

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXXVI NUMBER XI Faith for the End-Times VII

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3

Hebrews 11:1-3 says, *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”* When I read that passage, a clear question develops. How do we frame the world that we are living in by faith so that the Word of God comes into manifestation and impacts the world in which we live? This chapter answers that question and tells us how to live in order to qualify to do that. Hebrews 11 is about taking the Word and framing our world with it. That is something the church has either abandoned or just plain has not understood. At this time, the world is doing a better job of framing their world view than the church is of taking Scripture and framing the world. How do we change that?

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Scripture: Hebrews 11:30-31

Hebrews 11:30-32 says, *“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.”* Jericho was the very first city they were to capture in the Promised Land. And they had to wait on God and find out what to do. They were instructed to march around the city of Jericho one time a day, and do it for six straight days. And on the seventh day, they would march around seven times. And at the end of the seventh time, they would blow on the trumpet. It is obvious that faith starts with finding out what God wants to do and then, in obedience, doing it. Faith is first applied on our flesh. When God gives us instruction to do something seemingly crazy or practically impossible, our flesh usually resists following that instruction. Our mind questions it, our friends may question it, our bank account may question it. But when it is what the Lord is leading us to do, then we have to apply our faith on our own flesh to obey. If we can do that, we can frame the world in which we live with the Word. If not, we have to pass it on to another generation, and perhaps they will walk in the fulfillment. When God says, “Shout,” we shout and victory is ours!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32, Judges 6:1-6, 15, Psalm 121:1-8

Verse 32 says, *“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:”* How did Gideon frame the world in which he lived through faith? The situation Gideon faced was dismal. Judges 6:1-2 says, *“Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains. So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as*

Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it. So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord." Sin impoverished the nation. And it seems that is exactly what is happening in our nation right now. Years of perverse leadership and the promotion of sin have filled the land with iniquity, and we see the nation being financially impoverished at the same time. Gideon was called by God to confront the sin of the nation before he could change anything about the poverty. God told Gideon that he could save Israel, but Gideon argued in verse 15 and said he couldn't do it. The Lord responded in verse 16, *"Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."* Gideon had to accept what God called him to do by faith. He had to wrestle with the fact that God had called him to go against the enemy of the land and to set Israel free. So, by faith, he had to believe that God would show up in his behalf. He had to walk by faith in order to change the poverty of the land. What do we have to do to change the poverty of the nation?

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Scripture: Judges 6:21-27

The Lord instructed Gideon exactly what to do. He had to go and build an altar and declare his God on it, sacrifice a young bull and cut down the perverse image at the altar. So Gideon, by faith took ten men and went and did exactly what God called him to do. This created a giant stir in the whole village. God asked Gideon to use his faith and provoke war with the Midianites, which Gideon did. One step at a time, God was bringing him into a confrontation with the enemy. Would we be willing to answer God's call if it brought us into confrontation with the powers that be? If we are going to walk by faith in the last days, we are going to have to!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Scripture: Judges 6:33-40

Judges 6:33-40 says, *"Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them. So Gideon said to God, 'If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.'* And it was so. *When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. Then Gideon said to God, 'Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew.'* And God did so that night. *It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground."* Gideon, as he obeyed God, began to blow the trumpet for war and the army of men who were willing to fight gathered behind him. Gideon repeated what God had said to him and tested the Lord twice by fleece and was graciously answered by God. Faith comes by hearing the Word. Gideon needed to see as well as hear. And God answered him again. Gideon had his confrontation. Today, we are led by the Spirit, and the majority of people who try to receive guidance by the fleece, end up in an area of unbelief. We know that the sons of God are those who are led by the Spirit of God. The Lord wants us to hear from the Holy Spirit and act on what we hear.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Scripture: Judges 7:1-7

Gideon gathered a whole army of people, 32,000 men. God said it was too large an army for Him to get the credit. God told Gideon to tell the people who were fearful that they could leave, and 22,000 people left. The Lord said that 10,000 men was still too many and told Gideon to bring the people to the water. And God said the number of those who drink by putting their head to the water and lapping with their tongue as a dog laps that He would set apart for Himself. And God said the number of those who drink by putting their hand to their mouth were to leave. At the end,

only 300 men lapped as a dog lapped and Gideon had his select number of men who would walk in faith with him. God has to separate those who walk in faith from those who will not. Separation is a process and can take time. We have to be willing to yield to the process of separation so we can tell who we can walk with in this assignment and who we cannot. Gideon had to let that process play out. Are we willing to let that process play out?

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Scripture: Judges 7:8-18

Gideon needed several more confirmations and God gave them to him by what the Midianites themselves said. Then he got the final instructions of dividing the 300 men into three companies. Verses 16-18 say, *"Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. And he said to them, 'Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!'"* Instead of a weapon, the men were given a phrase to declare. By faith each was to declare *"The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"* By faith, Gideon had to go to war with words. Is that a picture of what God is calling us to do? All Gideon was given was a pitcher, a trumpet and a phrase, *"The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"* Now surely if Gideon could gain a great victory by faith with that phrase, we can gain some victory by prayer. God gave Gideon the victory. And what is said in Hebrews became true of Gideon. He framed his world by the Word of God. Can we learn that? Faith has not changed. God knows how to destroy people who are trying to destroy His Kingdom purposes. Our call is to walk in faith in the process. Gideon is an example, and rightly so.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Scripture: Judges 8:4-16

Gideon needed help after the initial battle when he was chasing the remnants that were left. Verses 4-7 say, *"When Gideon came to the Jordan, he and the three hundred men who were with him crossed over, exhausted but still in pursuit. Then he said to the men of Succoth, 'Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are exhausted, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.' And the leaders of Succoth said, 'Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?' So Gideon said, 'For this cause, when the Lord has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers!'"* Now the men of Succoth refused to walk in faith as Gideon had. So Gideon said when he won the victory, then affliction would come upon them and they would pay a price out of their flesh. And affliction did come on the men of Succoth in verses 13-16. Affliction from God trains us but when Satan authors it, we only see it steal, kill and destroy. If we do not walk in faith, we can suffer affliction alongside those in the world. Walking in faith is essential if we are going to escape the adversity that is coming on the nation. If we refuse to walk in faith, we may go into the affliction with the rest of the sinners. We need to form our world by faith. It is an essential for us to understand this powerful, foundational truth for the days in which we live. God has not changed and affliction is still one of His major teaching tools.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Scripture: Judges 8:18-21

Judges 8:18-21 is very important because we see the symbol that Zebah and Zalmunna carried is the very same symbol of Islam today. Verses 18-21 state, *"And he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, 'What kind of men were they whom you killed at Tabor?' So they answered, 'As you are, so were they; each one resembled the son of a king.' Then he said, 'They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As the Lord lives, if you had let them live, I would not kill you.' And he said to Jether his firstborn, 'Rise, kill them!' But the youth would not draw his sword; for he was afraid, because he was still a youth. So Zebah and Zalmunna said, 'Rise yourself, and kill us; for as a man is, so is his strength.' So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments that were on their camels' necks."* This is the kind of heart the church is going to have to have in the last days as we face the terror of Islam. There are four basic things to

remember about Islam: 1) Islam has a 'holy' book, 2) That book is called the Koran, 3) The Koran teaches Jihad, 4) Jesus said, *"If you live by the sword, you die by the sword."* Therefore, every Imam or Muslim who believes and teaches Jihad lives by the sword. And according to Jesus, that means they will die by the sword. The only way to win the war against Islam is with the Sword of the Lord which we swing in prayer. How do we know when Muslims begin believing the part of the Koran that teaches Jihad? How can we tell if a Christian is going to believe the whole Bible or only parts of it? It is impossible to tell and it is important to remember not all Muslims embrace Jihad. But we know what Jesus said about living by the sword, and we know that swinging the Sword of the Lord in prayer against Jihadists is our responsibility!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32, Judges 4:13-24

Barak is called a man of faith in Hebrews 11 and is given to us as an example of a man that by faith subdued a kingdom. Gideon subdued a kingdom and Barak helped subdue a kingdom. These are the men that we have to learn from because we are facing a kingdom of darkness that has to be subdued. If we do not subdue it, we lose our harvest field. What did Barak do? God called Deborah as a judge in Israel and Deborah was called to subdue a kingdom. And Deborah assigned Barak to a mission with 10,000 troops. Barak said he would go in faith. But verse 8 gives us Barak's response which is, *"If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!"* So Deborah chose to go to the battle with Barak. But she then had to deliver God's message to Barak in verse 9, *"I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman."* If we obey God there is an opportunity to share in glory. He did that consistently for King David and tried to do it for Barak. But Barak would not follow God's assignment without Deborah with him. And because of it, God said he forfeited the full victory and it was turned over to someone else. How much have we forfeited in our relationship with God because we would not agree to go by faith? All these things are written in order to train us, upon whom the ends of the world have come.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32, Judges 13:6-8

Hebrews 11:32 goes on to mention Samson, who is also an example of faith. In Judges 13, we see the angel visit Samson's parents and that chapter records the birth of Samson. The angel said, *"...the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death."* His parents knew God had ordained their son to be anointed and to do some mighty works. Samson had a very promising start with such a supernatural birth. I am sure his parents had great expectations for him. But it did not take long for those great expectations to begin to wane. And why did that happen? It happened because Samson would not listen to anyone. He yielded to what he wanted to do in the flesh. It is amazing how often ministry starts out with substantial expectation and tremendous anointing, yet the little foxes immediately start to spoil the start that God gives. Samson is an example in Scripture of someone that could have done so much more, but still gained victory as a flawed vessel. Is there hope for us? Absolutely yes, for every single one of us!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Scripture: Judges 14

In Judges 14, Samson decided he wanted to get married. But instead of marrying a covenant Israelite, he chose a daughter of the Philistines. Later, Samson met a lion, killed him and took honey from the lion. As a result of taking honey from the lion, he posed a riddle to his wife's people, *"Out of the eater came something to eat, And out of the strong came something sweet."* For three days they could not explain the riddle and really pressed on his wife to reveal the answer. Samson was pushed and manipulated for seven days by his wife until he finally told her. So the men of the city gave him the answer on the seventh day. And Samson responded in verse 18, *"If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have solved my riddle!"* Verse 19 says, *"Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men, took their apparel, and gave the changes of clothing to those who had explained the riddle. So his anger was aroused, and he went back up to his father's house. And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man."* Judges 15:4-6 says, *"Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes;*

and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves. Then the Philistines said, 'Who has done this?' And they answered, 'Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion.'" And when they came against Samson, he grabbed the jawbone of a donkey and killed 1,000. Samson had an amazing anointing and over and over again, he brought deliverance. But he had a weakness and that weakness was a woman. He would not take God's choice for a covenant wife, but kept going to the Philistines. When we think about the additional exploits Samson could have had, it is grievous to see his subjugation by his own rebellion. Most of the kings and judges that had a full leadership term, reigned for 40 years. Samson led Israel for exactly half because he would not use his faith on his flesh to obey God. What term cuts a ministry in half? Personal sin and refusing the word of the Lord! Samson is a perfect example of a mighty man of valor that could have had a much greater impact.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Scripture: Judges 16-17

In Judges 16-17, we find the failure of Samson and the redemption at the end of his life. Samson gave into Delilah and as a result she cut his hair, he lost his great strength and his eyes were put out. He was put in prison as a Philistine trophy, grinding grain. But his hair began to grow and as his hair grew, he began to cry out to the Lord to give him one more victory. And the Lord did, and Samson killed more in his death than he did in his life. But his sin was very costly because he only got to lead Israel for 20 years and part of that time he was in captivity among the enemy. God redeemed Samson's call but Samson forfeited half of his rulership. We need to learn from these men so we do not make their mistakes.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32, Judges 11:1-11

Hebrews 11:32 says, *"And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah,..."* Jephthah was a subduer of kingdoms, but Judges 11 tells us about Jephthah's life. He was a Gileadite and a mighty man of valor, but he was the son of a harlot and as a result of his mother he was disinherited from his father's house. So he became a raider and after a period of time the people of Ammon made war against Israel. Verse 5 says, *"And so it was, when the people of Ammon made war against Israel, that the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob. Then they said to Jephthah, 'Come and be our commander, that we may fight against the people of Ammon.' So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, 'Did you not hate me, and expel me from my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?' And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, 'That is why we have turned again to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the people of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.' So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, 'If you take me back home to fight against the people of Ammon, and the Lord delivers them to me, shall I be your head?' And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, 'The Lord will be a witness between us, if we do not do according to your words.' Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and commander over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before the Lord in Mizpah."* The story of Jephthah is an amazing story of someone who was initially rejected by his nation because of their Phariseism. And God engineered the results so they would have to go back to him for deliverance and salvation. The first thing we learn about the life of Jephthah is that God loves to right wrongs when people are rejected for the wrong reasons. And they often can become great champions. We certainly have to be careful in judging a person's origin because we can easily be wrong!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Scripture: Judges 11:12-33

Jephthah leaves Israel to war in their behalf. He pleads for justice from God and the Spirit of the Lord comes on him and gives it. Jephthah won a great victory and God gave him a great slaughter. He subdued the people of Ammon

before the children of Israel. Jephthah is a great example of faith for all of us and an example of how God is the Redeemer of circumstances that are beyond our control.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Scripture: Judges 11:30-31,34-40, John 10:10

One of the saddest things about the life of Jephthah is the absolute misapplication of the vow that he made before God. Jephthah, having been turned out of Israel, may have never learned or been taught the true mercy of God. And consequently, he made a vow that if God would give him the victory he would sacrifice the first thing that would come out the door of his house when he came home. He could have instead vowed to tithe for the rest of his life or he could have vowed to give leadership in Israel back to others. But the vow he made was beyond foolish. He voluntarily offered up one of his family as a payment for a victory. When God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, God did not intend to kill him. Abraham received Isaac back in faith, expecting God to raise him from the dead. But the angel stopped him. It is entirely possible that Jephthah's early rejection was very costly to him in the end. He missed some of the training about Who God is and what He expects. And none of us ever want to be in that place. We need to study God's Word because it is a life and death issue for us. Death and life are in the power of the tongue and it certainly came to pass for Jephthah. He was a mighty man of faith and gained a great victory for Israel but at a terrible price. John 10:10 really comes before us in a moment when we are looking at the life of Jephthah, *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* That is certainly true of all of us in the New Testament and we can be very thankful!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32, 1 Samuel 17:24-30, Psalm 2

Verse 32 continues on to list David. King David is a great biblical example in Scripture of someone who subdued kingdoms. Not only is King David an example of subduing kingdoms, but he led a life of showing us how it works. His Psalms are full of covenant responsibility, covenant promises and illustrate how faith works. Faith is saying yes to God's covenant and acting like that covenant will work for us. David is a classic example of acting on his covenant and following the anointing of the Holy Spirit. From the time he was anointed, King David learned and committed to follow the Holy Spirit above everything else. And the very first place we see his persistence in following the Spirit is when Eliab came to criticize him when he showed up at the battle in verse 28. Verse 28 says, *"Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, 'Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.'" David is accused, verbally assaulted and disparaged. But does he turn around and leave? His retort in verse 29 is, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?" God was in it and David refused to back down.*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:32-36, Luke 2:40

Verses 32-36 say, *"Then David said to Saul, 'Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.' And Saul said to David, 'You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.' But David said to Saul, 'Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.' Moreover David said, 'The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.'" There are two things that David did that are absolute underpinnings of a life of faith. The first is he declared the covenant promises of God and the second is that he stood on those promises and developed a testimony of victory based on God's Word. Faith grows and every time we stand in faith and gain a victory, our faith grows. David's faith grew to the place that he could victoriously take on Goliath and he did! Because he*

committed to the Word and acting on the Word, his faith grew until he could take on Goliath. We do not know what or who the 'Goliaths' are that are ahead of us, but we do know how to prepare for them. We stand on Scripture and believe God for His deliverance. And every victory causes our faith to grow. Luke 2:52 says, *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."* Even our Lord Jesus had to grow before God and man and so do we.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:42-50

David made a habit of acting on God's Word and had grown in faith so that when Goliath taunted him he could reply with confidence. In verse 46-47 he said, *"This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."* David knew where his trust was. His trust was in God to deliver him. He was wholly sold out and was willing to put his life on the line because he believed that God would deliver him. And God did. That is what faith is all about. To embrace our full destiny, the church must walk in this level of faith. And Jesus said in Revelation 22:16, *"Tell the church I am the root and fruit of David."* We are called to represent Him and He is the root and fruit of David. To fulfill our call and walk victoriously in the last days, we need to develop the kind of faith that David walked in.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:7-16

David had to escape the scrutiny of Saul on a number of occasions. As David was playing music with his hand, in order to relieve Saul's distress, Saul grabbed a spear and threw it at him. But David escaped his presence twice. Saul tried to kill David because he was afraid of him. The Lord was with David but had departed from Saul. Saul finally removed David from his presence and gave him another job of leading the army out and in. David took every opportunity that Saul gave him and walked in the Spirit until he gained the respect and confidence of the people. Verse 16 says, *"But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them."* Not only did David embrace every assignment that God gave him, but he did his absolute best in the performance of it even when Saul tried to kill him in the midst of it. He totally trusted God for his life and his safety and he learned an amazing walk of faith. We need to follow in his footsteps!

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:9

David was given a covenant of Sure Mercy and in verse 9 God said, *"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."* God's covenant of mercy to David was that in God's mercy He would cut off David's enemies. His covenant mercy to David was that nobody could be his enemy and live. His covenant is our covenant and until we understand that, we cannot be ready for the battles that we face. Mercy is a concept that is very misunderstood in the church today because it is almost exclusively applied in a Priestly fashion. Mercy for David was judgment on his enemies. In order for us to start getting victories we have to understand this covenant and stand on it. King David understood it, stood on it and applied it and that is what made him great. He said, *"Your mercy shall make me great"* and God's mercy did. His mercy will make us great if we let it, but first we have to understand it.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:12-15

2 Samuel 7:12-15 describes the second edge of covenant mercy and it tells us that God covenants with us to redeem our failure and make it a platform for our future success. Therefore if we choose to be restorers of people who

fall, we have the promise of the same anointing that King David walked in being ours. It is available to us and we can use it for the harvest but we have to qualify. We can qualify by taking God's redemption to other people who are in failure.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-4

Isaiah 11:1-4 says, *“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.”* King David brought the fear of God and the judicial Hand of God everywhere he went. King David saw his words slay the wicked under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. And that is available for us at the end of the age. Are we ready to walk that out because God has it for us!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Scripture: Isaiah 55:3-6, Psalm 55:15

How did King David become the subduer of kingdoms? In Isaiah 55:3-6, we find that God will make the same covenant with us. Verses 3-6 state, *“Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David. Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people. Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations who do not know you shall run to you, Because of the Lord your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you. Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.”* King David accepted God's mercy for his failures, starting with Bathsheba and moving on to many, many more. As a result of receiving mercy, he extended it to others. King David became a man of incredible mercy but he was also a man who subdued great kingdoms. Even when Absalom and Ahithophel rebelled against David and seized the rule of Jerusalem and Israel, they could not keep it. King David's withering prayer, when answered, slew the wicked (Psalm 55:15). That is the anointing to subdue kingdoms. It was on King David and has been given to every one of us. In Christ, we have that gift.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Scripture: Acts 13:32-34

Acts 13:32-34 says, *“And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’ And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: ‘I will give you the sure mercies of David.’”* In Acts 13, Jesus gives to each of us the very same covenant that the Father gave to King David. He gives us the very same covenant and if we believe the covenant and act upon it like David, we can do the same things David did. David is our best example in Scripture of how to act and how to pray. If we want to subdue kingdoms, then our example in Scripture of application is King David. We need to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer of the Word only. Will we do it? I trust we will, in Jesus' name.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-6, Exodus 32:10

Psalm 2:1-6 was prophesied by King David. The progression of Psalm 2:1-6 we can see working out in the world today and we are facing that very thing. Verses 1-6 says, *“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.’ 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:..." Our job is to speak the way of the Lord over rebellious politicians and judges. **Aph** is the Hebrew word for "wrath" In Exodus 32:10, Moses comes down the mountain and God says, "Now therefore, let Me alone, that My **wrath** may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation." The word translated "wrath" is **aph**, the very same word translated "laugh" in Psalm 2. Moses pleaded with the Lord and asked for His mercy. In Psalm 2:5, it says, "Then He shall speak to them in His wrath/**aph**, And distress/**baw-hal** them in His deep displeasure." **Baw-hal** appears in Job 4:4-5 which says, "Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, And you have strengthened the feeble knees; But now it comes upon you, and you are weary; It touches you, and you are troubled/**baw-hal**." What is the **baw-hal** that God promised He will do in Psalm 2? It is all the losses of Job. There was death and destruction raining all around Job – he lost his wealth, his ability to produce, his family, everything around him. That same kind of distress is available for us to declare and pray over the wicked according to Psalm 2. Let those who are destroying the nation be distressed by God, in Jesus name! But in order to pray what David prayed, we have to resemble him. We have to believe the covenant like he did! Will we use faith on our flesh to obey God in every way like King David? Will we extend mercy to others in their failures like he did in his later life? If we do, then we have the foundation necessary to pray judicially and see God's Hand move in our behalf. Let us get prepared so we can fulfill our call.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Scripture: Psalm 2:6-9, Isaiah 11:1-4

Psalm 2:6-9 says, "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" God intends to give us a harvest of cities and nations. When someone is trying to destroy our harvest field, our obligation when we are led by the Spirit is to break them with a Rod of Iron in prayer. When we are prompted, we have to dash them to pieces like a potters vessel in our prayer closet. The words translated "break" and "dash" mean breaking something so that there is no hope of recovery and shattering something and throwing it into the air so the pieces are blown away and can never be reconstituted. This is Isaiah 11:1-4 in action. If we are going to subdue kingdoms, we are going to have to pray prayers like King David prayed. We can only pray prayers and see results like King David **if** we build the faith and foundation that he had.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Scripture: Psalm 2:10-12

Verses 10-12 state, "Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him." King David warned his enemies against their rebellion. Are we warning leaders and politicians today? The Apostle Paul warned people in the early church like David did. But if we do not know the Judicial Christ that David knew, any warnings we issue will hold little weight. Fear of God is an inevitable result of clear, judicial action, and without that action warnings seem like empty threats. The first, crucial step is preparing the foundation necessary for praying judicially. But when we do, we can pray and see God's Hand move. When that happens, we have what we need to issue the warnings David did and let the fear of God fall. The Holy Spirit's leading should be the launching point of every judicial prayer.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Scripture: Psalm 110

Psalm 110:1 is the Old Testament passage that is quoted the most often in the New. It is quoted seven times. Verse 1 says, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" Verse 2 follows with, "The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!" We hear about making our enemies our footstool seven times in the New Testament and we can look to David as the example. 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.'" When you and I start demonstrating the power of Scripture to subdue kingdoms, God's people will volunteer. They will race to the forefront and join with us. Jesus is the root and fruit of David and these promises are open to all believers who develop the foundation and faith to stand in it. If we say yes and use our faith on our flesh, we can walk like David walked and pray like David prayed. Verses 5-7 state, "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." Verse 7 in one Bible version says, "He shall stand with His people." If you and I will start doing the Word, we will experience the breath of our lips slaying the wicked and the Lord is ready to stand with His people. God wants us to be volunteers in the day of His power. Will we say, yes?

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-33, Isaiah 37

Hebrews 11:32 says, "And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,..." Isaiah 37 is a perfect example of a prophet subduing a kingdom by reporting an answer to King Hezekiah who prayed judicially. Isaiah 37:16-21 is the prayer, and verses 28-29 and 35-38 are Isaiah's answer and the Lord's response. Verses 21 says, "Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel, "Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, this is the word which the Lord has spoken concerning him:..."'" Verses 35-36 state, "'For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.' Then the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead." We can clearly see here that God's Hand moved mightily. If we hope to subdue kingdoms like the prophets in Hebrews 11:32, we need to walk in righteousness, develop faith and use it on our own flesh as the necessary foundation. We cannot pray judgment and expect to see God's Hand move until we have the foundation we need to do it including the ability to hear God's leading. Will we build it? Will we develop faith and apply it on our own flesh? If we want to bring in our ordained harvest, we need to be prepared to subdue kingdoms. And the only way to do it is with the kind of foundation both Samuel and David had. I trust we will grow into this place and begin to pray Spirit-led judicial prayers that will slay the wicked! Hearing the Word is one thing and doing it is another entirely. Let's do the Word and see God's Hand move in our behalf! I trust we will, in Jesus' name!

THE HEART OF THE LORD
 PROCEEDS GOD'S HAND
 FOR EACH VICTORIOUS PRAYER
 TO STAND!

ITINERARY

10/4	Placerville, CA	Templo El Mesias 669 Bee St, Placerville, CA Fri 7 pm	Pastors Abel & Magdalena Torres Contact Ruby Luminare 916-508-2721
10/5 – 10/6	Placerville, CA	New Wine Christian Fellowship 680 Bee St, Placerville, CA Sat 10 am – 2 pm, Sun 10 am, 6 pm	Pastors John & Cindy Cowper 530-622-8054