

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XXXIX NUMBER I Sonship Gift IV - Adopted A

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

Scripture: Ephesians 1:5

Ephesians 1:5 says, *“Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ Himself according to the good pleasure of His will.”* The Greek word for adoption is **hwee-oth-es-ee-aa** and it speaks of the relationship that God was pleased to establish between Himself and the Israelites in preference to all other nations. In effect the Israelites became sons and daughters or family of the Most High. This issue of adoption is the issue of family relationship that gets established between God and Israel and is now available for every believer through Christ. Becoming a Christian means accepting the offer of adoption by God Himself through Christ. Let believing Christians arise and recognize their privileges and status as legal sons and daughters in the realm of the Spirit! This covenantal adoption legally ushers us into full sonship which was purchased by the Blood of Christ. Just as the Israelites had a special relationship that comes with privileges so do faithful, obedient Christians. We can't live crooked and expect covenant blessings.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

Scripture: Exodus 33:12-13

In Exodus 33:12-13 Moses began a dialogue with God. This passage says, *“Then Moses said to the Lord, ‘See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.’ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.”* In speaking with God, Moses is declaring to God that ‘Israel is Your family’. This is ‘Your nation’ and God considered that and obviously agreed. ‘Yes, you are. You are now My nation.’ So when we read of adoption in Ephesians 1, this is God saying to us, ‘Hey, I have established the same family relationship with you through Christ that I established with Israel under the Abrahamic Covenant and added the Mosaic Covenant outlining standards of conduct! We have a better covenant in which Jesus Himself in John 17:21 prayed that we would be one with the Father as He was! Family adoption started with Moses and shows us what is available to us too. John 17:21 shows us the kind of elevated family relationship that is available. We cannot get much closer to the heart of our Father than this!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

Scripture: Exodus 33:14-17

In verses 14-16 God replies, *“And He said, ‘My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’ Then he said to Him, ‘If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.’ So the Lord said to Moses, ‘I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.”* Moses is not only asking that Israel be adopted as God's family, he is also saying, ‘God, go with us so that Your Presence makes us different and distinguishes us from all other nations. You have to demonstrate that we are Your people. You have to prove to the surrounding nations that we are Your people so that we are different and unique. We are a peculiar people and we belong to You. Will You make that evident? Will You continue to move in us like You did as we departed Egypt?’ God knew exactly what Moses was saying, and God did not say no. God said, ‘Yes’, and says what He will do. ‘Because you have found grace in My sight and I know you. I have a

personal relationship with you I will demonstrate that we are family.’ Do we realize that is part of our covenant? Every one of us in Christ is family with God. The Most High, our Creator is our Dad, our Abba, and He has agreed to show it, prove it and act like it. Why do we hesitate to expect it when God has already promised He will do it?

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Scripture: Ephesians 1:5, Romans 8:23, Romans 9:1-4

How serious is the adoption of Exodus 33 and 34? It is a major advance in the developmental relationship between God and man! Ephesians 1:5 explains the God-side of adoption. It says, *“Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself according to the good pleasure of His will to the praise of the glory of His grace by which He has made us accepted.”* The gift of adoption proves the acceptance! The adoption is offered as legal proof that we are accepted by Christ! God has carefully and purposely chosen the strong and binding term ‘adoption’ to make a point that we are His family and bear His name and share in His inheritance. The Greek word for adoption is **hwee-oth-es-ee-ah** and it appears only 5 times in the Greek New Testament. The first time is in Romans 8:15 where it says *“You did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, Abba Father.”* Romans 8:23 goes on to say, *“Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”* In Romans 9:3-4 Paul laments, *“For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;...”* Relationship starts with adoption! That adoption is only complete in Christ!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

Scripture: Exodus 33:18-21

In Exodus 33:18-23 Moses said, *“Please show me Your glory.”* God said, *“I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”* God went on to warn Moses, *“You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”* And then the Lord offered a customized safe place. *“There is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”* A most interesting part of the exchange Moses had with God is here. In this passage God reveals in answer to Moses’ desire to see His glory that there is a place with our name on it and we can stand there and we can stand in God’s glory. That is the bottom line here. Moses’ longing to see God’s glory leads to God’s response of guiding Moses to the place that is available. God shows us through this passage that there is a place already prepared with our name on it. There is a place where we can stand protected by God in His glory. Let’s pursue it!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

Scripture: Exodus 34:5-7

In Exodus 34:5-7 God did what He promised. Moses occupied the place and the Lord descended in a cloud and stood with him there and proclaimed the name of the Lord. *“And then the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and fourth generation.’”* The Lord first defined His glory. The glory brings both mercy and judgment. Mercy forgives and judgment rights wrongs! His salvation glory and His judgment glory are the same coin. That coin has two sides. It is like spendable money. There is a head and there is a tail. There are two distinct sides. Will we accept the glory as it is presented? The glory came when Miriam criticized Moses for marrying an Ethiopian woman. When the glory lifted, Miriam was leprous! Why do we present only the mercy side of glory? The mercy side of glory ushers in healings and miracles which, of course, appeals to us all. But what about the glory that ushers in judicial signs and wonders. Do we also need to consider the glory that provokes the fear of the Lord through signs and wonders? Of

course we do, especially if it is our goal to walk in wisdom and maturity. Church, let's purpose to walk circumspectly and grow up in Christ in all things! Perhaps the judicial side will push more people to salvation!

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

Scripture: Exodus 34:8-9, 10

In Exodus 34:8-9 in response to the offer to stand with God in His glory and being honored as a member of God's family, Moses bowed his head to the ground and worshipped. Then he said in verse 9, *"If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord go among us even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin and take us as Your inheritance."* This is Moses asking, 'Now that I have personally experienced Your glory, I want it for the whole nation, I want them all to know what it means to be adopted. And I want them to make a choice to stand by You in that place in Your glory. And if they are willing to give up their own desires and live for you, then let them experience it, walk in it, and live in it as Your family, as Your inheritance, as Your kids, Your adopted kids. Let them know that they are Your adopted family.' Moses had walked with God long enough that he wanted the joy of that relationship available for every Israelite by covenant. God adopted us as His family! That is really what Exodus 34:8-9 are all about. Moses was saying, 'What I just experienced, God, please make covenantally available to the whole family. I just experienced standing in Your glory. It is pricey! I had to give up my will, but it was worth it.' Yes, it is pricey but it is also priceless! God is offering salvation to all who will humble themselves and take hold by faith!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

Scripture: Exodus 34:10

Exodus 34:10 declares God's covenant of adoption. When we as believers read Exodus 34:10, may we melt in a pile and be forever transformed by the amazing truth of our Sonship identity and all its privileges. May we all understand what is available. Moses did that. He experienced glory and then asked God so that you and I could participate. What a selfless man! No wonder the Word calls him the meekest man on the face of the earth. He surely was as he covenanted with God and then went on to record his agreement with God. He penned it for us. He put it in his written record and it became our legal trust so that you and I can participate in His family life including standing in His glory! What he asked became the foundation for the ministry of the two witnesses described in Revelation. If we get this, we qualify for the glory of the two witnesses. Exodus 34:10 says, *"Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do miracles (This is the same word we find in Exodus 3:20 that translates as 'wonders'.) such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord. For it is an awesome thing I will do with you!"* Can this really be true? It is true and it is blood bought. It is right here in Exodus 34:10. God said it! The question is what are will we do with it? Accept and expect is the best option!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

Scripture: Exodus 34:10

Exodus 34:10 is God's response to the cry of Moses for the nation of Israel to be God's adopted family . We read God's response in Exodus 34:10. *"And He said: 'Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.'"* Moses said, 'God, take us as your people' and God said, 'I'll make a covenant to do just that.' I will make family relationship available by covenant! And everyone will know that I am among you because I stand in your behalf against opposition. I will do **yaw-ray.**' That is translated awesome but it really means fear-inspiring, terror-inspiring events. I will terrorize people who choose to do evil.' Where is that in the church today? Where is the glory that terrorizes evil-doers? Why is it that when most ministers talk about the glory as if it is exclusively some pastoral anointing to heal, or some goose-bump experience that descends during worship. Miriam, the sister of Moses knew better! Experiencing leprosy straightened her out. When God is in corrective mode, the glory is often an atmosphere that would terrorize and at times includes an anointing to kill. It can be the anointing to put people in the grave. The early church had it. The book of Revelation declares it to be our path.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

Scripture: Exodus 34:11-16

Adoption has great rewards and benefits, but it also has long-term responsibilities with massive penalties for rebellion! Exodus 34:11-16 says, *“Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.”* So much for playing nice with the opposition. There is no playing nice with the opposition. There is no compromise with the opposition. The penalty for becoming the opposition is weak, sick, dead! Once we consort with demons we are set apart for judgment. Rebellion absent of repentance ends in termination! Serving demons means sacrificing innocent blood. Supporting those who champion abortion brings termination. God does not compromise on the issue of shedding innocent blood. ‘Lord send Your glory!’

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

Scripture: Genesis 18:16-19

In Genesis 18:16-19 it says, *“Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. And the Lord said, ‘Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.’”* The way of the Lord consists of two things. Walk in righteousness so we can qualify to do judgment. Hence the covenantal promise of Exodus 34:10. Now we have that promise and we are called to walk the way Abraham walked. Abraham, through prayer, exercised the covenantal glory that he stood in for the will of God. He wasn’t willing that family members die in the judgment of the wicked. To prevent that he prayed, ‘Spare Lot and his family’ and the angel of the Lord did just that. And once they were taken from the city judgment came on the filthy, the vile and the perverse. And they were gone. How is that for glory? The glory manifested and killed over 3 million people in the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah. Bodies have been found in that region that were buried in stacks eight and nine bodies deep. Will history repeat itself? What will God do if men continue to mock Him? Let God arise and His enemies be scattered!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Scripture: Judges 2:21-23

Judges 2:21-23 says, *“I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the Lord, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not.’ Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.”* Why was God testing them? He was testing them to determine if they were walking in the way of the Lord! The way of the Lord is what Abraham walked in. Will we yield to God in this? Will we walk in righteousness so we can do judgment? Why is there an enemy? Experiencing warfare through adversity allows the church to walk in righteousness and do judgment. Will we use our covenant of glory? Will we pray judgment on the wicked? It is our choice. If we are not willing to pay that price to walk that out, then we are not worthy of the glory. We have to be willing to be numbered with the people of God!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:1-22

This passage is presented twice in Scripture once in Psalm 18 and once here in 2 Samuel 22. It is commonly thought of as the prayer of the adopted. When we read this Psalm, what we are reading is the heart of someone who is thankful

that they have been brought into the family of God. Psalm 18:2-21 says, *“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. The pangs of death surrounded me, And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears. Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet. And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind. He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters And thick clouds of the skies. From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire. The Lord thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire. He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, Lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them. Then the channels of the sea were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered At Your rebuke, O Lord, At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils. He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the Lord was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me. The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, And have not wickedly departed from my God.”* This is the covenantal relationship an adopted child has with God!

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

Scripture: 2 Kings 21:19-23

This passage in 2 Kings says, *“Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done. So he walked in all the ways that his father had walked; and he served the idols that his father had served, and worshiped them. He forsook the Lord God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the Lord.”* Amon took the throne and he choose to rebel against God. He walked in all the rebellious ways of his father Manasseh. Manasseh was one of the worst kings in all of Israel even though he experienced the mercy of God and was toward the end of his life restored because he repented when he was in affliction. Amon, his son, didn’t learn from his father’s mistakes and consequently judgment came. God killed Amon! Why is this a testimony? It shows us how God responds to the wicked. He removes them. What is going to happen when this season manifests with wonders and signs ushering in the fear of the Lord as judgment returns to the nation? We could see the removal of the worst of the rebellious, the wicked and the vile! God Himself, according to Scripture, will intervene. That is the only way we can return the fear of the Lord to the nation. As God starts doing what He did in the Bible the fear of God will return. His awesome deeds return. It is important, though, to have a believing people calling these awesome deeds forth. That is our job right now. We have a believing president and he needs serious support. Many of His enemies may very well need to go to the grave and that is a prayer issue. It is one we need to set our hearts and prayer efforts toward!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 17:1-13

In 2 Chronicles 17:1-13 we see the covenantal blessing that can fall on the righteous. This is the blessing that fell on Jehoshaphat. Look at verses 10-13. *“And the fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat. Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents and silver as tribute; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred male goats. So Jehoshaphat became increasingly powerful, and he built fortresses and storage cities in Judah. He had much property in the cities of Judah; and the men of war, mighty men of valor, were in Jerusalem.”* What do we see here? We see covenant blessing on Jehoshaphat. We have a covenant with God. When we stand in His glory, we see His blessing in a variety of ways. When the nation rebels against God, we may have a long season of battle and war, but God preserves those who are His Own. David talked about it in the Psalms. The blessings and divine preservation come from His Presence, the Presence of our Mighty Father! We have been adopted by Him and that carries eternal weight. As we seek Him we can expect to see His Hand. His Hand can bring the entire panorama of both good and bad. In Scripture

God's Hand subdues His enemies as a blessing to the righteous. That is the blessing of the Lord. That is the glory in manifestation. We need to continue calling these covenant promises into manifestation.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

Scripture: Psalm 138:1-8

Here we have another Psalm of the adopted. King David says, *"I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You, I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name. In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord, When they hear the words of Your mouth. Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the Lord. For great is the glory of the Lord. Though the Lord is on high, Yet, He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me. The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands."* What we see here is the test of the sons, the adopted kids. May we please God as we walk diligently through each test! When we stay obedient to the Lord in the midst of these tests, here comes the answer, here comes the deliverance. Is it possible to wait for a lifetime and still not see the answers we want? What if we are called to live a life of sacrifice? Eternity is recording our faithfulness and may we courageously preserve through every trial and test! May God grant the grace required to pass each test. May the fullness of God's blessing come to all who obediently and faithfully wait!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

Scripture: Proverbs 10:27-29

Here we see another test of the adopted. This passage says, *"The fear of the Lord prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened. The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish. The way of the Lord is strength for the upright, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity."* The real question is, how long does this take? It seems to take longer than we think it should. That is why it is called a test. The test of the adopted is to hang in there and to walk faithfully with God. The test is to have patience knowing that He has promised to deliver us from our enemies. It takes patience to wait for a promised blessing that consistently seems to elude us. May the God of all comfort pour out the full measure of His blessing and give the overcoming might needed in adverse seasons! 1 Peter 4:19 says, *"Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God, commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator."*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-6

Isaiah 40:3-5 is another test for the adopted. It says, *"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' The voice said, 'Cry out!' And he said, 'What shall I cry?' 'All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.'" Did David walk through tests? Did John the Baptist walk through tests? Of course they did! It is encouraging in such places to remember that God has said, 'I will make the crooked places straight. I will make the rough places smooth and you will see the glory of the Lord to deliver you.' Walking in the glory doesn't mean there are no tests. It doesn't mean we are free from adversity. It actually guarantees that we will experience challenges and resistance. It also guarantees that the adversity will bow to the Hand of God, the strength of God and the deliverance of God! Walking in the glory is not for the faint of heart. It is for the obedient, it is for the mature and it is for the patient.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

Scripture: Jeremiah 5:4-6

Jeremiah 5:4-6 outlines the assignment of the adopted. It says, *“Therefore I said, ‘Surely these are poor. They are foolish; For they do not know the way of the Lord, The judgment of their God. I will go to the great men and speak to them, For they have known the way of the Lord, The judgment of their God.’ But these have altogether broken the yoke And burst the bonds. Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay them, A wolf of the deserts shall destroy them; A leopard will watch over their cities. Everyone who goes out from there shall be torn in pieces, Because their transgressions are many; Their backslidings have increased.”* It is obvious the wise men and the great men are the ones that understand that when men rebel then judgment comes as a correction. When we are adopted by God as members of His family we must remember that He is a holy God, and as a holy God His correction includes a variety of different judgments that restore the fear of God and restore righteousness and holiness to a nation. There is a price to being adopted by God and that is that we have to walk in righteousness and in obedience. Israel paid a price for their rebellion. Every nation that has ever walked with God pays a price for their rebellion. That is part of being adopted by God.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

Scripture: Ezekiel 18:24-30

Ezekiel 18:24-30 says, *“But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,’ says the Lord God. ‘Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.’”* This is the law of the family. When we are adopted by God, this is how He works and this is how He operates. Ezekiel says in verse 30, *“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, everyone according to his ways,’ says the Lord God. ‘Repent and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin!’”* Heeding God’s warnings saves lives. Repentance saves our life. Thank God! What a blessing! And that is part of being adopted into God’s family. Repentance saves our life!

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

Scripture: Ezekiel 33:17-20

Ezekiel 33:17-20 says, *“Yet the children of your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ But it is their way which is not fair! When the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die because of it. But when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is lawful and right, he shall live because of it. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, I will judge every one of you according to his own ways.”* We who are adopted understand that repentance is to be our way of life. When we turn from wickedness and do God’s will, we save lives. We influence our families. We contribute to turning our generation. We impact our nation. We have access to the empowering grace and supernatural wisdom for the saving of families, cultures and even nations. We may very well help avert national judgment. This is God’s mercy marching forward.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

Scripture: Hosea 14:9

Hosea 14:9 presents the walk of the adopted. It says, *“Who is wise? Let him understand these things. Who is prudent? Let him know them. For the ways of the Lord are right; The righteous walk in them, But transgressors stumble in them.”* Transgressors are judged. They choose to dishonor the Lord and do not regard His ways. People who walk in

righteousness, turn away from iniquity and honor God's Word. That saves their life. When we are adopted into God's family and pursue relationship with Him, we seek to walk in a lifestyle of obedience to His Word. When the heart wholeheartedly turns, the life follows.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-3

Matthew 3:1-3 says, *"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness; Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'"* John the Baptist had an assignment and that assignment was to prepare people to receive the Kingdom of God that Jesus was coming to preach. The way he did that was by teaching them to walk with God and embrace repentance in order to qualify to be members of His family. These truths are available to us. Repentance is the key to qualifying and it will save our life. It will save our family, it will save our city, it will save our nation. Jonah had one message to Nineveh, *"Yet 40 days and Nineveh will be destroyed."* The message was judgment. The people of Nineveh were familiar with sackcloth and ashes, and they choose the path of repentance. The people responded and God heard their pleas. That is the way of the Lord and it always has been. When we are a part of God's family, He doesn't want to destroy us. He wants us to repent so we can be saved. Wise men understand this, embrace it and walk in it.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

Scripture: Matthew 3:8-12

Matthew 3:8-12 says, *"Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance and do not think to say to yourself, We have Abraham as our Father. For I say to you, that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. 'Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry, He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."* What do we know about God and His ways? As adopted children who are members of the family of God, repentance is our doorway to blessing. It is our doorway to salvation. And it is our doorway to fruitfulness! God consistently calls on His people to repent. That is a vital step forward in what we have to do! 'Sorry, Lord, please forgive our mistakes. We choose to amend our ways and to walk in Your Word.' That is the blessing of being in the family of God. Repentance triggers mercy, while stubborn rebellion triggers unquenchable fire!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

Luke 3:1-6 say, *"Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"* Walking in righteousness saves us from judgment! John the Baptist had the assignment of preparing the way of the Lord and making the crooked places straight. He had the assignment of leading people to repent so they could be in readiness to welcome the message of salvation and receive it. That was his assignment. God revives such assignments in the last days among the prophets. Repentance has always been our friend. It is our friend and it is the doorway to life. As we remember this truth we can stay on track and survive. In doing so we walk in peace and harmony with God!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Scripture: John 1:19-23

John 1:19-23 says, *“Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, ‘I am not the Christ.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the Prophet?’ And he answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?’ He said: ‘I am “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.”* John the Baptist made it very clear. He had one message, *“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* If we repent, we can germinate the promises that Jesus taught. Repentance is the key! When we are adopted by God, repentance is our best friend. It needs to be cultivated as a lifelong habit and lifestyle.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

Scripture: Acts 13:9-11

Acts 13:9-11 says, *“Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, ‘O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.’ And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.”* Paul walked displaying judgment in order to save. That is exactly what He was doing in this passage. That is a picture of the end-time witnesses. That is what we are supposed to look like in the last days because we have been adopted into God’s family. As kings and priests we have a judicial function!

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

Scripture: Romans 12:19, 13:4

Romans 12:19 says, *“Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’” says the Lord.”* This verse is a command. We create a path for wrath by declaring what Scripture says about our situation. Romans 13:4 says of the one in authority that he is God’s servant for our good. But if we do wrong, he does not bear the sword for no reason. God has called us as kings and priests and has given us authority. We are meant to be God’s servants and His agents, and as such we may at times be assigned to be agents of wrath to bring punishment on the evildoers! Has God given us authority? Yes, as a king and priest we have authority to execute wrath through Holy Spirit-prompted prayer and declaration. For those who shed innocent blood, releasing wrath calls for their removal. Declaring the wrath of God on those who champion homosexual marriage releases the angels to remove them fulfilling Ephesians 3:10. It’s time the church teaches principalities and powers they don’t rule – God does! By not moving in God’s prayer assignment toward God-hating and God-mocking leaders, we allow demons to rule our nation. By declaring God’s wrath we stop those demons currently ruling through godless leaders. May God arise and His enemies be scattered!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

Scripture: Exodus 33:13-16

Exodus 33:16 says, *“Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.’ And He said, ‘My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’ Then he said to Him, ‘If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.”* What do we look for when we are adopted and walk with God. We look for God making us separate. The sign that we are adopted into God’s family as His peculiar people is that God makes us separate, distinct and different. We have a relationship with Him and have been set apart to be His very own. We have been adopted and now we need to see God separate us from the world. Being separate means that God shows up for us in our behalf. He deals with those who rebel against Him! God did it in

Egypt. May He do it again! This is a separateness that includes empowerment for our assignment and it will only come through wholehearted commitment to relationship with God. Passive Christianity will never get us there!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

Scripture: Exodus 33:17

In Exodus 33:17 it says, *“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight and I know you by name.’”* God is declaring to Moses that His people the Israelites are in His family and He has relationship with them and now He is saying that He is willing to be intentional in making them separate in their walk in the earth. The first part of being separate is that we have the expectation of walking in righteousness. We can’t sin like other people sin. We can’t be lukewarm Christians! If God is going to show the world that we are separate, we have to walk in His holiness. We have to walk in obedience toward Him. We have to walk separate so that He will show up for us when we need Him and make sure that everyone knows we are separate and we are in relationship with Him. The key to God showing up for us in deliverance, freedom, healing and blessing is that we walk separated unto Him, separated in holiness and righteousness. That is the key and that is the call!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

Scripture: Exodus 10:3-5

This passage says, *“So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory. And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left, which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field.’”* The following day in Egypt the locusts came. God proved that Israel was separate. There were locusts overwhelming the Egyptians but there were no locusts in the territory of Goshen, the area of Egypt occupied by the Israelites. Over and over again we get this picture and that is what Moses asked for. ‘God, all our days as Your family, as Your nation, we need to know that we can be separate. We need to know that You will heal us, that You will deliver us and that You will take care of us.’ And God said, ‘Moses, I will do this thing.’ So here (This truth is for us too.) we are members of the family of God, adopted into His family and have access to His protection, His direction, His deliverance, His provision and His freedom!

*My Father forever has sealed the deal.
He’s made it all legal, eternally real!
With ultimate standing to be called His Own,
Not cast off, forsaken, nor ever alone!
A definite member of God’s family,
He has ordained it for both you and me.*

ITINERARY

1/11-1/13

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