WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER III

Judging Righteous Judgment III

Dear Friend:

John 7:24 is probably one of the most challenging verses in the Bible to obey. "Do not judge according to appearance but judge with righteous judgment." Judging with righteous judgment demands a solid, never changing yardstick which we know will be the same tomorrow as it is today. Thank God for the absolutes of Scripture because they form the plumbline for judgment!

The absolutes are fairly easy to decipher because they appear consistently throughout both the Old and New Covenants. The shedding of innocent blood tops the list because the life in the blood has a voice which demands covenant vengeance. It is followed by witchcraft and new age spiritualism, with rebellion number three and statutorial protection of homosexuality number four.

When the leaders of the land champion policy that destroys the land by filling it with iniquity, the church is forced to Judge Righteous Judgment. The only option left prior to devastating national adversity is the intercession of the saints demanding that what leaders champion first falls on them and their families. Invoking the covenant of "Sure Mercy" saves the land by cutting off the perpetrators!

Leaders and legislators who champion abortion should experience abortions until they have no seed left. The same people who legislate homosexuality should watch as it consumes their families until they have no seed left. The church can demand this level of justice and should until God visibly changes legislators hearts or removes them for their abominable policies.

If we lose the land in judgment then we who have the ability to move God's hand are responsible for failing to use the covenant offered and through the Kool-Aid of tolerance have given the enemy a nation for which previous generations bled and died! The shame will be on us!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

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SUNDAY, March 1
Scripture: John 7:24

Judging Righteous Judgment demands a universal yardstick which does not vary from one generation to another, from one culture to another or from one kingdom to another. Only the Word of God qualifies as that yardstick. Every culture that has said yes to God's word has received the promised blessing. Every kingdom or culture who once accepted and then walked away from that yardstick has suffered great devastation. Both the church and the nation stand in a precarious place. The American Episcopalian leadership abandoned this righteous yardstick by ordaining a homosexual bishop. The African leaders of this denomination are holding fast to the bible and, consequently, whole congregations are choosing African leaders. This biblical yardstick goes all the way back to Sodom and Gomorrah. We cannot execute biblical justice until we execute it in the church. If we refuse to judge sin in the church, we cannot judge it in the nation. If the presidential exit polls are to be believed, over 20% of evangelicals abandoned this yardstick to support the current president. When Christians vote for candidates who openly support abortion they accrue blood guiltiness engendered by their candidates actions. What price, if any, will we face for abandoning God's standard? If the California Supreme Court overturns Proposition 8 legislating that marriage is between one **man** and one **woman**, what judgment should the justices receive? Covenant justice decrees the perversion they promote should eat up their own family first. Judge Righteous Judgment – ask the Lord to show you what is coming. Hearing God over issues of righteous judgment requires some practice.

MONDAY, March 2
Scripture: Deuteronomy 19:9,10

The scripture is very clear about the issue of shedding innocent blood. In scripture every nation who shed the innocent blood of their children paid a fearful judicial price. If after eight years of limiting abortions the first executive orders of our new president open the floodgates for a river of innocent blood, what national repercussions can we expect? As kings and priests, do we have any responsibility to move God's hand judicially and address the corrupting, defiling influences on our culture. How long would Peter have tolerated a homosexual priest before pronouncing an Ananias and Sapphira-type judgment? What would Paul have done since that priest was honored with kicking off the inaugural festival at the Lincoln memorial. What antichrist legislation can we expect from those in power, and what should we be doing about it? What should we be praying for our leaders when they choose to promote evil? Judge Righteous Judgment! Write it out! Put the notes in your Bible and date it. Jesus the Judge is coming first to the church and then to the nation!

TUESDAY, March 3
Scripture: Deuteronomy 19:11-13

The issue of innocent blood is not a minor annoyance to God. It brings ever increasing judgments until the perpetrators repent or die! The heart of God is revealed in scripture concerning those who promote the shedding of innocent blood. They were to be delivered into the hand of the avenger without pity or remorse. The avenger of blood today is God. Blood guiltiness can be removed through repentance. When an entire governmental administration is intent on covering the land with blood guiltiness then the church must take their priestly role and deliver them to the avenger of blood. Repentance can bring covenantal deliverance. The church has the authority to deliver a person or group to the avenger of blood. How much devastation is required before the church wakes up and realizes we have an obligation to cleanse the land? Either the church moves God's hand or the nation continues in a downward spiral of destruction. Which will we choose?

WEDNESDAY, March 4
Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

The Son of God came not only to birth salvation but for the purpose of regaining governmental authority the first Adam lost. As the second Adam, He paid the price to restore man's forfeited authority, empowering us to fulfill God's ultimate purpose, reclaiming humanity, making disciples of all nations, and teaching them to observe His commandments. We have a tremendous warfare over that purpose. Satan has one ultimate aim. He *"opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God..., showing himself that he is God."* He must gain worship from man to validate his deception that he is God. The enemies main weapon in this quest is the spirit of mammon, or love of money. Just as we must judge righteous judgment on social issues, so must we judge mammon. Mammon carries the essence of evil as satan uses it, through deception, motivation, and desire. Our choices reflect motivation and ultimately determine whose authority we have, in whose kingdom we are, and who receives worship from our life. When Jesus promised Peter *"…the gates of Hell would not prevail…"* against the church He built by revelation, the reference was to the enemies deceptive inroads in religion. What should we do about the current inroads the enemy has made? Can we move the hand of God in judgment to reverse the sin? The question for our generation is how do we overcome in a culture that is increasingly comfortable with evil? God's hand is manifesting against mammon nationally. The church has an opportunity in this season to establish spiritual government if we will take it.

THURSDAY, March 5
Scripture: Numbers 16:1-3

The problem with moving God's hand for justice is it has to fall first on the church. Only then can we apply justice to the world! In Numbers 16, we see a conspiracy between political and spiritual leadership. When spiritual leadership compromises to maintain national position, mammon has pocketed priests for demonic purposes. America has just seen this in action! The gates of Hell are in manifestation. The wrong motivation culminates in rebellion. There is an inevitable confrontation between positional authority and divine authority, between authority by obedience and authority by appointment. In the normal operation of the world, authority comes by attainment of position with many working in order to advance to a position of influence gauged by the number under their command. Whether it be in the financial, political, judicial, educational, or entertainment realms, authority in the world comes by attainment, but in the Kingdom of God, it comes first by appointment. While position in the natural can be gained by politicking and personal connections, it is far different in the Kingdom of God. Some supposedly spiritual organizations claiming to represent God resemble the ways of the world more than the Word of God. How history repeats itself. How unique it is to watch the enemy at work! Those who took people to themselves began to accuse Moses and Aaron, who took nothing for themselves. Korah, Dathan and Abiram accused Moses and Aaron of the very principle operating in their own lives. When a homosexual bishop ministers communion, does his perversion come with blessing? What is the

congregation communing with and will that manifest in their lives? Weekly attendance under that leadership could result in ever increasing perversion. Sowing into that altar makes the giver one with the perversion that demands judgment. The pinnacle of deception arises when a person defies God's written word and believes it is allowed! Such a person ministers rebellion unto death! This deceptive demonic transfer thrives in the church. The spirit of Korah, Dathan and Abiram are alive and well, operating through deception and spreading their tentacles. God's judicial axe is coming and we can expect major league confrontations!

FRIDAY, March 6
Scripture: Numbers 16:1-10

Self-exaltation forms the core of satan's nature! Selfish ambition is the seed that when watered by action grows into rebellion forming the very foundation of demon dominated government. The real root of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram's sin was they wanted the position sovereingly assigned to Moses and Aaron. They set their heart on *position* instead of ***service***. In God's Kingdom we are to set our hearts on ***service***, not on *positions*. It is our willingness and ability to serve wherever needed or requested by the Lord which qualifies us for position. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram were so deceived they accused Moses and Aaron of the very sin they themselves were committing. They were spreading rebellion and trying to take away a position given by God to Moses and Aaron. Can we recognize this activity in the lives of people in ministry? How many leaders have this motivation in their heart? When it forms the foundation for what they are doing, trouble follows. Will we see individuals who exalt themselves to the position of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher run into Jesus the Judge? When we see them, or if we are sitting in their meetings or churches, can we recognize the impurity of the altar and save ourselves from the defilement?

SATURDAY, March 7
Scripture: Numbers 16:1-11

Self promotion can win you the highest office in the land but if you use it to promote antichrist policies, the Judge will come. Anytime we attempt to promote ourselves we stand through deception with satan against God. Amazingly enough, we can preach the Word of God and preach good doctrine much of the time, but impurity in motivation lodged in the foundation of a ministry defiles. This defiling leaven can be one of the cornerstones upon which organizations are built. We are worthless in battle if we cannot stand in the fire we need to call down. We cannot necessarily recognize this desire in what is preached, but it is only discerned by the Holy Spirit. This spirit subtly reproduces itself in others over a period of time and brings destruction into many lives. Self-exaltation and self-promotion destroy the purity of the altars of God and the life flow of His Spirit with which He intends to mature a people for His special use. This can happen for a season, but God eventually confronts it and deals with it, usually by very strong measures. Did Jesus ever diminish His message to gain followers? Did Peter ever diminish his message to gain followers? Did Paul ever diminish his message to gain followers? The church desperately needs to manifest Jesus the Judge politically but cannot until we clean our own house. Judgment has to begin at the House of the Lord!

SUNDAY, March 8
Scripture: Numbers 16:1-19

Imagine life under the leadership of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Would we have any faith in government? Korah, Dathan and Abiram accused Moses of not fulfilling what God promised, of trying to destroy them in the wilderness and of acting like a prince over them. They said, "You have failed to bring us into the land God promised, nor have you given us the promised inheritance." As we see this confrontation progress, one thing becomes very clear. In God's eyes there are different levels of rebellion. It is one thing to rebel yourself, but it is quite another to openly lead people into rebellion. Verse 19 shows us how satan operates by accusation, character assassination, and outright lies. He begins to transfer a spirit of discontent

with lack of progress into questioning leadership motivation and spreads rebellion throughout the camp. Every individual who is unhappy with their own level of God's fulfillment has a choice to make. They must choose to follow the self-appointed who paint a picture of a much greener pasture and rebel against what God is doing, or to stay and tough it out until the heavenly purpose becomes clear. Satan has destroyed many a person through the transference of spirits. Moses was forced to demand covenantal action, and he got it! What are we doing about our national Korah, Dathan and Abiram types? Moses demonstrated how to pray for bad leaders! Are we discerning the evil in front of us? Once we see it, are we willing to pray about it?

MONDAY, March 9
Scripture: Numbers 16:23-33

God answered Moses' intercession in behalf of the people. Why will He not answer ours ? Instead of judging the people, who are really like sheep and led astray, God judged the individuals who were leading them astray. God made a very strong statement by the judgment He brought, because the men were not rejecting Moses but the One who sent Moses. Jesus emphasized the same principle. *"He that receives you, receives not you, but him who sent you."* Today it is necessary to recognize and discern who really is sent and speaks from God, for some speak from another spirit. The judgment of God historically reveals wickedness in each generation, and now we have ministers denying its manifestation by claiming Jesus took it once and for all.. God still judges men's hearts today and still reveals purpose and motivation. The first three chapters of Revelation deal with the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ in judging the church. Let's understand the God we love and serve is not only a God of covenant blessing, but He is a God of covenant judgment. His judgments take different forms but nevertheless, they can still be seen fully operational in the earth. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Some teach Jesus took all judgment on Himself concluding God no longer judges man. Horse manure makes great fertilizer. Scripture proves the inaccuracy of this "no judgment" teaching. Ananias and Sapphira were killed by the ascended Christ. Herod was killed by an angel sent from the ascended Christ. Jesus said in John 5:22, *"For the Father judges no one but has committed all judgment to the Son…."* The ascended Christ threatened five of the seven churches of Revelation with judgment if they didn't repent. By that rate a significant number of today's churches could expect "turn or burn" declarations – are there any volunteers?

TUESDAY, March 10
Scripture: Numbers 16:34-41

This passage presents the classic case of transference of spirits. We see the spirit of Korah, one who desires to exalt and promote himself into the position God gave another (Moses). He is not willing to submit himself and wait until his appointed season of leadership. He wants a shortcut. Instead of letting God give him the position foreordained for him, he wants to choose his own position and get it as soon as possible. He is not willing to **trust** God. He is not willing to **wait** on the Lord. He is not willing to **submit** himself to God's ultimate choice. On the other hand, notice the spirit of Moses. Rather than crying out for judgment, he falls on his face and begins to intercede for the congregation. *"Shall one man sin and You be angry with all the congregation?"* Moses is not concerned about himself or his own reputation because it died in the second 40 years of preparation. He is concerned about the people. Here we see the true heart of a man of God. Korah is concerned about one thing, getting a *position* for himself. Moses could care less about the position as witnessed by his attempt to pass it on to others. His concern was for the people. We see what qualified him for leadership. Two different hearts are exposed. One is motivated strictly by selfish ambition while the other seeks only the good of the people. Let us be a people of humility and pray God will give us the same discerning He gave Moses, for not a man could stand before him all the days of his life. Moses became a yardstick by which other hearts were measured. How we desperately need that anointing in these days!

WEDNESDAY, March 11
Scripture: Numbers 16:34-41

I remember when first reading this account how sad it seemed for the families, as wives, sons and little children having to pay the price for the rebellion of their fathers. Later I discovered Numbers, chapter 26 verses 9-11, and saw the goodness of God as all the children of Korah did not die. Apparently some took the opportunity and moved away from their father as Moses commanded. When the earth opened and swallowed the rebellious, they followed God with all their heart and were not among those who perished. In the last days, God is going to give the same discerning to His family, the body of Christ, concerning both their spiritual and political leaders. God's discerning is going to come to every family, church, and ministry. People are going to see, discern, and know at God's level. They will have the opportunity to move away from places of impurity at the altar. God will have a body without spot, wrinkle, or blemish, and we are entering the days when He has ordained a transformation! Purity is the essential ingredient of priesthood when dispensing God's judgments. The end-time church must fully represent Jesus, which brings what Peter did in Acts 5 and what Paul did in Acts 13 into view! Will we qualify? Isn't it interesting how the enemy finds people he can use, and then pollutes a variety of leaders through their motivation and attitude? Such was the case in Numbers 16 where Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On managed to persuade two hundred and fifty of the chief leaders of Israel. Each family was forced to choose. Is it possible we are seeing the same forced choice arising today? The truth of verse 38 has not changed. Anyone who exalts himself sins against his own soul. God said, *"Hammer them out as a covering for the altar, and make them a memorial to the children of Israel that no outsider, who is not a descendant of Aaron should come near to offer incense before the Lord."* That speaks to us concerning position. We are not in anyway to assume a position in God's kingdom. That choice is not ours. It is strictly God's and He alone must make it, and He alone must set us in position. The penalty for self-exaltation is shortness of life! Will we once again hear verse 41 in our generation? Moses, operating in the ministry of the prophet, announced and saw the judgment of God come. The early apostles dispensed judgment for Jesus. Today's preachers act and teach as if this was an early church anointing. As God restores the ministry of the apostle, judgments will return. Anyone who claims apostolic authority without apostolic manifestations of judgment is probably premature. This is part of the restoration we would rather do without, but it is inescapable. God is determined to have an army in the last days with every individual in their position. Let's be a part of that army!

THURSDAY, March 12
Scripture: Numbers 16:42-50

Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and two hundred fifty leaders were all judged, but so was a portion of the congregation. No one can say "Well, Brother So-and-So led me into this, and Lord, I am not responsible. That is the fault of our leadership." God says to **all** of us we will be judged on who **we choose** to follow. Our spiritual life reflects the purity of the place we go to church or the ministers we support. If our leaders are full of mixed seed we will be full of mixed seed. If leaders are self-willed, we will be self-willed. If our leaders are cautious, we will be cautious. If our leaders stay in position, we will stay in position. If our leaders tolerate homosexuality we will vote for leaders who promote it. There is no passing the buck in the kingdom of God. Each one of us are responsible for the choices we make, including where we go to church, who we listen to, who we follow and the men and women for whom we vote. If we ask for God's best, he will faithfully lead us toward it. If we vote for a candidate who promises righteousness but delivers unrighteousness, we can ask the Lord for justice. If we knowingly vote for a candidate advancing abortion and homosexuality then our prayer for justice falls first on our **own** head. When we knowingly support unrighteousness we forfeit a claim for justice. Sometimes our authority to judge can only be restored through repentance. Blood guiltiness is no minor issue – it demands being addressed, both individually and corporately!

FRIDAY, March 13
Scripture: Numbers 17:1-8

God is committed to establishing His Lordship over the church. Acts 3:19-21 pictures Jesus returning to restore and fulfill the prophetic word. If He is Lord, people cannot continue to do their own thing, but must choose His will. Their ministry must blossom even as Aaron's rod. God said, *"...I will rid Myself of the murmurings of the children of Israel."* He did it through a supernatural manifestation all could see. As we enter into a season much like that of Numbers 17:8, where new ministries begin to sprout, bringing forth new buds, blossoms, and yielding ripe fruit, we will know those God has chosen and those He has not. Truly the season for sprouting, budding, and blossoming has come forth! Let's look for those spiritual manifestations! Will we be a people found in the right place, walking with the Lord, obeying Him in preparing for these glorious days? John the Baptist announced the axe laid to the root. Jesus became the dividing line that brought the axe. The apostles announced the application of the axe. Herod experienced God's axe! May the fullness of Christ rise in the church!

SATURDAY, March 14
Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:1-35

When God gives spiritual authority, He also gives spiritual responsibility. Saul was given a job to do which was very important to God. It was important for the future of Israel. Multitudes of people want spiritual authority and positions of leadership, power and influence, but very few are willing to pay the price for the responsibility. God holds us responsible for what He tells us to do. There is blessing when we do it! Sometimes there is judgment when we don't! Verse 24 gives us the reason why Saul disobeyed. He *"feared the people and obeyed their voice"* rather than fearing God. When God gives us a position of leadership, a parallel responsibility follows to speak what may cost us our position. The day comes when we have to confront people, or choose between man and God. The majority of time we will stand alone, facing and confronting those who want to do their own thing. There has never been a time in the church when there is greater need for the people of God who are willing to stand and obey the Lord, free from the fear of man. This is the hour when God is raising up an army which will stand in that place of freedom and blessing. Saul was anointed; he was called; he was given spiritual authority. By failing to honor responsibility, he lost the authority. The heart of David is about to be poured out on the church. Look at the context of why David was a man after God's own heart. David didn't flinch at executing judgment while Saul bowed to the politically correct! I hear spiritual leaders deflect criticism by saying "I'm a uniter not a divider," or "I am a bridge builder" meaning, "*I compromise with evil and therefore aid or approve it*!" The church needs a baptism in discernment!

SUNDAY, March 15
Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-23

Saul's failure required God to make a change. God looks for men and women (**in Christ** there is neither male nor female) after His own heart. A man is chosen, based not on the outward appearance, as verse 7 says, but on the condition of the heart. At this point, David was called and anointed but not occupying. In the development of spiritual authority, God gives a call, He imparts an anointing, and there is a period of growth in which we learn to rely on and use the anointing. The Spirit of God remained upon Saul until David had an opportunity to prove himself in the anointing. David trained on the lion and the bear. He began to move in the anointing of worship and praise as never before. Suddenly when he came to the place where he developed confidence to walk in the things of God, accepting full responsibility, a transition occurred. Just as the Spirit of God departed from Saul, the next two years will mark some visible and surprising departures. It should not be a surprise to us when this pattern repeats itself. This principle has always marked leadership change. Now we

know why judgment does not come immediately. God takes time to prepare replacements. The level of demonic adversity aimed at the church requires men and women who have been formed in the fire!

MONDAY, March 16
Scripture: 1 Samuel 23:13-15, 19-27

When David was anointed by Samuel and the prophecies about how God would use him came forth, probably nowhere in his mind did he ever conceive the call of God would cost him fleeing for his life. Many days probably found him hot, sweaty, praying for deliverance, but always just one step between him and death. There is a price to be paid to walk with God in His anointing, for many do not want us doing what God has called us to do. When God's anointing begins to rise upon an individual, many people are threatened by it. They recognize something supernatural, and persecution begins. We live in a season where persecution will rise from an escalating hatred of those who stand for righteousness. Churches that cave in to accepting homosexuality avoid persecution. The biggest weasels cave in by silence publically while privately assenting to scripture. It is nothing to fear, but rather to rejoice in, because of what God is going to do through it. In all the years of war and running from Saul's army, David was never caught. God kept him in a place of safety, in the hollow of His hand, as the apple of His eye. It is nice to know when we are obeying God and walking in His Spirit, even though the warfare may rage about us, there is a place of safety. That is also a place of deliverance but it requires Judging Righteous Judgment. Living in God's place of safety **requires** refusing to kill Sauls when the opportunity continually arises. As we are waiting for God to do it, he is often waiting for our development. In the end, God's purpose shall prevail!

TUESDAY, March 17
Scripture: 1 Samuel 24:1-13

David spent a number of years running for his life, wondering when God's will would come to pass. In chapter 24, he had a great temptation to expedite God's prophetic promise. Many of his men said, "*This is the day the Lord spoke to you about."* Judging Righteous Judgment means going against the majority! David restrained his men and refused to allow them to kill Saul, for David knew a very important principle of spiritual authority. ***How*** we attain our position is important! Will we help God out? Will we step on somebody to get there, or will we let God do it in His time? David refused to advance his own cause. He refused to violate the authority of another. He believed the same God who called and anointed Him was more than able to put him in the right place at His appointed time, and David was willing to let God do it. Therefore, when that day came, it was sweet, indeed, because he got that position the right way. There is no greater blessing than to have God set us in a place, knowing full well we did not put ourselves there. We can move with all freedom, without any fear, for we know no man can take away what God has given!

WEDNESDAY, March 18
Scripture: 1 Samuel 26:1-25

Once again, David was given the opportunity to expedite the prophetic promise through his own effort. David refused to shed Saul's blood. He took the water cruse. David saved Saul's life from his own men. Because David honored God's authority through the anointing, his enemy was forced to bless him. Proverbs 16:7 says: *"When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."* This is a good example of the outworking of that promise. David paid the price to stand in the fire he would have to call down. Judging Righteous Judgment often demands postponing action and waiting for God to move. In 1 Corinthians 5 we are rebuked for not judging. In Luke 18 Jesus promised we could obtain an administrative judicial decision by faith from the Throne Room. Jesus spent three days and nights obtaining all authority. Do we ***know*** what we have and are we using it? Where are the "exploits" promised? Do we ***know*** the God who anoints for exploits? If we don't check the context of the exploits, we probably don't. Both verses 28 and 32 of

Daniel 11 use the Hebrew word **aw-saw** to describe exploits by the spirit of antichrist and exploits performed by those who know God's will. It appears satan and God are equally represented in the miraculous. The picture portrayed is Christ matches antichrist miracle for miracle, sign for sign, and wonder for wonder. Jesus the Judge is ready to show off if He can find representatives who will **Judge Righteous Judgment!**

THURSDAY, March 19
Scripture: Matthew 23:1-12; Luke 14:7-11

What is the Bible law of exaltation and promotion? As men exalt themselves, God's anointing will be poured out to oppose and humble them. 1 John 2:18 and following describes an antichrist spirit prevalent in the last days who believers will humble through exploits. Jesus promised to humble all who exalt self. He who *exalts himself* will be humbled and he who *humbles himself*, God will exalt. This characterized the life, attitude and motivation of David. David knew he was anointed to be king, but he refused to expedite the purpose of God. As Luke 14 declares, he became a corn of wheat, planted by the Lord, dying to himself for thirteen years with every kind of hardship and persecution we can imagine. But when God finally set him in that place of leadership, he led Israel to the greatest season they had ever known. Is it possible God is raising up a generation of leaders who will bring this nation back to the greatest season it has ever known? That is my prayer and hope as the Lord matures us for this very unique season!

FRIDAY, March 20
Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 12:7-9

Jesus took back from satan all authority. He said, *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...."* Jesus transferred that authority to us, and we see the results of it in Revelation, chapter 12. What does it require on our part in order for authority to manifest and operate as God intended? Verses 7 through 9 and 17 make it very clear we have an invisible spiritual realm where opposing forces war with each other. How sad for those church attenders who remain blind to this dimension – by pastoral design. I never believed in Purgatory but *if* it exists, these guys deserve it. Our primary weapon in warfare is authority. The enemy's primary weapon is deception, for he is the one who "deceives" the whole world. What must we therefore do with our authority? We must use it to uncover deception. We must use it to obey God, and we must use it to reveal and teach the ways of God, maturing people and bringing a generation to the place where they can stand before the Lord and use their authority freely. We stand between two worlds: the authority of God and the deception of the devil. Going God's way engenders great opposition in all the aspects of life, but has the greatest reward. Compromise by diminishing the message while popular and numerically successful seems to me eternally damning. Which one will we choose? Each one has its own unique fruit – one pays off now and one in eternity!

SATURDAY, March 21
Scripture: Matthew 6:9-11

Because we stand between two worlds, the authority of God and the deception of the devil, it is no wonder the Lord indicates only through prayer can we judge righteous judgment! Ultimately whose kingdom we choose is whose will we do, is whose anointing we receive, is who gains glory from our actions. Would Peter fit in today's church? Would Paul be welcome in today's church? Would Isaiah "fit in"? How would Jeremiah fare? Would Elijah be received? Is Jesus glorified by sheer numbers or did He say make disciples? How does the Lord define success? Are we building **church** or a giant Home Depot where we all get to build as it suits us? It is only through prayer we can discern and recognize God's will, God's way, and God's plan, and therefore choose His kingdom. Whose kingdom we choose is whose **will** we do, is whose anointing we receive, is whose glory we give!

SUNDAY, March 22
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 11:1-4

2 Corinthians 11:1-4, gives us some insight into the apostolic attitude toward the warfare they faced with emphasis on deception. Notice what Paul says in verse 2 and the first part of 3*: "For I am jealous over 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..."* That statement alone tells us they were very aware of the magnitude of the warfare raging around believers. They did not take it lightly. They spent much time in prayer with many admonitions and warnings. A good example of this warfare is 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. This passage tells us of one generation who experienced God at one of the most magnificent hours of manifestation in the history of mankind. With great and mighty judgments, God brought His people out of Egypt. He fed them in the wilderness. He supernaturally gave them water. It was really one miracle after another. Manna from heaven, quail, supernatural protection from the hot sun, a cloud by day, supernatural heat at night by fire. God fully took care of His people, and yet how sad to read verse 5: *"But with most of them, God was not well pleased."* Why not? *"...for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness."* They died because of deception. Is it any wonder Paul said what he did in 2 Corinthians 11? Deception is no light matter. It is a matter of life and death. How many times we *assume* that we know! We get so busy we have very little time to seek God and really get His direction. That is something we cannot afford! Judging Righteous Judgment demands we wait on the Lord!

MONDAY, March 23
Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:18; Genesis 4:9-12

How did the Pharisees fall into domination by mammon? In Deuteronomy 8:18, we see a very strong statement made in God's covenant with Israel. *"And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it He who gives you power (**ko-akh**) to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."* There was a divine provision in the covenant of God with His people to supply them with ***ko-akh*** that they might not lack in anything God intended for them. ***Ko-akh*** is first used in Genesis 4:9-12. Verse 12 says, "*When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its **ko-akh** to you."* Cain's answer in verse 13 is *"My punishment is greater than I can bear!*" He lost his ability for provision. ***Ko-akh*** is strength, ability, power and might. God mightily blessed America and slowly the nation turned from Him. God seems to be judging mammon in the land. We have a new covenant based on better promises, and divine provision is certainly still honored even in greater measure in the New Covenant. To what extent as covenant believers do we suffer as the nation faces God's hand of correction? If it rains on the just and the unjust, then the answer is ***equally***. But for those residing in Goshen, divine provision remains. There was a point where the judgments on Egypt did not fall on those in Goshen. Let's use our authority and see a return of the divine ***ko-akh*** flowing as the Lord intended! Abundant opportunities have been prophesied for the last days! All the prophets have declared, will be seen!

TUESDAY, March 24
Scripture: Job 27:13-17; Proverbs 13:22; Ecclesiastes 2:26; Isaiah 60:1-6; Isaiah 61:1-7

One major blessing of God's covenant is provision. He says even the sinners are given a job of heaping up for those who walk in obedience to the Lord. God consistently promises divine provision for His people. James, chapter 5, tells us there is a season in the end-times when God is going to bring it into manifestation. I believe we are approaching that season, but do we see what the scripture promises now as reality? Is it possible deception is killing our blessing? What law governs finances? The answer is the law of obedience! When we walk in obedience, God's Word says we have the right to put a claim on what we need as our covenant right of provision. God is determined to have a say in what we give where. When we can stand in obedience before the Throne, we can call upon Him to provide whatever we need!

WEDNESDAY, March 25
Scripture: Malachi 3:8-12; 2 Chronicles 16:1-13; 2 Chronicles 24:15-25; 2 Kings 12:17,18

If we are going to Judge Righteous Judgment, we have to do it from a platform that qualifies as a pure Altar so that we can stand in the fire we have to call down. There is a blessing for obedience, there is a curse for disobedience! This scripture in Malachi does not give us the full picture because this is a "purpose" passage, not a "distribution" passage. This passage reveals the purpose of the tithe and the reason why God says, "*Put Me to the test."* The purpose of the tithe is to provide ministry for the people that will bring them to maturity so they are no longer tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine and enticing deception. That issue is so important to God He is willing to say, "Put Me to the test in the financing of it, and see if I will not bless you." The bottom line is still one of obedience. Obedience produces blessing! Disobedience produces cursing! It is interesting to study the kings who robbed God and see what happened to them. Asa, rather than relying on the Lord for the victory, robbed the treasuries of the house of the Lord and paid an enemy, Ben-Hadad, king of Syria, to come and fight for him. God sent a prophet who strongly rebuked him. In verse seven, the prophet said, "*Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the Lord your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand."* He lost a victory God intended to give him. He was in a place where God could not show Himself strong in his behalf as He would have liked. Verses 12,13 tell us Asa got sick and died before his time. He could no longer seek nor walk in relationship with God. Certainly he was a man in deception! 2 Chronicles 24 records the end of Joash, but in 2 Kings, the scripture tells us he robbed the temple of God. Certainly the kings who robbed God were judged. The covenant of God not only is a covenant of blessing, but it is also a covenant of judgment!

THURSDAY, March 26
Scripture: Malachi 3:8,9; Ephesians 4:11-16; Numbers 8:19

What qualifies for robbing God? Is it we simply do not give a tithe, or ten percent, or is it we do not give offerings? Or could we be giving our ten percent and still be robbing God? How could that happen? Are we giving it *where* God wants it given, or giving it to a place where God has not directed? Is it possible there is deception in how the tithe is to be used and ministered? Malachi 3 seems to be a "purpose" passage, not a "distribution" passage! It reveals the purpose of the tithe, which is to bring meat into God's house. The New Testament equivalent of that would be to bring maturity to the people of God, which is the *purpose*, Ephesians, chapter 4, says, for the fivefold ministry. The purpose for meat in the house is that God's people "no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine" but that they come to a place of maturity, or as Numbers 8:19 says, *"...that there be no plague among the people."* In New Testament terms, we would say that there be no deception among the people so they can stand in the measure of the stature of the fullness of Jesus Christ. This was God's purpose for the tithe, to pay for that kind of ministry, and in so doing, bring believers to a place where they could stand on their own two feet and prosper in greater measure than ever before. God's covenant is a covenant all inclusive which provides for everything we will ever need.

FRIDAY, March 27
Scripture: Numbers 18:19-24; 2 Chronicles 31:2-5; Nehemiah 10:37; Exodus 25:1-7 2; Chronicles 24:5-6

Numbers 18 presents the distribution passage. Specifically God tells us what the tithe is for. The tithe was not given to the local synagogue. It was only taken there for distribution for the Levitical ministries. The three priest- hoods in the Old Testament, from highest to lowest, were: Melchizedek (without father or mother, eternal), the type and shadow of Jesus according to Hebrews 7; Aaron, the type and shadow of the New Testament believer offering up sacrifices of praise unto God; and the Levites, the servants of Aaron, a type and shadow of the New Testament fivefold ministry. Any synagogue which would not recognize the purpose of God in maturing people and the necessity of the fivefold ministry, could not consequently claim the tithe for themselves. They would not qualify as a storehouse. The return would certainly not be what was promised or

expected because the covenant was not completed (sanctified – hag-ee-ad-zo). Matthew 23:19 declares it is the condition of the altar that sanctifies the gift.

SATURDAY, March 28
Chronicles 31:2-5; Nehemiah 10:37; Exodus 25:1-7 2; Chronicles 24:5-6

In 2 Chronicles 31, Hezekiah commanded the people, obviously knowing God's intention for the tithes. It was to be given to the Levites that they might devote themselves to the word of the Lord, and therefore, mature the people. That is very clearly said in this passage! As we study the word of God, we should see clearly there is a deception in the land about the use of the tithe, and it is certainly affecting God's promised return. How could all these witnesses be wrong? Nehemiah 10:37 makes it very clear the tithes of the land were to go to the Levites. The issue was not rotely giving to the synagogue for whatever purpose the synagogue might use it. It was to go to the Levites for ministry and maturing the people of God. What then was to take care of the synagogue? Exodus 25:1-7 says offerings were to build, and Joash used them to repair. 2 Chronicles 24:4-6 says offerings were to repair the temple and keep the maintenance on it. Isn't it amazing how we mostly use tithes and offerings exactly backwards today? I'm so glad Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law. Giving seems to be a 100% percent grace operation. Jesus taught tithing as a covenant. Deuteronomy 8 refers to the law of giving. Man initiated the tithe and God received it as a covenant!

SUNDAY, March 29
Scripture: Deuteronomy 12:5,6,11-14,18,19; Deuteronomy 26:2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-12

Where does the tithe go according to scripture? We are certainly not left in the dark about that subject! It has been preached strictly from Malachi, chapter 3, which is not a distribution passage, when many other scriptures (Numbers 18; Nehemiah 10; II Chronicles 31) expound on it. Truly in the mouth of two or three witnesses this principle is more than documented. In Deuteronomy, chapter 12:5,6, God very clearly says we are to take the tithe to *"the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His habitation....."* That is a word for the dwelling place of God, or the glory of the Lord. Again, in verse 14, *"but in the place which the Lord chooses,"* meaning it is God's choice. Verse 18: *"But you must eat them before the Lord your God in the place which the Lord your God chooses."* Again, it is God's choice. Verse 19 makes it very clear the purpose of the tithe is for the Levitical ministry. God is to have a choice and a direction in that which we sow and give. Even in the New Testament we see the same thing. We are to give ourselves to Him, and then He directs. We are to teach people to *pray*, *seek* the Lord, and then *obey* the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Then and only then can they expect the covenant return. There is one individual you know you can trust to direct you concerning your money. That is God and God alone! If God does the directing, you had better believe it will come out right. If you get it from anybody else, there is too much potential personal benefit involved to get a true answer.

MONDAY, March 30
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6,7; 2 Corinthians 8:5

In the New Testament we see clearly one of the primary principles of giving is for a New Testament minister not to put people under compulsion to give into their ministry. What are we to teach? In 2 Corinthians 8:5 Paul says, *"And this they did, not as we had hoped, but first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God."* When someone came asking for funds in those days, the people were smart enough to go *first* to God in prayer and say, "Lord, where do we give what You want us to give?" If we give ourselves first to the Lord, then He will reveal His will concerning direction of our tithes and offerings. This does not change the purpose of tithes and offering, but it simply lets God freely direct. How could anybody be opposed to letting God direct our giving? I personally wonder about the motivation of anyone who teaches anything other than letting God freely direct. If you cannot trust God to direct, then do you really belong in that place? Are you

really called? What God initiates, He pays for! What man initiates, the day is coming when man will have to pay for! Why is this important? Because without passing the mammon test there is no foundation for Spiritual Judicial Authority! How can we preach "Bring the tithe into our synagogue" if there is no commitment to provide fivefold ministry? We torpedo the very thing we seek.

TUESDAY, March 31
Scripture: Joshua 6:15-19; Joshua 7:1-13

Joshua, chapter 6 describes such action. God said, "Everything in here is accursed." The Hebrew word is ***ha-ram***. The basic meaning is the exclusion of an object from the use or abuse of man, and its irrevocable surrender to God. In no other city where God sent Israel did He request any of the spoil. Only in the first one! Obviously it is a type of the tithe of God's people. Even Leviticus 27, verses 28 and 30, using the very same Hebrew word, says the tithe and offering are ***ha-ram*** unto God, or dedicated for the Lord, to be totally excluded from the use or abuse of man and irrevocably surrendered to God. That is what we do when we pray. When we pray and ask God *where* we should put our tithe and offering, we are surrendering it to God irrevocably. When God directs it, it is excluded as an object from the use or abuse of man. ***What makes our tithe and offering holy to the Lord? It is when He has the opportunity to direct it, for the scripture says it belongs to Him!*** When God directs, it is made holy. It is sanctified and our covenant is completed. Then and only then can we expect the promised return! Spiritual Judicial Authority rests on a platform of obedience. If our financial foundation is crooked, our needed Judicial Authority is diminished! If we preach the tithe as an obligation, as something we are to do by rote, "Bring it into this place" what we have happening in the realm of the spirit through the deception of tradition (not necessarily any man's fault), is the spirit of Achan alive and well. When one man preaches all the tithes belongs to the local synagogue with no intention of Levitical distribution save himself and his own ministry and what he wants to do, he puts the congregation in the same place Achan put Israel. Israel went out to battle, they were defeated, and they did not know why! God said it is obvious the covenant is not operational. It has been violated. Is the enemy not still at work attacking the church through deception and tradition, trying to make one of the most important parts of our covenant inoperative? Churches that do five-fold and not just say they are worthy of doing the tithe. Make the covenant operational by praying and letting God direct what we give. Then, and only then, can we claim the promised return qualifying for the full Judicial anointing! The church will demonstrate the fullness of Christ in the last days.

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ITINERARY

March 7	House of Zion 746 Ridgemont Circle Escondido, CA 92027-5115 Phone: (760) 294-4295 **7th** 9:30AM-12PM 1PM-3PM Lunch available $7/per person – Please RSVP
March 13-16	Daystar Ministries Of Summerville 75 Old Trolley Road Ste 6 & 7 Summerville, SC Phone: (843)875-4370 **13th** 7PM **14th** 6:30 PM **15th** 10AM **16th** 7PM
March 27-28	Presence, Power & Passion Ministries The Fire & Lightning Ministry Center 630 Texas Central Pkwy Phone: (254)716-5300 Meetings: **27th** 7PM **28th** 10 AM 6:30 PM