

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER VII

Biblical Justice I

SUNDAY, July 1,

Scripture: Acts 3:19-20

Acts 3:19-20 is a very strong encouragement to the Church to repent and seek the Lord for His presence in manifestation. When the presence of the Lord comes to individuals or settles on a place whether it be Topeka, Kansas in 1900, Pensacola or Toronto, God both energizes and empowers His people to go forth with a fresh vision of His purpose. It is much easier to view Acts 3:19-20 in an historical setting, where we can point to actual events where God's presence came, rather than taking it as a personal admonition for our own spiritual renewal. The Lord loves to bring individuals revival with His presence just as much as He loves bringing it corporately for a city. Let's follow the pattern and see what happens individually as we **do** Acts 3:19-20. The next paradigm shift may propel the church into being the Joel 2 **Army Of The Lord** complete with intercessory sword in hand! Representing Jesus in the last days means demonstrating Jesus the Judge! Are we ready for a 10.0 magnitude spiritual earthquake?

MONDAY, July 2

Scripture: Acts 3:19-21

Verse 21 is a dynamite promise because it tells us that Jesus is personally committed to supervising the restoration and fulfillment of prophetic promises which should guarantee an amazing outpouring to wind up the age. We have had a flood in the last fifty years of so-called prophetic ministries telling us the imminent coming of the Lord is at hand based on what they saw happening with physical Israel. I am absolutely convinced the whole counsel of God declares what we need to watch is **not physical Israel** but **spiritual Israel**. If you were God being implored by the Church to come and catch them away but knowing You still had to fulfill the prophetic promises of Psalm 2, Isaiah 53 and Revelation 14 garnering a great worldwide harvest, how would you respond? Which group requires more preparation for revival - the saints or sinners? The sad truth of the issue is, it takes God longer to prepare the Church than the world for His visitation. The established Church fought the outpouring of Asuza Street, the Charismatic Renewal and the Toronto Blessing. Why does the Church have a history of resisting much of what God does? Should we not be looking at Acts 3:19-21 personally with the expectation of God's presence to revive, renew, invigorate and establish His power in our own lives for Kingdom purposes?

TUESDAY, July 3

Scripture: Matthew 24:1-3

Matthew 24:1-3 is a very prophetic transition in the life and ministry of Jesus that repeats itself occasionally in the times and seasons of God. Matthew 24 opens in verse 1 with Jesus disciples showing Him

the buildings of the temple, the fruit of the religious system. Jesus response had to be shocking to each one of them. He said, "It's all coming down." How far does a nation have to depart from its God-ordained roots before the Lord says, "Everything is coming down." How far does a church, or an association of churches have to depart from their God-ordained purpose before the Lord comes and says, "It's all coming down." The same God who builds also tears down! The same One Who builds the Church in Ephesians 4 is the One Who committed Himself to tear down the Pharisaism of Matthew 24. What are Jesus' plans for America and where do we stand over that issue? If I were Episcopalian, I would wonder if Jesus was about to tear down my denomination for the apostasy of ordaining a homosexual bishop. If I were _____, I would wonder if Jesus was about to tear down my church for _____ (please fill in the blank space). Ask the Lord about His plans for your church and why? When you get an answer, good or bad – shout it from the housetops! Do you suppose pronouncement like Matthew 24:2 has been made by the Lord over our nation, or is there still time to save it? Where do we stand as a Church, as a country, as a nation?

WEDNESDAY, July 4

God SAVE AMERICA TO FULFILL ITS PURPOSE

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10

God has consistently been faithful throughout Scripture to release prophetic warnings to churches, cities and nations. The interesting thing about God restoring the prophetic anointing in this day and hour is it provides an avenue for declarations like we read in Matthew 24:2, if prophets don't pervert their anointing by selling it. Prophetic anointing marks dramatic transitions by their pronouncements and their words. Jeremiah's call is an excellent example. In verse 5 the Lord says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; And I ordained you a prophet to the nations." Verses 9b and 10 say, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant." The God of the Bible not only builds up, but He also tears down. Building a ministry can be a work of God. Closing it down can be a work of God. The spiritual landscape is littered with relics of the past that should have been closed down but are still functioning and operating beyond their season because men resisted their Maker. Perhaps the next move of the Spirit will feature the anointing to remove the Agag's that the previous generation Saul's allowed to live. When the **mish-pawt** anointing of the Samuel type judge is restored to those prophets choosing a Samuel type purity, we will see judicial signs and wonders. Everyone will run and hide when the "tear down" anointing is released! Until Washington, D.C. says to church leaders, "Are you coming in peace?" we have failed to restore the anointing necessary to wind up the age!

THURSDAY, July 5

Scripture: Matthew 24:3

Verse 3 says, "Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'" Verses 1-3 set the stage for the remainder of Matthew 24 and all of 25. We start out with the first glimpse of Jesus declaring major transition is coming and this transition demands the old be completely torn down. The old and new co-existed for 40 years, one leadership generation. For most of the disciples, Jesus' pronouncement would see fulfillment beyond their lifetime. Their lives would be dramatically affected by the warfare between the two, but actual fulfillment would come beyond the lifetime of each individual after they contributed to the price of transition. The prophetic ministry is sometimes given assignments to speak and decree things which are "long-range." The problem with most who are prophetic is we fully expect God to do whatever He says to us within our lifetime. That can create a tremendous amount of distraction and discouragement as expectations are trampled by passing time. We need to recognize the **ways of God** and that He often speaks about things beyond us. Trouble comes because of our assumptions. Let's start asking the Lord whether or not what He is saying is within our lifetime or beyond it. It could save us great discouragement.

FRIDAY, July 6

Scripture: Matthew 24:3-6

Verse 3 has three distinctive questions. Question #1 is, “Tell us, when will these things be?” Question #2 is, “And what will be the sign of Your coming...” Question #3 is, “what will be the sign of the end of the age?” We know from the end of verse 6 Jesus chose to answer the questions from last to first. His answer to the last question demonstrates how much we need the presence of the Lord in the last days because of turmoil progressively engulfing the earth. God’s presence is an individual necessity. We must seek the Lord for His presence, knowing His presence is the only thing that can carry us through the adversity of end-times to fulfill God’s individual and corporate purpose in the earth. We have to seek Him!

SATURDAY, July 7

Scripture: Matthew 24:7

Verse 7 says, “For nation will rise against nation....” The Greek word translated “nation” is **eth-nos**. **Eth-nos** means having the same nature, a troop, a swarm, a race, or a multitude associated together. This declaration defines China against Taiwan and the U.S. China declared war secretly and economically against the U.S. and like sleeping dogs our government refuses to respond. The second aspect of this is **bas-il-i-a** against **bas-il-i-a**. **Bas-il-i-a** means the territory subject to the rule of a king or a group where royal power flows. Islam against the West is very real. This speaks of tremendous strife, perhaps between the judicial **bas-il-i-a** and the medical **bas-il-i-a**, or educational **bas-il-i-a** and the business **bas-il-i-a**. **Kingdom against kingdom speaks of the fracturing of society as each group pursues it’s own particular interest with total disregard and reckless abandon for the consequences.** It produces a great opportunity for God to come on the scene. The greatest days of the Gospel are yet ahead, but it will be manifested in the most trying of times. This is a preparation season. Are we embracing the principles necessary to confront evil?

SUNDAY, July 8

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-41

This passage speaks volumes to us about the season we are approaching. Jesus said, “But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” This passage is actually encouraging to me and it is encouraging because it says there will be a divine flow of judgment probably dispensed through the Church to the world before the end of the age. If we walk “...as in the days of Noah...” then we ought to ask ourselves who was taken and who was left. Noah was left after the judgment of the flood because he rode through the storm in the ark of God’s protection. Noah was not taken out. The people who were taken, in this passage, were the ones who found themselves in judgment with no relief and mercy. The guilty were taken away. The righteous were left. We may well see a generation of believers who move in the authority for judgment as it is dispensed from the very Throne. The judgment first begins at the house of the Lord. It is time to clean up our act. Like Noah, we want God’s protection when the axe falls!

MONDAY, July 9

Scripture: I Thessalonians 5:1-11

First Thessalonians 5:1-11 tells us very clearly God expects us to know the times and seasons. Verses 1 and 2 say, “But concerning the times and seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.” This New Testament is very clear about the issue of speculating concerning times and seasons. We should not be speculating. We

should "...know perfectly..." the issues that surround the winding up of the age and our specific contribution in the generation in which we live. There is a definite battle over the times and seasons in our generation just as there was when the Holy Spirit moved on the apostle Paul to write these words. Paul said we could "...know perfectly..." He knew perfectly when God gave it to him, but he also knew God was no respecter of persons. If we seek the Lord, He will visit us and open our eyes to understand the times and seasons and our contribution in the middle of them. We don't have to stumble on like the world wondering what God is going to do next or when. There is a place of seeking the Lord and discovering His purpose and plan and receiving revelation of times and seasons. We're called to that individually. It is not an issue just for people in ministry. We have to find God's individual purpose for each of us in order to fulfill His calling. Pray! Pray! Pray!

TUESDAY, July 10

Scripture: Psalm 2:7-9

Because the Lord promised to personally supervise the fulfillment of "...all prophecies from all prophets..." we need to ask ourselves if some "majors" have been fulfilled. Psalm 2:7-9 is such a prophetic word: "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'" Has God given us nations to bring into the kingdom? Remember, He is the God who is not willing that any should perish and He promises the Church He will bring us to the place where He will give us nations to possess for Him in the last days. We will impact not only cities but whole nations in the great end-time harvest. Concerning the issue of whether or not Jesus can return and take the Church out because nothing remains unfulfilled; ask yourself, "Has the Father fulfilled Psalm 2:7-9?" If He hasn't, that means Jesus must be coming to us to empower so we can fulfill before we can ever be raptured. There is much work to be done, even if there is just one promise of this magnitude remaining yet unfulfilled.

WEDNESDAY, July 11

Scripture: Acts 3:19-21

Once again we want to look at the promise of Acts 3. Did God really promise Jesus would come to the Church? Verse 20 says, "and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." God clearly promises Jesus will come to the Church to supervise in the times of restoration for fulfillment "...of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Now perhaps the word with the greatest impact in verse 21 is the word "all." His promise is to restore "...**all** things, which God has spoken by the mouth of **all** His holy prophets...." We are approaching a season not of being taken out of the earth, but of fulfilling "**all**" promises of "**all**" prophets. Nobody in their right mind would want to escape such a season! We should prepare for it, clean up our act, repent, get ready, seek the Lord! Should we escape? No! Jesus is coming to the Church to empower and to fulfill. Let's be at the front door to welcome Him in, not at the back door begging a way out!

THURSDAY, July 12

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-2

Isaiah 60:1-2 are dynamite promises, "Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you." God's promise to the Church in the last days certainly fits with these two verses - the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Has the glory of the Lord risen upon the Church to the point that everybody in darkness can see it? Most of us would have to agree that it is not exactly at that level yet, however, it may have started and could, in fact, be

moving toward fulfillment. Perhaps verse 3 brings us more clarification when it says, “The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.” Are the unbelievers flooding into the Church to come to our light? Are the leaders of the nation seeking direction from the leaders of the Church and acting on it? That is almost a joke in the light of the recent passage of H.R. 1592 putting Pastors in jail for preaching Romans 1. A vote for the party in power in Congress is a vote to jail Church leadership and utterly advance the homosexual agenda and gay marriage. It should be obvious to the most casual of observers that verse 3 is yet to be fulfilled in the Church. The good news is - Jesus is coming to personally supervise such fulfillment. If the Church does not learn to covenantally move God’s hand in judgment then there is no way to save the nation.

FRIDAY, July 13

Scripture: Isaiah 60:5

Verse 5 says, “Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.” Here is a prophecy we need to ask ourselves: “Has this come to pass? Has this been fulfilled?” Or, do we expect Jesus to come to the Church at the appropriate time which is now and personally supervise the fulfillment of the promise of verse 5. Are we ready to stand in the gap interceding that the Lord will fulfill this promise and bring it to pass even if it extends beyond our generation? The time to restore is at hand. God is looking for vessels. Let’s be in the volunteer line. Vast sums are soon to be released into the hands of those who have qualified!

SATURDAY, July 14

Scripture: Amos 9:11-15

Amos saw a glimpse of the season where the plowman would overtake the reaper and “...they that possess the remnant of Edom (spirit of repentance)...” could command the harvest to come in. This passage gives us a glimpse of God’s awesome presence among us and the impact that anointing will have in the earth when it comes. There is a season where a generation gets to reap where they have never sown. Has this come to pass yet? Have we experienced it? Or could it be we are still waiting for yet one more of God’s prophetic promises to come to pass? There is a gloriously appointed day of fulfillment and we need to run to it with all of our heart. The best days of the Church are ahead!

SUNDAY, July 15

Scripture: Zechariah 8:23

Zechariah 8:23 says, “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”’” Romans defines who is a Jew and who is not. Believers prepare! God’s prophetic promise is that unbelievers in every nation will look at the Church and run to individuals in the Church laying hold of their sleeve and saying “Show us about God, take us to where we can meet Him, for we have heard and seen that God is with you.” Has that promise been fulfilled? If it hasn’t been fulfilled, then we find ourselves once again waiting for God to manifest His promise and we’re not going anywhere until He does. That’s an Acts 3:19-21 certain guarantee!

MONDAY, July 16

Scripture: Zechariah 12:6-10

Zechariah describes an anointing which comes to the people of God in the last days. He says, “In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves;...the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them.” Have we seen the anointing come in such strength and majesty that it has made

the most feeble among us like David and the warriors like God? Why would the Lord take us out when the greatest anointing is yet to come? For those who would say this promise in context is not for the Church but for Israel, look at the apostle Paul's application of Hagar and Sarah in Galatians. I'm sure in those days you could never have convinced a true Jew he had become a child of Hagar, and yet by application of the Spirit, the apostle Paul said that is precisely what they had become. If the Church were to be raptured out now it would forfeit its greatest and highest call. Hang around for the fireworks, Jesus is coming but not as many suspect. You'll like it.

TUESDAY, July 17

Scripture: Ezra 9:5-9

Our Father is always faithful to deal with us as agents of revival. Even when Israel was in captivity, Ezra 9:5 says God was faithful. Verses 7 and 8 say, "Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been very guilty, and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to humiliation, as it is this day. And now for a little while grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage." Verse 9 says "...God did not forsake them in their bondage; but He extended mercy...", brought revival, and gave them a heart to repair and rebuild the old ruins. The Acts 3 promise of restoration is the Lord Jesus coming to us to empower, enlighten, and enable the Church to reclaim the call and rebuild, just as in the type and shadow we read in Ezra. God comes *to* the Church long before He ever comes *for* it. Put the rapture on the back burner and let's move toward God's glory manifested in the Church. It has to come.

WEDNESDAY, July 18

Scripture: Matthew 12:16-21

God has a preparational package for revival in the Church. That preparational package was revealed to us by the pattern Jesus lived. In Matthew 12:16-21 we read, "He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice (judgment) to victory." The Lord has to bring "...justice to victory..." revealing the warfare in the religious community competing between good and evil. Our forefathers died giving us freedom to preach and now one political party embracing the homosexual agenda wants to jail us for biblically confronting sin. The freedom to continue preaching demands the judgment of God on all who choose to spit in God's face. Will the Church learn to represent the God Who spits back?! Numbers 12:9-16 says, "So the anger of the LORD was aroused against them, and He departed. And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper. So Aaron said to Moses, 'Oh, my lord! Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb!' So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, 'Please heal her, O God, I pray!' Then the LORD said to Moses, 'If her father had but **SPIT IN HER FACE**, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and after that she may be received again.' So Miriam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not journey on till Miriam was brought in again. And afterward the people moved from Hazeroth and camped in the Wilderness of Paran." Leadership has serious fidelity requirements. Miriam could have joined Korah, Dathan or Abiram but God's correction saved her life. When the Lord prepares to restore a hidden truth or visit in an unusual way, He has to level the playing field and must take justice to victory. Is justice moving toward victory in our day? It certainly is, if we recognize it. How comfortable are we representing the God who likens His disciplinary actions to a father spitting in the face of a child? Does the Church even *know* the *God who spits in our face*? I wonder if God would describe His confrontation with Saul, who lost his eyesight, as a Father spitting in the face of a wayward son? Are you prepared to represent the **Spitting God**?

THURSDAY, July 19

Scripture: Matthew 12:14-17

The warfare over birthing a move of the Spirit almost always brings conflict with the entrenched system and the spirit of Pharisaism blinding the eyes of it's leaders. Verses 16-17 are very crucial at this point because Jesus warns people not to make Him known in order that Isaiah's prophecy might be fulfilled. So the primary preparation for an outpouring of the Spirit and birthing something new and exciting in the Lord comes by walking in hidden places. God always seems to prepare the stage to fulfill prophecy by moving in the unknown and hidden realm. If your call is to be a leader for a season yet revealed, it is very probable you will spend years, perhaps decades, in anonymity. God's ways are truly wonderful.

FRIDAY, July 20

Scripture: Matthew 12:18-21

Isaiah prophesied about Jesus, not only His ministry but a pattern for the development of ministries to follow. Verse 18 says, "Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased; I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles." What is the first thing that happens to a person when the Holy Spirit comes on them dramatically? They become a proponent of divine justice. God's anointing gives us the backbone to stand up, speak to and demand change when perversion is embraced. Judgment persuades people to repent and change. God is after hardness in the heart of man which creates injustice in the earth. The God of the Bible anoints us and prepares us to stand and confront the greed and selfishness of men. When the Holy Spirit comes in great power, we start speaking about God's justice. Moses learned God's justice watching Miriam. When Moses asked the LORD to heal, God's reply was, "*If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed for seven days?*" That's the anointing Washington D.C. needs! Will we pay the price to birth it?

SATURDAY, July 21

Scripture: Matthew 12:18-21

The Greek word for justice, that is to be declared to the unbelievers, is the word **kree-sis**. It means to separate, to sunder, to sentence, or to render a judgment. It comes from the Greek word **kree-no** which means to divide, separate, make a distinction, or come to a decision. The further progression of the passage tells us the fruit of the separation, division, drawing a line of distinction or judgment is revival and the Gentiles come in. What judgment has to be brought to victory in our day? Did Jesus make us agents of justice in the earth and if so how far will God go in backing up the Church? As today's legislators spit in God's face, will He spit back at the request of the Church? Will we move His hand? Will He spit in a legislator's face? Will leprosy fall on today's Gehazis?

SUNDAY, July 22

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-16

The very first thing a theologian would say if asked "What justice did Jesus bring to victory?" would be found in Ephesians 2 declaring the message from verses 14-16, "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of division between us, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity." So Jesus brought victory to the exclusivity of the covenant which allowed only the Jewish people to walk with God. He made the two - **one**, thus making peace. In Christ Jesus there is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, bond nor free. Everyone who is a believer is Jewish in Christ. God made the two - **ONE NEW** man. We need to remember the covenant as we approach the New Testament and

look to the Lord in developing relationship and fulfilling our purpose and plan. Every believer is just as chosen as anyone else.

MONDAY, July 23

Scripture: Ephesians 2:17-22

The primary and foundational judgment Jesus brought to victory was over the issues of access, citizenship, covenant and the peace resulting from relationship. Verses 17 through 19 say, “And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God....” The message to the Gentiles was a great one. It brought them peace. It promised access to the Father, inclusion in the covenants and citizenship in the Kingdom of God. That which had been exclusively Jewish was now expanded to include believers in Christ. This is the most obvious of the judgments taken to victory and one that should be apparent to even the most casual biblical observer. The question is have we ever known God to stop at the obvious? The author of eternal justice may allow access to His judicial authority to right the wrongs of powerful worldly men. Those on the Supreme Court who routinely spit in God’s face may face a day when at the intercession of the Church, God spits back forcefully. That is victorious justice guaranteed in the covenant for those who ask!

TUESDAY, July 24

Scripture: Galatians 4:21-26

God hardly ever stops with the obvious and that is very true of the pattern we read in Matthew 12. In Galatians 4, the apostle Paul, by the leadership of the Holy Spirit, helps us distinguish between the physical and the spiritual. He says Hagar and Sarah are types which both have children. Verses 23-25 state, “But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar – for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children --” When God made of the two **one new man**, He shows us the importance of that new man and how quickly and easily the bondage of the old can engulf us. Which Jerusalem are we of? The one here - or the one above? God has to take judgment to victory to open the doors of revival.

WEDNESDAY, July 25

Scripture: Galatians 4:26-31

How amazing it is to watch what happens when the two sons of Abraham have to deal with each other. Paul says this is a type of what we experience in our religious life. Are we children of the flesh, or children of promise? Children of the flesh always persecute those born according to the Spirit. All we have to do is look at the encounters Paul had with Jewish people in preaching Jesus and we get a full and complete picture of the judgment that had to be taken to victory and still does as a pattern if there is going to be great revival. Jesus accomplished more than eternal salvation. He laid down a pattern of birthing revival in the earth. Judgment has to come to victory. Believers are agents of justice. Jesus guaranteed access – our job is to **ask**!

THURSDAY, July 26

Scripture: Galatians 5:1-15

The bondage Paul speaks about in Galatians 4 comes into even greater clarity in chapter five as he deals with law and grace. We have a word for people who are law dominated. They are generally called Pharisees. To the degree that Pharisaism exists in the Church, God has to bring judgment to victory over that spirit so revival may come and Gentiles (unbelievers) may come in. This is the pattern Jesus lived out in front of us and

the one He is obviously calling us to walk today. Judgment to victory has a variety of manifestations which should dramatically increase in the days ahead!

FRIDAY, July 27

Scripture: Luke 19:11-14

Verse 11 in Luke 19 is very interesting because it says the whole reason Jesus taught this parable is because they were near Jerusalem. The first thing we have to ask is, “What was in Jerusalem?” The pinnacle of Pharisaism; the legalistic governmental organization of the Jewish people. The whole issue is that the citizens hated Him, saying “We don’t like Your directives as boss. You are not going to reign over us.” Unfortunately the citizens of verse 14 become the enemies in verse 27 and it is over the issue of who is going to be boss. Are we really willing to let God determine what He is going to send to our churches and whether or not we are going to participate? Are we going to reign, or will we let Him reign? In that process, judgment is taken to victory.

SATURDAY, July 28

Scripture: Matthew 21:33-44

In Matthew 21:33-44 Jesus teaches the parable of the landowner who leased his vineyard. When he came for his share of the harvest the lessee refused to pay and mistreated his servants; killing one of them. Because he had great mercy, he sent his son. But they recognized him and because he was heir to the vineyard, killed him. Verse 41 speaks volumes about how God takes judgment to victory in preparing us for revival. Verse 41 says, “Then they said to Him, ‘He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.’” God changes the seasons and in the changing of seasons we are presented with a choice of allowing Him to reign or rejecting His authority in our lives. We do that by accepting or rejecting what He says in our particular season. The Greek word for seasons, in verse 41, is **kairos**, the same word we see in Acts 3:19 as “...times of refreshing...” God sends a **kairos** and the question is, “What do we do with it when it comes?” Do we accept it and present the Lord with the fruit, or do we reject it and miserably treat the servants who become proponents. Verse 35 says they “...beat one, killed one, and stoned another....” What a picture of how the Church treats the servants of the Lord.

SUNDAY, July 29

Scripture: Hebrews 12:20-24

Hebrews 12:20-24 shows us the heavenly Jerusalem in action and the focal point of our covenantal relationship with the Lord as He dispenses His seasons of refreshing. Each season has a judgment and a blessing. It presents us a picture of Moses with the children of Israel at Mt Sinai when God came to them and asked every single one of them to be priests. They initially said “yes.” Then they saw the purification commitment **cost** of walking in that place and to the man they all decided the priesthood was not for them. They said, “Moses, you go, you talk to God and you come back and tell us what He said. We are not willing to pay the price of relationship with the ultimate Judge!” Our relationship is with a good and severe Judge of the whole earth. He can bless and He can judge. He does that by what He sends to the Church.

MONDAY, July 30

Scripture: Matthew 12:18-21

This passage tells us that when we pray for revival we are actually demanding God come and in the process He has to release judgment to victory over the degree of Pharisaism in our lives and in our churches. When we pray for revival, we are actually asking God to come and judge Pharisaism, take it to victory in our midst so that unbelievers can come in. The majority of us don’t realize what we are asking for when we pray for revival. We don’t realize we are asking Jesus to come and cleanse the temple to confront and deal with the

impurity of heart and mind. When He comes He often comes with a whip, overturning tables and systems. Every time we pray for revival we are asking for that pattern Jesus walked and lived out, which got Him crucified, to flow once again in the earth. Are we sure we really want to pay the price that goes with revival?

TUESDAY, July 31

Scripture: Isaiah 42:4-6

When Matthew quotes Isaiah 42:1-3, he jumps to 6b and omits 4-6a. Jesus established justice in the earth but the real question is what are we doing with the justice He established. As kings and priests, we have access to divine justice and Jesus in Revelation 19 judges and makes war in righteousness. The question for us to contemplate is “Do we have a part to play in moving His hand in both judgment and war? The resounding answer to that New Testament question is “Yes!” Why does the church continually extend mercy to those modern-day Balaams, Absaloms and Jezebels? Mercy to the individual allows repentance and salvation, but mercy to a Balaam gives him more time to plan and plot destruction for the nation. David understood mercy to the nation meant judgment and destruction to the enemy. David prayed, God agreed, Goliath died. David prayed, God agreed, Absalom died. David prayed, God agreed, Ahithophel died. David prayed, God agreed, Nabal died. Maybe the difference between David and us is that he asked for **covenant** mercy to remove the enemy while we extend it to the enemy. Has our religious tradition made the Word of God impotent? Could we pray like David? Will the real warriors please stand up?

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ITINERARY

Al Houghton

July 13-14

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MY PILGRIMAGE

**MY HEART IS ON A PILGRIMAGE,
TO SEEK YOUR PRESENCE, LOVE YOU MORE.**

**A JOURNEY SET ON FOLLOWING YOU,
I OPEN WIDE MY OWN HEART'S DOOR!**

**THAT YOUR OWN WAYS BECOME MY WAYS,
THAT I BE MOVED BY WHAT MOVES YOU.**

**I LONG WITH PASSION TO BE GIVEN,
TO WHAT YOUR HEART, LORD, DOES PURSUE!**

**A STRANGER IN THIS LAND I AM!
HEAVEN'S PILGRIM I WILL ALWAYS BE.
MY LIFE'S DESIRE ABOVE ALL ELSE,
A HEART OF PASSION SET ON THEE!**

JAYNE HOUGHTON