day for the use of Gods

kingdom, then you will prosper beyond your imagination.

That is why it is easy to rejoice in every thing.

When you find something good, don't you stick to it, well investing in the Kingdom of God is a good thing.

Then you will rejoice. You are giving to God not man.

We are now entering the beginning of the big separation in October 2023

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

Matthew 13:24-30 (NKJV)

The Parable of the Tares Explained

Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who



sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Matthew 13:36-43 (NKJV)

Yes the separation has begun. Your opportunity to be on the right side is upon the whole world.

Decide today and reflect and renew your lives.

The Son of Man Will Judge the Nations

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will

say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

Matthew 25:31-40 (NKJV)

Before I end I want you to get up and give a shout of joy bearing in mind of your gratitude and thanks to God for all He has done.

Amen

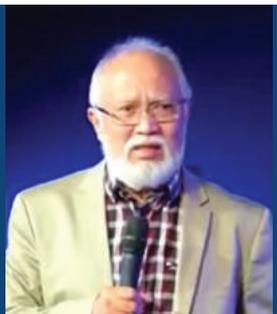
God bless you all..... Ps Jose

Come Lord Jesus Prophetic Conference

Come Lord Jesus is an Australian Christian prophetic movement dedicated in response and obedience to the call of the Lord to prepare and re-align the church and nation for God's destiny in Australia and for the end times move of God in the last days. The movement was started in prayer by the seven (7) churches and ministries in New South Wales, Australia.

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Speakers:

Sadhu Sundar Selvaraj, Bruce Allen, Pax Cordova, Mark Johnson and Laurie Ditto

Session Times:

8:30am-12:30pm, 2pm-5pm, & 6:30pm-8:30pm Daily

Contact:

www.mahanaimlm.com



OUR apostolic prayer assignment

JOE SWEET

He would like “the same drink offering” every day that Hannah, Samuel’s mother, gave to the Lord

In a prophetic experience, I was in a large house I knew represented our local congregation in Lancaster, California. People from our church were moving about inside and outside on the porch and driveway. I was standing in the kitchen when the Lord Jesus came to tell me He would stay and rest at our home. I was thrilled He was there. I did not want Him to leave, so I asked what we could do to make sure He was comfortable and enjoyed His stay. He said He would like “the same drink offering” every day that Hannah, Samuel’s mother, gave to the Lord when she poured out her soul in travail for a male child.

Hannah’s husband, Elkanah, was a worshiper of God (see I Samuel 1:3) who had two wives, Peninnah and Hannah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah was barren, for the Lord had closed her womb.

“And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and

to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the Lord had closed her womb.

And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb.

So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish.

Then she made a vow and said, ‘O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.’

And it happened, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli watched her mouth.

Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

So Eli said to her, 'How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!' But Hannah answered and said, 'No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.

Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now.'

Then Eli answered and said, 'Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.'

And she said, 'Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.' So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad"

1 Samuel 1:4-7, 10-18

God answered Hannah's prayer, and she gave birth to the prophet Samuel. When the Lord told me He desired a daily "drink offering" of prayer, like Hannah prayed for Samuel, I knew by revelation what He meant. Samuel was an overcomer. His name means "name of God." God's name is His character and nature (see *Exodus 34:5-7*). In contrast to the status quo of his day, Samuel walked righteously before God, and his words did not fall to the ground (see *1 Samuel 3:19*). Samuel's life corresponded with a company of New Testament saints who would overcome by walking in the character and nature of the Lord. They would "grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ ... to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (see *Ephesians 4:15, 13*).

The Lord was essentially saying, "If you will give Me this daily intercession, praying for a company of overcomers to be raised up as a prepared bride,

I will answer your prayers by coming and dwelling in your midst. As My glory is seen and experienced among you, you will be changed into My image (see *II Corinthians 3:18*). As you stay in My will and host My presence, multitudes will come from far and near to likewise encounter Me and be transformed" (see *Mark 1:33*).

As the Lord conveyed this mandate, the prayer life of the New Testament apostles came to mind. I knew this was what the Lord wanted. The prayer burden of the apostles was to "present every man perfect in Christ:"

"Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily" (*Colossians 1:28-29*). "My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you"

Galatians 4:19

The apostles watched and followed the prayer example of the Lord Jesus Christ.

They prayed "**continuously,**" "**day and night exceedingly,**" "**always,**" and "**without ceasing**" for the saints to walk worthy of the Lord, to grow to full maturity in Him, and to be found "**blameless**" at His coming.

See II Thessalonians 1:11; Ephesians 4:13,15; I Thessalonians 3:12-13.

This is why the Lord Jesus gave Himself for us:

"Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be



holy and without blemish"

Ephesians 5:25-27

For years, Hannah fasted, wept, and prayed for her barren womb, yet her cry for a child went unanswered. At some point, her prayers changed from asking for a child to fulfill her natural motherly desires to asking for a child to be completely given to God. When she made a vow to consecrate him to the Lord, her prayers were answered. God brought Hannah to a place of consecration. He shut her womb, then waited until she was desperate enough to give her child to Him. God wanted a Samuel. The Lord had a prophet who walked upright before Him in a time when **"the word of the Lord was rare"** and **"there was no widespread revelation"** (see I Samuel 3:1). God used Samuel in a mighty way to go throughout the land with untiring zeal, reproving, rebuking, teaching, and exhorting the people to repent.

In the same way Hannah moved away from praying for her own will to praying for God's pleasure, the Lord is asking His church to pray for what *He* desires. After Hannah gave Samuel to the Lord, God fulfilled her desires and blessed her with three more sons and two daughters (see I Samuel 2:21). Like Hannah, we must first seek His kingdom and will. When we give God what *He* wants first, He will give us all we need and more (see Psalm 37:4; Matthew 6:33).

Rick Joyner had an experience in which he was taken up to heaven for eight hours. He was told he was there because he used a "key." He did not know what "key" he had used, so he asked the Lord, and He told him. Rick said, "It was when I set myself resolutely to do something to bring the Lord joy every day (there are a number of things in Scripture that bring Him joy or 'delight'), that I was

told that was the key to eternal joy. It is the 'joy of the Lord' (not our joy) that is our strength. When we focus on bringing Him joy, we will be happier than we could ever otherwise be."

We have spent too much time asking the Lord for what we want. God wants us to see and understand what *He* wants. He wants us to give Him this daily "drink offering" in prayer for what *He* desires. If we diligently and fervently pray for what *He* wants, we will have the greatest treasure of all: the Lord manifesting His glory in, among, and through us. When we seek first *His* kingdom, He adds everything else (see Matthew 6:33).

Jesus' parable in Matthew 22 is key to understanding the entire Bible, God's eternal plan, and why we were created:

"And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:

'The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.

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.'

But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.

And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.

But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'

So those servants went out into the



highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.

So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.

Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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

Matthew 22:1-14

God the Father is the King, the Lord Jesus is the Son, and we are those called to the wedding. God has invited everyone to the wedding, but not everyone cares enough to prepare or come.

The kingdom of heaven is like the Father arranging a marriage for His Son. The apostles understood this. Paul conveyed this to the saints in Ephesus and Corinth.

"Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish"

Ephesians 5:25-27

"For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from pure devotion to Christ"

II Corinthians 11:2-3

Pure devotion and sanctification to Christ is required as part of the bride's preparation.

"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. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints"

Revelation 19:7-8

Not all believers will become part of the company of saints that comprise the bride of Christ. The Lord Jesus said, **"Many are called, but few are chosen" (see Matthew 22:14)**. Being part of His bride requires intentional preparation. The bride, not allowing herself to be corrupted or led away by distractions (see II Corinthians 11:2-3), **"made herself ready" (see Revelation 19:7)**.

We can have varying levels of relationship with the Lord. How close we walk with the Lord is up to us. Jesus taught that we can have varying degrees of fruitfulness in our lives according to our response (or lack of response) to His Word.

"But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty"

Matthew 13:23

Some believers are offended that other Christians will have more fruit and consequently a greater eternal glory and reward, or that some Christians will overcome, while others will not. Yet that is what the Lord Jesus taught. Eight times while addressing the churches in Revelation, He promised great blessings to those who overcame. This implies some will not overcome (see Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7). The choice is ours,



and the time to prepare is now.

In the prophetic encounter I received, the Lord asked for fervent, steadfast, intercessory prayer to raise up a bridal company of fruitful, hundredfold saints who would overcome by bearing His nature and doing His works.

"My little children for whom I travail again [travail is intense prayer] until Christ is formed in you"

Galatians 4:19

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God"

Colossians 4:12

There are at least twenty-five apostolic prayers recorded in the New Testament that reveal God's wisdom and will for His church. Most of these prayers are about raising up a church that walks worthy of God, is fruitful in His will, is knit together in love, and walks holy and blameless before Him.

God longs for such a church. The Lord asked us to pray the way the apostles prayed, fervently and steadfastly, so He can have what He paid for:

"a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish"

Ephesians 5:27

The apostle Paul taught spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6, but the way Paul warred against "**principalities and powers**" was quite different from the way most modern Christians pray. Paul acknowledged the powers of the air that are against the church but he was not focused on them. His focus was on praying for the saints to become all they were called to be.

He instructed us to put on all the armor of God, then take

"the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints"

Ephesians 6:17-18

Paul taught us to take the Word of God and pray. Notice he did *not* say, "pray against the powers of the air," but rather pray always with all perseverance for all the saints.

That's what Jesus did. Satan asked if he could sift Peter. Satan had to get permission from the Lord to sift him. Permission was granted. Then, notice Jesus did not say, "Peter, I am praying against the devil." Instead, He said,

"Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren"

Luke 22:31-32

Jesus' prayer for Peter was not focused *against* the devil but *for* Peter. Jesus prayed for Peter, and when Peter's faith became strong, he overcame. Paul taught us to overcome the powers of wickedness the same way, by praying "**always with all perseverance for all the saints.**" When God's character and nature are fulfilled in the saints, we overcome evil powers.

Just before Jesus was betrayed, He said, "*the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me*" (see John 14:30). We should walk in the same way that Jesus did, so the devil has no place in us.

By praying apostolic prayers, as



recorded in the New Testament (which is the sword of the Spirit and the Word of God), we are praying God's perfect wisdom back to Him for the church. By these prayers, grace is released for the church to ,

"grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ ... to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"

Ephesians 4:15, 13

As the church grows up in Christ, like our Master, we can say,

"The ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me"

John 14:30

Daniel took the sword of the Spirit and prayed with all perseverance God's promises for God's people. He read Jeremiah's prophecy in Jeremiah 9:2-3 containing God's promise. He took that word, the sword of the Spirit, and prayed it back to God with all perseverance (see I Timothy 1:18). He focused on praying God's promise for God's people.

Daniel may not have known a principality was resisting him or its name. He did not need to focus on the enemy but on the Lord of armies! As Daniel persisted to pray for God's people, using the Word of God as a sword, breakthrough came.

That's how the apostle Paul prayed for God's people and how we, too, will overcome. We overcome by becoming who we were intended to be, so the enemy can find nothing in us. As we become obedient and morally excellent, God crushes the devil under our feet.

"For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be excellent in what is good,

and innocent concerning evil.

And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly"

Romans 16:19-20

Just as with Christ, the powers of darkness will find no place in a body of people who are conformed to Christ. Just as demons screamed in terror when the Lord Jesus came around, principalities and powers can be displaced by overcoming saints.

The apostles understood the call of God to *"present every man perfect in Christ"* (see Colossians 1:28-29) and knew intercessory prayer and sanctification by the Word were the means and grace to get us there.

The apostles prayed "night and day exceedingly" for the saints' faith to be perfected and for their love to abound, so they could be established blameless in holiness.

"Night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith"

I Thessalonians 3:10

"And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints"

I Thessalonians 3:12-13

The results of their prayers are seen in II Thessalonians, written a year or two later:

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and



tribulations that you endure”
II Thessalonians 1:3-4

Fervent, steadfast prayer according to the Word of God—taking the sword of the Spirit and praying with all perseverance for all the saints—releases the abundant grace of God for the body to grow up into the full stature of Christ.

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God”
Colossians 4:12

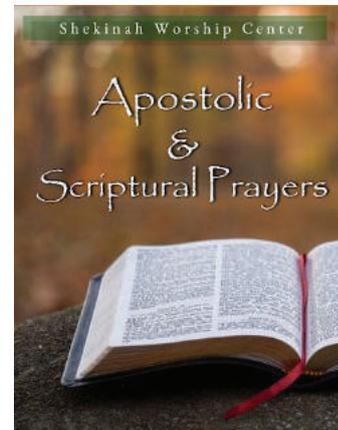
The church in Acts prayed daily (see Acts 2:46), continuously (see Acts 1:14; 2:42, 12:5), steadfastly (see Acts 2:42), and in one accord (see Acts 1:14, 4:24). Jesus taught us to pray always and not faint (see Luke 18:1-8) and to pray always to be counted worthy (see Luke 21:36). The apostles taught us to pray always with all prayer and perseverance (see Ephesians 6:18), continue steadfastly in prayer (see Romans 12:12), and pray without ceasing (see I Thessalonians 5:17).

As a continual stream of prayer goes up, a continual downpouring of God’s mercy, grace, and help comes down. The praying church has God’s power to overcome all things.

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need”
Hebrews 4:16

Our prayer mandate from the Lord is to give Him this daily “drink offering” of prayer for the church, praying He gets what He longs for: a glorious church, beautiful in holiness and about the Father’s will. In this prophetic experience, the Lord also said if we would give Him this daily

prayer offering, He would answer our prayers by dwelling in our midst (see Ephesians 2:19-22). By beholding His glory among us, we will be changed into His image. When the Lord is in the house, multitudes will come from near and far to meet Him, be changed, and leave transformed, carrying His holy presence and power (see Mark 1:33).



Our church has put together an *Apostolic & Scriptural Prayer* manual that is a compilation of scriptural prayers for the church to become what the Lord has called us to be.

You may find it at:
shekinahworship.com/shop-bookstore



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If our lives are thoroughly yielded to Christ the King—in a sanctified spirit, soul, and body—we can expect ever-increasing light

Now it's time for the good news. God desires to direct His people in a clear pathway. This marvelous promise is given to us.

"Moreover, by a pillar of cloud You led them by day, and by a pillar of fire by night to light the way they should go".

Nehemiah 9:12 (AMP)

There is more good news! If our lives are thoroughly yielded to Christ the King—in a sanctified spirit, soul, and body—we can expect ever-increasing light (see Isa. 60:2).

The way to access this Divine Light and then maintain His great peace is to prayerfully study the Holy Bible. Consider this promise.

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them".

Psalms 119:165 (KJV)

In these days of deep deception, we must have true discernment to

distinguish good from evil and evil from good. This discernment is given to us freely and generously by God's Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

"Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Psalms 119:104-105

This truth is amplified again.

"The entrance and unfolding of Your words give light; their unfolding gives understanding (discernment and comprehension) to the simple".

Psalms 119:130 (AMP)

Open your heart to let God's light permeate the darkest regions of your mind, will, and emotions—to sanctify them and wash them by His Word and Spirit, bringing your entire spirit, soul, and body into alignment with Christ Himself (see Eph. 1:17-18). His will is to be your will. His emotions should be your emotions. His thoughts should be your thoughts. Only as our souls are



sanctified—through repentance—and thus come into agreement with the Word of God will we discover the direction we seek.

God is preparing overcomers—confident, bold, brave, and mature children of God who fully manifest His love and will on the earth. Let your thirsty soul drink deep from these powerful prophetic promises that are revealed in Psalm 18:28-36:

For You will light my lamp; The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?

Psalm 18:28-36

It is God who arms me with strength,
And makes my way perfect. He
makes my feet like the feet of deer,
And sets me on my high places.

He teaches my hands to make war,
So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
You have also given me the shield of Your salvation;
Your right hand has held me up,
Your gentleness has made me great.
You enlarged my path under me,
So my feet did not slip.

Stand Strong on a Firm Foundation in a Shaky World

Give close attention to the last phrase of Psalm 18:36:

“You enlarged my path under me, so my feet did not slip.”

Psalm 18:36

This promise is to those who are walking in God's light, those who are covered by God's powerful shield of protection. God promises to give us

a firm foundation in shaky times, and He also promises make our feet like those of a mountain deer, able to not only stand on this firm foundation, but scale the highest heights of the Spirit—above the chaos of this world. Christ warns us that if we build our lives on shifting sands, instead of the solid rock of God's Word, we can expect devastation (see Matt.7:24-29).

The Spirit of God has set before us guidelines for releasing Divine Wisdom to us in order to help us navigate safely during these dark, dangerous days. What is the pathway to true Divine Wisdom? It's not a process or a pattern or a methodology—but a Person, Christ Jesus (see John 8:12). The light and wisdom we seek are not to be found in human programs or our own psyche and good intentions, but rather in the person of Christ Jesus.

Consider...

“For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light”.

Psalm 36:9 (AMP)

Meditate on...

For You cause my lamp to be lighted and to shine; the Lord my God illumines my darkness. For by You I can run through a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect! The word of the Lord is tested and tried; He is a shield to all those who take refuge and put their trust in Him. For who is God except the Lord? Or who is the Rock save our God.

Psalm 18:28-31 (AMP)

The first step out of darkness and despair is simply asking for God's grace and guidance. Sincerely seek His direction and His will above your own. We must desire to walk in God's light (see 1 John 1:5). Asking is key; we



have not because we ask not. If we ask, we shall receive. As we seek, we shall find; it is as sure as the sun rising in the morning (see Luke 11:9). God is faithful to His Word. He is generous beyond what anyone can imagine, and our generous, loving, and kindhearted Father longs to release superb wisdom to each of His children.

You are not the exception! Believe what the Scripture says.

If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of the giving God [Who gives] to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding, and it will be given him .

James 1:5 (AMP)

The Spirit of God said to me, "I have good news for you to share with God's people!" I was so encouraged by His words. God then declared: "I am preparing to answer Paul's prayer recorded in Colossians!"

Study this outstanding prayer.

Which has come to you. Indeed, in the whole world [that Gospel] is bearing fruit and still is growing [by its own inherent power], even as it has done among yourselves ever since the day you first heard and came to know and understand the grace of God in truth. [You came to know the grace or undeserved favor of God in reality, deeply and clearly and thoroughly, becoming accurately and intimately acquainted with it.]

You so learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ in our stead and as our representative and [yours. Also he has informed us of your love in the [Holy] Spirit.

For this reason we also, from the day we heard of it, have not ceased to

pray and make [special] request for you, [asking] that you may be filled with the full (deep and clear) knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom [in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God] and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things— That you may walk (live and conduct yourselves) in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him and desiring to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God [with fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, [acquaintance, and recognition].

[We pray] that you may be invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, [to exercise] every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance) with joy,

Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the [portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's holy people) in the Light.

Colossians 1:6-12 (AMP)

Join Paul in his prayer, asking to be invigorated and strengthened with all power so that you may bear fruit in every good work and steadily grow and increase in fuller, deeper, and clearer insights into the ways and works of God!

It is imperative that we all take a strong stand. We must make up our minds to not continue to stumble about in the confusion that seems to gridlock this culture. Rather, we must walk with God-given goals and aims and His divine purpose. We're not to be vague, thoughtless, and distracted during these end-time days. We can and must discover great guidance and guidelines for living day by day,



possessing the wisdom that God is offering to us.

Paul, in Ephesians 5:15-17, offers the church a most severe warning:

Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil. Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (AMP)

God's promises of continual guidance and provision are sure. In Nehemiah 9:20, He says, "You also gave Your good spirit to instruct them, and withheld not Your manna from them, and gave water for their thirst" (AMP). God will direct you as you yield and follow. Don't attempt to lean on your own human understanding. This is simply not good enough. Determine in your heart to cast off every weight and pull down every high thing, every thought and imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of God (see 2 Cor. 10:5), and choose to fully follow the ways of God.

In Psalm 32:8, the Lord again makes this promise of guidance:

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go: I will guide you with My eye." The Holy Spirit, the revealer of genuine truth, the upright guide, will give clear direction as we seek Him and wait upon His guidance.

Psalm 32:8

Consider...

But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole,

full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].

John 16:13 (AMP)

The last phrase is extremely significant for today: "... and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future]." The entire world seems to be seeking this revelation, asking, What does the future hold? As followers of Christ the King, we have the answers! However, we must hear the warning from Jesus.

But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to [the business of] this life, and [lest] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose...

Luke 21:34

We must position ourselves in the place of purity and humility so that the Lord may entrust us with this impartation of Divine Wisdom—the wisdom from above. Ask God to release a greater wisdom, as we are instructed to do in James 1:5. Ask the Holy Spirit of God to awaken your heart and life to respond to these critical times. It is truly the time to awaken to the reality of the Kingdom. It is time to heed this warning of Romans 13:11-14. The night is far gone and the day is almost here!

Besides this you know what [a critical] hour this is, how it is high time now for you to wake up out of your sleep (rouse to reality).



For salvation (final deliverance) is nearer to us now than when we first believed (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Christ, the Messiah). The night is far gone and the day is almost here. Let us then drop (fling away) the works and deeds of darkness and put on the [full] armor of light. Let us live and conduct ourselves honorably and becomingly as in the [open light of day, not in reveling (carousing) and drunkenness, not in immorality and debauchery (sensuality and licentiousness), not in quarreling and jealousy.

But clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and make no provision for [indulging] the flesh [put a stop to thinking about the evil cravings of your physical nature] to [gratify its] desires (lusts) (AMP).

We must clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and make absolutely no provision for the flesh! Let us sanctify our hearts this day before the Lord and look up, for our redemption draws nigh!

Amen!

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DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

BRUCE ALLEN

Are people who are divorced and remarried
to another living in adultery?

When we study what Jesus said about divorce, we must also study the life He lived among those of broken marriages, as well as what he taught about Jewish law, especially their divorce law.

The scriptures say.

“Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.”

Luke 16:18

And yet we find that Jesus' actions seem to contradict His words when he sent the woman at the well into Samaria to be His witness. The big question is; Are people who are divorced and remarried to another living in adultery? Are they forbidden service to Christ? 1 Timothy 3:2 states, “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach.” Is this speaking of a person who has been divorced and remarried?

Luke records only one very concise comment on this subject:

“And it is easier for heaven and earth to

pass, than one tittle of the law to fail. 18 Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.”

Luke 16:17-18

When asked by the Pharisees in the Gospel of Mark,

“Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?” Jesus answered, “What did Moses command you?”. “They said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement”.

Mark 10:2-4 (Paraphrases mine)

There is a law. The law is found in Deuteronomy 24:1-2, and at the time Christ lived, Flavius Josephus, who also lived then, paraphrased it and referred to it as the “law of the Jews”:

“He that desires to be divorced from his wife for any cause whatsoever, (and many such causes happen among men), let him in writing give assurance that he will never use her as his wife any more; for by this means she may be at liberty to marry another husband, although before this bill of divorce be given, she is not

to be permitted so to do..." (Antiquities of the Jews (The Life and Work of Flavius Josephus), Book IV, Ch. VIII, Sec. 23, p. 134).

This is the law from Deuteronomy:

"When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. 2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife."

Deuteronomy 24:1-2

The law was still around in the time of Christ. We must, therefore, deal with the "tittles" of the law. The Bible only records one divorce. God said He did it! In Jeremiah 3, God reminded Judah that she was heading for trouble. Israel had already been taken captive. God told Jeremiah to warn Judah that she had witnessed her sister Israel's infidelity and had seen God give her a bill of divorce and send her away; and yet she did not fear (Jer. 3:6-8).

Many men of old married more than one wife, and without bothering about divorce. Some of these were God's servants: Solomon, David, Abraham, and Esau, for example. Heroes of God's revelation, but also products of their culture. If a man did not divorce his wife he would put her away. There is a word for that in the Old Testament, the Hebrew word 'shalach'. It is different than the Hebrew word for divorce, which is 'keriythuwth'. 'Keriythuwth' (Jeremiah 3:8) literally means 'excision, a cutting of the marital bonds'; legal divorce was written, as commanded in Deuteronomy 24, and permitted subsequent marriage. 'Shalach' is usually translated 'to put away'. Women were 'put away' when their men married others, 'put away' to be available if needed or wanted again, 'put away' to become mere property, as slaves, or 'put away' in total dismissal; it was a cruel system. They were 'put away' in favor of another, but not given a divorce and the right to marry again. This word (Shalach) described a cruel tradition, common, but contrary to Jewish

law.

Some of the hardships women experienced who were 'put away' can be seen as this Hebrew word 'shalach' is described in the Langenscheid Pocket Hebrew Dictionary (McGraw-Hill, 1969); "to let loose, roaming at large, to be scared, abandoned, forsaken".

J. B. Phillips, in his book of meditations For This Day (Word, 1975) wrote: "The Christian faith took root and flourished in an atmosphere almost entirely pagan, where cruelty and sexual immorality were taken for granted where slavery and the inferiority of women were almost universal, while superstition and rival religions with all kinds of bogus claims, existed on every hand."

God hated this 'putting away.' Malachi the prophet broken-heartedly pleaded with God's people to stop the practice.

"Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. 15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. 16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously."

Malachi 2:14-16

The word translated 'putting away' in Malachi 2:16 is not the Hebrew word for divorce but it is 'shalach' – 'put away.'

Jesus said the same thing.

"Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."

Luke 16:18

Whoever 'putteth away' his wife (husband) commits adultery! This practice



was cruel and was adulterous, but it was not divorce. This New Testament word, translated 'put away' is a form of the Greek word 'apoluo'. It is the word in Greek which parallels the Hebrew word 'shalach' – 'put away.'

The Old Testament Hebrew word for divorce, 'keriythuwth', and the New Testament Greek word, 'apostasion' also parallel. The Arndt-Gingrich Lexicon of the New Testament cites usage of the word 'apostasion' as the technical term for a bill or writing of divorce as far back as 258 B.C.

'Apoluo', the Greek word for 'putting away', was not technically divorce, though often used synonymously. In that age of total male domination men often took additional wives and did not provide written release when they forsook wives and married others. The Jewish law demanding written divorce in Deuteronomy 24:1-2 was largely ignored. If a man married another woman, so what? If a man 'put away' (apoluo) his wife without bothering with a written divorce, who was going to object? The woman?

Jesus had some objections. He told them that this earth would pass away before the law requiring a written bill of divorce should fail (Luke 16:17). And He said when you put away a wife (without a written bill of divorce), and marry another (while still married), you are guilty of adultery. And the woman who is 'put away' though abandoned, is still married. She would commit adultery if she married again (Luke 16:18) just as the man has done.

The distinction between 'put away' and 'divorce,' between the Greek 'apoluo' and 'apostasion' is critical. Apoluo indicated that the women were enslaved, put away, with no rights, no recourse; deprived of the basic right to monogamous marriage. Apostasion ended marriage and permitted a legal subsequent marriage. The paper makes the difference.

"...then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. 2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go

and be another man's wife."

Deuteronomy 24:1b – 2

There are passages other than Luke 16:17-18 above where Jesus spoke on this matter. They include Matthew 19:9, Mark 10:10-12 (where Mark records that Jesus laid down the same law for women as for men), and Matthew 5:32. Jesus used a form of the word 'apoluo' (put away) eleven times in these passages. In every passage he forbade 'apoluo' or 'putting away'. Not once did He forbid giving 'apostasion', a written divorce, required by Jewish law.

Of the eleven times this word 'apoluo' is used in one instance it was translated 'divorce' instead of 'put away'.

"But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away (Strong's No. 630) his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced (Strong's No. 630) committeth adultery."

Matthew 5:32

That eleventh instance seems to be the source of misunderstanding today. In 1611 in ONE place the King James translators wrote 'divorced' instead of 'put away' in the same verse. (Again, Strong's # 630 in Matthew 5:32)

Matthew 19:3-10 records the Pharisees taunting Jesus about this matter, asking him,

"Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" He responded that marriage is a permanent relationship and said, *"Whatsoever God hath joined together, let not man put asunder"*.

Matthew 19:6

They then asked, "Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement (apostasion), and to put her away?" (Matthew 19:7). Jesus answered, *"because of the hardness of your hearts!"* (Matthew 19:8). Jesus told those men that to put away a wife and to marry another was adultery! The law (Deuteronomy 22:22) called for the death penalty for adultery, for both the woman and the man! That was bitter medicine for men who did as they pleased with women.



Matthew 19:10 records their shock:

"If the case of a man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry."

Matthew 19:10

They did not live in a culture wherein a man was expected to live with only one woman for life, much less give her equal marriage rights.

How did we ever begin to read "whosoever divorces his wife" into those places where Jesus literally said "whosoever puts away, or abandons, his wife?" It may be that one place where *apoluo* was mis-translated 'divorced' in 1611 started the whole process.

God hates divorce. There is no question in that regard. And we know from the word of God that it is because of the hardness of heart that divorce occurs. However, divorce is not the unpardonable sin! The blood of Jesus cleanses us from ALL unrighteousness. Most traditions today teach in essence that the blood of Jesus cleanses from all unrighteousness EXCEPT divorce!

Can a divorced person be ordained as a deacon or a preacher? The Apostle Paul, who was a well educated man in the Law of Moses, knew the Greek word for divorce (*apostasion*) and knew his culture. He also knew Christ would accept anyone, even him, the "chiefest of sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). Unquestionably some early converts had multiple wives, slave wives, and concubines. Each of these relationships, though given the nicer title, polygamy, was adultery. Paul rejected

the heads of such households as leaders in the church. The command to give a writing of divorcement in Deuteronomy 24 limited a man to only one wife and thus prohibited polygamy and the adultery inherent in it. Paul seemed to concur fully when he said, "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife" (1 Timothy 3:2). He rejected polygamy, not divorce.

As opposed to putting away, written divorce, commanded by the law, provided a degree of human dignity for women subjected to cruel abuse, adulterous polygamy, and the whims of hard-hearted men. Nothing so flimsy as an oral "I divorce you" would do. Divorce declared the legal end of a marriage, thereby precluding any charge of adultery or bigamy should either party ever marry again. Divorce severed all marital ties and all control by the former spouse. Divorce demanded strict monogamy. Divorce prevented unilateral dismissal and preserved the basic right to be married. Divorce does the same today. Abandonment, desertion, putting away, or whatever one calls that hard-hearted forsaking of one spouse for another, without divorce, was and is forbidden by the Lord Jesus himself (Mt. 19:9; Mt. 5:32; Mk. 10:11-12; Lk. 16:18).

For centuries much of the Christian community has interpreted these teachings of Jesus to say:

- 1) Divorce is absolutely not permitted, or at best, is permitted only in the case of admitted or proven adultery.
- 2) A divorced person is not allowed to marry again.
- 3) A divorced person who does marry again lives in adultery.
- 4) A person who is divorced cannot be ordained as a deacon or a minister. Every one of these beliefs is wrong.

The first three are contrary to Mosaic Law and are based on scripture in which Jesus did not even use the Greek word for divorce (*apostasion*); the fourth is based on scripture in which Paul did not use it. The word Jesus used was '*apoluo*', to 'put away.' This was the problem with which Jesus dealt; putting away, not divorce.

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Why Study The Book Of *Daniel*

Andy Tiplady

Daniel writes some crucial end time prophecies that concern our days

As I write this article, I am taking a few faithful people through the Book of Daniel. (We finished the Book of Revelation earlier in the year). I want to look at the question of, "why study the Book of Daniel?"

I want to give five reasons:

Firstly, most would agree, we are living in the 'end of days' so we need to be studying eschatology, meaning the study of the last things. (Escha is Greek for "last" or "farthest," as in the last thing on a spectrum, and ology always means "the study of.")

We need some Biblical understanding of the days we are living in. Daniel writes some crucial end time prophecies that concern our days, so we must pay them close attention and study.

Daniel 2:28 (NKJV) "But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar **what will be in the latter days**. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed,

were these:

This is Nebuchadnezzar's first dream of the Head of Gold etc. We are told that this dream is for an end time generation. If we misinterpret this dream, then by the time we get to the end, our personal eschatological understanding will be completely off and we will be looking in the wrong direction. The 'Legs of Iron' is biblically and historically not Rome. I present the facts for this on our Co42 app under 'Bible Study – The Book of Daniel.' Listen to it and make your own minds up. Using just one verse, biblically and historically proves that the legs and feet are not, and can never be, Rome. So, who is the best candidate? Well listen and do your own study and then make your own minds up.

I believe God wants a body of people to be prepared and gain a deeper understanding of this Book, and God wants to give it to a body of people who are hungry to have understanding of the days we live in.

Daniel answered and said: "Blessed



be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what [is] in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

Daniel 2:20-22 (NKJV)

Daniel is told twice to seal the book up.

“And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For [it refers] to many days [in the future.]”

Daniel 8:26 (NKJV)

And

“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Daniel 12:4 (NKJV)

But look at the preceding verse:

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

Daniel 12:4 (NKJV)

There will be a company of people, “The Friends of the Bridegroom”, who will get so much light on them and will shine with the message and expectation of the Bridegroom coming for **His people** and **His Bride**, who makes herself ready **in** the last seven years. And I stress **“in”** and not **“out”**.

*“Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; **but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out [great exploits.]** (Emphasis mine)*

Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)

Strong's #5640 : shut up” means ‘to stop’, ‘to shut up a message’, ‘to keep it a secret’ ‘or even; ‘to store in a treasury’. These definitions have

more meaning for us than simply to ‘shut up’, since it implies that those who are hungry for the truth will gain increased revelation in these coming days. God always has His voices, His remnant hidden in the wings for a time such as this that we are about to enter into.

Secondly, again there will be a voice who will shout, cry out for, sing and proclaim the second coming of our Lord with the ‘Maranatha’ cry of “Come Lord Jesus Come.” And only then will the following Biblical event occur.

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become [the kingdoms] of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

This cry will intensify with a massive crescendo while the earth is at its darkest time in history both for the Jewish people and for those (including us) who side with Israel.

And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)

Notice, it is the Spirit and the Bride who cry out with this Maranatha cry. This is going to get stronger and stronger as we see this day approaching. We must start now. We want the return of King. We want our Bridegroom's return, don't we?

Thirdly, Daniel identifies who Jesus is in Daniel 7:13 as ‘the Son of Man’.

“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

Daniel 7:13

Jesus referred to Himself as the



'Son of Man' 78 times, which the scholars would have recognised and understood out of the book of Daniel as the one 'coming with the clouds of heaven to the Ancient of Days'.

Each time Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man, He was clearly stating His divine connection with God. This greatly angered the Pharisees and Sadducees, causing them to view Jesus as a blasphemer.

You see, this is not any old son of man, but He is "The Son of Man" = 'Kingship'. This is why the Pharisees and Sadducees killed Him. They saw Jesus as a blasphemer.

Fourthly, Jesus Himself tells us to study the Book of Daniel.

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Matthew 24:15-21 (NKJV)

We want to know the answers to some of these questions that the disciples asked, mainly, "when is the end of the age?" and "what are the signs of your return?". Ezekiel, Zechariah, Hosea, Isaiah, Joel, (and I could go on), are full of eschatology. They are rich and overflowing with it, but Daniel is on a different level.

We each have our own personal eschatological understanding, and we know there are many different opinions on the study of end times.

What's important however is that our understanding is not based simply on what other men or women say, or even a denomination, but we want an eschatology based on what the Bible states and which lines up with Jesus' eschatology in Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13. Jesus clearly tells us that these events will happen only at the end of the age, as we know it, before the Kingdom Age, at His return.

Fifthly, Jesus emphasises realities that will take place on a global scale, both good and bad. We know from Daniel 7:13 that there will be a representation of "all peoples, nations and languages" which is echoed in Revelation 7:9. There will be a great harvest in these end days that will not be run by a man or a church, but by God. This will come.

Daniel's 70 weeks prophesy, especially the 70th week, the last seven years, is crucial for us to gain further understanding, and also Daniel 8 and the coming wars and kingdoms clashing, especially in the Middle East Basin.

Just look at Daniel 11 which tells us the outline of the last seven years, where he even details the countries that are there now and their coming roles, such as Egypt, Kittim/Cyprus, Cush, North Africa, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia. These are all in the Mediterranean basin, which will impact millions of people, especially Israel. "Daniel, concerning your people."

Sixth reason. We must understand these end days and Daniel certainly helps us. Look at Daniel 8.

So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision [refers] to the time of the end." Daniel 8:17 (NKJV)

We are told that this vision concerns the end of days.



The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which [men] deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I cannot, for it [is] sealed."

Isaiah 29:11 (NKJV)

We are told here that we can read the Book of Daniel, but its full understanding is hidden. However there will be an end time generation that will gain full understanding of these events described in Daniel.

Take Daniel 11 especially from 2-35, and if we read it only from a preterist mindset, then these 135 events have already happened in history. On one hand one could say yes, but what happens if these are also future events that take place within the last seven years. You can read it as these events listed have already happened but miss the clear implications of its meaning now and how these events will have an impact on the whole world, especially Israel, in the last seven years.

These visions, dreams and prophecies are only meant to be fully understood by an end time generation. If we believe we are this end time generation then we can expect to be able to obtain clear understanding from the Book of Daniel. We need to desire it however!

If we take Daniel 2:40 and 9:26 and have an incorrect understanding of these verses, both Biblically and historically, then we will arrive at a wrong conclusion and find ourselves looking in completely the wrong direction. If we are given clear pointers, but ignore them and

Please be careful when reading other people's commentaries and assumptions that are not based on a historical or biblical understanding. Don't be lazy. Study it for yourselves. We want to study the Book of Daniel and arrive at the strongest candidates of the 'who, what and where'. The book of Daniel tells us and if we look at Daniel through a 21st Century mind set, then the answer to 'who, what and where' is staring us in the face. This is why I am taking a few folks through this book.

It is crucial for us today to gain more understanding of the days we now live in and the book of Daniel will aid and assist us to do so.

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

Daniel 12:3 (NKJV)

Maranatha.

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