

# W O R D A T W O R K

## VOLUME XIX NUMBER III The Resting Place Of God I

### MONDAY, March 1

Scripture: Acts 7:20-25

Moses was born and grew up at, perhaps, one of the most difficult times in history for Israel. They were in the middle of great bondage, and all the astrologers warned of the potential birth of a deliverer, resulting in the Emperor's command to kill every male child! Moses' mother hid him by faith for three months. When hiding became impossible, she made an ark of bulrushes and put him on the Nile, believing God would intervene. History often repeats itself. Significant events come to nations as a spiritual test revealing hearts resulting in blessing or judgment. It may well be that President Clinton's moral failure, articulate denial, White House character assassination, blatant perjury and obstruction of justice are such events for the United States. Hearts have constantly been revealed through the impeachment process. An amazing percentage of the Senate (44%) support perjury and obstruction of justice and an even more astounding 72% of Americans support it by favoring the perpetrator because they are satisfied with the economy. In **God's economy** what we compromise to keep, we are guaranteed to lose – let the judgment begin. Does God have a plan for the Church during this unusual season of impending judgment? He most certainly does. Let's possess the plan God has for us! Moses' birth marked the beginning of God's plan to spoil and build!

### TUESDAY, March 2

Scripture: Acts 7:20-25

Moses received a revelation of his calling. Verse 23 says, "...it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel." Verse 25 says, "...he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand." Now we know what it was that came into his heart. God gave him a revelation of his future gifting and calling to deliver Israel from the bondage of Egypt. Moses expected the Israelites to have the same understanding he did, and was totally unprepared for their refusal to accept his leadership. There is much we can learn from Moses' example. This principle is seen when God gives a revelation of what He is going to do and we assume others seen it the same way, when just the opposite is the case. We are often unprepared for the rejection, which comes because we are ahead of God's ordained schedule. Are we really willing to wait until God speaks and shows the other people involved what He has already revealed to us? This requires a great deal of patience, understanding, and a willingness to pray until God works out every last detail. Waiting can be one of the more difficult assignments because it demands dealing with the zeal of the flesh. Our flesh wants to bring to pass what God has said, without hesitation. Being forced to wait because of circumstances develops inner maturity.

### WEDNESDAY, March 3

Scripture: Acts 7:1-25

Following the chain of events in this passage leads to a common temptation for most of us. First, Moses got a revelation of his gifting and calling. He was chosen to deliver Israel from the bondage of Egypt! He forgot his training in all the “wisdom of Egypt” and tried to execute God’s call with worldly wisdom. Verse 24 says he found one of the Israelites “...suffering wrong...” He defended him and delivered him from the Egyptian by striking down and killing the soldier. The arm of the flesh can never accomplish the magnitude of what God has ordained. Trying to bring God’s plan to pass on training received in Egypt would have been disastrous. The only option available was to recruit soldiers, training them in the ways of war, but they would never be able to conquer the Egyptian army! God knew what Moses did not! In order for Moses to be qualified for fulfilling God’s purpose and plan, he had to forget the wisdom of Egypt and learn the ways of God. Anytime we try to initiate God’s will through worldly methods, rejection and humility follow; usually from the very people God has sent us to bless. So it was with Moses. So it probably will be with us.

### THURSDAY, March 4

Scripture: Acts 7:20-29

Moses was amazed to discover others knew about his killing the Egyptian and he fled to the land of Midian. He embarked upon a course never before planned. Suddenly, everything changed! For forty years the wisdom of Egypt was fed into his life and now for forty years he had to replace it with the ways of God. The ways of God are hard to learn, expensive, and time consuming, but necessary for ultimate success. Are we trying to fulfill God’s plan through a different route? Will it take a season of Midian to cure us, as it did Moses? Resolving this question is crucial to guarantee future success. Settling this issue affects our response toward abortion and the school system as it deceptively teaches witchcraft in the classroom through “seemingly” innocent books. The days of Sunday and Wednesday Christianity are rapidly coming to an end through the hostility of a world increasingly coming under demonic influence. What will our response, as Christians, be? Will we respond out of the arm of the flesh, or out of the training, which brings deliverance because we are willing to submit to God’s season of preparation?

### FRIDAY, March 5

Scripture: Hebrews 11:23-25

Hebrews 11 portrays the other side of the coin in the decision Moses had to make, when he left his position of influence as a potential future Pharaoh, with all of the accompanying wealth, influence, and security, to follow God. Hebrews 11:24 says, “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.” The results of that choice were affliction with the people of God, when he could have enjoyed the passing pleasures of sin. A revelation of the “temporary” nature of the advantages which Egyptian culture offered became reality inside Moses. To walk with God without hesitation in the days ahead, we need a revelation of the same reality concerning North American culture! God is looking for a people who are radically saved, unashamed and unafraid to speak what God would have them say, without regard for the consequences. Such a generation the Lord will bring forth. Let’s pray we can take our place in it.

### SATURDAY, March 6

Scripture: Acts 7:20-29; Hebrews 11:23-27

When Moses was considering losing his prestige, influence, wealth, and power, by identifying with a slave race, he (Hebrews 11:26-27) “esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.” These are the characteristics God is calling for in our lives today. Politicians are forced to expose the popular if they stand for what is right! The heart which embraces “...the reproach of Christ and treats it

as greater riches than all the treasures...” this world offers, has a reward which goes beyond anything we could ever expect. When Moses determined it was better to be insulted and reviled as a believer in God, and turned his back on the wealth, influence, power, and position afforded by Egypt, he qualified for his future calling. This same Moses was the one God determined to entrust with all the wealth of Egypt, and he came out with it because Israel spoiled Egypt, according to Exodus 12. There are multitudes of people who want to move into the anointing to spoil. They want to see it operate in their lives, but few are willing to “...esteem the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures...(in America), looking to the reward.” Yet those are the only ones who will qualify. Who can God trust with the real anointing to spoil? Only those who have proved character for which Moses is our great example. By turning his back on the treasures of Egypt, and walking with God in service for forty years, he qualified for the transfer of those treasures and received them by faith. Will our pathway be any different? The number of years in reproach may be less, but the decisions and tests of heart are the same. Are we really willing to make them? Did 44% of our Senators fail the test?

### SUNDAY, March 7

Scripture: Hebrews 11:23-29

Verses 28 and 29 speak to us about the value of “...esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt...” They speak to us about God’s promise for those who forsake Egypt, or worldly ways, in order to endure and walk with the Lord. Those people receive a preparation, which will carry them through the tragedies of the end-times. Verses 28 and 29 speak of the events that took place which Israel, in faith, walked through, and the Egyptians trying to do, were killed. Scripture describes the last days as perilous times. There is only one way a person will survive and that is to walk by faith with the Lord. The course Moses embarked on proved to be the one guaranteeing long life, while those who stayed to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin died early. Surely we can take this example and realize in many ways we are being faced with some of the very same choices. The degree of commitment and dedication we develop as we walk with the Lord is what will carry us through in the precarious and troublesome years ahead. Obedience now...means life later! Disobedience now...means death later! The choice is clear, and we have to make it!!! Whether we face a flesh-eating virus or killer bees, the choices made now dictate deliverance or death then!

### MONDAY, March 8

Scripture: Acts 7:20-35

I strongly sense the call for our generation to raise up and disciple the following one. We must fight certain battles within the Church concerning government and structure, in order for the next generation to successfully start harvesting the earth. They must move into the harvest with a foundation already laid, because of victories God gives us. Discipling the next generation is becoming a very important issue! We are going to be required to implement what the Holy Spirit gives! Therefore, the principles which govern discipling are becoming more interesting as we learn God’s way. One application is in the area of recognizing future leadership. The point is made by the Holy Spirit in this passage, the very person people rejected was the one God chose. This says when we see young people trying to accomplish something for God but moving in the flesh, we must avoid the temptation to set them aside by saying, “God never called you, or you will not amount to anything doing it that way.” The same was true of Moses. God had called him but he was, in fact, trying to do it with worldly ways. It took forty years for him to learn the right way, but once he learned to get out of the way, God was dynamite through him. Let’s keep this in mind as we judge those who are coming on the scene and the methods they are using to implement God’s purpose and plan. Fulfilling God’s will with man’s ways never works, but when the man God has called learns God’s ways, you can bet God’s plan will come to pass! We want to aid that and not be a hindrance. This passage is a good warning to help us determine to spend plenty of time praying about how we discern individuals and situations.

## TUESDAY, March 9

Scripture: Acts 7:29-39

In every transition there are those who, when they encounter stiff resistance, will in their heart turn back to Egypt with all its worldly ways, passions, and desires. In some ways, I believe, we are entering into such a season! God is calling for a very concerted commitment to integrity and holiness. That call is going forth in almost every quadrant of Christianity. The standard which is being set for some will be very difficult to embrace and walk with, and we will see a number who turn further toward the ways of the world. It is inevitable in such a season of purification. Our job is to walk on expecting God to do His full work in us.

## WEDNESDAY, March 10

Scripture: Acts 7:35-43

When one turns his heart to the world, he finds himself trying to please God by doing his own thing. It is one of the greater deceptions marking major areas of Christianity today. The works of men's hands never please nor fit into the plan of God. There are ministries today which are strictly the work of men's hands, as beautiful and radiant as they appear; in God's eyes I wonder if they are anything but idols. Is God involved in the place where we set our hands? Anyone who rejoices in the work of his own hands, and not in the purpose and plan of God, opens his life to a deception which has eternal repercussions. That attitude of heart causes a response from heaven which is fearful indeed. Verse 42 says, "...God turned and gave them up to..." do what they wanted to do. Captivity would be the end result, a captivity so strong they would never recover! Walking softly before the Lord in this season is indeed imperative.

## THURSDAY, March 11

Scripture: Acts 7:44-46

This passage reveals David found favor before God as he asked to build God a temple, which was an ordained purpose for Israel as a demonstration of God's presence! It had to be built exactly according to pattern. When we become concerned about God's temple and act accordingly, favor flows from the throne. The NIV says, "...he asked that he might provide a dwelling for the God of Jacob." We know David was a man after God's own heart. Is it possible being a man after God's own heart was largely attributable to his desire to provide a dwelling for the God of Jacob? If it was that desire which caused him to find great favor before God, then preparing a temple is quite possibly one of the most noble and prophetic goals in all of Scripture. Since David is a type for the New Testament Church, his goal is one we need to study in great detail. If the chief mark of the next move of the Spirit is the Father coming to make us His habitation, we have to do the preparing.

## FRIDAY, March 12

Scripture: First Chronicles 13:1-5

When David first thought of bringing back the ark he submitted it to the "...captains of thousands, hundreds, every leader..." and they all decided it was the thing to do. It was then shared with "...all the congregation of Israel..." It was time to bring back the ark of the Lord. The ark was symbolic of God's presence for He dwelt between the cherubim above the mercy seat. Israel wanted God's presence for they had lived through a season where it was distinctly lacking. That season was marked by the leadership of a man named Saul. As the Church, have we come through a decade marked by God's exposure of the attitude, nature, and character of Saul's? Is it not now time for God to continue restoring His presence to the Church? If this is the case, the pattern we see here is very important!

## SATURDAY, March 13

Scripture: First Chronicles 13:6-10

We studied Moses and found he had the call of God, but tried to bring that call to pass with Egyptian (worldly) training. That didn't work and the call was rejected. In some ways David's initial attempt parallels that of Moses'.

It was time to restore the presence of the Lord by bringing the ark back, but Israel tried to do it the wrong way. The Philistines had captured the ark for a season. They sent it back on a new cart, which was a symbol of the best they had. The best of the Philistines never qualified in God's kingdom. Carrying the ark was assigned to the Levites. Once again, they were trying to fulfill the plan of God through a worldly way, resulting in rejection. God rejected what they were doing. It was not acceptable. In the process, a man who was trying to help God out – died. Fulfilling God's plan, God's way, is very important! The truth of the matter is, it can ultimately result in life or death. Just knowing the will of God is not enough. We have to seek Him until we find out *how* His will is to be implemented.

#### SUNDAY, March 14

Scripture: First Chronicles 13:6-14

The fear of the Lord came on David. He was angry at losing a good man. The fear of the Lord was restored to Israel. How many good men will we have to lose until the fear of the Lord is restored to the Church? David began to question, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?" As long as he assumed he knew, there was no problem until the assumption was judged! How many failed assumptions are we holding on to? David had to go to God and say, "Lord, *how*?" That is something we need to learn. We can have a revelation of God's will, but our next question is, "Lord, please, show me *how*." "David would not move the ark...but he took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom..." And God blessed the family of Obed-Edom as long as the ark remained in their house. Wherever the presence of God is, there is blessing. That is why we want the presence of God in our life. It is guaranteed blessing. Unfortunately many of our churches are like new carts in their construction – dominated by boards and big wheels. God's presence and glory will never be manifested through boards and big wheels. Only judgment flows in such a place. We must choose to let God be God – His way. The decision is ours!

#### MONDAY, March 15

Scripture: First Chronicles 15:1-13

David goes to work preparing a place for the ark of God yearning for the day it returns to Jerusalem. He asks God, in chapter 13, "How can we bring it back....?" The revelation finally comes and is articulated in verse 2, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the Lord has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever." In verse 12 David charges, "...the heads of the fathers' of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it." God's presence comes when there is proper preparation and each person is in their ordained place. Verse 13 makes that very clear, "...because you did not do it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the **proper order**." How many of our churches are out of order because through tradition, elected deacon boards rule over God's appointed Levites? Deacons in the bible did not rule the Elders, but served the congregation. Consulting the Lord about the proper order is indeed important. It can be a matter of spiritual life and death! We may not consider it so because of our tradition, but God does and He has the final say!

#### TUESDAY, March 16

Scripture: First Chronicles 15:25-29

Not everybody was happy about restoring proper order, but God was, and He helped the Levites and blessed what they were doing even in the midst of controversy. All of Israel participated in the restoration of the presence of the Lord "...with shouting and great joy and trumpets and cymbals and music and stringed instruments..." so there was rejoicing throughout the city. But there was an element that still wanted to cling to the old order, and so it is today. Their response is as apparent today as it was in verse 29. Michael, who was inextricably tied to the old order by blood, despised in her heart the new thing God was doing. Scripture says she was barren the rest of her life. This is a picture of what is transpiring right now in the Body of Christ as the Lord is restoring proper order, and in the process developing new wineskins. Many seem to be tied by bloodline to the old order, and are despising in their heart the new thing God is doing. God's blessing and presence was released when Israel put everything in its proper place. It was a prerequisite God demanded and seems to be a pattern currently in the

“repeat” mode. He is requiring individuals to get in the place of their gifting and calling and those who are occupying another position are hindering the revival flow of God and some have to be removed physically. It is a sad state of affairs when men would rather die than release the control of an organization. The security of pastoring a church can kill you if God has called you to do something else! The lure of travel can kill you if God has called you to pastor. Divine provision flows when we are where God wants us, as illustrated by the life of Elijah. When the brook dries up, God leads you to move to a new location. We need to make sure we are in the place God wants us, doing what He called us to do. Provision will flow when we are in our proper place.

#### WEDNESDAY, March 17

Scripture: First Chronicles 17:1-2

The ark was brought into Jerusalem. It was under tent curtains in a place called the Tabernacle of David. Several years past, as David built his own house. In chapter 17 verses 1 and 2, David compares the house he built for himself with the temporary tent where God lived. He realized there was a tremendous difference and it began to grieve his heart. Verse one says, “...when David was dwelling in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, ‘See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under tent curtains.’” Perhaps as much as any statement in Chronicles this reveals the true heart of David toward the ark of the covenant and the presence of God. He looked at the disparity between his own house, where he was living, and what he had erected for the ark of God. In his heart he said, “This disparity ought not to be. God should at least have as nice a place to dwell as I have.” He manifests a real genuine concern for the dwelling place of God. Nathan had been conditioned over the years to believe everything which came into David’s heart usually came straight from the Lord, and his automatic response was, “Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you.” We need to have the same concern David had for the dwelling place of God realizing, of course, that temple is us.

#### THURSDAY, March 18

Scripture: First Chronicles 17:3-9

After Nathan had given David the word off the top of his head, “Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you,” the Lord came to him that night and gave him a very clear specific word. God greatly appreciated David’s concern but wanted to set the record straight. He never asked to dwell in a house of cedar. He was always quite content to move from place to place because He wanted to be in the middle or center of what His people were doing. Verse 9 shows us a great covenant response for those who have the heart of David as reflected in concern for God’s dwelling place. God in effect said, “All right, David, because your heart is set toward a dwelling place for Me, I want you to know I am going to appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously.” When David became fully committed to building the proper place for God to dwell, God said, “All right, now I am going to appoint a place for My people to dwell.” David’s attitude of heart as king of Israel released a great divine blessing on the entire nation. Is it possible our concern for God’s dwelling place could have a similar impact on our church, city, or nation?

#### FRIDAY, March 19

Scripture: First Chronicles 17:3-15

Here we see God’s norm of accomplishing something major through two generations. David had all the concern and care for the place of God, and God’s heart responded by saying, “I will plant My people Israel. I will give them a place. I will build you a house. After you are gone, I will set up your seed after you and he shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.” God has a tendency to move through two generations. It was Moses who brought Israel out of Egypt. But Joshua had to take them into the promised land. It was David who provided for the temple, but Solomon was the one who had to build it. Peter, James, and John walked with Jesus, but it was Paul, Luke and Mark in the next generation who had to write a major part of the New

Testament. The transition from the Old Covenant to the New spanned two generations. Many of the major events in Scripture span two generations. This becomes very important to us as we enter into the last days, for a harvest of the magnitude of the end-time will surely span two generations. If we do our part in laying a good foundation, we will see our spiritual children (disciples) do their part. What we lay the foundation for, our children will build on, hopefully finish, and together we will wind up the age!

#### SATURDAY, March 20

Scripture: Acts 7:46-49

David found favor by seeking to find a dwelling for God, but Solomon built Him a house. Verses 48 and 49 say, “However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: ‘Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? Says the Lord, Or what is the place of My rest?’” The NIV says, “...where will My resting place be?” That, I believe, is a key question facing our generation. The question points us to a proper foundation, which is something we have to establish. God has used and moved through many, but taken up rest in very few. The Journal of Southern History writing about All Things Are Possible, by David Edwin Harrell, Jr., says, “The Pentecostal revival constitutes the greatest mass religious movement of this century. Harrell’s thorough study does not judge the movement, but draws sympathetic and telling fortress of the evangelists Jack Coe, A.A. Allen, William Branham, and Oral Roberts to name but a few -.” God moved mightily through a number of the men who are caricatured in All Things Are Possible. When you walk down a row of people in wheelchairs and pull them out, each one being healed, God is moving through you in a mighty way. But many of the men caricatured in All Things Are Possible ended in failure and out of the ministry, showing that although God moved mightily through them, He didn’t take up rest in them. When God takes up rest in you, the result will be the manifestation of miracles around and through you. To seek the Lord for miracles *only* is dangerous and can produce the “shooting star ministry,” seen for a season but rapidly falling to earth as fast as it rose. This is not what God has ordained for the years ahead. It is time to see the Lord Himself take up rest in His temples! With this in mind we need to study the purpose of the tabernacle.

#### SUNDAY, March 21

Scripture: Exodus 25:1-8

The very first place God ever called for the making of a tabernacle was in Exodus chapter 25. As we progress from verse 1 through verse 8, we discover very rapidly God’s intent and plan was clear from the beginning. He said in verse 8, “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.” God’s purpose for the sanctuary was always to dwell in the midst of His people. But once again it had to be made according to the pattern. God is a God of relationship, and He always wants to be right in the middle of what we are doing. This is what He taught Israel with the tabernacle of Moses, and the response from the people to make it had to be totally voluntary. The Lord will never force us to be a tabernacle of any kind. The issue is, will we choose His will? The degree to which we allow Him to dwell in us in the future depends on choices made now! Charismatic Country Club Christianity is doomed! The cloud is moving – are we moving with it?

#### MONDAY, March 22

Scripture: Exodus 29:43-46

The God of glory said, “And there (at the tabernacle) I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.” God said in verse 45, “I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.” The whole purpose of doing what God did in Egypt was to have a people He could dwell in the midst of. Think about the condition of Egypt when God’s people left. He did everything imaginable to destroy that nation and left it in shambles with their army drowned and dead on the seashore, displaying awesome power for one purpose – that He could have a people to dwell among! What God did in Egypt should speak to us very loudly about the depth of His desire for a people to dwell among. God punctuated His purpose with a mighty display of power! May that purpose find a home in us.

## TUESDAY, March 23

Scripture: Leviticus 26:11-13

Once again the Lord seems to be teaching Israel His ways. “I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your god, and you shall be My people.” God broke all the bondage of the slavery in Egypt for one purpose, so He could be God to His people and dwell among them. Israel had to be free from all the entrapments and enslavement’s of worldly living and life-style to serve God acceptably. We are beginning to understand a point progressively made by the Lord which enabled Him to dwell among people or in New Testament terms, in their temple. He must find a person free from abhorrence, or one who is living a sanctified, committed, dedicated, holy life. We will never have a temple of God’s dwelling place consistently, without a life which corresponds to His standards. Concerning that point, God is extremely clear!

## WEDNESDAY, March 24

Scripture: Numbers 5:1-3

God made it so clear in Numbers that He “Commanded the children of Israel that they put out of the camp every leper, everyone who had a discharge, and whoever became defiled by a dead body.” He said, “You shall put out both male and female; you shall put them outside the camp, that they may not defile their camps in the midst of which I dwell.” God will not dwell, take up His residence and stay where there is defilement. That defilement has to be dealt with! The Hebrew word translated “dwell” means to settle down, or to let one’s self down, i.e. the pillar of fire and the cloud, or to lie down especially to take rest. God wants to take rest in physical tabernacles, but one of the prerequisites is the removing of every defilement, making cleansing and sanctification a top priority.

## THURSDAY, March 25

Scripture: Exodus 33:12-15

There was an attitude that Moses displayed which we desperately need today. Moses came to the place where he was willing to say, “God, if Your Presence does not go with us do not bring us up from here.” In other words, “I am not willing any longer to move or go anywhere without the distinct presence of God in manifestation.” Moses began to require the anointing which accompanies the Presence of God in order to move forward. I believe individually and corporately we find ourselves in that place. We have to have God’s Presence We have to have His deliverance, His blessing and freedom, or we cannot go on! At such a place, you renew and enter into the measure of covenant which God has wanted for us all along. Nothing held back on either side. A full giving of ourselves so that God can fully give Himself!

## FRIDAY, March 26

Scripture: Exodus 33:12-17

Moses began to outline the reason why he could pray “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.” He said, “...how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.” What separates a Christian from someone who is an unbeliever? What should separate us is the distinct Presence of God. If we don’t have the Presence of God dwelling in us in manifestation, who can tell the difference between the Church and the people of the world? One of the major problems in our nation today, is the world cannot tell the difference between those who go to church and those who do not! Why do we not have the manifested Presence of God in our midst?



## SATURDAY, March 27

Scripture: John 17:18-23

In the high priestly prayer of Jesus, recorded in John 17, we see a statement made which points directly to the principle of God dwelling in us. “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;...” verse 20 says, “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the *world* may believe that You sent Me.” The world is not going to believe Jesus is the Son of God until they see God dwelling in His people. They must see unity. The fulfillment of “...one in Us,...” “...that they may be made perfect in one, I in them, You in me” must come. The end-time harvest will be brought forth by a Church who has God dwelling in full measure in them. Anything less falls short of the Father’s goal and should fall short of ours. Verses 17 and 18 say, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.” We must allow the Word of God to take its full course in our lives, conforming every aspect of thought, word, and deed to His will. Such is the high calling of the generation which winds up the age!

## SUNDAY, March 28

Scripture: John 17:15-23; John 16:1-7

Because of what most of us have been taught, we probably think “God already dwells in us through the Holy Spirit, so why should He need to take up rest in us?” We need to understand the difference between the pinnacle and the preparation. Most of us have thought the preparation was the pinnacle, when, in fact, the opposite was true. In John 16 we see the promise of the Holy Spirit given to people who will find themselves in great persecution, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.” This is really the preparation and not the pinnacle. The pinnacle is when God takes up rest in us, but the Holy Spirit comes in order to do the initial preparational work and make our temple ready so God can take up His rest. There are many in the Body of Christ who have the Holy Spirit and pray in tongues, but the Holy Spirit does not have them. There is a distinct difference!

## MONDAY, March 29

Scripture: John 16:1-12

We see Jesus elaborate on the Helper coming to us. He says in verse 8, “When He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment....” The work of the Holy Spirit Who comes to us is to bring the conviction of every part of worldliness in our lives as well as those we meet. He will convict of *sin* for all those who do not believe in Jesus. He will convict of *righteousness* because Jesus went to the Father, and therefore we are to be ones who display righteous action, behavior, and demeanor, and He will convict of *judgment* because the ruler of this world is judged. The primary assignment of the Holy Spirit, initially, is to clean us up as we walk with Him and submit to His leadership. He will use us to birth others into the kingdom, disciple, and grow them up. He really is preparing a resting place for God.

## TUESDAY, March 30

Scripture: Acts 7:49-50

In Acts 7 we see Stephen quoting God’s purpose and plan for man. “Solomon built Him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: ‘Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? Says the Lord,’ (The NIV says, “Where will My resting place be?”) Or what is the place of My rest?” The Living Bible says, “What kind of home would you build? Would I stay in it?”) I believe the Lord is bringing these two questions to the forefront and you and I have to answer them. What kind of home are we building for the Lord? Will He stay in it? This deals with every aspect of our activity, from our thought-life, to how we spend our leisure time, to where we go, what we do, and where we fellowship! What kind of house are we building for the Lord? Will He stay in it?

WEDNESDAY, March 31

Scripture: Isaiah 26:12

We are certainly in the last days, of the last decade, of this century! Every year seems crucial as major shaking continues upon the Church, Corporate America, the Educational System, Judicial and nearly every major party of American life. Isaiah 26:12 describes where we want to live. “Lord, You will establish peace for us, For You have also done all our works in us.” I believe we are going to see more turmoil than we have ever known or seen in this nation before, in this decade! In the midst of normally stable institutions seemingly falling apart, I believe a pillar of light will arise, a people who have the testimony of Isaiah 26:12 will stand strong. The whole world may seem to be coming apart at the seams, but the faithful live in inner peace because their foundation, their life, their home, is not built on anything of this world. When we come to the place where we believe and act accordingly, God’s peace will permeate and show forth through us as a great witness and testimony in everything we do. The world in the years ahead is going to need to see demonstrations of such peace. A life so lived will find no need to look for the harvest because the harvest will be looking for them!

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### ITINERARY

Al Houghton

March 4-7	The Family Church Int’l 929 S Myrtle, Monrovia, CA 91016 Phone: (626)303-1343 - 4 <sup>th</sup> /7:30 PM 5 <sup>th</sup> /7:30 PM 7 <sup>th</sup> /11AM
March 12-14	Word Of His Grace 11833 – 124 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98034 Phone: (206)820-1872
March 27-29	City Of Refuge Seminole Hwy, Andrews, TX 79714 Phone: (915)523-7773

Lord, attend to my prayer!  
Hear now my heart's cry.  
Lead me to the Rock,  
That is higher than I.

When I'm overwhelmed,  
Distressed ... in despair,  
Lead me to the Rock,  
Who will each burden share.

Savior, Redeemer,  
King of earth, Lord of sky,  
Jesus, You're the Rock,  
Who is higher than I !!

Jayne Houghton