

# W O R D A T W O R K

## A Kairos Of Favor II

Dear Friends

Perhaps one of the most appropriate prophetic passages for this season is Joel 2:23-27, “Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you – The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.”

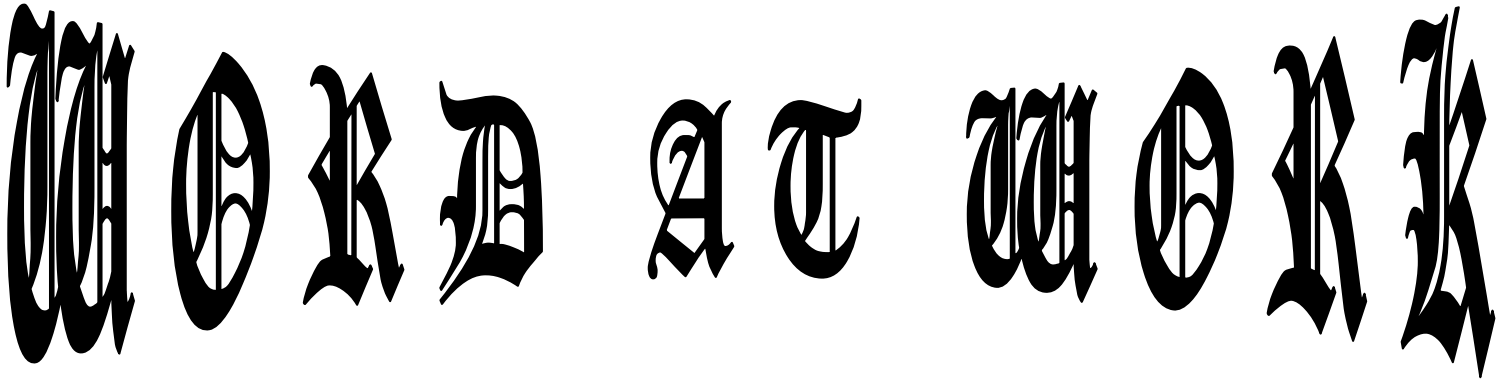
God promises that regardless of how dark the culture gets, and Hollywood continually competes with itself for the privilege of capturing the culture and leading it into ever deeper depths of darkness, in the midst of this headlong dive into depravity one prophetic promise rises with unparalleled light. God offers to give us the rain faithfully or “as the ground requires.”

Revival for the nation is not disqualified by the depth of darkness. The opposite is true. The depth of darkness determines the magnitude of the miraculous required. We must embrace God’s revealed plan by asking for the greatest outpouring ever seen because darkness resides at greater levels than before experienced.

In addition to promising the double anointing for the end-time harvest, this passage guarantees a restoration for every year of the preparational devastation. God acknowledges ownership for the adversity of His people and promises restoration. Surely restoration is at hand!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton



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TUESDAY, March 1

Scripture: Psalm 102:12-13a

We are told in verses 12 and 13, “But You, O LORD, shall endure forever, And the remembrance of Your name to all generations. You will arise and have mercy on Zion;...” “...have mercy...” is the Hebrew word **raw-kham**. We are told this word usually means, “to love deeply, have mercy or be compassionate.” This root refers to deep love (usually of a “superior” for an “inferior”) rooted in some “natural” bond. It is also used for the deep inward feeling we know variously as compassion, pity, or mercy. Apparently, this verb connotes the feeling of mercy which men have for each other by virtue of the fact that they are human beings (Jeremiah 50:42) in which is most easily prompted by small babies (Isaiah 13:18) or other helpless people.” The real question is what causes God to arise from His throne and move toward His people with **raw-kham** kind of mercy?

WEDNESDAY, March 2

Scripture: Psalm 102:1-2

The kind of mercy that fosters a divine declaration of favor has deep spiritual roots. Only a season which is marked by an excessive depth of difficulty produces heart-cries demanding dramatic mercy. Helpless sobbing cries from situations and circumstances which have no answer in the natural demand seasons of divine favor. The necessary depth of the cry implies an extended season where God has not answered and has hidden His face while the trouble performs its crucifying work. Would anyone in their right mind sign up for such a season?

THURSDAY, March 3

Scripture: Psalm 102:3-4

Verses 3 and 4 continue to describe the intensity of the process by saying, “For my days are consumed like smoke, And my bones are burned like a hearth. My heart is stricken and withered like grass, So that I forget to eat my bread.” The Psalmist is describing personal adversity which in every hour of every day feels like being burned until there is nothing left. Even in the deepest part of our heart, which generally protects our motivation for the Lord, he says it “...is stricken and withered like grass....” How many people get to experience losing their desire for God’s calling? How many get to pay the price at this level for helping birth a move of the Spirit for a generation? Part of the “...withered grass...” experience is living with people who haven’t known such intense fire and therefore cannot relate. Dealing with their misunderstanding and misperception is a separate crucifixion. How long could we maintain a mega church if we preached this level of the cross? If we majored on the positive perhaps we could keep the people coming, but if we were to ever inform them what it was going to cost to birth a harvest, I doubt we would have that many left.

#### FRIDAY, March 4

Scripture: Psalm 102:5-7

Verses 5 through 7 tell us, “Because of the sound of my groaning My bones cling to my skin. I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert. I lie awake, And am like a sparrow alone on the housetop.” Qualifying for a **kairos of favor** can mean an extended season of adversity in which there is no more motivation to pray because there are no words. Perhaps it is a bit like Job’s situation. How long such a season lasts is determined by God and His assignment of loneliness and separation described in verse 7. When He says He makes us like “...a sparrow alone on the housetop...” that isolation is based on devastation and the inability of the church to even relate. That is a groaning that is too deep for words, a groaning that when it reaches fullness causes God to arise and get up off His throne!

#### SATURDAY, March 5

Scripture: Psalm 102:8-9

Verses 8 and 9 continue to describe this preparational season for favor by saying, “My enemies reproach me all day long, And those who deride me swear an oath against me. For I have eaten ashes like bread, And mingled my drink with weeping....” Verses 8 and 9 can have a very interesting application for believers, especially Spirit-filled believers who have taken hold of God’s word and His covenant. When you live with covenant promises in expectation for covenant to be fulfilled, every day that it isn’t is like a reproach from the enemy where spiritual derision rises and forces us to eat spiritual ashes and mingle whatever we’re drinking with tears. The anguish of having covenantal promises that are unfulfilled that go on year after year after year creates the exact environment described by the Psalmist. We can take hope in knowing that we’re contributing to the birthing of a season of favor, but whether or not it arrives in our lifetime is in the hands of God. The first three generations in Egypt, when God had already promised they were coming out in the fourth one, didn’t get to see the promise in their lifetime. They had to settle for passing it on to the next generation. We have to let God place us in the timing and generation of His choice and understand that we may spend a lifetime carrying a promise that we don’t see come to pass. A life of ashes and weeping can still make a great contribution. Only eternity will reveal the reward for such sacrifices.

#### SUNDAY, March 6

Scripture: Psalm 102:10-11

Verses 10 and 11 state, “Because of Your indignation and Your wrath; For You have lifted me up and cast me away. My days are like a shadow that lengthens, And I wither away like grass.” The Psalmist came to the conclusion that all the adversity was in God’s hands. The covenant promises of deliverance when not manifesting were in God’s hands. Because the Psalmist was in covenant with The Most High, it was ultimately The Most High who was authoring all the adversity and devastation. He didn’t hesitate to point his finger and say, “It is because of You.” He made it very clear in verse 10 when he said, “For You have lifted me up and cast me away.” Now the same Psalmist, that could put his finger in God’s face and say “You are the cause of this” could also proclaim that God would be the One to “...arise and have mercy on Zion.” American Christianity has very little place for the true depths of the cross and many of us would be surprised at how we have been inoculated against it by past teaching. When it is possible to reject different levels of the cross because we just can’t imagine God doing that, then we really don’t know the pattern of Isaiah 53 that birthed our salvation! A **kairos of favor** has to be birthed and we should not think it a strange thing when we find ourselves in that process. Most of us think it is strange because we simply haven’t been prepared for it. Is there a season of favor coming? There certainly is! Does it have to be birthed? It would certainly appear that is the case! The pattern will not go away.

## MONDAY, March 7

Scripture: Psalm 102:13

Verse 13 says, “You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come.” God’s favor is set by seasons and that is what we need to understand. Seasons have to be accomplished to qualify for it. Seasons change. Seasons of adversity give way to seasons of favor and seasons of harvest. So when the Lord begins to say there is a season of favor that is approaching then we need to look at the process, assess the pattern and prepare ourselves to finish the season of adversity so that the season of favor can be fully birthed. God has a set time and we have to choose to attempt to understand the times and the seasons and prepare for the one that is coming. Realizing this is a process helps us prepare for the transition ahead.

## TUESDAY, March 8

Scripture: Proverbs 3:1-2

The first question that should arise when we hear the proclamation of a season of favor is how can we contribute to making the transition? Are there any principles that can help us speed up the process? Proverbs 3:1-2 gives us such a principle. It says, “My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you.” A life lived apart from God’s word is a life that doesn’t qualify, necessarily, to make transitions. Length of days, long life and peace are great promises. Length of days and long life doesn’t have much value if there is not some peace with it. The benefit of God’s word and being a doer of it, not a hearer only, is that we are promised length of days and peace. I can’t think of a better preparation for a season of favor than to be found doing God’s word, extending our days, storing up an outpouring of peace.

## WEDNESDAY, March 9

Scripture: Proverbs 3:3-4

Verses 3 and 4 of this passage bring us into a second major principle that is applicable in a transition to a season of favor. It says, “Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the table of your heart, And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.” If the Lord is declaring a **kairos of His favor**, favor is always preceded by mercy. To expedite that season, we would have to embrace that mercy and begin to extend it to other people. In Proverbs 3:3-4 we are told to bind it around our neck and write it on the tablet of our heart and then we will find favor in the sight of God. So mercy is something we have to **do** or show. We have to be a doer of God’s word in extending that mercy to other people. How we do that may determine what kind of transition into this new season we have. Some transitions last a decade. If we could speed up a “decade-long transition” into one that only lasts a year by showing mercy, then we better start looking for every opportunity to show mercy.

## THURSDAY, March 10

Scripture: Psalm 119:57-58

Psalm 119 reveals another principle that expedites transitions. Verses 57 and 58 say, “You are my portion, O LORD; I have said that I would keep Your words. I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word.” To entreat means to seek the face as part of the body that turns toward, entreating His favor, not half-heartedly but whole-heartedly. All who desire favor cannot afford to be half-hearted. God is looking for whole-hearted believers who are completely and totally sold out to Him. This is such a season and how we respond will most likely determine the length of our transition. The choice is ours to make daily.

### FRIDAY, March 11

Scripture: Proverbs 11:27

Verse 27 states, “He who diligently seeks good finds favor, But trouble will come to him who seeks evil.” “He who diligently seeks good...” means desiring the best for everyone we encounter. Being diligent means developing consistent stability in our extension of mercy. Favor from God is a response to our circumstances, situations, attitudes and actions. The Modern English Translation of Proverbs 11:27 makes this clear. “He who diligently seeks the best for everyone he encounters finds favor, But trouble will come to him who seeks evil.” Sounds like the author of Proverbs is telling us we have a choice and how we relate to people and what we seek for them will determine what comes back to us.

### SATURDAY, March 12

Scripture: Proverbs 16:14

Verse 14 says, “As messengers of death is the king’s wrath, But a wise man will appease it.” Now the question becomes what can we do to appease the wrath of the king and stop the messengers of death. One of the primary things we can do is to show mercy. When we show mercy we always appease wrath. As we show kindness and mercy we appease the king’s wrath and in the process possibly expedite a season of favor. Historically moves of the Spirit have been either extended or shortened by the church’s response. The choice is ours, but the principles are clear!

### SUNDAY, March 13

Scripture: Leviticus 16:11-13

In Leviticus 16:11-13 we are shown exactly how the priests appeased the wrath in the Holy of holies. It was a God-revealed process and it worked quite well for them. Verses 11 and 12 say, “And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which is for himself. Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense **beaten fine**, and bring it inside the veil.” Generally the sweet incense that we carry as believers only arises from the process of being “**beaten fine**”. Our ability to praise the Lord carries much greater weight from such places. Praising the Lord and going into His presence gives us the opportunity to speak or decree mercy over others, consequently in some cases appeasing wrath. There is no substitute for personal relationship with the Lord where we consistently enter His presence with praise and declare His mercy over those involved in our lives. This is a call from which we dare not retreat. America desperately needs God’s mercy. Muslims only offer judgment. **The church is God’s chosen agent of mercy!**

### MONDAY, March 14

Scripture: Leviticus 16:13

Verse 13 says, “And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the Testimony, lest he die.” The very first thing the priest had to do when he entered the Holy of holies was to activate the mercy seat. That was God’s idea – He authored this pattern. The priest lived when he energized the mercy seat. Only what was **beaten fine** qualified. Activating the mercy seat brought forgiveness and life. Jesus died to become a permanent mercy seat and we can activate that incense daily, but only those “beaten fine” seem to have the heart for it. Expediting a season of favor means activating God’s mercy seat for our leaders, our cities and our nation. If the church will rise up and fulfill its responsibility, God will surely deal with the terrorists. No one can be your enemy long and live when God truly becomes your friend. The church has a very significant responsibility in this season. How we respond may definitely impact the length of the **kairos of favor** ahead.

## TUESDAY, March 15

Scripture: Acts 4:29-30

Verses 29 and 30 say, “Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” When the early church faced dramatic opposition, like America faces on a national level today, they went before the Lord and demanded His mercy manifest in boldness on their lives so they could speak the word, so that God would stretch out His hand and confirm their word with signs and wonders following. Certainly, as the church, we find ourselves in such a place. The threats we have incurred determine the boldness we need, demand miracles to survive. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and have the unity that no one can gainsay or resist. Surely the stage is set for the church to become the radical end time harvesting agent for The Most High! The season is here. How will we respond to the favor of God?

## WEDNESDAY, March 16

Scripture: Acts 4:31

Verse 31 says, “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” When the church came together in one accord and prayed, stood their ground and put a demand on God for His mercies – His mercy came! Part of the transition into a season of mercy is putting a demand covenantally on it before the throne. The early church did not hesitate to put a demand on God’s covenantal blessing when they needed it, and what should be quite exciting to us, at this stage, is that God answered! He answered graciously. He answered gladly. And He answered dramatically! The early church had an anointing no man could gainsay or resist. If you resisted the Spirit, you died. It seems the Lord is pushing us, as the church, to possess what He has had for us all along.

## THURSDAY, March 17

Scripture: Acts 4:32-33

Verses 32 and 33 say, “Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” In the expediting and manifesting of a season of God’s favor, notice the long season of persecution and adversity that precedes it. As the early church began to step into the transition circumstances demanded they ask, seek, knock and require covenantal promises be fulfilled. When they did, when they boldly stepped up and put a demand on Heaven to show mercy, God came. How much better could anything get than verse 33, “And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” The long season of adversity ended with the full measure of God’s grace on everyone in the church. Those who paid the price to birth it and those who didn’t. Birthing such a season has great value even for those in our own generation who have never had to walk in great adversity. We have a choice to make and it is time to pursue the full measure of what God is trying to give us.

## FRIDAY, March 18

Scripture: Acts 4:34-37

Verses 34 through 37 say, “Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.” One of the last things we see in this progressive possessing of dramatic unhindered favor is the absolute domination of the spirit of mammon because every believer soberly considered his responsibility. If God demanded we pass the “Are you your brother’s keeper?” test, would we qualify? The early

church wanted the full measure of God's favor and had no choice but to answer in the affirmative! If this is a pattern for possessing such a season, then is it not entirely possible that many of us will have to pass this same kind of mammon test? I feel like my entire ministerial life has been given to recognizing, writing and ministering about overcoming mammon.

#### SATURDAY, March 19

Scripture: Proverbs 16:15 and Deuteronomy 11:13-14

In Proverbs 16 we get a glimpse of what a season of favor looks like. We are told, "In the light of the king's face is life, And his favor is like a cloud of the latter rain." A season of God's favor would look like the "...latter rain..." whatever the latter rain looks like in both purpose and manifestation. The very first mention of "latter rain" is in Deuteronomy 11:13-14, "And it shall be that if you diligently obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil." The purpose of the latter rain was increasing yield or magnitude of harvest. The latter rain dictated the final stages of growth and development of the crop. The amount of the latter rain poured out determined the magnitude of the harvest brought in or collected. Whatever the magnitude of the harvest that God wants certainly the latter rain will be appropriate to bring it in. We should note that there can be no gathering in of the great end time harvest without the latter rain, so that establishes the divine purpose. Our challenge is to possess it!

#### SUNDAY, March 20

#### HAPPY PALM SUNDAY

Scripture: Job 29:21-22

In verses 21 through 25 we discover what the latter rain should look like. We are told, "Men listened to me and waited, And kept silence for my counsel. After my words they did not speak again, And my speech settled on them as dew." Isn't it interesting that Job experienced an anointing that was so great it silenced the crowd. God so impregnated his words with divine weight that when they were spoken no one could reply. All arguments were settled. All debate was ended. The words were so weighty that no one could speak again after they heard them. His speech settled on them as dew. Imagine taking that level of anointing into the Supreme Court, or taking that measure of authority into the U. S. Senate. Imagine walking into the House of Representatives with that anointing. Imagine taking that anointing into the educational arena where teachers are attempting to impress small children with the perversion of the homosexual lifestyle. The latter rain has a dramatic anointing that cannot be gainsayed or resisted. Like the early church, we are being forced to possess it!

#### MONDAY, March 21

Scripture: Job 29:23-25

In verses 23 through 25 we find, "They waited for me as for the rain, And they opened their mouth wide as for the spring rain. If I mocked at them, they did not believe it, And the light of my countenance they did not cast down. I chose the way for them, and sat as chief; So I dwelt as a king in the army, As one who comforts mourners." The latter rain anointing causes people to wait to hear the word at our lips. Malachi was very clear about revealing God's purpose for His priests. Malachi's words form the foundation for understanding the necessity of possessing a latter rain anointing. In Malachi 2:5-7 the Lord said, concerning His covenant with Levi, "My covenant was with him, one of life and peace, And I gave them to him that he might fear Me; So he feared Me And was reverent before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth, And injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, And turned many away from iniquity. **For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.**" Will we once again see the Levitical priestly anointing operate in the life of the believer in the magnitude that Job experienced? Our nation is desperate for it. Our cities need it. This is part of the latter rain

and the prophets have promised we would see it for an end time harvest. Perhaps it is time to start believing the Lord to bring forth such a season.

## TUESDAY, March 22

Scripture: Jeremiah 3:1-3

Another question we should ask ourselves in conjunction with what can we do to expedite a season of favor, is what might we do that would hinder, hurt or harm its manifestation? Jeremiah 3 speaks to just such an issue. The first three verses state, “‘They say, ‘If a man divorces his wife, And she goes from him And becomes another man’s, May he return to her again?’” Would not that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; Yet return to Me,’ says the LORD. ‘Lift up your eyes to the desolate heights and see: Where have you not lain with men? By the road you have sat for them Like an Arabian in the wilderness; And you have polluted the land With your harlotries and your wickedness, Therefore the showers have been withheld, And there has been no latter rain. You have had a harlot’s forehead; You refuse to be ashamed.’” One of the things that stops the latter rain is when a nation proclaims spiritual perversion and is unashamed, or shall we say, statutorily protects homosexual and lesbian marriages in defiance of God’s word. Spiritual adultery has a variety of forms that are currently heavily practiced and endorsed in America. Perhaps one of them is environmentalism where the foundation is nature worship. When laws like the Endangered Species Act are passed, animals are given rights that are taken away from man. God never said to worship the animals. He said subdue them. The Endangered Species Act empowers animals to subdue men. Predatory animals are now protected in a variety of States and they are getting so bold that they are coming down into the suburbs attacking joggers and children. In California men use to hunt mountain lions but thanks to nature worship now mountain lions hunt men! There are whole segments of our population who champion the very things for which a nation should be *ashamed!* These things will stop the latter rain.

## WEDNESDAY, March 23

Scripture: Hosea 6:1-3

Verses 1 through 3 promise, “Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight. Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.” The latter rain is promised. We’re warned that sometimes it only comes when we “...pursue the knowledge of the LORD.” God demands to be pursued in order to release this level of anointing. Returning to the Lord and continually pursuing Him is the path to possession. We’re exhorted to pursue Him. We can pursue Him through worship. We can pursue Him by reading Scripture. We can pursue Him in meditation. We can pursue Him in prayer. There are many and varied ways to “...pursue the knowledge of the LORD.” Pursuing Him will unlock the latter rain. I’m not sure it will come any other way.

## THURSDAY, March 24

Scripture: Joel 2:23

Verse 23 states, “Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully. And He will cause the rain to come down for you – The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month.” Verse 23 is very interesting in that it gives us a picture that harkens back to the very first appearance of “latter rain” in Deuteronomy where we discovered that the purpose for the latter rain, as opposed to the former rain, was the maturing of the crop in the field. The latter rain always determined the magnitude of harvest. When it comes to the spiritual application of this truth, then verse 23 is quite enlightening when it says, “For He has given you the former rain faithfully. And He will cause the rain to come down for you – The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month.” “Faithfully” is the Hebrew word **tsaw-dak** and it literally means according to what the ground requires. So both the former and the latter rain are governed in spiritual application



by two primary principles. #1 the condition of the potential harvest and #2 the magnitude of what God wants to accomplish. Those determine the intensity and the amount of the latter rain. When we are making spiritual application, we have to ask how hard are the hearts of the people and how deep is the darkness? How perverse is the homosexual lesbian community? How thick is the darkness around them? And how intense is it in our society? The issue is *not* how bad things really are. We can ask for the latter rain according to the depth of societal darkness. God promises to eclipse the depth of the darkness by intensity of the rain He gives. What determines the intensity of the latter rain is hardness of men's hearts. There is no reason to be discouraged by the condition of the nation, because God has already promised "I will give you an anointing that will break the deception" – because it is the darkness that determines the magnitude of the anointing that we can birth. We need to ask accordingly.

FRIDAY, March 25

HAPPY GOOD FRIDAY

Scripture: Joel 2:24

The issue of the condition of the society determining the magnitude of the latter rain is not only evident in Joel 2:23 and 24, but it can also be seen in the progression of what they asked for in Acts 4. Verse 24 of Joel 2 says, "The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil." The whole issue of former and latter rain is that we get the magnitude of it appropriated to the harvest that God ordains! When the early church faced increasing adversity they simply, in Acts 4, asked God to give them an anointing for boldness and to extend His hand in signs, wonders and miracles that would overcome the opposition. God did just that and they overcame. That is all we need to know to realize that this is a principle that goes beyond Joel and beyond the early church and settles right at our feet. The early church is the example of what the prophets proclaimed. That tells us that we can stand in the same place because this is a pattern. A pattern that we should never hesitate to ask for. The issue is not whether we are qualified. The issue is not our ability. The issue is not our intelligence. It is not our degrees. The driving issue is the condition of the society. God promises to give us an anointing that will break through whatever level of darkness incarcerating the nation. It is time we asked accordingly!

SATURDAY, March 26

Scripture: Joel 2:25

Verse 25 says, "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you." Here we have God acknowledging His involvement and taking ownership for the preparational devastation in the lives of the reapers. He lists four levels of devastation and goes on to acknowledge His involvement by saying, "...**My** great army which **I** sent among you." God acknowledges His use of adversity to shape individuals for a higher purpose. Joseph is a prime example. He *knew* Him as redeemer. He refused vengeance and accepted God's as the author of his devastation. The first level of adversity is called "...swarming locusts...." The swarming locusts in Hebrew is the word "**ar-beh**" which means to increase so fast that you cannot get ahead of them. Everything that rises above the ground they consume. The next level or "**yeh-lek**" are too young to fly so they devour everything that the swarming locust leave and make it level with the ground. Consuming locust or "**khaw-seel**" or the ravagers. They finish the plant off by eating down to and through the root. They bring it to an end. They apparently have the ability to eat it all the way down to the seed by going underground. And finally when there is nothing left but dream or vision we have the "**gaw-zawm**" or those sent to devour. God says it is "...**My** army." He says, "...**I** sent them and I am responsible for your condition during this season." When God acknowledges that He is the source of devastation, I guess its safe to agree with Him.

## SUNDAY, March 27

Scripture: Joel 2:26

## HAPPY RESURRECTION DAY

Verse 26 says, “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied. And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.” The Hebrew word translated “wondrously” here is **paw-law** and it means to go beyond the bounds of human power and expectation. One of the very first places we see this used is Genesis 18:14 where God comes to Abraham and Sarah and says “About this time next year you will have a son.” Sarah laughs and the angel responds “Is anything too **paw-law** for the LORD?” Is anything too hard, too difficult for God to bring to pass? Whenever devastation has grown to the point where it is turned into shame on people only a **paw-law** can reverse it. And only a **paw-law** that God brings. A **kairos of favor** is an extended on-going season where the **paw-law** of God continually flows through people and results in a harvest. For many of us who have qualified in length of devastation then we certainly can look forward to a long season of divine restoration and redemption. What greater day to celebrate the **paw-law** of God than the ultimate all-time historical **paw-law** ever released – the resurrection of our LORD JESUS CHRIST! God promises that crucifixion seasons will end in resurrection!

## MONDAY, March 28

Scripture: Joel 2:27

Verse 27 says, “Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.” To know God in ultimate intimacy, which is the Hebrew word **yaw-daw** is a process that parallels the death burial and resurrection. Truly knowing God means tasting this pattern. This process, according to Joel, has four levels of locusts. The process releases great shame. It accrues terrible frustration. It carries long periods of unfulfilled promises. It ends with God acknowledging His sovereign hand as the author. Not only does God acknowledge His responsibility in putting believers through levels of hell, striping and devastation, but He promises to redeem it in such a way that we come out knowing something we didn’t know before. The something we **know** is God Himself. Is it possible to **know** God and not taste the cross? It would seem that it is possible, but only in a very shallow way. To **know** God in any depth at all demands we know Him at the level of commitment in which He came to redeem His creation. None of us would ever sign up for this process. You have to be drafted. American Christianity has one major problem. It wants all the covenant blessing but it wants to run away from the crucifixion and the application of the cross. God says we will know Him but **knowing** Him in any depth has a very steep price!

## TUESDAY, March 29

Scripture: Psalm 145:14-19

In Psalm 145 we’re told in verses 14 through 19, “The LORD upholds all who fall, And raises up all those who are bowed down. The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works. The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.” A **kairos of favor** is a season where God comes to us and says, “What would satisfy the deepest desire of your heart?” Once expressed, He performs it. That is verse 16 and that is the promise of a **kairos of favor**. Be prepared to answer that question because in this season the Lord will come and personally ask it.

## WEDNESDAY, March 30

Scripture: Zechariah 10:1

We can ask ourselves what is required of us in a season where the latter rain is promised? Zechariah 10 verse 1 may be a bit of a surprise, but it has the answer. Verse 1 says, “Ask the LORD for rain In the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for

everyone.” What does God want from us in a season of latter rain? He simply wants us to *ask*. “Ask ye rain in the time of the latter rain.” That is the bottom line. All we have to do is *ask*!

#### THURSDAY, March 31

Scripture: James 5:1-8

In James 5:1-8 we have the eighth and final mention of the latter rain in Scripture. And we should note that even at this point we have a prophetic progression that speaks in both position and content. Not only is the eighth appearance the number of new beginnings, but also we are told that in a season where the rich have corrupted and hoarded God will come and release their stockpiles to the church. The purpose is a mighty harvest. Verse 7 says, “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.” God wants a harvest. He has promised to give the rain so that we may have it. Our job is to *ask*!

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#### ITINERARY

Al Houghton

March 6-13

Lighthouse Christian Church

Kilauea – Kauai, HI 96754

Phone: (808)826-9080

Services: 6<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM 8<sup>th</sup> 7PM 9<sup>th</sup> 7PM 10<sup>th</sup> 7PM 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM

March 31 – April 2

Servant Ministries

Honeysuckle Inn and Conference Center

3598 Shepherd Of Hills Expressway

Reservations: 1-800-942-3553

Services 31<sup>st</sup> 7PM 1<sup>st</sup> 7PM 2<sup>nd</sup> AM

## I CHOOSE YOU

It's my declaration  
That You're number One  
In Your Presence so lavish  
My heart is undone

In seeking Your face, Lord  
As I'm privileged to do  
I'm awed beyond words  
That You've chosen me too.

Jayne Houghton