

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXXIV NUMBER IX Commissioning the Kingly Christ III

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Scripture: Romans 11:25-32, Acts 2:26

Romans 11:25-32 says, *“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.’ Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.”* Many ministers have referred to the season in which we live as the ‘Age of Mercy.’ It has been described as a season where God has mercy on all and therefore, it is the common culture for the entire church. There is a definite measure of truth here! God has always been merciful. This teaching, however, emphasizes that mercy should dominate all that we do, because it is the culture of the New Testament. Mercy certainly undergirds the message of salvation, but does not do it at the expense of truth or judgment. When we try to view mercy as the only vehicle of salvation, we err greatly because we depart from Scripture. Salvation has many facets, and covenantal mercy impacts judgment. Are we in a season of mercy? Many would say we are in a season of judgment. But neither is that the whole truth! Today, just as in the New Testament *and* the Old, both mercy and judgment are God's method for achieving Kingdom purposes. No person whose pay has been *unjustly* slashed, job *unjustly* lost or child *unjustly* hurt would look at the evil perpetrator and still proclaim “we are in a season of mercy alone!” The Holy Spirit through prophetic discernment will guide us in whether a situation or person requires mercy or justice for God's Kingdom purposes. The decision is not up to us! Christ has both a merciful expression and a judicial expression. We only hear the mercy side at most churches. But *if* we have grown to know the fullness of Christ, the Judicial is hard to ignore. Acts 2:36 says, *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both **Lord** and **Christ**.”* Lord is **koo-re-os**. **Koo-re-os** is Greek for Judge of all the Earth and **kris-tos** means Savior of all the Earth. In Scripture, what is listed first is often primary. It is most relevant or most important or at the very least equally essential. And Scripture shows time and again, that **koo-re-os**/Judge is presented *before* **kris-tos**/Savior. One is no less representative of Jesus than the other, but one *does* precede the other. And, **koo-re-os**/Judge precedes **kris-tos**/Savior nearly every time. To ignore this and claim that Jesus is no longer a Judge because we are in an ‘Age of Mercy’ totally discounts the book of Revelation. It does not fit the New Testament record and does not square with Scripture. Perhaps a problem with today's church is that preaching an ‘Age of Mercy’ fills empty seats and fills dwindling offering plates. But such theology has decreased our ability to represent Jesus the Judge. Mercy is a part of the New Testament, but Jesus was made *first* Judge of all the Earth and *second* Savior of all the Earth. We need to accept this before we can walk with the King.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Scripture: Acts 4:33

Acts 4:33 says, *"And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all."* How could the culture of the New Testament church be strictly one of mercy? When God killed Ananias and Sapphira how can we dismiss it as an exception to the rule? The problem with that is that even a primarily mercy-minded culture still has manifestations of God's judgment in it. And those manifestations of God's judgment saved the church and the early leadership from devastation and destruction. Without Jesus the Judge, it is obvious that today's church cannot accomplish our mission. We have to know Him and we have to be able to pray Him into action. When we settle for mercy without judgment, then we are disarmed in our battle against principalities and powers. Jesus is both Judge and Savior and until we accept Him in that order, we are not preparing people for the days ahead. This message of mercy-without-judgment that is sweeping today's church means an inability to confront emissaries of evil that prevent Kingdom purposes and promised harvests. Jesus is a Judge and if we want to bring our promised harvest into the Kingdom, we need Him on the scene to answer judicial prayer. Just as the early church needed Him on the scene to answer judicial prayer, so do we!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:5-8

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8 says, *"Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming."* The mystery of lawlessness is working. But the Restrainer, the Holy Spirit, should be operational in the church. The problem is, a church that does not know the Judicial Christ cannot restrain evil. It enables evil rather than restraining it. 100 years ago, this was not so. 100 years ago, the Baptists understood there was a Judicial Christ and they could pray to bring Him on the scene. Therefore, when an evangelist like Mordecai Ham (the evangelist who won Billy Graham to Jesus) was confronted with evil, he could effectively deal with it. When thieves attempted to steal from Ham and those he was ministering to and thwart Kingdom purposes, he could effectively pray and bring the Judicial Christ on the scene. During these meetings a ringleader and his band of thieves tried to steal anything they could grab and Mordecai Ham confronted them. He told the ringleader, "Now I am going to ask the Lord either to convert you and your crowd or to kill you!" The leader of the thievery fired back, "Do as you damn please!" Mordecai Ham's biography says that he prayed, and the ringleader was dying the next morning. Ham was asked to pray at the man's bedside, but he died before Ham arrived. And before 24 hours had passed from Mordecai Ham's judicial prayer, four of the other thieves were dead. Jesus the Judge answered Ham's prayers and the fear of God came on that community. As a result the fear of God fell and many people got saved. 100 years ago, a 'culture of mercy' was not how God's Kingdom operated. So of what value is today's 'culture of mercy'? It means we have no fear of God, therefore evil prevails in government, evil prevails in our judges and the church is mocked in the world today. That mockery would quickly end if we were to pray as the Spirit leads to confront evil and bring Jesus the Judge on the scene. But as long as we have church leaders who teach only grace and mercy, the church will continue to operate below maximum effectiveness. Because the church is misrepresenting God, no fear of God exists! Will the church ever represent God, as He really is, again in the earth? I suspect we will, because if we do not do it our kids will. God has a way revealing to a rebellious generation just that by making their kids their judges. Will we wait around to watch our kids do what we failed to, or will we say yes to God and represent Jesus for Who He really is?

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Scripture: Matthew 12:22-27

Matthew 12:22-27 says, *"Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, 'Could this be the Son of David?'"* Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, *"This fellow does not cast out demons except by*

Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.’ But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: ‘Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.’” Isn’t it interesting that in watching Jesus be challenged and accused of ministering by another spirit, He says in verse 27, “*...If I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.*” What does it mean that they shall be your judges? What it means is when one generation refuses to walk in what God brings them, as a judgment on that generation, He will bring their kids into what they failed or refused to walk in. A good example of that is the generation that came out of Egypt. That generation sent spies, believed the bad report of the spies, and they died in the wilderness and God brought their children into the Promised Land. Because they limited the Holy One of Israel and refused to believe God, it was their children rather than them that reached the Promised Land. That is how God operates. If we, as a church, continue to accept grace and mercy as the only culture of the New Testament, and we do not embrace the Judicial Christ, then we will watch our children embrace that truth and gain the harvest we could have had. We have church leaders right now who need to repent because they are compromising Scripture. They need to repent for choosing only to preach what they are comfortable with, or what will make it more likely their church seats are occupied. The Judicial Christ is not often a popular message and it may seem reasonable to preach to keep the rent paid rather than follow the Spirit’s often difficult direction. That sort of compromise, no matter what the motive, is a stench in the nostrils of God. If men and women in today’s leadership ignore Scriptural truth and ignore the Holy Spirit, they are without defense. When scores of leaders and multitudes of people in the church ignore, discount or explain away half of Who Christ is, it means we may lose the harvest God wants to give us in our generation. The choice is ours! Our kids could be busy!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 says, *“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”* Is it possible, that by accepting a culture of grace and mercy only, we have invited in strong delusion and find ourselves believing lies? The message of mercy and grace, without taking Scripture in context, allows unrighteousness to flourish in our midst. The culture of untempered grace allows people to do whatever they want to do, whenever they want to do it without the fear of God ever entering into the equation. When what is popular rules, then Jesus becomes a God of our own creation. The grace message sweeping the nation is understandably popular. 2 Thessalonians tells us why – it comes with strong delusion. When grace is preached without any judgment, delusion is inevitable. It is how today’s church has developed the culture of grace and mercy. There is practically no fear of God in it and unrighteousness is flourishing. Satan is all for such delusion because it thwarts Kingdom purposes. Jesus is first Judge of all the Earth and second Savior of all the Earth. Unless we preach Him that way, we are walking a path of compromise. Anytime we hear someone preach the judgment of God as an “exception” to the rule, we are listening to heresy. If we hear this, it would be better to grab our shoes and Bible and head for the door. Confronting such heresy is only our job if we know Jesus the Judge! Recognizing heresy is the fruit of walking in the Spirit and knowing our King. If we do not, we simply regress into the image of a counterfeit Jesus. Like Thyatira, we enable evil through the demonic doctrine of tolerance! This group of preachers may well hear, *“Depart from Me, you workers of iniquity, I never knew you.”*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

If we find ourselves living out of a church culture that is mostly mercy and grace oriented, we will probably never hear Matthew 25:31-46 simply because verse 41 says, *“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”* Now it is interesting that there is a group of people who will march right off into the judgment that was prepared for Satan. I wonder how they got to that point. They were likely preached to that place – preached into passivity in a culture of grace, where mercy prevailed. They did

not have to grow up because Jesus had done it all. There was no judgment of their own sin or anyone else's because Jesus had taken all judgment on Himself. Does that sound familiar? The deception of 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 can be powerful enough to sway multitudes. And many of today's well-known church leaders trumpet this "culture of mercy". But deception works to put well-meaning believers to sleep and render them ineffective for Kingdom purposes. Those of us motivated by a desire to know our Savior Who is also our King, will seek the truth – all of it! Anyone who calls the judicial acts of God in the New Testament 'exceptions' may well be caught in the deception of which 2 Thessalonians warns. Jesus is both Judge of all the Earth and Savior of all the Earth. If we hope to bring a harvest in the end-times, we need to grow beyond a culture of mercy, into a culture of justice. Then and only then can we represent Jesus, balanced in judgment and mercy, as we move toward the last days.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

2 Timothy 4:6-8 says, *"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which **the Lord, the righteous Judge**, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."* Isn't it interesting that in verse 8 Paul says, *"Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the **righteous Judge**, will give to me on that Day..."* The Apostle Paul knew the Savior, but he also knew **the righteous Judge**. Take note that at this important culmination of Paul's life and ministry, he does not refer to Jesus as the Lord, the compassionate Savior but as **the Lord, the righteous Judge!** And it was fear of **the righteous Judge** that dictated not only how Paul lived his life but influenced his carefully chosen words when his earthly end was approaching. When we preach only grace and mercy, we rob the church of the fear of the Lord and rob the church of knowing **the righteous Judge**. Knowing only **part** of Who Christ is means representing only **part** of Who Christ is. Our growth as believers has been stunted, yet in many church circles today believers will hang tenaciously onto Christ's grace-only nature. But until those preachers know **the righteous Judge**, their congregants will continue to have a stunted relationship with Christ. If we see only part of Who Christ is, our actions and choices change. If we believe there is no more judgment, then we have little motivation not to sin. But I suspect we will begin to see God's Judicial Hand move, and the fear of the Lord will be restored to the church. Look for judgment on preachers!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44

If we read this passage carefully it should be clear to everyone in this passage that the one who was taken was taken in judgment because it is likened unto the flood in the time of Noah. The people who were taken were the people who were killed in the flood. The people who were left were those who were saved. Once they were taken they never appeared again. What is Jesus teaching? He was teaching that judgment, removes perpetrators permanently. Jesus was describing the reward for a permissive culture where anything goes and where there are a lack of restraints. Jesus was describing the season we are living in. Now how did this develop? How did we get this permissive culture? There would never be treason in the White House if there was not treason in the pulpit. We would not have this kind of permissive mentality if we did not have a permissive gospel being preached in the pulpit. The condition of the church is reflected in the condition of the nation. If the church's primary message is permissive, then we see the result. What we have in the church is what we have in the nation. The church is the forerunner for the nation. When major denominations rejected a move of the Spirit in the later 1960's the schism and aborting of the Spirit's outpouring opened the door for abortion in the nation. If the church is compromised, then it is likely we see compromise in the nation. If there is perversion in the church, then it is likely there is perversion in the nation. Most problems in the nation, could be averted by jettisoning the permissive gospel of the church. Jesus taught truth, He identified strong end-time judgment and He said, *"Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left."* But rest assured, because it was like the flood, Jesus was saying that judgment is coming and God is going to start removing or taking people. He is going to take people out of ministry and take people home. God is going to start taking people – are we ready? Let us live our lives so that we are ready to go whenever God calls us. Some people are going to be taken as a reward and they will not have to live through the rest of the abomination that is unfolding day by day. God will reward

their life by taking them home early. They get to go early as a reward. But others will go early as a judgment. Jesus the Judge is about to visit the church – are we ready?

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Scripture: Matthew 24:45-47

There is another group that Jesus mentioned – it is the group that is faithful and wise. He said, *“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.”* This group will be blessed because their faithfulness will open the door to fullness. They would be ruler over all his goods. In other words, there would not be an anointing that was not available to them. They would experience His fullness. Just as the enemy takes the culture to utter perversion and defilement, God would take His faithful to the fullness of their gifting and calling. They would be ruler over all His goods. They will rule in the marketplace. They will rule over sickness and disease. They will rule in the judicial. The words of their mouths will slay the wicked. They will rule over God's creation. Which group do we want to be in? I would much rather be in the one that rules. I would much rather pay the price to walk with the Judicial Christ and bring the rule of God everywhere I go! Jesus said it and we know it will be available. We do not know how large the group will be, but there will be some who will walk there. What will we choose? At least we have a choice – we can pay the price to prepare or we can walk in the permissive culture that is around us. What will we choose? It really is up to us.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-3

Psalm 2:1-3 says, *“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 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.’”* I believe we are currently witnessing verses 1-3 in manifestation as the Lord Himself begins to mock those who are so permissive in the culture that they are complicit in breaking the laws and the morals that previous generations of Christians bled and died for. How are people complicit in breaking the laws and morals that previous generations bled and died for? It is simple – they vote for politicians and political parties that allow and sometimes champion perversion. Political decisions have and continue to destroy laws that are Bible-based. The shedding of innocent blood, or abortion, is a classic example. If Bible-believing Christians are complicit in voting for politicians who champion abortion, then they have hands that drip with the blood of innocent children. You are complicit and have joined a permissive culture. Jesus is pretty clear about where such people are headed and it is based on the actions they take. People call themselves Christians, but take actions that align with demons. It is not wisdom to live that way, but a permissive church culture destroys the fear of the Lord and a spirit of deception prevails. Sin is not OK, and there is nothing OK about it. If believers hear only grace and know only the Christ of grace, then they do not fear Him. They are deceived into believing that they can vote as they please without consequences! Voting for an antichrist politician accrues antichrist fruit that demands judgment. Let us remember, for those of us who have voted foolishly in the past, that God will redeem as we repent, and forgiveness is a prayer away!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Scripture: Psalm 110:1-7

Psalm 110 is a portrait of a balanced Christ in the last days. And if we are going to look at one Psalm that describes Jesus as both Judge and as Savior, Psalm 110 might well be the best. In verses 1-2 it says, *“The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies.”* Verses 3,4 state, *“Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. The Lord has sworn And will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.’”* Verses 3 and 4 are fairly pastoral and are very Priestly. Verses 5-7 says, *“The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. He shall*

drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head." Psalm 110 starts out with two judicial verses, transitions to two Pastoral verses and ends with three Judicial verses. I believe it is a picture of what the church is supposed to look like in the last days. It is supposed to be fully balanced and ready to represent the Judge, then transition to representing the Priest in order to gather the harvest that manifested judgment motivates! I had the privilege of training a Smith Wigglesworth-type believer early in the ministry. In those days, I emphasized faith and obeying the leadership of the Holy Spirit. This man was a machinist who programmed his computer driver lathe and then monitored it for eight hours. The Lord told him to study his Bible while monitoring. A new shop foreman objected and threatened him—no studying the Bible on his watch. The believer refused to stop studying the Bible at the continued leadership of the Spirit. The second day the foreman objected and wrote him up, taking disciplinary action. The third day this believer continued studying his Bible. The shop foreman said that violation, three days in a row, deserved termination. My friend declared, "What you are demanding is dangerous to your health because the Lord told me to study my Bible!" At that moment the shop foreman dropped dead at that man's feet! Every man on that floor came to this machinist saying, we want to know your Jesus! He led them to salvation. Great end-time harvests follow manifestations of Jesus the Judge! Are we there or are we exclusively staying in verses 3 and 4? It is time to grow into people who can represent all of Christ.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-6

Psalm 2, verses 1 and 3, identifies the enemies working against the church. And in verses 4-6 we find God's response to the enemies work. Verses 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 will mock, then He will speak to them in His wrath. When God speaks in wrath, people die. He will distress them in His deep displeasure. His deep displeasure means ultimate adversity. And finally, in verse 6 it says that He will set His King on His Holy Hill of Zion, and that is where the church emerges. We are the temple of the Living God! So when God says I will *"...set My King on My Holy Hill of Zion,"* He is saying He will set His King **in His temple**, which is within us. So verse 6 means He will bring forth the King, flowing out of believers, but only those prepared believers that let Him. We are the Holy Hill! Let God bring the King out of us. That is what the Lord is after in the last days. That is where we are going and that is the battle plan. The Lord is ready to restore the Judicial Christ to the church. The question is, will we say yes and let Him do it? He is ready. Let us say yes. That is what He is asking for!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Scripture: Revelation 1:5,6

Revelation 1:5,6 describes God's willingness to set His King on His Holy Hill. 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."* We have been named Kings and Priests. We have been formed to fully represent the Lord as Judge and Savior. Revelation 1:5,6 declared truth we cannot run from. God's purpose for every believer is to represent Him as Judge and Savior. If we represent Him as Judge, the unsaved will naturally flock to the altar. Representing the Judge with judgments motivates people to get saved. That is God's plan and God's purpose. A culture of only mercy can never accomplish that because it is out of order and does not fully represent Christ. It was never in God's order to unfold a harvest that way. The current church is attempting it, but thus far we have seen little fruit as many believers let sin prevail in their lives. We can choose to say yes to God's pattern or we can say no. If we say no then we are going to be in trouble. It is time that we say yes to the Lord!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Scripture: Revelation 2:19-23

Revelation 2:19-23 says, *"I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who*

calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.” Revelation 2 tells us what a culture of mercy can produce, and that is a church like Thyatira. The Lord was not happy with Thyatira because they were so inclined to accept sin that they never lifted a standard against it. There is a doctrine of tolerance that we see in today’s church that espouses a “good Christian” is ultimately tolerant. But we see the church of Thyatira forfeited their harvest and got God’s promise of judgment on their disobedient disciples. Walking in a doctrine of tolerance is dangerous, and we see that God is willing to cut off believers that choose to walk in it. When we look at the landscape of today’s church, we see the fruit of a doctrine of tolerance. Jesus rejected it. Choosing the Thyatira model guarantees death. Jesus proclaimed judgment on it, and today’s church would be wise to take heed. Going to a church where the uncompromised Word is preached is the only smart thing to do.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Scripture: Revelation 2:24-27

Revelation 2:24-27 says, *“Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father;...”* But to the rest at Thyatira, who refused the doctrine of tolerance, ‘I will give you a Rod of Iron and you can rule with it.’ Now that is a promise worth possessing. Does God pass out a Rod of Iron? Based on this passage He certainly does. He brings them and He releases them into His mighty purposes? The purpose is so we can rule in the midst of the enemies around us. Even in Thyatira God had a group of believers deserving of Rods, who said no to the permissive culture of grace. Jesus has a group in this hour who will walk with Him and I trust we will be part of that group!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Scripture: Revelation 12:1-5

Revelation 12:1-5 says, *“Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.”* Israel bore a male Child who was to rule all the nations with a Rod of Iron. We know that to be Jesus. And we are His representatives. Her Child was caught up to God and His Throne. We now stand and the church stands as the representative of the Most High and it is our job to rule in order to bring a harvest of nations that the Lord assigns the church. That is our eternal job. In order to rule we have to access both the Judicial anointing and the Priestly anointing. Either one, by itself, will not complete the assignment. It takes both and it is only if we say yes to both will we prepare to finish our part of that race in the last days. Are we ready? God is looking for us!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Scripture: Revelation 19:11-15

Scripture: Revelation 19:11-15, *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed*

Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” The Jesus of Revelation 19:11-15 is quite obviously the Judicial Christ. He is doing what a King does – He is judging, making war and governing a harvest. He is the God of War Who has an army with Him. The question is, are we ready to fulfill our ordained position in the army of God? Are we willing to take our place in the army of God? Are we willing to go to war with the King? The Jesus Who is visiting the church today is a Warring King! He has fulfilled His key role as Suffering Servant and He is now a Warring King! Are we preparing to walk with the Warring King? If we are not preparing, we will not be ready for the days ahead. Jesus is a Warring King and the book of Revelation shows us Who He is and what He is doing today. The question is, are we willing to say yes and walk it out with Him?

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-9

Psalm 2:1-9 hints at what we find in Revelation 19. Psalm 2 makes it clear that it is our job to break the resistance to our harvest with a Rod of Iron. It is our job to dash it in pieces like a potter's vessel. The Jesus of Revelation 19 is breaking and dashing. And the question is, are we willing to break and dash? It is a tall order and one not entered into lightly. The Hebrew word for “*break*” is **ra-rah** and means, ‘A blow from which there is no recovery,’ or to bring a blow from which recovery is a very long process. The Hebrew word for “*dash*” is **naw-fats** and means, ‘To break into nine pieces, then to blow on and scatter the pieces until they can never be reconstituted.’ That anointing in the middle of a war would likely gain us the prize. Are we willing to break and to dash? Those are both serious wartime manifestations. Yet the Lord said that is what it means to carry the Rod of Iron. If we have the Rod of Iron we can walk in this place. Jesus died for this and He made it available. The question is, have we given ourselves to studying the Word until we are proficient in using the Rod of Iron? If not, now is the time to grow into it!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:4-9

In this passage is the account of David receiving the prophetic word offered to him - the covenant of Sure Mercy. We are told in 2 Samuel 7:4-9, *“But it happened that night that the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, ‘Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: ‘Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’”’ Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.”’* The Lord is telling David, ‘I took you from tending sheep to make you ruler over my people Israel. Because I have been with you wherever you have gone, I have cut off all your enemies from before you.’ There is the **ra-rah**/break and **naw-fats**/dash in action! God said He had done it. It was David's covenant and David could pass it on through his seed. It is a great promise and it is part of the covenant. God obligated Himself by covenant to empower us to break and to dash. Otherwise, we could not rule with the Rod of Iron. But because God promised us by covenant that we could break and we could dash, then as we embrace and prepare, we have the full authority to use the Rod of Iron. Isn't it time that we thank the Lord for it? Isn't it time we began to visualize walking in this dimension? This is part of the covenantal promise that the church has for the last days. It is certainly time that we walked in it!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Scripture: Genesis 15:18, Acts 13

Genesis 15:18 says, *“On the same day the Lord **made** a covenant with Abram, saying: ‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—”* “**Made**” is the Hebrew word **kaw-rath** and it means, ‘To cut.’ The Hebrew word for “*covenant*” is **ber-eeth**. So the Lord **kaw-rath** a **ber-eeth**, or cut a

covenant with Abraham. Because we are Abraham's seed, we are heirs according to the promises of this covenant. So the very same covenant that God made with Abraham, through the Blood of Christ He offers to us. And according to Acts 13, the same covenant God made with David, through the Blood of Christ He offers us. David was given a covenant to rule. Jesus bought and paid for us to have the same promises that David walked in. The question is, are we going to say yes? It is time that we said yes to the Lord! Saying yes to covenant demands action!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3

In Genesis 12:1-3 we are told, *"Now the Lord had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"* The five *"I wills..."* in the covenant that God made with Abraham, each speak to a unique arena of submission that the Lord desires to bring us into, but are often demanding and difficult. It also outlines for us God's Judicial standard. And His Judicial standard is simple, *"I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you..."* So we become God's Judicial standard – how people treat us is how God treats them. What they do to us, God will do to them. He will reward people according to their works in support of His people, His plans and His purposes. In this covenant we become a living plumbline. Living plumblines force the issue of Kingdom Justice. God is a God of Kingdom Justice and He is committed to seeing that justice manifested. How you witness, walk or live and what you say provokes a response. The response often demands justice!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Scripture: Genesis 15:8

Genesis 15:8 says, *"And he said, 'Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?'"* Abraham has just been promised again that he would have so many offspring that he will not be able to count them. But Abraham stepped beyond the promise and asked God for confirmation. It is important to recognize that Abraham is the one who initiates what becomes the Blood Covenant. He asked God for assurance that it was not only a promise, but a promise that was guaranteed. And God answered him by saying He would guarantee it in blood, God agreed to guarantee it as a Blood Covenant. And God did exactly that. Blood Covenant gave assurance to man!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Scripture: Genesis 15:9-13

Genesis 15:9-13 says, *"So He said to him, 'Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.' Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. Then He said to Abram: 'Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.'" As a result of Abraham asking, *"How shall I know?"*, the Lord tells him to get the animals, cut them in the middle, separate them and stand in the middle. All of that, Abram did. God then entered into a Blood Covenant with Abraham. Abraham asked God for a guarantee, but the Blood Covenant meant that God could also ask Abraham to live up to the covenant. And Blood Covenant means, what is yours is mine and what is mine is yours. Blood Covenant was really Abraham's idea in order to know that what God promised, He would in fact perform. That was the purpose of the covenant and Abraham was the one who asked for it.*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Scripture: Genesis 15:13-18, Genesis 22:1-5

Verse 18 says, “On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: *“To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—...”* In our present day, when we look at the Palestinians at war with the Israelites, we ought to be reminded that Israel has owned the land much longer than the Palestinians ever thought about occupying it. And yet, it is stunning how many people seem to think that Israel is occupying someone else’s land. The Bible makes it clear that God gave the land to Israel long before the Palestinians were ever birthed in Ishmael! The Jews own Israel by God’s Covenant with Abraham! Just as Abram asked God, *“How shall I know?”* the day came when God was willing to ask Abram, *“How shall I know?”* In Genesis 22, we find God returned the favor, asking Abram for his son. Abram had asked God for a guarantee of a son so he could know. In Blood Covenant, what is yours is mine. Covenant has to be tested to be confirmed. God tested by asking for Abram’s son. By faith Abram had to declare that he would return with the lad. Blood Covenant guarantees that God will perform what He promises. If we accede to God’s requests, Covenant is active when we pass the test. Our choices prove whether or not we will honor His covenant, as Abram did. There is the core issue of covenant. You and I have to prove to God that we will give Him what He wants from us. Then we will know that He will give us what we ask. Abram walked it out and as a result became the father of all them that believe.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Scripture: Genesis 22:7,8

Verses 7,8 state, *“But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, ‘My father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ Then he said, ‘Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’ And Abraham said, ‘My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.’ So the two of them went together.”* How heart-wrenching it must have been for both Isaac and Abram to have to walk through this ultimate test of covenant. God said, ‘Give Me your son. Give Me a member of your family.’ An ultimate test we walk through with God is when He asks for members of our family. Will we continue to walk with Him? Will we say, ‘OK Lord, I yield.’ That is the question and it is a covenantal question, and the greatest challenges of Christian life. The reward is tremendous, but walking through the challenge can be painstakingly costly in its process. Abraham and Isaac faced it and walked it out honorably together. May we all do the same when these moments arise.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Scripture: Genesis 22:9-12

Genesis 22:9-12 says, *“Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ So he said, ‘Here I am.’ And He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.’”* Abraham had to go so far as to extend the knife and strike it out to slay his son. At that point God spoke to him and said no. But the language is what is interesting. The language of verse 12 says, *“...for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son.”* Do we fear God? How do we prove that we fear God? We do what He says and we do not withhold anything. Every person can prove they fear God by not withholding when God asks for something. We prove it by doing what He asks us to do. That is the only way we can prove we are truly in covenant with God – He asks us to do something and we do it, even when it is very costly. Abraham became the father of all them that believe when he obeyed God and consummated the Blood Covenant. And here we are – we are his seed and we are heirs according to his promise if we walk this out. This is how we can all walk with the Judicial Christ. We have to obey Him, we have to first develop a personal relationship, then yield and give Him what He wants. We cannot withhold from Him when He asks for something. Do we refuse to withhold, and will we in the days ahead?

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Scripture: Genesis 22:13-17

Verses 13-17 say, *“Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, ‘In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.’ Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: ‘By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.’”* The stunning thing about this process is that it is consummated personally when we do not withhold from God when He asks. Through our obedience the reward is an anointing to possess the gate of our enemies. Will we possess the gate of our enemies? God says that we will. If we will not withhold from the Lord, if we will give Him what He wants when He asks for it, then the Bible promises that we will possess the gate of our enemies. That means we can stand in the gate – the financial gate, the educational gate, the judicial gate... We can stand in the gate and declare the Judicial Word of the Lord and possess the gate of our enemies. That is the promise! It is the pattern. Abraham became the father of all them that believe, and it is a pattern for all of us. If we will not withhold from the Lord and give Him what He asks for, then we come into something absolutely stunning and amazing. We can possess the gate of our enemies. Are we possessing the gates of our enemies? It is time to graft this promise into our lives. Abraham did and it is time for us to participate. This is the time to possess cities and nations and to do it, we must be able to stand in the gates of our enemies and possess those gates. Jesus said, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore...”* Abraham bought and paid for that relationship. Jesus bought and paid for you and I to walk in that same relationship. Will we?

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Scripture: Genesis 15:18, Galatians 3:29

The Lord cut a covenant with Abraham. He held Abraham to that covenant in Genesis 22 and it resulted in Abraham possessing the gate of his enemies. When we go to the New Testament, we are told in Galatians 3:29, if we be Christ's then we are Abraham's seed and are heirs according to the promise. Are we heirs according to the promise? Are we Abraham's seed? Galatians 3:29 says, *“And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”* If we are Abraham's seed, then we can possess the gate of our enemy. We can stand in the gate of the enemy, we can declare the Word of the Lord and we can watch God perform it especially when it is a Judicial Word. The important issue is not whether God will perform it, but whether we will declare it! Are we ready to possess the gate of our enemy?

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20

After Jesus was resurrected and after instructing the Twelve, the Seven and the 120 to wait for him, He gave the Twelve a Great Commission. In that Great Commission He said, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Now we cannot do that if we do not know how to possess the gate of the enemy. Do we know how to possess the gate of our enemy? Do we know how to take the power of the covenant and declare it in the gate of the enemy? God expects us to! We are called to go to the place where we can possess the gate of the enemy. Can we possess the gate of the enemy exclusively through mercy and grace? No—Judicial Prayer is the key to possessing the gate of our enemies!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Scripture: Acts 5:1-14

In Acts 5:1-14, we see the first major manifestation of the Judicial Christ in the early church. Peter announced the death of first Ananias and then Sapphira, and the Holy Spirit executed them at Peter's word. Peter stood in the gate of the enemy – the mammon gate – and he possessed that gate. Nobody said that anything they had was their own. According to Acts 4:32, they passed the mammon test. Peter stood in that gate and declared. He possessed the gate of the enemy and what was the result? No one dared join them and believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women. If we possess the gate of the enemy, what is the fruit? An end-time harvest! That is the fruit. Will we possess the gate of the enemy? The Lord is calling us to, but you and I have to answer that question. Abraham bought and paid for it, Jesus bought and paid for it, the early church walked in it, so why can't we walk in it? The truth is, we can. But not if we only know and only represent the Mercy-Jesus or the Priestly Jesus. We have to know, represent and walk with Jesus the Judge to possess the gate of our enemy. Will we? God is calling – will we answer?

*Through our obedience comes a reward
An anointing of strength, might and power,
To war to possess the enemy's gate
That is needed in this day and hour!*

By Jayne H.

ITINERARY

9/4-9/6/2014	Portland, OR	Casa Del Padre Church 1666 SE Lambert, Portland OR 97202 "Preparing for Kingdom Manifestations" 9/4 Thur. 7pm; 9/5 Fri 10am, 2pm, 7pm; 9/6 Sat 10am, 2pm, 6pm	Doug Shetty 360-513-9288
9/19-9/21/2014	Waco, TX	Presence Power and Passion Ministries Texas Ranger Hall of Fame 100 Texas Ranger Trl, Waco, TX 76706 · 254-750-8631 Fri 7 pm, Sat 10 am, 7 pm, Sun 10 am	Jack & Brenda Abbott 254-741-0802
9/26-9/28/2014	Seattle, WA	Horizon Church 602 Valley St, Seattle WA 98109 Call for meeting times	Doug Heck 206-282-9400
9/27/2014	Delta, BC	Kingdom Harvest Ministries, int'l Call for location and meeting times	Pastor Darcy Dube 915-523-6800

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