

W O R D A T W O R K

Dear Friends:

What would the Christian life be like if First Thessalonians 5:1 were as true for us today as it apparently was for the Thessalonians when Paul wrote it? First Thessalonians 5:1 says, “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write you.”

Knowing the times and seasons releases a measure of peace concerning our vision, dream or spiritual expectation. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. Many of us slide from a bruised heart into discouragement or depression from lack of fulfillment. The Church must rise from the grave!

At this point, Hebrews 10:35-38 becomes relevant in a slightly different context, “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”

Patience combined with recognizing a seasonal change enables us to overcome the effects of “hope deferred”, embracing once again the dream as God resurrects what we long ago laid down. I believe this to be such a transitional season.

The predominate principles are:

- (1) Recognize “seasonal” change – a new kairos is here.
- (2) Embrace endurance – hope plus patience equals endurance.
- (3) Resurrection – God gives a sign of fulfillment.
- (4) Dare to once again BELIEVE!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

WORD AT WORK

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Spiritual Intimacy III

TUESDAY, July 1

Scripture: James 5:1-7

The Scripture clearly speaks of an end-time outpouring, which seems to double any previous move of the Spirit and can best be likened to the picture painted by the "...early and latter rain." The purpose of this mega visitation is to gather the last great harvest. James 5:4 indicates there will be such an intensity of warfare that cries from the depths of hearts will go into the heavenlies beseeching God go move in behalf of the laborers who are working under very severe restraints. Two pictures of ministries emerge: the first marks those who have an abundance through worldly means but are using it for themselves rather than God's intended purpose. At the other end of the spectrum are those who are, to the best of their ability, walking in obedience but severely restricted financially and therefore hindered from completing what God has revealed. The magnitude of the circumstances produce a rending of the heart which breaks forth into a cry piercing the very Throne Room of God resulting in a dramatic response. The true laborers, during that season, are encouraged to walk in patience knowing full well the Lord is coming to guarantee His purpose and plan.

WEDNESDAY, July 2

Scripture: James 5:12

Many of us have endured long seasons of adversity. Pain often produces either passionate prayer or silent anguish, deteriorating into judgment or complaint. We could defy the norm by choosing *not* to be judgmental, grumble or complain, but to stand fast believing God is ready to move; taking the prophets as an example of how to stand firm in patience in a very difficult season. Job is set forth as an excellent example of such an attitude, but who wants to endure those circumstances? It is through the perseverance of Job we see the Lord's intended end of this very severe test. He kept his integrity, faithfulness and endurance as God honored him with a true outpouring of the double anointing restoring what had been taken.

THURSDAY, July 3

Scripture: Amos 9:11-13

Amos speaks of the same kind of season in a little bit different language than "former and latter rain". He says, "'Behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord, 'When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drop with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it.'" Can you imagine a season of harvest that is so glorious and so intense that the cycle of sowing and reaping will be increased to the point you easily retrieve a crop for which you have never sown? There is an appointed hour in the end-times when God's people get to reap in areas where only previous generations have sown. That promises to be a grand and glorious season, well worth enduring the historical adversity marking a process of preparation usually numbering decades!

FRIDAY, July 4

Scripture: Zechariah 10:1

There is a spiritual law that seems to govern our participation in the end-time harvest as we begin to approach a season of the double anointing. Scripture very clearly says in such a time we must, “Ask the Lord for rain in the **time** of the latter rain. God will send lightnings; He will give us showers of rain...,” and a complete and total harvest. The double anointing is not apparently something that falls on us automatically out of heaven. It is something which has to be prepared for, sought after, yearned for, interceded about, perhaps with patient pestering like the widow with the unjust judge, during a season of real necessity that helps shape our deepest motivations. The Church that walks with God in such an hour **seeks, asks, requires** and **demands** that anointing for sheer survival. Are we there yet?

SATURDAY, July 5

Scripture: Jeremiah 5:20-25

Just because God has prophesied a former and latter rain for the last days to bring in an end-time harvest does not mean it will fall on everyone generationally (waking up every morning doesn't qualify us). This passage in Jeremiah makes very clear the value of the fear of the Lord. Walking in obedience, bringing defiance and rebellion to the cross, and developing an attitude of *repentance* are all essential in order to qualify. What God has ordained and intends for a certain season can, in fact, be postponed by our attitudes and activities. Verse 25 makes it clear, “Your iniquities have turned these things away, And your sins have withheld good things from you.” We could just as easily add the word “postponed” without changing context. “Iniquity turns these things away and sins postpone good things from us.” The pathway for possessing God's best in the end-times runs squarely through the gates of *repentance*.

SUNDAY, July 6

Scripture: Hosea 6:1-3

This passage makes very clear what God has intended all along to be essential ingredients in receiving the end-time double anointing. The gateway is *repentance*. “Come and let us return to the Lord; He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken but He will bind us up.” His going forth to bring an end-time anointing is just as established as the morning following the night. It is a God-ordained season that will surely come to pass! We need to be encouraged with these facts, but also realize that in qualifying for this double anointing everyone has to walk through the doorway provided. The door is adversity that transforms. Are we walking?

MONDAY, July 7

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-7

Isaiah, in prophesying by the Spirit of the Lord concerning this end-time double anointing, shows the necessity of possessing. Verse 7 says, “Therefore in their land they shall possess double; Everlasting joy shall be theirs.” The picture here reminds us of Elijah and Elisha when the chariot of fire came to take the mentor into heaven. His disciple did not receive the mantle directly. It fell to the ground and Elisha made a choice. Elisha had to energize his faith to pick up the mantle. It did not come “to” – it came “near”. What God had intended for Elisha did not just fall on his shoulders. He had to act in faith, and it stretches the imagination to think we can bypass this principle. There are, indeed, choices to be made and we, like Jesus, must set our face as flint going toward God's purpose and plan in this hour. Are we in a **possessing** mood? Is there anything left with which to possess?

TUESDAY, July 8

Scripture: Isaiah 61:6-7; Joel 2:23-27

The prophetic word of Joel 1 and James 5 agree specifically in the fact that the former and latter rain are both inextricably connected to the end-time harvest. You can't have a natural harvest without both. It is the former and latter rain that produce the growth making the harvest possible. Verse 25 says God "...will restore the years that have been eaten away." What is of considerable note is now the shame that is on the Church in its entirety gets removed. Shame accumulates from individual and corporate failures over a period of years until a distinctive mind-set in society faces the Church. An example is, "All TV evangelists are just after your money" or "The person claiming to be healed by a word of knowledge is faking it." That shame is only removed through an outpouring of the former and latter rain. Isaiah says, "Instead of your shame you shall have double ...instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion." In Joel 2 it is said this way, "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.***" In verse 27 God says it again, "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.***" When God inhabits His people with the double anointing all shame, all accusation and all criticism shall be removed.

WEDNESDAY, July 9

Scripture: First Kings 17 and 18

One of the greatest mistakes that can be made in studying the former and latter rain is to look at Elijah and Elisha assuming they represent the path in type of administering, and operating in the double, when, in fact, they are only an example of possessing it. In order to understand the administration and operation of the double anointing we must look at Jesus. If we can be content to study Elijah and Elisha with one issue in mind, the possessing of the double, then we can profit greatly from their pattern. But if we look to Elisha as an example for administering and operating in the double then we greatly miss God's intent, purpose and plan for the end-time Church. Very little is said about Elijah's training and preparation. In fact, nothing is said about it. We meet him when he makes the declaration "...there shall neither be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." As we follow him it is from one miracle to another, and from one confrontation to another. In the preparation of the end-time ministries, there is both a discipling preparation, i.e. Elisha, and the secret preparation, i.e. Elijah. If God spreads out the end-time harvest over two generations, it is entirely possible the first one will have their preparation in secret and suddenly come upon the scene by revelation, wisdom, anointing and power, while the second one will grow up and come into their ministry being disciplined. It is very important to understand that had there not been the discipling it is very likely Elisha would have never seen the double. While Elijah was a man of great faith, he inspired a desire in Elisha to experience more. May we have the same affect on the succeeding generation. Cave-dwelling has an end!

THURSDAY, July 10

Scripture: First Kings 19:19-21

Elisha is an interesting individual. Suddenly and dramatically the leading prophet in the land found Elisha and dropped the mantle over his shoulders, turned, and walked on. Verse 20 gives us some real insight, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." This was a young man who had a solid relationship with his elders. He had a deep respect and love for his parents. He knew an unexpected career change was at hand, and that he would no longer be able to inherit the family farm, perhaps greatly disappointing his parents. As a mark of determination, he took the yoke of oxen, killed them, burned the equipment and passed out the meat to the hungry. He burned the bridge of his previous employment, marking the intractability of his decision. Any family with twelve yoke of oxen at this point in Israel's history was very wealthy. There had been a three and a half year major famine. In the best of times many small farmers were doing well to have one yoke of oxen, and any family with twelve would have been among the richest in Israel.

What the rich young ruler couldn't do, Elisha was empowered to do; which becomes a foundation for a future request. He who gives up much is empowered to acquire much. Elisha, the man of money, power, position and slaves laid it all down to become a servant and demonstrated the humility that got God's attention.

FRIDAY, July 11

Scripture: Second Kings 2:1-11

The discipling of Elisha intensifies in Second Kings 2, just prior to possessing the double. This appears to be a spiritual final exam. He was challenged, and in greater measure than ever before given opportunity to quit, through test and trial – three times. Elijah told Elisha, “Stay here at Gilgal for the Lord has sent me to Bethel.” Elisha had to make a decision. Would he stay or would he go? He was determined that he was going to take step for step with Elijah and not let him out of his sight. After arriving at Bethel, Elijah said, “Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” Once again Elisha had the opportunity to quit. In verse 6 Elijah said, “Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jordan.” But once again Elisha made up his mind, “No, I am not going to quit. I'm walking step for step until I see this thing through to the possessing of the double.” In verse 9 he got his opportunity. Elijah said, “What may I do for you, before I am taken away?” And Elisha voiced what had been in his heart for a long time, “I want a double portion of your spirit.” Elijah acknowledged that Elisha “...asked a hard thing.” Nevertheless his entire life from the beginning had been in preparation for such a moment and God had definitely made it possible. In the ebb and flow of times and seasons, certain generations find they reach a pinnacle with God in His purpose and plan. Such a season marked the hour that Peter, James and John walked with the Lord. The reformation of the 1500's produced a spiritual crescendo. The early 1900's saw another generation with the restoration of the Holy Spirit and gifts. God brought a healing revival beginning in 1948, setting the stage for a Charismatic Renewal. Such a season will undoubtedly mark the days ahead as God pours out the former and latter to empower for an end-time harvest. Jesus said, “Many generations of prophets and righteous men have longed to hear the things you hear and see the things you see.” That principle will be repeated sometime in the years and decades ahead. Will we be ready?

SATURDAY, July 12

Scripture: Acts 7:20-23

Verse 20 begins with a very familiar concept in the manifestation of God's purposes and plans. “At this time (**kairos**) Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father's house for three months.” There is a **kairos** appointed for the double anointing to flow. During this distinctive season, many will recognize they have been born in preparation for such an hour. “Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.” And at the age of 40 he was faced with leaving the culture of his birth, education, maturity and the greatest of promising futures, embracing a spiritual heritage that transcended every physical thing the world could offer. In the school of the Spirit, Moses and Elisha had a whole lot in common. Elisha was called out of his abundant and blessed environment to walk a higher purpose in the plan of God. For both of them, the school of the Spirit began with a financial crucifixion. Have you found yourself walking the crucifixion path? Only those with “nail prints” qualify for the soon coming **kairos** of God!

SUNDAY, July 13

Scripture: Acts 7:20-25

Verse 25 says, “Moses supposed...” “...he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand...” In this statement he reveals what moved him to visit the children of Israel. God gave him a revelation of his purpose, gifting and calling. And in his own natural ability, Moses stepped out to try and bring it to pass. He made two erroneous assumptions. The first one was that because God revealed to him what his gifting and calling would be, he assumed God would have shown everyone in Israel at the same time. Usually in the workings of God we will receive a revelation of what God has ordained for us

long before anybody else ever sees the potential for such a thing in our life. The second erroneous assumption was Moses felt that because God had revealed his calling, surely his character was mature enough to handle the responsibility. This, of course, resulted in Moses trying to deliver the Israelites through the methods of Egypt. He relied on Egyptian wisdom and ways. How much of our Christianity today relies on the methods of the world? When it comes to fund raising, we would have to admit a far too high percentage is based strictly on worldly ways. Is it possible to get actively involved in ministry today before finishing the school of the Spirit? It is not only possible but usually contributes to the detriment of the individual and sometimes to the destruction of the corporate Body. Multitudes who find themselves in the school of the Spirit opt for an early out to their own hurt. Can we resist that temptation?

MONDAY, July 14

Scripture: Acts 7:20-30

It is not too hard to understand why people would desire an early out of preparation dominated by crucifixion. We find Moses had 40 years of learning the ways of Egypt and then 40 years unlearning them. He was called of God, rejected by Israel for prematurely trying to bring God's purpose to pass, and then entered a long season of spiritual rehab. Early failure in ministry does not mean we are forever consigned to the sidelines. Moses had many years to ponder the fruit of his choice to follow God and pursue a higher calling. His reward for obedience cost him the sanitary ivory palaces of Egypt and gave in exchange the dust and dirt bowl of Sinai. He went from the very best the world had to offer to living in the very least, embracing the simple life of a shepherd. How many times do you suppose he thought, "I sure had it better in Egypt." The school of the Spirit cost something. Are we really willing to pay the price of preparation?

TUESDAY, July 15

Scripture: Hebrews 11:24

Hebrews 11:24 outlines the preparational path which parallels Elisha's experience with Elijah. It took 40 years weaving the ways of Egypt into Moses' life and God gave him 40 years to weave it out. Every minute of every hour of every decade that Moses spent in preparation he had to walk by faith "...refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter..." *refusing* the ways of the world, *refusing* the attitudes which were so common in his society, *refusing* the business practices and lack of integrity which prevailed. "*Refusing*" is no easy matter! Crucifixion is about change for eternal benefit. It is necessary for qualification. For most of us, it has not been optional.

WEDNESDAY, July 16

Scripture: Hebrews 11:25-26

In a preparational season, we learn what to choose, and we learn that certain choices bring suffering. We should learn not to recoil from the suffering but to embrace it and walk through it knowing something of great value is being worked in our character. We learn to "...esteem the reproach of Christ greater riches..." than anything the world has to offer, and we learn how to endure patiently because we look to the reward. Failure in this season can come through discouragement by allowing our focus to come off the reward and bitterly resenting the cost. If we continually look at the adversity, discouragement or depression, which usually settles like a cloud, then we often race for relief in what appeals to the flesh. We must continually look to the reward. Are we focusing on the cost or are we looking to the reward?

THURSDAY, July 17

Scripture: Exodus 3:5-6, 10-12; Acts 7:24-25

The fruit of crucifixion is seen on graduation day in the life of Moses. In verses 5 and 6, God manifested through the burning bush and revealed it was time to go back to Egypt. If we compare the Moses of

Exodus 3:10-12 with the Moses of Acts 7:24-25, we will see Moses *going in* to the preparation versus Moses *coming out*, graduating with honors. In Acts 7:24-25 Moses, at age 40, saw one of the Israelites suffering wrong and immediately went in the arm of the flesh to avenge him by striking down and killing the Egyptian, supposing that all Israel would recognize God had called him to deliver them. This is a portrait of one confident warrior who knows and trusts in his own ability to handle anything that arises. He was strong, powerful, mighty and a true warrior in every sense of the word. There was nothing he couldn't do. Notice the attitude difference between the Moses of Acts 7 and the Moses of Exodus 3. God said, "Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt. But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?'" In Acts 7 he was ready to go and demonstrate that God had indeed chosen the right man! In Exodus 3 it is an entirely different matter. We see in Acts 7 Moses in the pride of life but in Exodus 3 Moses bathed in humility as he emerges from God's ultimate school. Moses had a dramatic change of heart and amazingly enough it only took 40 years. How long will it take us?

FRIDAY, July 18

Scripture: Acts 7:22-23; Exodus 4:10

In Acts 7 we find Moses going into the preparation, "...learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and mighty in words and deeds." But in Exodus 4:10 Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." When Moses graduated, all the self-confidence in his own ability was gone. He was no longer of the attitude, "Hey, God, You got the right man. I can do it. Give me a shot at it." He transitioned from being *self-confident* to God-confident. He so recognized his inability to bring forth the magnitude of what God wanted that he really tried to persuade God to find someone else. Perhaps he was in this **kairos** a few years too long. Moses traded a life of accolade and blessing for a life of persecution and hardship, but it produced in him an attitude of absolute dependence; "If this is ever going to get done, God, You are the only One who can do it." It produced a humility of heart and God honored that humility. In the school of the Spirit, we recognize who we really are, and how **TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON** God we have to be in order to successfully carry out His purposes. Surely there can be no possessing of the double anointing without first graduating from this school.

SATURDAY, July 19

Scripture: John 14:12-14

Part of qualifying for the former and latter rain is not only the testing process revealed through Elijah and Elisha, but it is coming to an understanding of the administration and operation of that anointing. If we continue to use Elijah and Elisha as type and shadow examples, we will be willing to settle for twice as much as the previous generation and that is far below what God has in mind and is outlined for us in Scripture. For this reason, it is time to switch gears and look at the Lord Jesus Christ as a steward of God's anointing. He is the pattern for every New Testament ministry. He demonstrates the **kairos** and **chronos** for the end-times. A very clear promise by Jesus Himself, to those who believe, is outlined in John 14:12, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father." Verses 13 and 14 amplify verse 12 by saying, "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." This is undoubtedly one of the greatest promises Jesus ever uttered, and the ramifications of it are endless. Most of us would easily settle for the works Jesus did. Would you count yourself blessed to walk on water, raise the dead, grow out arms and legs, still the storm, cast out a legion of demons and feed a city with just a few loaves and fishes? The statement Jesus makes in John 14 is almost staggering, when we begin to think about the application and what it would mean if we were doing those things by faith under the leadership of the Holy Spirit today. I believe there is an ordained season. Will we be ready?

SUNDAY, July 20

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:16-20

Most of us would easily settle for doing the works Jesus did. Very few of us have obtained those in the measure outlined in the New Testament. But the promise of John 14 goes beyond what Jesus did to greater works. In Luke 4 He was preaching in His own home town. He found the book of the prophet Isaiah, opened it to a specific passage which the Holy Spirit quickened and He began to minister. He read a prophecy about His own life and ministry, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To preach deliverance to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” He stopped in the middle of verse 2. He stopped in mid-sentence, and then verse 20 of Luke 4 is very emphatic about what He did at that point. “He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.” Then He began to prophetically declare in verse 21 their fulfillment. There was an emphatic gesture in that synagogue to let people know the prophecy of Isaiah was being fulfilled right in front of their eyes! It is very interesting where He sat and what He was not allowed to read. He was not allowed to read the second part of that prophetic word which dealt with judgment. This really gives us insight into how God functions and operates during times and seasons. What the prophet saw in one panoramic vision, prophesied and wrote about, God arbitrarily divided and then manifested the fulfillment according to His own time-frame. The earthly ministry of Jesus was only allowed to fulfill verses 1 and 2(a), because 2(b) would come in another season. If we are truly going to qualify for the end-time anointing we need to recognize and accept what God has ordained for the season in which we live!

MONDAY, July 21

Scripture: Revelation 2; Isaiah 61:1-2

What Isaiah saw and enumerated in the second half of verse 2, we see in the life of Jesus as He deals with the Church in Revelation 2 after the ascension. We see the healing, restoring, blessing, binding-up ministry of Jesus and then we see the judgment ministry of Jesus. You can almost draw a comparison between the Gospel ministry of Jesus and the Revelation (chapters 2 and 3) ministry of Jesus. The dividing line is Isaiah 61:1-2. In the Gospels, Jesus anointed ministries and sent them out, but in Revelation 2 He warns if they do not return to their first love He will remove their lampstand. In the Gospels, Jesus fought for the 70, and the 12, and all who believed on Him, but in Revelation 2:14-16, to those who refuse repentance, He says, “I will come and fight against you.” In the Gospels, Jesus healed the sick. In Revelation 2:22 He says, If you don’t repent I’ll throw you into a sickbed.” In the Gospels, Jesus stilled the storm and great tribulation, but in Revelation 2:22 He says, “If you don’t repent I will throw you into great tribulation.” In the Gospels, He raised the dead. In Revelation 2:23 He says, “If you don’t repent, I’ll make you dead.” Two distinct ministries of Jesus emerge side-by-side in the New Testament. The latter rain mentioned by the prophets seems to correspond a whole lot more to the judgment ministry of God, as it is outlined in the book of Revelation. There is an appointed season where God’s people, who are qualified and prepared, enter into the fullness of both anointings simultaneously. That is going to be a period where the fireworks come in such magnitude you really don’t want to miss it or be left on the sidelines.

TUESDAY, July 22

Scripture: John 14:8-17; Acts 2:4

“...he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father,” is a dynamic promise, but the beginning of the fulfillment comes within the context of John 14. Jesus makes very clear the fact that doing His works depends on receiving another Helper or Comforter, Who will abide with them forever. The beginning fulfillment of the promise came in Acts 2:4, “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” The Spirit-filled life is essential because there is a pattern for fulfillment of what Jesus promised

that can only be seen, discerned and prepared for as we yield daily in the Spirit-led life. With such high stakes, is it any wonder receiving the Holy Spirit with the evidence of praying in other tongues has been fought so dramatically in the church world? The enemy can ill afford a multitude of individuals running around this nation, or any other, doing the works Jesus did! Yet God has ordained such a season for every city and every nation. Jesus died for a harvest of nations!

WEDNESDAY, July 23

Scripture: Acts 3

Perhaps no other event in the book of Acts makes John 14 as clear as Peter and John dealing with the lame man. Peter's comment in verse 6 bears discussion, for in his mind he says something that reminds us of John 14. Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but **what I do have** I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." In Peter's mind he had something he could pass on. Was it a healing anointing? Was it faith for healing? Was it a gift of the Spirit? Or was Peter acting on what Jesus said, "...the works that I do will you do also; and greater works will you do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." Shall we not see a season in which we dispense to needy people what the early Church dispensed? Surely we are in training for such an hour. "...such as I have, I give you:..." is a testimony waiting to be lived out in the end-times. The qualification season is at hand! How are we doing? Only God can release such power! Our part is to ask.

THURSDAY, July 24

Scripture: Acts 4

In every individual's preparation for the early and latter rain there comes an Acts chapter 4 where persecution drives them on their face before God. Rest assured doing the works Jesus did will not come uncontested. It carries a price tag all its own and creates an upset within the religious system because people begin to change their spiritual residences when God's power is flowing. The end result of revival is quite clear. In the place God pours it out, there comes a great influx of people. In the place God doesn't pour it out, there occurs a great exodus of people. Those sustaining the loss will persecute those receiving the gain. This became a great motivation for the apostles and all the people to get before the Lord in prayer demanding an outpouring of signs and wonders to be done in the name of Jesus so that no man could gainsay or resist their witness. This too is an end-time pattern. The power came and "...the place was shaken and they began to speak the word of God with a new boldness." Another major revival had been birthed! Persecution followed – are we ready?

FRIDAY, July 25

Scripture: Acts 5:1-11

What is interesting about Acts 5 is that immediately after the second filling of Acts 4, or what we might call the latter rain, the immediate fruit becomes the greater works Jesus spoke about. Which is a greater work, raising the dead, or announcing judgment and making them dead? When you raise the dead they have many more years to accrue fruit, repent or walk with God, but when you announce judgment and make them dead - that is the end! The only thing left is eternity! Dispensing judgment is a much greater work because of its finality. God answered their prayer for signs and wonders with ones that shook the whole city. Do we not need some cities shaken today? How can we overcome 50 years of predominately grace and mercy preaching? The Church is grossly ignorant concerning "Jesus the Judge."

SATURDAY, July 26

Scripture: Acts 5:12-16

In verses 12 through 16 of Acts 5 we see both streams of the double anointing flowing together in the same chapter. We see the miracles Jesus did coming forth, so much so that it is the only place in the New

Testament where, "...and they were **all** healed," through anyone other than Jesus. There was such an anointing present, no sickness or disease could stand. Dramatic healing followed the season of the restoration of the fear of the Lord. In Acts 5 we see the fulfillment of the promise of John 14, "The works that I do will you do also and greater will you do because I go to My Father." Ananias and Saphira represent the greater works. Will we see the fullness of Jesus' promise? Only if we ask. Only if we qualify.

SUNDAY, July 27

Scripture: Acts 3:19-26

Repentance opens the door for changes of times and seasons when refreshing from the presence of the Lord comes by the Holy Spirit and initiates those things He wants to do. Moses gave a prophetic word that, in its fulfillment, still has serious repercussions for us. He said, "The Lord will raise up a Prophet like him from among the brethren. Him you will hear in all things, whatever He says." Then he gave a warning. "...that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people." The purpose of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ was to bring blessing by paving the way for *repentance* to come and for turning everyone from iniquity. The primary preparation for catching this next **kairos** comes through *repentance*. *Repentance* is more than a one time event. It is an *attitude of heart* that you have to live with all your life. Those who live with that attitude will surely find themselves prepared.

MONDAY, July 28

Scripture: Exodus 12:2-7

Moses was given a prophetic word that the Father would raise up a Prophet like unto him. Therefore, we could expect certain parallels in the ministry of Jesus and the ministry of Moses. Perhaps none of these parallels was greater than the one which deals with the manifestation of the former and latter rain. Moses was just about to fulfill the purpose for which God sent him to Egypt, but only a great judgment could make that possible and there had to be a preparation. So Moses commanded, according to the word of the Lord, that every household take a lamb, "...without blemish, a male of the first year." They had to follow the prescription and then the lamb had to be killed. It had to be eaten and then the blood had to be spread over the house as a covering. This was a perfect picture for the saving grace that would come through the eternal blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The parallels in this chapter abound. It was not through the mighty sword that Israel was to be delivered, but through, perhaps the weakest and dumbest of all animals, the blood of the lamb. God chooses those things which cause the wisdom of the world to become null and void. He takes the weak things to confound the wise and the strong. Will this not be the case of His choice for end-time service? Paul had to learn it, "When I am weak, then I am strong."

TUESDAY, July 29

Scripture: Exodus 12:12-13

Just as God through Moses executed judgment on all the land of Egypt, and all the gods of Egypt, so in the end-time He will execute judgment on all the gods people have chosen and placed above Him. We have for so long wanted to major on Jesus the Savior, the Blessor, the Healer, the Redeemer and the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, that we have neglected to see a major part of His ministry is -- Jesus the Judge! Verse 13 says, "...the blood was to be a sign for them on the houses where they lived." God promised when He saw the blood He would pass over and the plague would not be on them to destroy them as it was on the Egyptians. There is a picture which emerges here that we need to note carefully. Every Israelite was to be either inside God's protection or they would find themselves outside in the judgment. There was only one of two positions that could be occupied during that season of God's dealing. If you were **obedient**, you were **inside**. If you were **disobedient**, you were **outside** where destruction was moving through the land. Does the book of Revelation not outline many plagues for the end-times? The issue in such a season very likely could be - are we on the

inside or are we living on the outside? The days for playing church are over for both pastors & parishioners. Judgment is always stronger for leaders. When Jesus finishes, finding a church will not take a lifetime.

WEDNESDAY, July 30

Scripture: Exodus 12:21-23, 29-32, 36

Just like John 14, and just like Isaiah 61:1-2, we see Moses in a situation where he has had to lay down God's command for the people. He called the elders. He told them to have every family take lambs, kill the Passover lamb, take hyssop, dip it in the blood and put the blood on the house. **Obedience** to God's word meant life. **Disobedience** meant death. Verses 29 and 30 record it. "It came to pass at midnight that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead." Every Israelite made a choice about which side of the fence they would be on. On one side of the fence was death. On the other side was deliverance. In verse 36 the people did not come out empty-handed but they were given an anointing to spoil and they came out with the silver and the gold; and they spoiled the Egyptians. God released a double anointing. On one side there was favor, life, peace, blessing, healing and financial abundance. On the other side was death, destruction, and loss. ***The issue was choice!*** The ***choice*** had to be made to obey God's word or do your own thing. The ***choice*** is ours just as it was theirs.

THURSDAY, July 31

Scripture: Psalm 105:37

This Psalm records in one verse the working of the Lord and makes the concept of former and latter rain solidify as a picture of an end-time culture. Verse 37 says, "He also brought them out with silver and gold, And there was none feeble nor sick among His tribes." For the **obedient** there was healing, deliverance, and divine provision. The **disobedient** were buried in Egypt. God surely has raised up the Prophet like unto Moses who has already completed His initial work and yet will complete the prophetic word through the Church. I believe we are in the qualifying stages of the former and latter rain. It promises to be the most glorious time the Church has ever seen or known! We definitely want to be qualified for participation. The ***choice*** is really up to us.

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ITINERARY

Al Houghton

July 10-13

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Phone: 604-943-8100
11th – 7PM 12th – 10AM & 7PM 13th 10AM & 6PM

July 17-28

Ministry Of The Living Stones
Sterling, Alaska 99672
Phone: 907-262-7321
18th & 25th Anchorage 7PM 20th & 27th Sterling 10AM