

THE ROOT AT THE

Kingly Character of Christ VII

Dear Friend:

What does God want in this season? Since we face the ending of the age, Revelation 22 practically presents the best answer in verse 16, *"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."* The making of a Davidic heart is generally not done with great fanfare, fame and fortune. Jesus as the Root of David is looking for His branches.

When Samuel thought he recognized God's chosen successor to Saul, the Lord corrected him with this blunt truth from 1 Samuel 16:7, *"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'"* Sauls abound, but Davidic Roots are rare! Few volunteer for heart transplants.

The character of a King is formed as we go about our everyday affairs when adversity arises. Saul told David he was not able to fight the giant! David proved his readiness by his response to adversity in 1 Samuel 17:34-37, *"But David said to Saul, 'Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.' Moreover David said, 'The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.' And Saul said to David, 'Go, and the LORD be with you!'"* Standing against adversity qualified David!

How are we responding to the adversity that arises? Do we "turn-the-other-cheek" and let demons rule or do we stand up and declare Kingly authority? Let God arise and His enemies be scattered! When the Davidic heart is fully formed, you will rule through the Holy Spirit! Rule in the midst of your enemies as a King. The Kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force! David's Root is rising!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

W O R D A T W O R K

Kingly Character of Christ VII

FRIDAY, JULY 1

Scripture: Revelation 1:5,6

Revelation 1:5,6 says, “...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” Every New Testament believer is assigned to grow and develop into the fullness of Christ. Christ is both Priest *and* King. The Priestly ministry ministers salvation and the Kingly declares justice according to the moral standard of the Ten Commandments. By emphasizing the Priestly, we have failed the church in developing the second level of who Jesus is. The ascended Christ is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and He is the Judge of all the Earth. The government is on His shoulders, but the church rarely accesses governmental authority. In the natural, our firemen and policeman have no problem accessing the governmental authority of the badge they wear. It becomes as natural as getting up in the morning and walking down the street. They learn to represent the authority of the government they serve. There is a difference between a policeman and most Christians. policemen have learned to do their job of enforcing the law, while Christians have not tapped God's judicial authority! The enemy has cunningly neutralized the church, and he accomplished it through tradition. We are, I believe, standing on the edge of the greatest recovery movement in history. As the church recovers the authority of the risen Christ, our spiritual “policemen” will arise. When we face losing the nation, the church is forced to be the church!

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:1-3

1 Samuel 15:1-3 says, “*Samuel also said to Saul, 'The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."*” One of the biggest barriers that we have as New Testament Christians is that in our tradition, we have taken the love of God expressed for the lost and broken and we have made it the entire package of the love of God, and that is *not true*. That spiritual tradition has been more responsible for neutering the church than perhaps any other single theological expression in history. The church is responsible for demonstrating the judicial Christ. Kings got that assignment. When we read this passage, we realize that God gave this assignment to King Saul through Samuel. Now the assignment was one of Biblical justice. What is unique about this assignment is it reveals Saul's heart. Saul enabled evil by not judging it physically. Christians enable it by refusing to ask God to judge those practicing it today. We can pray that God will judicially remove an enemy. Jesus has the keys to death, hell and the grave meaning He can be persuaded to use them. Because of our tradition, we do not think like a King. Thinking like a King is different because we realize the

essence of justice demands judgment! Now being a King in the New Testament is different in this sense. We do not go out and swing the sword or pull the trigger unless we are “in uniform.” The trigger we pull is in prayer and the sword we swing is the Word of God on our lips, declaring the judicial intervention of the God who has the keys to death, hell and the grave. The church that knows how to walk in that realm is the one that winds up the age. Are we ready?

SUNDAY, JULY 3

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:9-11

1 Samuel 15:9-11 says, *“But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, ‘I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.’ And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.”* I would hate to ever hear these words on judgment day concerning myself or any person that I had the opportunity to teach. It would be such a grief to me that I could hardly bear it. Now Samuel was grieved because God was grieved. And God was grieved because the individual He chose, would not step into the office of the King. This is precisely the issue we have spiritually with the church. But the example for us in the New Testament becomes a spiritual one. We have the same hesitation to declare God's justice/judgment on the head of perpetrators as Saul did in refusing to bear the sword. What Saul did physically, we do spiritually, all the time. We refuse to strike with a rod of iron. Jesus has a two-edged sword coming out of His mouth and with it, He strikes the nations. But not us, we would not strike anything. Good Christians do not do that. Deceived Christians do not do that. Real Kings understand the necessity to rule! The enemy has completely neutered the church because we refuse to war with Jesus. Because our mentality is totally Priestly, it precludes the Kingly side of who Christ is. Consequently, we cannot go there – our theology prevents us from going there. The result is that we forfeit victories God would like to give. Let God arise and His enemies be scattered!

MONDAY, JULY 4

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:23-26

In 1 Samuel 15:23-26, Saul has to deal with the fact that he was disqualified from the office of King because he refused to embrace the fullness of God's justice and execute it. What Saul refused to do in the natural, New Testament Christians refuse to do in prayer and we have the fruit to prove it! Saul knew, allowing Agag to live was rebellion. Tradition says, “Always turn the other cheek.” We refuse to pray enemies into destruction by theological tradition. Jesus taught, “Avenge me of My enemy.” Tradition makes the Word of no effect. Destroying tradition recovers the power of the Word to deliver. We can recover our authority, “Avenge me of My enemy.” David revealed he understood his covenant by asking God to terminate his enemies. The church must recover that understanding. When the light comes on for a Christian today, we are not disqualified from our Kingly office, in fact, we are fully invited to step into it. That is the good news about the season in which we live. The Lord is turning on the light. He is giving revelation. What we do with that revelation is the key to whether America survives! The only ones who will forfeit their Kingly office are those who refuse the revelation and continue to adhere to their tradition. Those people are very Saul-like. But I am persuaded that will *not* be our fate! When catastrophic judgments hit the land, Jesus is demanding repentance!

TUESDAY, JULY 5

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:7,18

1 Samuel 16:7 and 18 state, *“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’...Then one of the servants answered and said, ‘Look, I have seen a son*

of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him" God is looking at our heart. When He sees a heart for justice, I believe the Lord rejoices because He knows there is somebody who will take this revelation and will embrace it and walk in it. They will not be a Saul-like king. When we say yes to revelation, we resemble King David. Verse 18 describes him, *"...a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and (most of all) the LORD is with him."* That is the King that God is raising up in the church today. The emphasis is not on how we look, but on the Lord is with us. And when the Lord is with us, the authority of the Throne is present. That is where we want to stand today – what a place to be! As we stand with the King, His justice will come!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

Scripture: Romans 13:1-4

Romans 13:1-4 says, *"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil."* The King's job was Godly rule. Bringing the force of government demands judgment in order to accomplish justice. If government is perverted, then executing God's wrath is perverted. The reason the righteous groan when the wicked are in power is because the wicked enable evil in government. The wicked bring wrath and persecution on the righteous while encouraging evil. Wicked rulers promote evil, demanding God's judgment. A church that cannot represent the judicial Christ is utterly worthless to a nation when rulers give themselves to evil. No Christian nation should have to endure evil rulers. The church should bring the hand of God upon them and through one of the layers of love, see them repent, or watch them be removed. Romans 13 says that government has the job of terrorizing evil. Are we terrorizing evil or are we allowing evil rulers to terrorize the church? Who is terrorizing who?

THURSDAY, JULY 7

Scripture: Acts 12:1-6

In Acts 12:1-6 we have an evil ruler terrorizing the church. He kills James and puts Peter in jail. How should the church respond to such persecution? Should we "turn-the-other-cheek", pray for and bless the perpetrators? Or is it time to exercise the authority of a King? When Israel cried out to God their prayers were heard. God answered by killing their enemies. He has not changed. The New Testament concurs. Jesus cleaned house in the temple as a response to consummate evil. Consummate evil rules in America today in so many places that judgment is manifesting in the weather. Unfortunately adversity falls on the just and the unjust. Everyone pays for evil rulers.

FRIDAY, JULY 8

Scripture: Acts 12:22-23

Acts 12:22-23 says, *"And the people kept shouting, 'The voice of a god and not of a man!' Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died."* It is obvious that when the early church went judicial they asked God to do to the rulers what the rulers were trying to do to them. This was a standard, biblical intercessory response that goes all the way back to the Abrahamic covenant in Genesis. God honored His original covenant with Abraham, *"I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who curse you."* In other words God says, "The way that people treat you is how I will treat them." That is covenant justice. It has never changed. It goes all the way back to Abraham and it is the essence and the foundation of our Biblical covenant today. When the church invokes covenant, we are demanding a response from

God against our enemy. When the wicked rule the righteous groan. The problem in the church today is we are so busy enabling evil by blessing it that we never strike the enemy with the Sword of the Spirit and demand covenant intervention the way the early church did. If we would, we would see an entirely different Jesus in action.

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Scripture: Acts 13:6-11

In Acts 13:6-11 we find Paul and Barnabus sent out on their apostolic mission and initially they face resistance from a sorcerer named Elymas. Elymas attempted to prevent their assignment. As a result Paul proclaimed judgment and declared the Hand of the Lord on Elymas to make him blind. The proconsul believed when he saw the teaching of the Lord. Why was God ready to blind a false prophet for Paul? Will God blind our enemies? Judicial prayer worked on Herod. Should it not be released against our persistent enemies who are determined to destroy the land by filling it with iniquity! "Avenge Me of My enemy," should be shouted by the church.

SUNDAY, JULY 10

Scripture: Acts 13:12,13

Acts 13:12,13 state, *"Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord. Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem."* We have a whole culture of Christians searching for the glory of the Lord. Only their definition of the glory of the Lord is Jesus coming to heal, coming to deliver and coming to bless. It certainly seems to me that the glory of the Lord is manifested in front of this unbelieving politician as the judgment of God falls on the false prophet. Should we not be seeing this on Islam in America today? Every Islamic Mosque is full of false prophecy. Every Islamic leader should be blind in the presence of the church. Where is the glory of the Lord in this dimension today? The truth is, we have a church that is nicer than God. We do not represent the judicial Christ the early church did. Or the Christ that Paul did, or the Christ that Peter did. What happened to us? We accepted a doctrine that, in effect, neutered the church. It is time we recovered the glory of the Lord, bought and paid for at the crucifixion!

MONDAY, JULY 11

Scripture: Revelation 19:11-15

In Revelation 19:11-15, we find the Jesus who is returning. The Kingly Christ has nine distinctive fruit that make up the character of the Judge and King. Number one, He is faithful. Number two, He is true. Number three, *"...in righteousness He judges and makes war."* Do we judge and make war, or are we afraid to judge? Have we so taken the traditional line that we are even afraid to judge what is unrighteous and declare it so. Where is the church that will judge and call evil evil? One of the problems in the last days is that people call good evil and evil good. Where did this perversion come from? It came from our theology. It came from neutering the church by taking passages like Matthew 1 out of context. It is time we recovered what the early church had. They were not afraid to call evil, evil.

TUESDAY, JULY 12

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-5

When Jesus said, *"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you..."* He was dealing with the issue of Jewish hypocrisy which was absolutely rampant in His day. If we would fast-forward to Matthew 23, we would find Jesus' complete and total rebuke of the Pharisees. Perhaps Matthew 23:4 is a culminating declaration of what Jesus was speaking

to in Matthew 7. He says of the Scribes and Pharisees, *"For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers."* Jesus goes on in Matthew 23 to outline eight woes. He pronounced eight prophetic judgments on the Scribes and Pharisees who were leading the Jewish nation at the time. Every one of them came to pass. Jesus did not have any problem with seeker-sensitivity. He called evil, evil and He called good, good. And it is time we join Him.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-5, Matthew 7:1-5

If we had been listening to Jesus, it would have been much easier to have caught the meaning of Matthew 7 concerning the issue of judging. Jesus began Matthew 6 by teaching about giving. He essentially said "Give, but do not give like the Pharisees, or like the hypocrites." He then moved to prayer in verse 5. He said, *"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites."* In verse 16 He switches to fasting. And He said *"...when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites."* When we get to Matthew 7:1, it is obvious He is emphasizing a theme and the theme was all of the issues that the leaders taught and did not do. Jesus was exposing their hypocrisy. Now we have taken it out of context to mean, "Whatever you do, do not judge." But that is not what Jesus was teaching at all. We have to make judgments every day – over good and evil whether to avoid or participate in it. Jesus was not saying "Do not judge," He was saying "Judge, but do not judge like the hypocrites." And of course, that is Matthew 7:5, *"Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."* Judging has always been an essential for every Christian and the truth of Matthew 7 is that we have to be able to stand in the fire we call down. We dare not judge something of which we ourselves are guilty. That was the mistake of the hypocrites, and Jesus caught them.

THURSDAY, JULY 14

Scripture: Matthew 7:14-24

Jesus made it clear that the gate is narrow that leads to life and there are few that find it. Then He goes on to say "Beware of false prophets," which means we have to do some serious judging between the counterfeit and the true. What is the true prophet? What is the false prophet? What is the true apostle and what is the false apostle? Each one of these gifts carry with them a dramatic reward that is essential to our growth and development. But it is also equally essential that we can judge and distinguish between the counterfeit and the true. If we do not make those judgments then we are stuck with the ominous potential of hearing verse 23 because of what the counterfeit imparted to us. Verse 23 says, *"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* This issue goes to the core of who is Lord. Are we willing to embrace the cross and allow Jesus to be Lord of our life? If we are willing to embrace the cross and allow Jesus to be Lord of our life, then we will hear *"Well done, good and faithful servant."* If we do not judge between the counterfeit and true it is entirely possible that we can wind up following or being imparted to from the counterfeit and the end of that is death and destruction. We have no choice but to make judgments and we have to know the difference between the counterfeit and true. The difference comes by watching who manipulates for money.

FRIDAY, JULY 15

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:1-3

If there were ever a statement in the New Testament concerning the issue of judging, or the lack thereof, in the Body, it comes in 1 Corinthians 6 as a direct rebuke. The rebuke is over the issue of not judging. Verses 2-5 state, *"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?"* It is obvious that God expects us to make judgments. We do not have any choice. The early church was commanded to find somebody with enough wisdom to make judgments between the brethren. The

teaching that we dare not judge enables evil. In the same passage, we find that verses 9 and 10 make some really strong judgments, *"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."* It is obvious that God draws boundaries about behaviors! Do we draw boundaries by our standards or God's? I guess not judging ends up in utter and complete destruction. Go there if you will and you will pay the price. An ultimate eternity in the lake of fire. That is God's love. The filthy and the perverse have no place with the righteous.

SATURDAY, JULY 16

Scripture: John 12:28-31, 16:7-11

There is a reason why we have to judge. A refusal to judge means we are directly dishonoring the price the Lord Jesus Christ paid for us and there is more. Verses 12:28-31 state, *"'Father, glorify Your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, saying, 'I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.' Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to Him.' Jesus answered and said, 'This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.'"* It is obvious that the ruler of this world has been judged and, if the church does its job, is cast out. That is where we get to the issue of John 16. Because John 16 promises that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteous and of judgment, according to verse 8. But if we go onto verse 11, it says, *"...of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."* Now since the ruler of this earth is judged, that means there is an anointing to bring forth judgment, and through that judgment cast him out. The only way to leave the enemy in place is not to judge. Religion says, "Do not judge." If we do judgment, the enemy is cast out. No wonder the battle over judging is so great. If the enemy can convince the church that we dare not judge, he is never cast out. He gets to stay. The devil went to church and preached us a message. It looks like many bought it. It is time to follow the Holy Spirit and release judgments. At God's instruction, judicial words will cast the enemy out.

SUNDAY, JULY 17

Scripture: John 7:14-24

The surprising passage in John 7 shows Jesus in conflict with the Pharisees. What He says in verse 24 is a direct command for us to hear. He said, *"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."* Jesus commanded us to judge with righteous judgment. The teaching, "Do not judge" is *not accurate*. The teaching, "Be careful how you judge" is *very accurate*. The issue is not judging in hypocrisy but judging in righteous judgment. Righteous judgment dictates that we uphold the standard of scripture. The standard of Scripture is offensive to anybody who is committed to a lifestyle of sin. God loves the sinner, but the sin will kill them. The church has become passive and in some cases, accepting of evil. God loves the sinner but judges the sin. Without the presentation of the righteous standard of the Word, there is no reason for a person to repent! Why would anyone repent unless they are told, the consequences of their actions. Will a loving God send people to the lake of fire? The response to that truth reveals the condition of the church. When people say, "You cannot say that!" it reveals how far gone they already are. Jesus said that and the Bible says that. The reason we can say it is the hope that people will repent. Without telling them the truth, there is no need to repent. They continue thinking their lifestyle has no consequences. They are not OK. Their lifestyle is not OK. Will we judge righteous judgment or will we not? Jesus commanded us to do it!

MONDAY, JULY 18

Scripture: John 5:22-24

John 5:22-24 says, *"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent*

Him. 'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.'" The amazing part of John 5 is the revelation that all judgment has been committed to the Son for a specific purpose. All judgment is committed to the Son, for one reason, that all should honor the Son. So when the church refuses to judge righteous judgment, we are refusing to honor the Father who sent the Son as His Holy standard of righteousness. When we are absolutely deceived into refusing to judge, we are dishonoring the Son. What can we say about this passage? It should convict every one of us concerning the righteous Standard of His Word. Can we present it in the love of God with acceptance to the unbeliever and yet with warning? Without the warning, there is no reason for a person to repent. Jesus is the judge. Are we honoring Him or are we dishonoring Him by accepting what He judges?

TUESDAY, JULY 19

Scripture: John 5:25-30

John 5:25-30 makes it clear that righteous judgment is not our idea. Verse 27 makes it pretty clear, *"...and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man."* Jesus has been given the authority to execute God's judgment. Now when we go to the book of Acts and look at the hostility that the early church endured, we realize that it was Jesus that killed Herod. It was Jesus who released blindness on the false prophet. It was Jesus who executed Ananias and Sapphira. This is not the Jesus that is presented in most of our churches. The Jesus that did this *is* the Jesus we are supposed to know and represent! Peter and Paul represented Jesus. The early church represented Jesus. What is wrong with us? Perhaps we have bought into a different gospel.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:1-4

Deuteronomy 4:1-4 says, *"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor. But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you."* If there was ever a clear statement of the righteous judgment that God executes based on the Word, it is this passage in Deuteronomy. He told them, *"Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor..."* God executed justice within the nation of Israel on all those who violated His Word. And all the people who practiced the sin died. Are we about to encounter a God where some of us may live and others may not? There is an issue here that goes all the way into the New Testament. Romans 1 proclaims sexual sin worthy of death. Which doctrine are we following?

THURSDAY, JULY 21

Scripture: Revelation 2:12-14,16

Revelation 2:12-14 says, *"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 'I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.'"* Verse 16 says, *"Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth."* The same doctrine that appears in Deuteronomy 4 was a problem with the church at Pergamus. They were warned about what not to do. They were warned about the doctrine of Balaam which taught that sexual immorality was not a problem. The doctrine was wrong. The men who departed

from God's righteous standard did not survive in Deuteronomy 4. In Revelation 2, the ascended Christ tells the church at Pergamus to "Repent for your sexual immorality for I will come to you quickly and fight against them with the word of My mouth." Now I am not quite sure how to interpret Jesus coming to fight against them with the sword of His mouth. I rather suspect that would look like Ananias and Sapphira. It could resemble a Herod's angelic visitation. Are we about to encounter the Jesus of Revelation? All those who say that Jesus does not do that in the New Testament have to cut the book of Revelation out of their Bible. Why do we not think He is the same yesterday, today and forever? Jesus has not changed. In the winding up of the age the book of Revelation gives us two incidents where God executes one third and one quarter of the population of the earth in two separate judgments because they refuse to repent. To say that God does not judge today is to foster the doctrine of Balaam and to guarantee a sword released in our midst. I can think of nothing more dangerous than going to a church where the doctrine of Balaam is allowed because the church is never ever warned. Silence about evil is passive promotion. The church that is silent on what God does to sin is passively promoting sin in its midst. It is, in effect, welcoming the doctrine of Balaam and one day Jesus will show up and fight against them with the sword of His mouth. I suspect there will be a few dead bodies on that day. Do not be among them! Flee for your life!

FRIDAY, JULY 22

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:5-13

Verses 5-13 says, *"Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' 'For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.' 'Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness. And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice. So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone."* Moses reminds the people of the day that God assembled them and they heard with their own ears God's righteous standard called the Ten Commandments. They knew God's judicial code. They knew what God expected. They heard it with their own ears. How do we hear the Ten Commandments today? Do we hear it? Do we allow children to hear it? Or have we banned it from our schools and in some places, banned it from church? In many places, the church chooses not to judge righteous judgment. That is a choice that is made. When we attend a church where every message is on blessing, growth, development and never on the righteous standard of God, we have departed from the God of the Bible. Which standard will we choose?

SATURDAY, JULY 23

Scripture: Proverbs 18:5

Proverbs 18:5 says, *"It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, Or to overthrow the righteous in judgment."* When wicked rulers gain office they overthrow the righteous! When we vote for wicked rulers we invite judgment. The Jesus of Revelation is going to visit churches who accept evil and call it good. Those churches will repent or die! We may very well have whole denominations who are in jeopardy. As they accept and ordain homosexual Priests, they overthrow the righteous in judgment. Churches inviting a visitation from the Jesus who

fighters against people with the Sword of His mouth, and when the sword comes we do not want to be anywhere close.

SUNDAY, JULY 24

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-3

Psalm 2:1-3 says, *"Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.'"* We can see that the wicked are clearly casting the cords of righteousness from them as politicians gain office whose purpose is the promotion of evil and the removal of God's righteous standard. Previous generations placed righteousness in the law of the land. How long will Jesus sit on the sidelines and watch as the cords of righteousness being destroyed in the land? That depends on whether He can find anyone who will judge righteous judgment and declare by the Holy Spirit the judgment of God on perverse behaviors. The early church did not have any problem judging righteous judgment on Ananias and Sapphira. I expect those days *will* return.

MONDAY, JULY 25

Scripture: Psalm 2:4-6

Psalm 2:4-6 says, *"He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: 'Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.'"* God's response to the determination of those who want to break His righteous standard is very simple. His first response is that He sits in the heavens and laughs. Then He formulates something to say. Then He brings the action that goes with the words. And we know the nature of His response because He shall speak to them in His wrath. God promises to distress or terrorize them in deep displeasure. How long can a nation do what America has done without being terrorized. Many were terrorized on 9/11 and during Katrina. How much more devastation is needed to terrorize politicians into realizing that the path we are taking is bringing affliction on our people? The devastation of a Joplin sits at their feet! But the ruthless choose to support evil and care not of its consequences. The antichrist policies of one of our political parties must be held accountable for the devastation they are bringing on the land. There is a conflict coming between those who have chosen darkness and God's King who has been set on His Holy Hill of Zion. There is a conflict coming between a King who is holy and the unrighteous, filthy, perverse and vile. That conflict will be settled by God's wrath and outpouring of terror. There is no getting away from it as people choose to support and vote for the political party who promotes death, devastation and tearing away of all Biblical cords. The God of heaven will respond and He will respond according to His Word. The Word is eternal. It never changes. Get ready, there is more terror coming.

TUESDAY, JULY 26

Scripture: Psalm 2:6-9

Psalm 2:6-9 says, *"'Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.' 'I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"* There is only one conclusion that is safe to be made after reading the progression of Psalm 2, especially with verses 6-9. That progression is simple. There comes a day after God has terrorized the ungodly and the nation that chooses their policies, when He says, "Ask me for the nation." And when the church asks for their nation back, verse 9 swings into action. Suddenly the church is now given authority to wield the rod of iron and with it, to bring the hand of God in such devastation on the enemies of righteousness that if they will not relent, they will be removed. The cup of iniquity is filling, and as it fills because of God's layered love, it propels the church into the next dimension and each layer of God's love is like going to pick up a bigger hammer.

God has a 16 lb. hammer for driving resistors into the ground! He also knows how to dash the resistance into pieces and how to break the vessels of resistance in each political party. He knows how to break the vile and the filthy! God knows how to break those determined enemies of the harvest. And when they begin to threaten our harvest field, God opens the armory to the 16 lb. pounder and out it comes. We are not far from that place.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

Scripture: Psalm 2:10-12

Isn't it interesting that Psalm 2 provides an overview of the harvest and ends with a warning. The warning it ends with is a warning to kings and judges. It is not a warning to people, or the average individual. It is not a warning to the average business man. This is a warning to political leaders, kings and judges. the warning is, *"Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way..."* The word 'perish' means to be terminated. "Because you are destroying My harvest field, I must destroy you. You refuse to repent. You refuse to turn. Therefore in order to save the harvest I must remove you." Where is the church to demonstrate that to our political leaders. It is really not fair to draw our political leaders into the eternal judgment of God unless we have given them this dictate. They need to hear it! They need to hear it from the real apostles. The false ones dare not go into this realm. They cannot stand in the fire they have to call down. If they attempt to do this, they will die first. Only the real can bring the church into this realm. These days are here.

THURSDAY, JULY 28

Scripture: Isaiah 1:21-24

Isaiah 1:21-24 says, *"How the faithful city has become a harlot! It was full of justice; Righteousness lodged in it, But now murderers. Your silver has become dross, Your wine mixed with water. Your princes are rebellious, And companions of thieves; Everyone loves bribes, And follows after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, Nor does the cause of the widow come before them. Therefore the Lord says, The LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, 'Ah, I will rid Myself of My adversaries, And take vengeance on My enemies.'"* Look at what is required for God to release His judgment: bribes, refusing to defend the fatherless and refusing to honor the widow. What our politicians are doing is enough to move God into judicial action. And when that judicial action comes, He says He will rid Himself of His adversaries, and take vengeance on His enemies. People can preach all day long that none of this matters because all judgment falls on Jesus but the book of Revelation renders that line of thinking void. The book of Revelation makes the reality of Isaiah 1:21-24 New Testament all the way to the core and anybody who denies it is living in spiritual la-la land. They have made God into somebody of their own image and they have edited out of today's culture Jesus the Judge. The reason there is no fear of God in the land sits at the feet of compromising ministers!

FRIDAY, JULY 29

Scripture: Isaiah 1:25-28

Isaiah 1:25-28 says, *"I will turn My hand against you, And thoroughly purge away your dross, And take away all your alloy. I will restore your judges as at the first, And your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city.' Zion shall be redeemed with justice, And her penitents with righteousness. The destruction of transgressors and of sinners shall be together, And those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed."* The prophecy is clear. God says, "I am going to move. I am going to move against your judges. I am going to move against your political leaders. I will even move against your spiritual leaders who have perverted the Word. That sounds like a God who promises the utter destruction of His enemies. Verse 28 makes it clear that there is destruction for transgressors and all those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed. Would anybody like to redefine 'destruction' and 'consumed'? They mean exactly what they say. There is no doubt about

it. I guess the only thing left to answer is, 'What does this destruction look like?' What does the glory of the Lord look like when it is manifested to bring destruction?

SATURDAY, JULY 30

Scripture: Exodus 14:30-15:7

Does Scripture answer what Isaiah prophesied? Not only does Scripture answer, but history answers. What happened to Jerusalem and Israel is a picture of what God is prophesying coming to our enemies in Exodus 14:30-15:7. They saw the Egyptians dead on the sea shore. Perhaps as we read this passage we should ask ourselves, when God stands up for covenant believers, what happens? Nature responds against the inhabitants of the land. Asking God to intervene to save us means He must destroy the enemy. When government leaders elevate animals above people, they have become Romans 1 nature-worshippers worthy of eternal death. Relief only comes as they are prayed into that place. The covenant people saw the great work that God had done and then they began to rejoice. The glory of the Lord was revealed in the destruction of the enemy. Verse 7 says it best, *"You have overthrown those who rose against You; You sent forth Your wrath; It consumed them like stubble."* That is the covenant God has with us. That is what He promises to do again! We have enemies who want to exterminate us. The Scripture is not silent about that issue. The book of Revelation is full of Jesus exterminating the wicked. Billions of them. This is the God we serve. He still answers prayer. He still delivers today!

SUNDAY, JULY 31

Scripture: Psalm 78:12-14

Psalm 78:12-14 says, *"Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers, In the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. He divided the sea and caused them to pass through; And He made the waters stand up like a heap. In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, And all the night with a light of fire."* The reason why we study the history of Israel is because we learn how God interacts with nations.

The Biblical history of Israel covers 1,800 years and represents a marvelous panorama of God's gracious working through promise, miracle, blessing and judgment. Israel begins as only a promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:2). For over four hundred years the people of Israel rely on that promise, especially during the period of bondage to Egypt. Finally, in God's perfect timing, He brings the nation out of Egypt with the greatest series of miracles known in the entire Old Testament (Ex 7-15). The event is called the book of Exodus, meaning "a going out." Since it constitutes the miraculous birth of a nation, it is to this great act of redemption that the nation always looks back as the foremost example of God's care for His people (Psalm 77:14-20; 78:12-55; Hos. 11:1).

Once God has redeemed Israel He establishes His covenant with them at Mount Sinai (Ex 19:5-8). From that point forward the nation is truly His possession, and He is their God. The covenant foretells gracious blessings for obedience and severe judgments for disobedience. The rest of Israel's history demonstrates the certainty of that prophecy. Through the periods of conquest, judges, monarchy, exile, restoration, and Gentile domination, Israel is blessed when she obeys and judged when she disobeys. The nation is finally destroyed in A.D. 70, although this event is not described in the New Testament. Many prophecies, however, promise a future redemption for Israel (Romans 11:26).

The practical value of studying Israel's history is threefold:

- A. It sets forth examples to be followed or avoided (1 Corinthians 10:6)
- B. It shows God's control of all historical events, in that He was able to deal with Israel as He shows (Psalm 78).
- C. It serves as a model for all ages of God's kindness and mercy toward His people (Psalm 103:14).¹

¹ The Holy Bible, New King James Version. New York: Thomas Nelson, Inc.: 1983. Pg. 822. [1997].

ITINERARY

7/15-16	Fort Worth, TX	Call for location Fri evening, Sat 9:30am-4:30pm	David Ritchie 817-994-4908
7/17	Paradise, TX	359 County Road 3799, Paradise, TX 76073 Sun afternoon, call for time	David Ritchie 817-994-4908
7/22-7/23	Elk City, OK	Victorious Life Training Center 1509 N Randall, Elk City OK 73644 Fri 7pm, Sat 9:30am, 1pm	Karen Johnson victoriouslifecenter.com
7/24	Pampa, TX	Trinity Fellowship Church 2225 N Hobart St Pampa, TX 79065 Sun 10am, 6pm	Lonnie Robins 806-665-3255
7/29-7/30	Tigard, OR	Trinity Evangelical 10900 SW 121st Ave, Tigard OR 97223 Fri 9am-1pm, Sat 9am-12	George La Du 503-590-5683

TURNING CHEEKS WORKS
TOWARD HEARTS OPEN TO LOVE,
BUT VICTORY'S STRONG ARM
ALSO COMES FROM ABOVE.

DESTRUCTION OF EVIL
IS PART OF GOD'S PLAN.
IT'S TIME WE RISE UP
AND STAND LIKE GOD'S MAN!