WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER IV

Judging Righteous Judgment IV

Dear Friend:

Almost daily our newspapers trumpet the necessity of the church learning to demand Throne Room justice in which God moves at the prayers of the church to remove those intent on destroying the land. On March 10, 1778, George Washington moved swiftly to judge perversion and set an example for his army. Lieutenant Enslin was tried and convicted of sodomy. He was drummed out of the army, immediately setting a military morale standard which lasted until Bill Clinton's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy and now Obama intends to remove all restrictions – utterly degrading and demoralizing the military!

For twenty-five years presidents have attempted to protect the American people from hostile threats by building a defensive missile shield, but our new president offered to forgo it's completion for Russian help with Iran. Sacrificing safety is now national policy. American tax money now funds abortions around the world, our military morale is being destroyed by a man who knows nothing of the military and the church continues to enable him by praying mercy. Rise up church – go to war!

God's covenant lets us come boldly to the throne and obtain the grace needed to change things. The church is responsible for demanding God move in covenant justice. All the days of Samuel, God moved against Israel's enemies! All the days of Eli, God did not move at all. Which priesthood do we represent? Judging by the fruit why do we look more like Eli than Samuel? Perhaps it is because we pray for instead of against. Jesus encouraged us in Luke 18 to pray against, and the church fears to go there.

We have to approach the laws passed by today's errant judges and legislators like Elijah did in 2 Kings 1:9-15 where the political governmental command was turned back on the head of the perpetrator by the representative of God's government! Legislators who champion homosexuality – let their children be eaten up with it until they have no seed left! Let those who promote abortion see God abort everything they set their hand too! Pray against those who stand against God! Samuel did and God honored it–we will know the season has changed when God's hand moves against the enemy according to the prayers of the church!

Yours In Him,

Al Houghton

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WEDNESDAY, April 1
Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:1,2

Timothy reveals a framework for Judging Righteous Judgment by outlining the conditions of men's hearts in an end-time culture. The top two things that will dominate the majority of men's lives are loving themselves and loving money. The news media has done a very good job of keeping quiet one of the first acts of the 111th Congress. In the climate of financial meltdown *and* dramatically increased spending, the first act was to vote themselves a pay raise[1]. It hasn't made very many newscasts. The hypocrisy of Congress criticizing the greed of Wall Street for causing the banking crisis while feeding their own greed and refusing to acknowledge their culpability is staggering. Congress has the same greed as Wall Street. The problem is in unrepentant hearts. Congress, Wall Street leaders and bankers attest through their actions the accuracy of Timothy's words. The first principle of Judging Righteous Judgment dictates that if we are to be successful in moving God's hand we must stand in the fire we are calling down. We cannot judge hypocrisy in others if it resides in us. If we pray to move God's hand for justice but are participating in the very injustice that we are judging, the fire falls first on us. We find ourselves doing the very things we are judging! Congress is a fine example of this truth. Timothy goes on to say that men will be boisterous, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, and the list continues. He pretty much warns us that in the last days we can expect to face significant adversity, much of which will come directly from government. Are we ready to face a hostile government, which will begin to enact and use laws against the church? This attitude forms the ultimate hypocrisy to the intent of the founding fathers of our nation. It is at this point that the church can stand and Judge Righteous Judgment.

THURSDAY, April 2
Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

In verses 4 and 5, Timothy makes it clear that people will betray each other, will be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, and they will have a form of godliness but deny the power. One of the interesting phrases that comes up in verse 3 is people will "*despise what is good*." Perhaps there is no other area where we see that more apparent than in the advance of special rights for homosexuals. A lesbian couple in Trinton, New Jersey went to the United Methodists and demanded they be able to use the church-owned Ocean Grove Camp Ground site for a same-sex ceremony[2]. The teachings of the United Methodist Church call homosexuality what it is – sin and refuse to allow same-sex unions. The leaders of the campground said we can't do that so the lesbian

[1] http://forums.hannity.com/showthread.php?t=1280231

[2] "New Jersey church camp loses lesbian case." The Christian Examiner Online. February, 2009. http://www.christianexaminer.com/Articles/Articles%20Feb09/Art_Feb09_15.html

couple complained to the state. The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights ruled in favor of the lesbian couple, and now the church has to go back before the judge, who has to set a remedy which will likely be a fine or some other punitive action. It is at a point like this that we ask ourselves how have we come so far from our founders? John Adams, the second president of the United States, wrote to Thomas Jefferson on December 25, 1813 and said this, "I've examined all religions, as well as my narrow sphere, my straightened means and my busy life, would allow; and the result is that the Bible is the best book in the world. It contains more philosophy than all the libraries I have seen." Again on November 4, 1816, Adams wrote to Jefferson stating, "The Ten Commandments and the sermon on the mount contain my religion…" Our fathers who built America were Bible believing people and perhaps in their mind what we are seeing today would inspire a revolution. John Quincy Adams on July 4, 1821 said this, "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity." The founding fathers believed that they built a government that would allow freedom of religion. It is all through their writings. But the judges in Trinton, New Jersey are reversing the very intent of our founders. Judging Righteous Judgment dictates that we invoke the Covenant of Sure Mercy to cut every one of those judges off, just as early Americans cut off the tyrannical rule of Great Britain. They prayed God would bless them through the process and God did. We need an intervention, because this is going to become more and more common. When judges rule to cut off the freedom of the church, demand God do to the judges what the judges have done to the church. This is justice!

<u>FRIDAY, April 3</u>
Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:14-17

In 1798, Thomas Jefferson wrote on the occasion of the Kentucky Resolution, "No power over the freedom of religion…[is] delegated to the United States by the Constitution." We are not the first ones to face hostile government. When Paul wrote 2 Timothy, he had already been facing hostile individuals and hostile government. One of those hostile individuals was Alexander the coppersmith Verses 14-16 state, "*Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them."* When Paul faced great resistance, he prayed and he asked God to weigh back to those individuals **exactly** what they weighed to him. That is the core concept of Biblical Justice that goes all the way back to the Abrahamic covenant. In the case of the United Methodist Church and the judges in Trinton, New Jersey, how would we pray? "Father, in Jesus' name, since these judges have outlawed your word, we ask you to *outlaw* their existence, and cut them off as they have intended to cut off the principles of Christianity in the earth. **Cut off** their existence in the earth and outlaw them from future days. Give us a testimony that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob still intervenes in the lives of men that the gospel may go forth unhindered in the days ahead."

<u>SATURDAY, April 4</u>
Scripture: Ephesians 6:10

"*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might*." On July 4, 1837, in a speech celebrating the sixty-first anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, John Quincy Adams proclaimed to the inhabitants of the town of Newburyport:

> "And why is it that, next to the birthday of the Savior of the world, your most joyous and most venerated festival returns on this day.
>
> Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with **the birthday of the Savior?** That it forms a leading event in the progress of **the gospel dispensation?**
>
> Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact **on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon the earth**?

That it **laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity**, and gave to the world the first irrevocable pledge of the fulfillment of the prophecies, **announced directly from Heaven at the birth of the Savior** and predicted by the greatest of the Hebrew prophets six hundred years before?"

Our forefathers believed that America was established and indissolubly linked to the progress of the gospel. The government came from Christian principles to support the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every judge, every senator, every congressman and **every** president who would champion any law that perverts the purpose of the founders should receive continual intercession of the nature that the apostle Paul prayed concerning Alexander the coppersmith. It is biblical, it is New Testament, and it falls under the category of Judging Righteous Judgment. It is time the church brought the judge of all the earth upon the heads of the leaders of the land, who arrogantly think they can champion their own particular form of perversion. Will the church stand in the power of God's might? Only if we learn to put a demand on His justice.

SUNDAY, April 5
Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 1:1,2

Twenty years ago the Lord rocked my theology by stating, "You are looking for the Jesus Peter, James and John got and they were looking for the Jesus that you are going to get." That was my first clue that Jesus represented two distinctively different ministries – (1) Priest-Savior in the gospels, and (2) King/Judge in the book of Revelation. The church does not know the Jesus of Revelation! Are we ready to learn to represent him? Matthew 28 records the Great Commission. Just prior to His ascension, Jesus transferred the authority bought and paid for through the cross to the church. He made the purpose very clear. Matthew 28 says: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (You) go therefore and use that authority to make disciples of all the nations, teaching them how to walk and live. I will be with you to help bring it to pass." The church is still stuck in the gospels. "Rome is burning and the church can't find a fire engine. The book of Revelation contains the fire engine – connect the hose!" Open the spigot by demanding justice and see what God does!

MONDAY, April 6
Scripture: Revelation 19:11, Mark 16:14-18

Revelation 19:11 shows Jesus as we must be prepared to represent Him – judging and making war. Most of us are much more comfortable with the gospel account of the Great Commission as recorded in Mark. Mark's account expands the scope of the Great Commission, showing us each believer has a part to play. In Mark 16:15, Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" which corresponds exactly with Matthew 18:19. Mark's account proves Jesus was not just commissioning the apostles but all who would ever believe. "*He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name...*." These are the signs which are to follow the preaching of the gospel, confirming we are indeed bearing a message from God Himself. The Great Commission is given to all of us, along with delegated divine authority to authenticate the message. How should we expect Jesus to authenticate a message on judging and making war? He will perform what the Holy Spirit leads us to proclaim just as with the early church? The second area of warfare is bringing people into the fullness of the Holy Spirit. "*In My name they will speak with new tongues...*" This prayer language opens spiritual doors and is necessary in order to see, discern and know the degree of ever present warfare. Without the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we cannot recognize the magnitude of warfare or the force of the spirit realm in which demons operate and function. The third area is "*taking up serpents*," which means "lift up off of" and it deals with the influence of demons. This is not casting something out of a person. This is a person you have to "lift up the influence off of." We see multitudes of people in that circumstance and situation. They are not necessarily controlled by demons, but they are certainly influenced by the enemy. We have a ministry to them through prayer and intercession. We never have to lay our hands on them. Finally, He said, "*You will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover*." It is

interesting to note the first three all deal directly with the devil, and the fourth one is more a witness and testimony to the reality of what we preach. Let's enter in, for the warfare is raging and increasing! It is time for God's army to arise in the power of the Spirit to set crooked places straight!

TUESDAY, April 7
Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10

The authority Jesus bought and paid for in the gospels brings salvation, and in Revelation it reveals judgment against those determined to stop God's kingdom. Knowing Jesus in Revelation is necessary so that we might stand in the earth and move God's hand, confronting and halting the enemy's activity until the harvest is reaped. Even though the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, he is restrained by the Holy Spirit moving through the church. When the church is ignorant of the word and void of the spirit, they will lose every freedom our fathers bled to gain. Our purpose is to bring in the greatest harvest the earth has ever seen from every nation. Now is the time to begin to bring in that harvest. Almost everywhere we look today, especially in the church, there is a harvest. When Paul went out into nations, corresponding adversity required the use of his authority from Jesus in Revelation. We should expect no different! It is time to stand up and demand the judge of all the earth war against judges who rule against the church. Every judge who declares the church discriminatory – let Jesus discriminate against him until he is dismissed from the affairs of men! Praying anything less is probably futile. We can use our authority to move God's hand on the deceived. Destroying deception in people's lives which takes them into captivity has eternal fruit. The problem is there is no fear of the Lord in our neighborhoods. There is very little across the street. Judgment is the only way to restore it! Until the church is ready to represent Jesus the Judge, we will continue to lose ground.

WEDNESDAY, April 8
Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9

The covenantal call to represent Jesus the Judge comes from Isaiah 42 and is the very foundation of our authority. Jesus the Judge is our covenant partner and guarantees us that covenant will never fail. Verse 4 proclaims it! "*He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law*." Jesus established our access to justice in the earth through the covenant. We can put a demand on that covenant for God's justice against enemies! Verse 6 says Jesus has been given to us "*as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners..., and those who sit in darkness from the prison house*." The reason the Holy Spirit came is to reproduce the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ through us. It is necessary to understand the foundation of our authority in order to meet the looming resistance. Where did Paul find the faith to declare blindness on the false prophet? We are to do what Jesus and the apostles did with the same authority and the same anointing from the Father. Years of tradition have locked us out of this realm. The Jesus of Revelation has been utterly ignored - to our hurt! The Old Covenant was embodied in the law, but the New Covenant is embodied in the Spirit. Jesus paid the price for us to have the same Spirit which was upon Him and to do the same miracles: raising the dead and making them dead, healing blind eyes and making seeing eyes blind, stilling the storm and generating one! Now we too are to go forth in that power and anointing of the Holy Spirit!

THURSDAY, April 9
Scripture: Hebrews 8:1-6

Hebrews 8 describes Jesus as seated at the right hand of the reigning Majesty. We are seated with Him. From this place we **will** war! God is a God of planning, forethought and patterns, and He wants things done His way. It was not permissible for Moses to build just any sanctuary. He had to build it according to the pattern shown on the mountain. God is a God of patterns. He has a pattern for our life, a pattern for government, and He has a pattern for the church. If it is not done according to His pattern, it will never produce what is promised. How can one produce biblical results if we never see Jesus the Judge destroy enemies as He did for David? This is

a major problem today. We have a multitude of ministries, but most are not set up according to the pattern. Many of our churches are not set up according to the pattern. Our families are not set up according to the pattern. The fullness of God's promises are waiting for a people who are determined to follow God's pattern. We discover a personal pattern through relationship with God in which the Holy Spirit leads and guides. Abram didn't know where he was going until he arrived. Each pattern for each individual has to be revealed on a personal basis. Then, and only then, will our authority work and bring forth the same results we see in scripture. Walk in the Spirit!

FRIDAY, April 10
Scripture: Hebrews 8:7-13

God instituted a new covenant because the first one could not be kept. There was nothing wrong with the covenant, but the people did not continue in it. Indeed they could not continue in it! The Lord said, "*I will make a new covenant and write the law on their heart so they can all know me.*" What happens when people do not continue in God's covenant? They are disregarded before the Throne! Verse 9 says, "*...and I disregarded them, says the Lord.*" When God disregards an individual, their prayers are no longer heard. They have no voice and no standing in the Throne Room. Consequently, they have no authority. Why have judges mocked God by their rulings against the church for 40 years without penalty? Are we incapable of representing Jesus the Judge? Have we no standing in the Throne Room? The church appears to be easy prey for the devil and his demons. In order to stand victoriously, we must be regarded in heaven. We must have a position before the Throne, and we must continue in the covenant. The church has enabled judges by praying **priestly** prayers for salvation, when we could have been uttering **kingly** demands for justice. God's mercy and grace are rapidly departing because we are not following the spirit. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin, and we must repent for being **nicer** than God! God does not wink at abortion. He does not tolerate homosexuality! Where are the saints whom God highly regards? They must stand in integrity, walk in boldness, and speak things that please Jesus the Judge! Where is the army of God?

SATURDAY, April 11
Scripture: Hebrews 9:1-15

As a New Testament believer, are we prepared to demand covenant justice? Demons have declared war on the church through the homosexual agenda. Through discrimination lawsuits perverse judges are prepared to silence the church's voice against sin by stripping away church property. Can we pray that God will do to them what they desire to do to the church? Let God silence **their** voice. Let God strip them of **their** property. Even as the high priest went once a year into the Holy of Holies and atoned for the sin of the people, so when Jesus died on the cross and the curtain was ripped, it signified that each believer can go in and obtain mercy and grace. Mercy to the church means Gods hand of judgment against the New Jersey judges ruling against the United Methodist Church. Jesus opened the door, and we are invited to come boldly before the Father declaring and decreeing the covenant promises. God promises to **deliver** and **save**. Removing the enemy saves! There is an eternal work we can do from our own prayer closet which Jesus made available. It is part of the great and glorious New Covenant in which we can stand for persecuted Christians, whether next door, or in other cities and nations. To really move in God's authority we must understand the covenant and God's calling on our life. If we spend the majority of our time praying for personal blessing, we surrender our country to the deceived and those with a seared conscience incapable of repentance! This battle is being fought state to state. By refusing to engage, the church could easily forfeit its divine authority and the work of God in the earth would be greatly hindered. Neglecting the Jesus of Revelation has made the enemy bold to steal, kill and destroy. As believers, we should go forth in prayer, in power, and demonstrate the fullness of Christ! The Lord promises to raise a standard of righteousness. **Justice** is that standard!

SUNDAY, April 12
Scripture: Genesis 6:6-19

When God was ready to judge, He granted grace and made a covenant with Noah. God is ready to judge! As He prepares to do a new thing in the Spirit, judgment has begun in the house of the Lord and for the next eighteen months leaders will be under scrutiny. If we withstand the scrutiny, then a Samuel anointing will manifest to move God's hand judicially. God is beginning to open our eyes to certain aspects of the covenant we have never seen nor understood but must perform in this season to save a harvest. God is now emphasizing and bringing forth His covenant with us in such a way we can stand up and know our place and begin to do warfare as David did on the platform of His covenant. Just as God prepared to do a new thing in the days of Noah and made a covenant with a man in order to bring it to pass, so with the church today God is re-emphasizing and bringing to light certain aspects of the covenant, that we might enter into a new move of the Spirit. The authority of God is going to flow through us as never before for the purpose of judgment, restoration, deliverance and blessing. Let's be a people prepared and ready to move with the Holy Spirit!

MONDAY, April 13
Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4

In each generation, when God begins to do something new, He always establishes, or makes real, His covenant with men. We see it in Abram's day. God visited him, spoke to him, and made a covenant with him, encouraging him to move. God is asking us to move theologically! Everything Abram did and every place he went, his prayer life and his stand before God was based on covenant. The covenant becomes the foundation for our authority. In each generation, God determines to bring people into covenant in order for them to walk before Him and accomplish His purpose. God gave David a covenant. Absalom tried to take David's throne and David prayed for God's intervention. God answered and Absalom was removed. Divine purposes are often frustrated by demonized people who must meet Jesus the Judge. Paul met Jesus the Judge and was blinded for three days. We stand in such a place where demonstrating Jesus the Judge is absolutely essential! Are we thoroughly familiar with our covenant so we can readily move into such a realm? If we are not, the time to prepare is now!

TUESDAY, April 14
Scripture: Genesis 22:15-18

Seasonal change is here as financial disruption and judgment settle upon the national landscape. God's judicial hand has settled upon some leaders as the creator prepares vessels of honor to speak hard things to the church and to politicians! There comes a season in each generation when God says, "Now it is time to lay the foundation for the next generation's move in the Holy Spirit." At that point we begin to use our faith to go beyond ourselves as Abram was forced to do. God called him into the greatest test of his life, which in turn would produce the greatest results. Because he was willing to follow the Lord, die to himself and his own desires, Abram became the father of many nations. "*The Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: 'By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven..., and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies*.'" Only judgment possesses the enemies gates. Abraham, at the pinnacle of his obedience, became the foundation for the next generation's walk in the Spirit. So it is with us. I believe God is calling many of us to birth justice for our spiritual children and put a foundation in them to participate in this next major move of the Spirit. By watching our example and seeing our commitment, they will choose the place where God can move in their lives beyond what He has in ours.

WEDNESDAY, April 15
Scripture: Genesis 26:1-14,24,25; Genesis 28:10-22

God prepared Isaac for what He wanted to do. He offered to Isaac the covenant He gave to Abraham. This preserved the continuity of God's purpose, will and plan in the second generation. Isaac had to choose whether or not to pay the price for a divine flow of God's own authority. He made the choice and was blessed with the hundredfold return. Isaac learned quickly it pays to obey God. After Abraham and Isaac, God began to deal with Jacob. Each one was important, because many times in scripture, we have God saying, "*I am...the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob*." In these three individuals, we have embodied the necessity of God's dealings with man. Abraham was the pioneer and God dealt with him in a unique way. Isaac had to break from the independent pioneering ways of dad and not follow in some of his father's footsteps. Isaac's job was to maintain and pass on what was given to him. Walking in the plan God foreordained meant abandoning his own. Jacob had to be broken. How many of us have a lot of Jacob, a little bit of Abraham with the desire to pioneer and be out on the cutting edge, and certainly some of Isaac in us? In each of these three men, we can see a pattern of God's dealings in our lives. He is still the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in that He knows how to bring us into the place where we are fruitful before His Throne. With Jacob, it was a long involved process, and so it has been for many of us. We have grown up in seasons of drought and national rebellion where many people have had to be broken to walk with the Lord. Our brokenness provides God's acceptance for an unbroken generation to be used just as Jesus entered Jerusalem on the donkey and the colt. The colt was unbroken, but held steady by the generation who had been trained!

THURSDAY, April 16
Scripture: Leviticus 26:3-13

To walk with God and see the results He promised, we must stand before Him in His covenant. This was true in the Old Testament, and it is true in the New. God makes His covenant clear and precise. In Leviticus 26, verses 3 through 13, God told the people what He would do for them if they would walk in His ways. God's manifested glory is the result of obedience to a preparation plan! Yielding to His will produces spiritual prosperity. God promises to provide in times of lack. Only when our nation is obedient, do we have safety and peace within our land. Only then will we be free from fear. There is a degree of God's judicial anointing waiting for people who walk in the covenant. The first choice that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego made was whether or not to compromise. After making this stand, events unfolded from there. God takes up residence in us. He promises to walk among us and be our God, and we shall be His people. Our purpose is to witness. How the lines fall from there is in God's hands!

FRIDAY, April 17
Scripture: Leviticus 26:14-39

God's covenant not only has a blessing dimension, but it also has judgments. Each covenant God made had two sides. It had a blessing side, and a judgment side. The national implications of covenant can be seen. If we are disobedient and do not walk in the covenant, we lose our authority to protect our land. We lose our peace, and terror grows according to verse 16. God sets His face against us. People who hate us will reign over us, and we will lose our prosperity. Perhaps being the largest debtor nation qualifies as a judgment. God says, "*I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of My covenant. You shall have no power to stand before your enemies.*" We see much mentioned that is very apparent in our land, all a result of governmental decisions to walk away from God's covenantal commands. The Supreme Court started it all in the 70's by outlawing prayer in schools, then abortion and then banishing the Ten Commandments. Much blood lies at the feet of the Supreme Court! May God require it of each guilty Justice!

SATURDAY, April 18
Scripture: Leviticus 26:40-45

Thank God every covenant not only contains blessing and judgment, but it also contains a promise of restoration for people who sin. It was in the Old Covenant, and thank God, it is continuous in the New. God promised, "*If you will confess your iniquity and your sins and those of your fathers, your unfaithfulness, and the hardness of your heart, accepting guilt, then I will remember My covenant. I will not cast you away; nor will I abhor you, but I will remember the covenant, and bring deliverance, for I am the Lord*." Thank God, there is a place of restoration! How desperately we need that restoration today, and yet it has to come through the church. It has to come through an anointing to bring conviction and through confrontation with God's Word. Because there is no fear of the Lord in government, only judgment will turn the entrenched captivity. Training to represent Jesus the Judge is essential. Our God is a healer, a blessor, a deliverer, but He is also the Judge. Let's stand before the Lord and receive His authority to execute justice and restore a nation.

SUNDAY, April 19
Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-29

David is held up as an excellent example in the New Testament of a man after God's own heart who yields to the Holy Spirit to accomplish all God's will. David was chosen because Saul refused to execute judgment. David was a man after God's own heart, and he had it in his heart to build a house for the Lord. Yet he was called to plan, prepare and position a platform for the next generation. He began to move out in the flesh, and the Lord corrected him and told him his part in what God wanted to do. David was acting like we do many times. The Lord gives us a panoramic view and we forget to ask, "What part is assigned to me? Lord, how are You going to use me in the coming days?" Once David had that established he could move ahead in God's plan. Once we discern and see what God's part is for us to play, then we can move ahead with the full blessing of the Lord because we are in the track He has ordained. This is a season to catch the necessity of representing Jesus the Judge and establishing a theological platform from which we can at least pray as David prayed! Eternal fruit is waiting for our discovery!

MONDAY, April 20
Scripture: Psalm 89:19-46, Hebrews 13:20-21

This passage is a perfect example of what happens in God's covenant when one generation walks with Him, establishing a good foundation, but a second generation comes along that does not walk as their fathers. So it was with Israel, as the psalmist laments in tears, comparing what God did during David's day through the covenant versus his current circumstances. Is the church here? Do our enemies laugh? Does shame abound in the church? Does it seem God has renounced His covenant at times? Perhaps we have come to a season of dealing with the church in which He purifies, purges and removes blemishes. We have been in that season for a long time, and it may continue until an unstoppable army arises! Ultimately God will remove the shame, pour out His Spirit, and there will stand up an army from coast to coast who will begin to do the work and bidding of the Lord! All authority is based on individual obedience to the covenant. Biblically speaking, if God can find one obedient person in each church, neighborhood, city, state or nation, He can judge, deliver, heal or pour out revival. Our goal is to fully qualify for His very best. As we ask, seek, knock and commit ourselves to obedience we can demand the full flow of what God wants to do in our area, neighborhood, family and city. His purposes will pass through us in prayer. Now is the time of preparation. May we be ready as He selects people to move through. May God's purpose come to pass through you as you prepare to move with Him!

TUESDAY, April 21
Scripture: Revelation 12:7-17

Revelation, chapter 12, speaks to us very clearly about the warfare we face and shows us we have to overcome the enemy with our authority. It points us to the position of that authority, where it stands and what is

involved. "*We overcome by the blood of the Lamb*." That is the work Jesus has already done, a covenant upon which we stand, bought and paid for to heal the land. "*By the word of their testimony*" is more than just the words we speak. It is the Word of God we stand on, act on, and decree in the way we live our lives. It is our life-style conformed to God's Word. "*They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death*" is obedience to the Holy Spirit, even to the crucifying of the flesh, producing power. These three things blended together in the life of a believer form the foundation for divine authority, through which God can move and do much damage to the kingdom of darkness. Verse 17 says, "*And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*." Those of us who choose to walk in the Spirit and walk in God's Word face a warfare others know nothing about. The reason we face that warfare is we are a danger to the enemy. Our life-style and our choices of living in God's Word cause us to be a constant threat to satan. Let's rise up and move with the Holy Spirit, for the time of dealing great blows to the enemy is at hand!

WEDNESDAY, April 22
Scripture: Philippians 1:1-16; Galatians 1:1-14

Spiritual authority always comes as a result of two components, pure motivation and God's sovereignty. In Philippians and Galatians we see the result of motivation. Philippians, chapter 1, shows us the warfare Paul faced within his own ranks from those who preached the gospel. He discerned in a multitude a variety of motivations which were not pleasing. We can preach good doctrine, and yet preach it from a foundation which robs us of the spiritual authority to bring to pass what we preach. That is not God's best and yet it abounds. Do we recognize it? Can we discern it? In Galatians, chapter 1, Paul refers to his own background in religion. Perhaps the reason he recognized so well those who preach but did not have real spiritual authority was he at one time was one of them in Judaism. He advanced beyond many of his contemporaries in his own nation because of being zealous. Yet it was all to no avail. What gives a person boldness to stand against every tradition they ever learned? Only a divine infusion of the Holy Spirit can release this! As Galatians 1:15-17 says, "*But when it pleased God, who separated, called, and revealed His Son in me, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood*." There is a season in which we learn about the things of God from God, and then there is a season where God brings us to the place we confer with no man, but we wait upon Him. In that season His direction is made clear. The pathway and course we are to go is burned into our hearts, and we sense, discern and know the direction of our God in such a way no man can dissuade us. When that foundation is laid in our spirit, we are ready for God to display His divine authority through us! We know who we are, where we belong, and where we are going. Once God reveals that in our spirit, we are off and running with Him!

THURSDAY, April 23
Scripture: Philippians 1:15-2:7

This passage tells us the only way we can fulfill God's will is to completely surrender ourselves so the Holy Spirit can have His way. Paul had to do it! He was led by the Spirit into things which produced that in his life. He carried about in his life a conflict, spoken of in verse 30. Conflict always rages between doing what God wants done and doing what benefits us. In verses 5 through 7 of chapter 2, Paul points to Jesus as the example of this truth. Take the same attitude Jesus took, who made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of servant, and coming in the likeness of men. The ultimate service motivation was demonstrated by God Himself, who left His power, ability and might as God to become a man that He might restore to us divine authority. Revelation becomes the sword which cuts the curtain hiding the motivation. Whether we receive or reject the truth, it reveals the motivation of our heart. I believe God will continue to brandish the sword of revelation throughout the church and throughout His ministries. What we have seen thus far is only a small drop in the bucket compared to what is still ahead. God has been dealing with national ministries, and I am sure He is not through, but next He will deal with local ones. As the Lord continues to clean and restore His house, let us be a people who do not criticize but pray, stand before His Throne, and become a part of the answer and not the problem.

FRIDAY, April 24
Scripture: Numbers 18:19-24; 2 Chronicles 24:4, 31:4,5; 2 Chronicles 25:1-7

When the defiling elements of an Eli priesthood permeate clergy, then judgment begins at God's house. It usually starts with national ministries in the area of sexual purity and spreads to the issue of money. Restoring the priesthood is a priority. The Lord will continue to bring forth the truth of the tithe as we discern to whom God gave it, why and for what purpose. The scriptural use of the tithe is consistent from Genesis to Revelation. 2 Chronicles 31:4-5, indicates God gave the tithe to the Levites and the offerings to take care of the temple. The purpose of the tithe as expressed in 2 Chronicles 31 is consistent with the purpose of the tithe in Malachi, chapter 3. The purpose was that Levites might devote themselves to the word of the Lord and teach the commandments of God to the people, bringing maturity, or as Malachi stated it, "*...that there may be meat* (or spiritual food) *in My house*." Spiritual meat brings forth maturity in people. This was the purpose of the tithe. Eli's priesthood forfeited their spiritual governmental authority because of a motivation to accumulate money. The same principle stands today. Governmental authority can be forfeited by the motivation for collecting the tithe or offering. The ultimate issue is not the mechanics of the law, but the condition of heart. Throughout scripture the use of the offering is very consistent. It was given to raise up and care for temples. The very first use appears in Exodus 25, and later, when the temple fell in disrepair in 2 Chronicles 24:4-6, it was to be repaired with the offerings, not with the tithe. Tradition has almost entirely turned these uses around, so that we expect the tithe to take care of the local synagogue and offerings to care for the Levites who bring the Word of God for maturity. It is no wonder the covenant promises of God are hindered in the lives of the majority of God's people. There is a simple New Testament principle that trumps all the theology of the tithe and offering. That principle comes from Romans 8:14, "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God."* ***Be led by the Spirit and you* will *fulfill God's Word*** – end of story!

SATURDAY, April 25
Scripture: Job 27:13-17; Proverbs 13:22; Ecclesiastes 2:26; Deuteronomy 8:18; Isaiah 61:1-7

The scripture very clearly states the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just. Ecclesiastes says through wisdom, knowledge and joy it will be transferred. Isaiah 61 says God will bless us and cause us to be priests of the Lord who rejoice in the wealth of the Gentiles. In Deuteronomy 8:18 God says He has given us authority to get wealth that He may establish His covenant! Spiritual authority for finances is a promised part of God's Word. It is a part of our spiritual authority. Just as Jesus gave us authority to cast out devils and to heal the sick, He gave us authority to prosper and to finance the work of God in the earth. That is a divine authority given in scripture. It is a responsibility of the New Testament fivefold ministry to impart that authority unto God's people, teaching them how it works, flows, operates and functions. If we do anything less, we will have to give an account to God in the last days as to why we hindered the greatest harvest the earth has ever seen. God is still giving authority in the financial realm, and it is time we prepared for it and began to move into it.

SUNDAY, April 26
Scripture: Joshua 7:1-8,27

Part of our foundation for judicial authority comes from the covenant of the tithe! When Achan took what he stole, the whole nation suffered! As we tithe unto the Lord, we give Him the first tenth of what we receive. It activates covenant where God promises to walk with us! It is set apart unto the Lord. It is most holy to God. It is not in anyway to be used or abused by man for it is irrevocably surrendered to God. It is an object devoted to service for the Lord and it is holy unto Him. Achan, however, disobeyed. He touched that which was holy, and the results of his sin were not seen until the next battle. It is interesting how doctrines come into the church over a period of years and their results are not seen until the next generation. Then it is usually too late to discover why things are not working. Network marketing has been around a long time with many legitimate businesses birthed. When apostles recruit churches into down lines, I tremble for their eternity. I often wonder if they won't hear "*depart from me you workers of iniquity, I never knew you*"! Once again the sword of revelation cuts away the

curtain of motivation and we begin to see into the hearts of men. Achan troubled all of Israel, for Achan took of that which was devoted to God. When we recruit churches at 5 or 10% a month and build a down line – get ready for an Ananias and Sapphira! The spirit of Achan is loose in the church and we are in trouble. Such schemes or any motivation not established in obedience nor rooted in faith can make unclean the offerings of God's people and they will not produce the covenant promises as intended. Tradition truly makes the Word of none effect. Any apostolic network that is mammon based deserves the fire of God that destroys. The purpose of restoring apostolic authority is establishing the judgment seat of Christ at the feet of the church. Some apostles could die at the feet of the altar they build!

MONDAY, April 27
Scripture: Philippians 2:5-8

Paul pleads for a change of mind. Walking with Jesus involves the process of renewing the mind so that we yield to the Spirit in all things. The biggest battle is learning to live so that all decisions are not made based on our own best interests. Making spirit led decisions regardless of who they benefit is the goal! Are we there yet? Pursuing this goal sets in motion a cycle which leads to a new level of understanding and obedience. "L*et this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant....*" As we empty ourselves, God brings us to a new level of anointing and revelation and launches us into a new place of ministry. Sometimes it takes years, but as this cycle is produced, God brings forth His purpose and plan. I remember when I had an opportunity to start a church. The primary motivation at that point would have been the financial platform gained through accumulating a large congregation! Such a ministry would have paid for radio time and about everything else I wanted to do. There was a money battle raging but I did not perceive it. Overcoming the enemy then was necessary for growth. Obedience in applying the cross **today** produces praise and victory **tomorrow**. The goal is a pure heart whether in giving or receiving!

TUESDAY, April 28
Scripture: Philippians 2:9-11

Jesus was obedient unto death. We have the same option. Everything that my generation was led to trust in for retirement is being shaken to the point of near collapse necessitating trust in God as the only unshakable rock to which we can turn! Jesus emptied Himself but we are being emptied of everything we trust in accept Him! When emptying is complete, we know full well God's exaltation and promotion will follow. Those ministries who borrowed to build their own kingdom will probably find it collapsing shortly. Those who obeyed God will see supernatural provision! To really judge spiritual success, you cannot use a yardstick of numbers. You cannot judge success by how well an individual is known or the magnitude of their ministry. You have to judge it by the eternalness of their fruit. Does their fruit remain? Are people's lives changed forever as a result of encountering their life and ministry? God promoted the Lord Jesus Christ to a place where He would eternally change the hearts and lives of God's precious eternal beings, and this must become our measure of success. God is still in the promoting business. He is looking for people to promote into a place of producing eternal fruitfulness. The reason money issues are so very important is the prophetic promise of a judgment to be executed by the saints upon satan's kingdom. The rich who have handed over money will release it to those capable of discipling nations.

WEDNESDAY, April 29
Scripture: Philippians 2:12-13

Jesus knows how much emptying is necessary to qualify for promotion into the anointing we seek. He knows how much our heart trusts in investments, in Social Security, in Medicare or in Him. The chief marker of the antichrist spirit is luring people to trust government instead of God. Governments who choose socialism are doomed to fail for that reason. Every man will take the mark of the government they trust! Jesus trusted the father through abandonment unto death. The issue of the hour is where are we placing our trust? Trust placed in anything other

than Jesus will be shaken unto death! God will come to work in us, "both to will and to do of His good pleasure." The Lord is looking for vessels of honor and integrity through whom He can pour out the power of His Spirit. Jesus gave us the pathway. It is time we begin to walk in it with all our heart, for God surely is at work in His people bringing to pass what He loves, a people fit, ready and prepared for the Master's use. I believe we are going to be those people in the last days. Those of us in ministry have the end-time assignment of preparing a generation of believers to execute a judgment written. This judgment is the "anointing to spoil" where money flows to the church for a harvest. But you have to stand in the judicial fire you call down. Trust placed anywhere but Jesus will burn!

THURSDAY, April 30
Scripture: Hebrews 5:5-10

Jesus was careful to not set Himself in a higher position, but waited for the Father's timing. Jesus learned obedience by the things He experienced, and having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation. We learn obedience through the things we experience. We learn what obedience produces and we learn it is the beginning of every transition. As we obey the word of the Lord, God can use us in ever greater measures and promote us with His divine authority. The church must qualify for a justice anointing. The enemies of a national harvest are multiplying. Through His anointing, we bring forth eternal fruit and eventually the harvest of the earth. God's purpose and plan is to pour out a new measure of spiritual authority, but it is very different than a healing revival. This anointing, like that of Acts 4 and 5 kills before it heals all. The Judge of all the earth is about to visit! We are in preparation for it now but that preparation can never be complete without putting mammon under our feet! Ananias and Sapphira died because of misplaced trust! Will we live or die when this Holy Spirit flow manifests? If we live, we take this anointing and remove the hindrances to the harvest!

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Oh Mighty Creator

And covenant keeper

Author of justice and right

Help Your people stand tall

That perversion may fall

At the sword of Your justice and light