

KINGDOM BIBLE STUDIES

"Teaching the things concerning the Kingdom of God..."

e-book

FROM THE CANDLESTICK TO THE THRONE

Book Three

The Throne

By J. Preston Eby

Table of Contents

Chapter	Title/Scripture Ref.
65	The Throne /Revelation 4:1
66	The Throne (cont.)/Revelation 4:1
67	The Throne (cont.) /Revelation 4:2
68	The Throne (cont.) /Revelation 4:2-3
69	The Throne (cont.)/Revelation 4:2-3
70	The Four Living Creatures And The Twenty-Four Elders
71	The Four Living Creatures (cont.)/Revelation 4:4
72	The Four Living Creatures (cont.)/Revelation 4:4-6
73	The Four Living Creatures (cont.)/Revelation 4:6
74	The Four Living Creatures (cont.)/Revelation 4:6,7
75	The Four Living Creatures (cont.)/Revelation 4:6,7
76	The Four Living Creatures (cont./Revelation 5:1
77	The Seven Sealed Book /Revelation 5:1
78	The Seven Sealed Book (cont.)/Revelation 5:1
79	The Seven Sealed Book (cont.)/Revelation 5:5,6
80	The Universal Song /Revelation 5:8-11
81	The Universal Song (cont.)/Revelation 5:9
82	The Universal Song (cont.)/Revelation 5:11

Chapter 65

THE THRONE

“After this I looked, and behold, *a door was opened in heaven...*” (Rev. 4:1).

John the Revelator, as he entered upon the marvelous visions recorded in the book of Revelation, saw a door *opened in heaven* and heard a voice as of a trumpet speaking with him, saying, “Come up hither, and I will show thee things...” The *door opened in heaven* bespeaks of an entrance granted into a realm beyond the flesh, beyond the physical and psychical senses, into the realm of the Spirit. That is where John entered and that is the character of the things John saw. He beheld heavenly things — spiritual realities. He saw a throne set in heaven — he perceived the authority, power, and dominion of the Spirit. He saw living creatures in the throne, the principle of manifest life in the Spirit. He saw the four living creatures in the midst of the throne and twenty-four elders round about the throne, the King-Priest ministry of the Melchizedekian Order after the power of an endless life — the ministration of the redemptive power of the divine life unto creation. It is being seen by a vast company of people that hears the voice of the Lord in this hour that a door has opened in the heavenlies through which those who are obedient shall enter into a state of being and a ministry of unsurpassed and unimaginable glory — in the **throne zone!**

To the church in Philadelphia the Lord Jesus said, “These things saith He that *openeth*, and *no man shutteth*; and *shutteth*, and *no man openeth*” (Rev. 3:7). And now a door is opened in heaven! Only *one* can open this door, even the one who *openeth* and *no man shutteth*. What kind of door would Christ open? It is the door of heaven, the entrance into the eternal realm of the Spirit where our mind, vision, and experience go beyond our human understanding. It is here that we enter into a heavenly understanding, into the divine perception of things, into the mind of God by the Spirit. Here we are raptured into a new glory, raised up into a higher dimension of life and reality.

What is this door? Jesus Himself has told us! Of all that Jesus said about the life of sonship and entrance into the glory and power of the kingdom of God, nothing is more significant than these words: “*I am the door — by me if any man enter in...*” And again, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” What a strange but wonderful figure of speech — Jesus, the door! Now what does a door signify? One can judge the interior of a house by its door. Is the door shabby, paint peeling off, hanging on a single hinge? Then it opens into a house of the same character — run down, in disorder, unkempt. If, on the other hand the door be spacious, costly, ornamental, distinctive, one has a right to expect that the building into which it leads is splendid, spacious, beautiful.

Surely this figure of Christ as the door is enchanting! If Jesus is the door to the life of sonship, to immortality, glory and power, what must that life be like? It cannot be less

than Christ! It must be as much as Jesus was to His disciples and the multitudes who followed Him — that much and more! If He spake as never man spake, if He proclaimed the kingdom of God with power, if He forgave and transformed the sinner, if He healed the sick, raised the dead, cast out devils, overcame all laws of nature, radiated the glory of the Father, and conquered death within Himself — if He is the door into the life of sonship, then we have only to follow His leading, obey His voice, cling to Him and walk by faith in His presence until we are changed in the light of the glory of His unveiled face and pass through the door into all He is!

Divine things are a matter of revelation. Man in his natural state cannot see heavenly realities. The beloved apostle found himself in a prophetic state in which the wonders and glories of heavenly things were perceived by him. The words point to the blinding limitation of our natural minds and state of being, in which the heavens have no door open for us. For long millenniums man was debarred from a clear vision of the eternal, incapable of apprehending the spiritual and divine. At his first calling to the apostleship, Nathaniel received this promise from the Lord: “Hereafter *ye shall see heaven open*, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man” (Jn. 1:51). To the Lord Jesus Himself *the heavens were opened* at His baptism, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him, and lo a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mat. 3:16-17). This opening of the heavens to Christ was His public introduction as the SON of God! The opened heavens declared His sonship! It marks the beginning of that full revelation through Him, of the mystery of God **revealed in sons!** It is in that capacity from the throne of His exaltation in the heavens of God’s Spirit that Christ now reveals to His many brethren the power and glory of **their sonship in Him!** Have you heard the voice saying to you, “Come up hither”? I have heard that voice! All who are called to sonship have heard that voice! **IT IS IN CHRIST THAT WE HEAR THE VOICE BIDDING US TO COME UP HITHER. IT IS IN CHRIST THAT THE HEAVENS ARE OPENED. IT IS IN CHRIST THAT WE ASCEND THE THRONE OF POWER AND GLORY TO RULE AND REIGN OVER ALL THINGS.** Oh, yes, **HE** is the door!

The Spirit-led, spiritual-minded saints of the Lord are beholding in the Spirit the door that has been opened in the heavens! These are listening only to the Voice and the Word of their Father. They have been weaned from the mixture and weakness of the old order church ways of the past (the candlestick realm), and are hearing only His pure word from His pure mind. They obviously have those necessary hearing ears of the spirit, which have been given to them of their Father, and which enable them to hear His Word! They also have the necessary eyes of understanding that have been enlightened by their Father, which enable them to see into the heavenly realms of the Spirit! As they ascend the throne in the realm of the Spirit the new kingdom order expressed through them will begin to change things in this old world of man’s corruption, iniquity, and decay. These sons shall indeed reign with Christ in the power and authority of the Spirit, by which this new spiritual order shall be established in the earth.

When we read these meaningful words of a door opened in heaven, with our mind’s eye we can visualize a huge door creaking on its hinges, opening up in the sky. But that is not

at all what John saw! The Greek word for door is *thura* meaning *a portal or an entrance*. A portal or an entrance is opened unto us! The word can also mean *a vestibule* and denotes the first awareness of entrance into something. It is the place of transition from the earthly to the heavenly. The Greek text indicates that the door is there and it's *standing open*. This door is the invitation of the Father by the Spirit, for upon seeing the door John immediately "*became* in the Spirit" or passed through the door and found Himself standing in the throne room. A portal is a passage into another realm. The door is the spirit of Christ, and the spirit of His sonship is the "star gate" into the throne room of the heavens!

THE FORERUNNER

While Christ our Elder Brother and High Priest ministers this great calling to us we are possessed of a hope — "which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" (Heb. 6:19-20). While manifested on this earth plane, Jesus Christ left us His personal example that we might follow in His footsteps. It is a way that leads *beyond the veil* into the glories of the Father. It was necessary that He tread all the course that we might be able to follow all the way into His divine fullness. He is the way unto the Father, and by our union in Him we find it is first a way of humiliation before it becomes a way of exaltation. There is both Patmos and the candlestick realm before we access the throne! Thus we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, assured that in due time He will lift us up, and we shall live in His sight.

A forerunner is one who goes ahead of others. He goes ahead as a sample of those who are to follow. The forerunner is one who gives us hope of entering in! And the writer to the Hebrews says that it is this *hope* which we have as an *anchor* of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and it enters into that which is within the veil whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus. What wonderful words are these! The anchor is sure and the anchor is steadfast! Do you know what that means? Have you ever done some boating? When we were doing missionary work on an island off the coast of Honduras many years ago we became very familiar with boats, anchors, and dinghies. Sometimes you throw out an anchor and it slips. The writer knows that so he says, "Which hope we have as an anchor, both sure (strong) and steadfast (unslippable)." We have a hope that is sure because it is God who has called us, and we have a hope that is steadfast because Jesus is leading the way!

Who is the anchor of the soul? What is our hope of entering in to the Holiest of all, the throne room of God? Christ Jesus the Lord! "Who entereth into that within the veil." The veil separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. The high priest would go into the throne room of Yahwey through the veil. The wonderful

firstborn Son of God is the anchor of our soul! He is sure! He is steadfast! He is strong and cannot slip! He has overcome all things, conquered death, hell, and the grave, resurrected and ascended — He is the strong and mighty One who has blazed the trail for us! He is our forerunner!

There are many things to learn from types and anti-types, and nowhere more than in this meaningful term “forerunner”. The forerunner, in Bible times, was a little row boat, a forerunner went before the big ship. The forerunner was a little dinghy. The apostle already mentioned an anchor that is sure, an anchor that is steadfast, and an anchor that goes beyond the veil. All the typology here is *marine*. The imagery is of the Mediterranean where in the ancient world they had a lot of harbors, but many of the harbors were shallow water harbors. When the tide was low you often had a problem in that the larger ships could not get across the sand bar or the rocks, so they couldn’t make the entrance into the harbor. This was a problem for these ships, they were out in the main channel but were unable to get into the protective covering of the harbor because the tide was out or the sand bar was in the way or the rocks obstructed their path and they couldn’t pass over.

The big ship would then throw out an anchor and let it down into a forerunner — a dinghy or row boat — and a man in the row boat would row the row boat which could get across the sand bar and the rocks even at low tide. When the forerunner would get into the safety and serenity of the harbor, the man would then drop the anchor off the side of the row boat into the waters within the harbor. The ship would be out in the water, buffeted by the winds and the seas and the storm; but the anchor was inside the haven, sure and steadfast. Even so, we who have received the call to sonship have an anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast, Jesus Christ our forerunner! He is gone within the veil, He has ascended to the throne. He is not entered into the tabernacle made with hands which was the shadow, the type, the illustration, the object lesson. Our forerunner is gone into heaven itself — into the highest realms of the Spirit — seated on the throne of the majesty on high! We, in this present walk in the weakness and limitation of the flesh, in our outward life, are still out in the storms of life where the winds of adversity blow, the rains of trouble fall in torrents, where the fearful lightning flashes, the thunder roars, where the billows of trials and testings angrily toss our vessel; and we feel engulfed in a storm where everything seems to be closing in upon us. But we are connected to Christ in our spirit, one in Him, called and chosen and ordained by Him, and the anchor holds, praise His name, and we are secure until the storm abates and the tide comes in so that we may enter on in to the same harbor whither our forerunner has for us entered. Oh, yes! When all carnality, limitation and death have been swallowed up in body, soul, and spirit, we shall know the full power and glory of the throne zone. And today we have a strong consolation because of the hope that is set before us!

Jesus is our forerunner, which clearly indicates that others are expected to follow on into the same realms of glory. Christ entered in first, and where He went in the power of His resurrection and ascension, every son of God is destined to go. The forerunner blazed the trail all the way, and we rejoice in this fact, but then He also came back, by His Spirit, to escort us all the way into the glory beyond the veil. Full well He knows the route, for He has traveled it all the way through to victory, and now is able to guide us down the same path into the glorious victory which He obtained. It is His daily enabling that gives us strength to carry on until the consummation is reached. **THE FORERUNNER IS THE DOOR!**

THE DOOR STANDING OPEN

“After this I looked, and behold, *a door standing open* in heaven!” (Rev. 4:1, Amplified Bible). The door is *standing open* — now! Heaven is accessible — now! Sonship is attainable — now! Immortality and glory are obtainable — now! The throne is reachable — now! The Voice is calling — now! The door is standing open! Aren’t you glad!

What is lacking is a people that are in consciousness so in the heavenly dimension now; so alive to the things that are eternal, the things that are spirit, that even without them speaking this explicitly, their very presence exudes the atmosphere of life and the fragrance of the heavenly. God is preparing a people, a heavenly and celestial race, set in time. “...and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come He might show...” (Eph. 2:6-7). This is meaningless prattle unless the Spirit opens our understanding! We have been warned by the carnal minded of this age about the danger of being so “heavenly minded” until we are “no earthly good.” That is what the world says, and what should you expect from the world but to controvert and take the wisdom of God and so distort and pervert it until it appears ridiculous and absurd to have mankind believe exactly the reverse! But these words are being written to show that we have no choice, no option as to whether we will be heavenly minded or not, for we have heard the Voice calling, “Come up hither,” and we stand in the blazing glory of the door opened in the heavens. The truth is, my beloved, **IF WE ARE NOT HEAVENLY MINDED IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE OF ANY EARTHLY GOOD!**

It is only as a power reaches down and touches earth that it can be raised and quickened, transformed from the image of the earthly into the image of the heavenly. And Paul, the apostle of apostles, through whom the sacred secrets of God were revealed by the grace of God, defying the empty and inane cavilings of men and their fruitless doctrines and hollow traditions, admonished those who would be the sons and daughters of God in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the **HEAVENLY CALLING**...if ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which **ARE ABOVE**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things **ABOVE, NOT ON THINGS ON THE EARTH**. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Heb. 3:1; Col. 3:1-3).

It is when we are quickened to the realm of **spirit**, to the heavenly and celestial, to that bright glory world where alone can be perceived eternal truth and reality, that we hear our heavenly Father speaking from the throne of eternity. Long before the ages were framed and before the cosmos appeared out of the wastes of chaos, there in the glory and wonder of His presence, from out of the depths of His omniscient mind, His purpose for the ages and the world and every creature was laid down upon the infinite blue-print, plan by plan, purpose by purpose, age by age, person by person, so that each eonian purpose and every divine decree shall be guided and controlled by His omnipotent hand to grow and mature from glory to glory until His vast family of beloved sons shall deliver up to Him all things in perfection that God Himself might be All-in-all.

The notion that one could in some way become so “heavenly minded” that he would be “no earthly good” reveals the incredible darkness and deluded stupidity of the carnal mind and its pitiful inability to comprehend things that belong to heavenly realms. Oh, that the wisdom of man which is *foolishness* with God might be torn from our hearts that we might see beyond the mists and theories of time and tradition right into the very heart of the eternal where is found the infinite wisdom that teaches us how it is that until one becomes truly HEAVENLY MINDED he CANNOT be of any EARTHLY GOOD! The fact is, the only reality in the universe is **SPIRIT!** The things which are *seen* are *temporal*, says the Lord, and the things which are *not seen* are *eternal*. There is the wisdom of God in a mystery! Until one learns how to live and have his being *out of spirit*, out of the invisible realm, out of his very innermost being, he will continue to be held captive by the corruption of the flesh and dwell in the shadow of death.

That wonderful prayer Jesus taught His disciples, which we call The Lord’s Prayer, begins with the words, “*Our Father* which art in heaven.” Until men recognize by the illumination of the Spirit **who their Father is** they remain lost and dying in the dense darkness of the carnal mind. Spiritually, they are no different than the adopted child who has never been told he is adopted and has no concept of who his biological parents truly are or from where he came. Our Father in heaven is not the one who gave us our physical life in the womb of our earthly mother. The only reason Jesus could tell the vast throng gathered around Him, “Call no man your father upon the earth, for ONE IS YOUR FATHER, *which is in heaven*,” is that we all must recognize that our life did not begin with our physical birth. **Our true Father is not a man upon earth, but our true Father is a spirit and He is in heaven!** Can we not see by this that our life did not begin on earth — it began in heaven! Nothing could be plainer than this! Over and over again Jesus taught the multitudes about their “heavenly Father.” Just look up the word “father” in Strong’s Concordance and see how many times in the four Gospels Jesus told the people that God was *their Father!*

And these were not born again men under the New Covenant, they were natural men under the servitude of the law. Once we know who and where our Father is it is easy to understand where our life began and from whence we came. Our birth, our beginnings, were with God! God is our Father! Aren’t you glad!

There is a passage in the book of Hebrews that speaks of those great heroes of faith under the Old Covenant, and it says, “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were *strangers* and *pilgrims on the earth*. For they that say such things declare plainly that they *seek a country*. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country *from whence they came out*, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them *a city*” (Heb. 11:13-16). These men of God were *strangers on the earth*. They were seeking a country — Abraham knew that the ground he walked on in the land of Canaan was not the true land of God, for “he looked for a city that hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” He was searching for the City of God and knew that he was only a pilgrim and stranger in the land of Canaan, though God had led him thither. “If they had been mindful” — that is, if they had *remembered* that country from whence they came, that celestial realm, that heavenly kingdom, that spiritual reality from whence they were lowered into this earth-realm; if somehow the veil could have been removed from off their minds, from the limitations of their earthiness so that they could have remembered that country from whence they came — they might have had opportunity to have *returned*. But instead they died in faith — still looking for the city of God, the kingdom of God — spiritual reality!

Blessed be the name of the Lord! God has provided some *better thing* for us and now we can return — the way has been opened into the presence of God, into the life of God, into the glory of God, into the kingdom of God, into the Holiest of all, into the throne of God. That’s what this journey into God is all about — a return to the Lord! It is our return to the heavenly; our return to the spiritual; our return to the image of God; our return to Eden; our return to the kingdom; our return to the incorruptible; our return to *the throne!* In the words of the little chorus:

All God’s sons are coming home,
All God’s sons are coming home
Home to the Father, home to the throne,
All God’s sons are coming home!
All creation is coming home,
All creation is coming home
Home to the Father, home to the Son,
All creation is coming home!
Coming home, coming home,
Never more to roam;
Open wide thy arms of love,
Lord, I’m coming home!

There’s a call within us, and deep calleth unto deep. I tell you, my beloved, there is something within me, an inner compulsion, and I know that I have passed the point of no return. There is no turning back from this quest for God’s fullness. I can’t go back to the world — the world has nothing to offer me; it is all vanity and vexation of spirit. I can’t

go back to religion — religion holds nothing for me anymore; it is an abomination. I can't even go back to Pentecost, back to the Holy Place — for the veil has been rent, the heavens have been opened, I have heard the Voice bidding me to “Come up hither,” and I stand in the glory of the door opened in heaven and have tasted the powers of the world to come. There is no turning back because my heart has been awakened by the Father of glory! For some in this hour the veil has been rent, the door stands open, and we pause in the vestibule beholding the transcendent glories of that land from whence we came. By the blood of Jesus we have been granted the opportunity to return. We no longer feel strangers to our heavenly homeland! God has redeemed us, awakened us, renewed us, and in His Son made us to be again who we truly are! **Christ the door is standing open in the heavens!**

One of my many moments of being spiritually thrilled was upon examining the second statement of the Lord's prayer: “Our Father *which art in heaven.*” But to be correctly translated it should read, “Which art in the *heavens,*” for it is plural, not singular. So, contrary to popular thought, God dwells in more than one heaven. The great king Solomon cried out, “Behold, I build a house to the name of the Lord my God, and the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods. But who is able to build Him an house, seeing **the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him?** who am I that I should build Him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before Him?” (II Chron. 2:4-6).

Paul spoke of a man who was caught up into the third heaven, and God, our Father, is the God of all the heavens! God dwells in the heavens! He fills every heaven! He rules in every heaven! He is above every heaven, beyond every heaven, higher than all heavens and greater than the reality of each heaven! In our journey into God we pass through all these heavens! Jesus passed through all the heavens on His way into the glory of the Father. How do we know this? “He that descended is the same also that ascended up *far above all heavens,* that He might fill all things” (Eph. 4:10). In His ascension to the throne of His Father He passed through — **experienced** — all the heavens. Not only did He pass through them, He has also *filled them all* so that God in Christ is the essence of every heaven. You will find Him on a different plane, in a different dimension, in a unique aspect of His life and purpose, in each heaven.

Heaven is not a place, not a planet somewhere out in the vastnesses of infinity — it is a sphere or a realm of *spiritual, divine reality*. It is a dimension of life. It is a level of God-consciousness. It is the invisible realm of Spirit that transcends this gross material realm. It is as omnipresent as God is omnipresent. It is an absurdity to say that heaven is a *place* somewhere beyond the blue where God dwells, and then say that God is *omnipresent*. The omnipresent spiritual dimension is co-existent and co-extensive with the physical universe, but on a different plane of reality and level of consciousness, on a different “frequency,” if I may use the term in an illustrative sense. It is the dimension of **spirit reality**, of **spiritual being**, where God is all that He is. God dwells in the heaven that is beyond the time-space continuum, and therefore undetectable by the natural senses of man or the probings of technology. Heaven can only be discerned, contacted, seen, entered, or experienced **by spirit!**

Heaven is also the realm where God is *revealed* by the Spirit. Heaven is the realm where God is *known* in the Spirit. Heaven is the realm where God may be *touched* in the Spirit. Heaven is the realm in which God can be *experienced* in the Spirit. God is the God of the heavens, and if ever you will see Him, if ever you will know Him, if ever you will touch Him, if ever you will experience Him — it will be in the heavens of His Spirit where He dwells, in the realms of His Being. Heaven means “height, eminence, elevation.” Heaven is the high and holy realm of the Spirit in which God exists. To be in heaven is to be **in the Spirit!** To experience God spiritually is to experience heaven! To be “caught up” in spirit is to be “raptured” to heaven. The heavens are the various realms or levels of *spiritual experience* where we meet and know God. When God and His realities are revealed to you by the Spirit, *heaven is opened* and you behold heavenly (spiritual) things! In the lower heavens, where most believers dwell, you know God in a more elementary way.

It is wonderful to know God in His heavens! Each heaven speaks of a plane of relationship with God by the Spirit. When the Lord reveals Himself to us on a higher plane, in deeper measures, in richer and fuller dimensions of His life, riches, wisdom, knowledge, glory, and power, and we experience Him in it, we ascend in Him to a higher heaven. As we pass through the heavens we come to know and experience God in greater and grander measures! It is indeed wonderful! The spiritual world is a world with which we have become familiar as we have walked in the Spirit of God and experienced more and more of our union with the Father; a world so wonderfully real that all who once have their eyes opened to it beg to remain in its celestial precincts, never more to return to the lowly estate and level of the natural man. And now I declare that not only the heavenly hosts, myriads of *spirits*, but heaven itself is all around you even as you read these lines, and, should the Lord but take away the veil of flesh from your sight, your spiritual eyes would behold the celestial realm and you would see that beings, incredible in glory and power, are all about us; for the Lord and the heavens in which He dwells are not far from any one of us. They are indeed closer to us than the air that we breathe, closer even than the blood coursing through our veins!

Those holy sons of God who sit with Christ upon His throne in the heaven of His throneship shall restore all creation into the love and glory of God. The one man Jesus, when on earth as a manifest Son of God, taught, saved, delivered, healed, and raised up His *thousands*; His many brethren raised up into the power of His resurrection and throneship shall teach, save, deliver, heal, and raise up their *billions*. Thus shall their ministry and their years roll on from age to age until that wonderful age of all ages, the dispensation of the fullness of times wherein everything in all heavens, and in the earth, and throughout all realms of the universe is gathered together into one in Christ and God becomes All-in-all. What glories lie beyond this, we cannot yet know. Of this we may be sure: we who are redeemed have entered a progressive institution, a kingdom in which stagnation shall never enter. We will ever go on “from glory to glory” for “of the increase of His government... **there shall be no end**” (Isa. 9:7).

We will never come to the place where we can sit down with folded hands and say, “This is the end.” We, who are being raised up into the heavenly realm, have entered a stage of

action, we have become active agents in the greatest development program ever conceived! A whole universe with planets, worlds, heavens, and hells awaits our touch and guiding hand. “What is **man** that Thou art mindful of him? Thou hast put **all things** in subjection under his feet. For in that He put **all** in subjection under him, He left **N-O-T-H-I-N-G** that is *not* put under him! But we see **not yet** all things put under him (man). But we **see Jesus** crowned with glory and honor...” (Heb. 2:6-9). Surely these words can mean nothing less than UNIVERSAL DOMINION! That belongs to “the man” in Christ!

Away out there in the blue is a kingdom of life and light and love for every son of God to explore and develop and perfect. And if ever, in all the countless ages to come, that kingdom should become too small or over-crowded for its citizens, let us remember that we, being as He is, are therefore, one and all, the very same kind of Beings as He who simply spoke the word, and lo! the present worlds appeared. Being like Him, sons of God upon the very throne of His glory, we will also be creators, one and all, and not destroyers, as in our Adamic state. WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM! Sonship to God does not entitle one to mere residence in God’s limitless and eternal domain, but to the ownership and rule of that domain, in proportion to our growth and stature in Christ. Being heavenly beings, we can inherit, by our obedience to the heavenly Father, heavenly riches which will not only be a place, but royal pomp and splendor and majesty and dominion beyond compare. Oh, that it were possible to lift men above the shadows, and give them just a glimpse of something higher! Mortal minds are so entirely inadequate; human eyes so dim; human ears so dull!

John saw a door opened in heaven. When he passed through the door he beheld a throne. God gives definitions in His Word. He tells us exactly what certain things are — if we have ears to hear. One of the definitions is found in Acts 7:49. “Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool.” HEAVEN IS MY THRONE! The Greek word for heaven is *ouranos*. It is a word appearing in the New Testament 275 times. And the meaning of the word is “elevation, height, exaltation, eminence.” Therefore we have exactly the same thought if we say, “My throne is elevation, height, exaltation, and eminence.” That, my beloved, is the central idea of heaven in the New Testament! “Ouranos” is not a *place*. It is the height, the very pinnacle of glory and eminence and exaltation and majesty and authority and power over all God’s limitless domain! This authority is in and by the Spirit, for God is Spirit, and does not sit upon a physical throne!

We will understand a great spiritual truth when clearly we see that the higher one goes in God’s heavens, the higher one ascends into the realms of the Spirit, the greater the intensity of the throne of power and glory! Those who dwell in the lower heavens of spiritual experience and union with God have a little spiritual authority and power. The higher the heaven, the more lofty and exalted the realm of the Spirit, the greater the power of God’s throne! Heaven is His throne! Heaven is height, elevation, exaltation, eminence. The higher the heavenly exaltation, the greater the power and authority of the throne. Can you not see the mystery? Christ has ascended to the *highest heaven* and therefore has been given *all power* and *all authority* in all the heavens and in all the earth! And this very Christ is now the door — the “star gate” into the **throne zone!** The

door is *standing open*, dear one, and a mighty voice bids you to “come up hither” to the **throne zone!** Oh, the wonder of it!

Heaven is not a mansion over the hilltop, nor the gratifying of the needs and desires of this vessel of clay. It is not that which will bring creature comfort. It is not a state of carnal creature enjoyment and rest. Get the idea of golden streets, gold bathtubs, and gurgling streams of water out of your mind! There is no such thing materially in heaven! The celestial realm is something infinitely higher. It is eminence, power, majesty, glory, righteousness, peace that passes understanding and joy unspeakable and full of glory! It is becoming the same kind of a Being as the One who made the worlds (Jn. 10:34-36; I Jn. 3:2), and will bring, not inactive rest with fluttering wings and strumming harps, which in a few short hours even becomes exceedingly tiresome, but activity and accomplishments far surpassing that of earth’s limitation! As Jesus said, “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work” (Jn. 5:17). It includes kingship and priesthood over God’s eternal and infinite domain. It is dominion and power and redemptive and creative influence far above that which earth can contemplate or even imagine!

A VOICE AS A TRUMPET

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard (out of the heavenly realm) *was as it were a trumpet talking with me...*” (Rev. 4:1).

Everywhere in scripture the trumpet symbolizes the voice of the Lord. The beloved John had marched with Christ through all the blessed dealings of God in the candlestick realm, and now at the end of that wondrous experience he heard the voice of Christ in a new way and out of a higher realm. Who among us could deny that it was *within himself* that John heard the Voice? Every man hears the voice of the Son of God within himself! Only on the rarest of occasions have men heard the voice of God as an external voice falling upon the outer ear. God dwells within us by the Spirit and when we hear that divine Voice as John heard it, it is from within the holy temple of our spirit that the Lord almighty speaks. At times I have heard this voice of God so clearly that indeed I looked around to see the Voice that spoke to me, yet I knew in my deepest heart of hearts that the Voice came not from without, but from within. Each of us must hear that Voice that is within us which opens our ability to walk into the fullness of the Spirit of God.

John said, “I heard something — an unprecedented voice, a trumpet voice.” As you trace God’s voice throughout the ages from Abraham to the present, it’s getting louder and clearer. Whenever you hear the shofar, the ram’s horn, God is saying something to His creation. He intends for His voice to be heard by those in whose presence it sounds. God’s elect is hearing the voice of the Lord in this very hour and the trumpet sound is becoming louder and louder and clearer and clearer from day to day! The marvelous reality of it is seen in the famous words Jesus spoke to the adversary when He said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that *proceedeth* out of the mouth of God.” The word “proceedeth” is in the present, continuous tense in the Greek — “is proceeding and continues to proceed.” Man does not live by a word that *has proceeded*

out of the mouth of God in some past era. Praise God for His word that He sent to Noah, but it is not our word for today. I am not buying up lumber to build an ark! We rejoice in that word that God sent to Jacob in the long ago, but it is not a living word for us today. Wonderful were the words of the prophets to Israel, but we cannot live in the national message they preached. The word of the Lord to Martin Luther and John Wesley were mighty words for their time, but they are not sufficient for us in this hour. There is a *proceeding word*, a *right now word*, a *present truth*, and that *proceeding* word is going back and gathering up every *preceding* word, swallowing it up, and summing it up, into the fuller revelation for God's people in this great New Day of the Lord. God is saying something now, and His word for today is greater than any word He has ever sent to His people!

God's people are at various stages of hearing His voice. In John, chapter twelve, when Jesus declared that a grain of wheat must fall into the ground and die, and said, "Father, glorify Thy name," suddenly heaven began to speak and the Father uttered His voice, saying, "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again" (Jn. 12:28). The crowd of bystanders heard the sound and most of them thought it had thundered. How often people hear the word of the Lord and those who listen with spiritual ears get the message, while to those who hear only with carnal minds and natural understanding it sounds like so much thunder! They hear the message but are unable to decipher its significance. It is *meaningless* to them — just THUNDER! Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." To them it sounded like an *aggelos* — a messenger. These are those who enamored by oratory, and moved by the charisma of personality, become fixed on man, on the vessel, on the messenger delivering the message, and when they hear the word of the Lord through one of His angel-messengers they respond to the messenger instead of to the Lord. These are man-followers and man-worshippers who fail to get past the vessel to hear the voice of the Father. But some who had their ears opened and could distinguish between the sounds, said, "No, that was the voice of the Father!" Jesus perceived the deepest intent of the Father, for He had said, "Father, glorify Thy name." The Father answered, "I have glorified my name, my nature, in my firstborn Son, and once I get me a people to hear what my Son is saying, I will glorify it again in them!"

The voice as of a trumpet is a word, a message of the living Christ! The voice commanded John, "Come up hither, and I will show thee things." Thoughts, words, pictures, concepts — wondrous truths beyond his understanding blasted with the piercing of a trumpet's sound into the consciousness of John. Come up hither and I will show you — you can't see these things where you are! You cannot understand from your present perspective in the candlestick realm! You must arise, you must come up, you must be translated in consciousness to a new level of communication, to a new plane of reality. If your thinking is on the earth, you will not hear the heavenly Voice! Every man must know within himself what he wants to hear — are you satisfied to feed upon the vain clamor of earthly voices, religious voices, or do you seek to hear the quickening sound of the heavenly Voice?

God is raising up a people in this hour that is seeing things which must be *hereafter*. They have no desire to just keep doing the religious things they have always done. It is all a

weariness to the spirit. They are hearing the sound of a trumpet! Like the camp of Israel in the wilderness, these are hearing the blast of heaven's ram's horn, and they know the camp must be broken up, it is time to move on!

God has raised up a trumpet ministry in this hour! I am a small part of that trumpet ministry. I know this because the message God has put in my spirit and in my mouth and in my writing has raised even me up into a heavenly place! And those who hear are likewise lifted up into a new and higher realm and place in God! I am not alone, the trumpet is sounding all across the land and around the world! Something greater is about to take place. This is the word that shows us what must be *hereafter*! The next step in God — *after* the candlestick realm!

We want to hear the voice of God. I have heard the voice of God! I do not want to hear myself, I despise self, the self of me and the self of every man. God is always speaking, if only we have ears to hear. His sheep hear His voice. They also learn to *know* His voice! To know the voice is greater than to hear the voice. Every apprehended son of God is learning to both hear and know (recognize) the voice of the Lord! Mature sons are not fooled about what voice they are hearing! Sons **know** the voice of their Father and a strange voice they will not follow regardless of how smooth and appealing it may sound! And we care not one whit what channel the voice comes through. Sometimes we hear the voice of the Lord through a brother or sister in Christ, through a writing, through a circumstance, through experience, sometimes through our own thoughts and hearts. At times I have heard the voice of the Lord through things and people that I would never have expected to hear God's voice from. However God speaks, only the one who truly **knows** the Father's voice will recognize the voice and "get" the message! We also recognize the voice of the stranger. There have been occasions when I have heard that "stranger's" voice through men reputed to be great men in God, sometimes through precious brethren I love and esteem, sometimes in sermons and writings and books that less discerning ones are charmed with and excited about as being great revelations of truth. There need be no question in the mind of any saint that only those who are able to **hear** the voice and **know** the voice are enabled to "**come up hither**" to the throne realm!

Chapter 66

THE THRONE

Continued

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, *Come up hither*, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter” (Rev. 4:1).

This beautiful passage has been used by thousands of teachers and preachers to teach what is called “the pre-tribulation rapture.” They say John was a type here of the church being caught up off the earth into heaven just prior to the wrath of God falling upon the world in the fury of the Great Tribulation. But it says no such thing! Many believers and teachers have anticipated most enthusiastically that at this point when “*a door was opened in heaven*” the “rapture” of the church would take place. Of course you can see that since most of them believe that heaven is a limited and physical “place” out in the blue somewhere, the only way one could get there would be by being spatially transported. Oh, what shame! What deliriums! Men, poor deluded and blind children who know precious little of the Christ life and spiritual realities parade themselves as angels of light and their carnal imaginings as revelation direct from God!

“Come up hither” is not a geographical term. It doesn’t mean *go up*, it means *grow up*! Years ago I picked up a tabloid-size newspaper with these alarming headlines:

MILLIONS MISSING AROUND THE WORLD
MASS KIDNAPPING
STOCK MARKET FACES CRASH
THOUSANDS ATTEMPT SUICIDE

The articles in this paper sensationally described scenes of terror, fear, and anguish around the planet — planes crashing because the pilots disappeared, trains derailing when the conductors suddenly vanished, massive pileups on the highways as automobile drivers vanished into thin air, killer earthquakes, volcanoes erupting world-wide, tidal waves sweeping the continental coasts, mobs of looters roaming the city streets, thousands of persons dying of heart attacks triggered by stark fear, and on and on.

My response to this was something between a hearty laugh and disgust. This paper was merely a carnal-minded attempt to dramatize what millions of Christians have been led to believe will happen when Christ returns — the sudden, unannounced event that will cause the immediate disappearance of millions of believers from every city, town, countryside, and hamlet throughout the world. Some people publicize this theory with

bumper stickers like the one that warns: **IF DRIVER DISAPPEARS, GRAB THE WHEEL**. The “any minute rapture” is preached today by many popular preachers and is called the believer’s “Blessed Hope.” It has been the subject of more gospel songs and hymns than anyone could number. Yet, there is no scripture in the whole Bible that plainly supports such a doctrine! It can be “read in” to the text in a couple places, but even then there are obvious problems with such an interpretation. Furthermore, they tell you that chapter four on through the book of Revelation is irrelevant to you, because you’re not even going to be here! The question follows: Then why study it? If you’re not going to be here — don’t worry about it!

The marvelous reality of it is that the journey from the Holy Place into the Most Holy Place, and from the feast of Pentecost to the feast of Tabernacles, is not a matter of chronology of time or distance, but a chronology of **experience!** One does not get from the feast of Pentecost to the feast of Tabernacles by a date on the calendar or by a trip through space — you get there by an **experience in God**. Tabernacles follows Pentecost just as Pentecost follows Passover. The Most Holy Place follows the Holy Place just as the Holy Place follows the Outer Court — not by waiting for a particular day, or by being raptured to a planet called heaven. It is not a sequence of *times* or *locations*, but a sequence of *growth, experience, life, and reality!* God’s called and chosen elect is beginning to move into a new dimension in God, the veil is being drawn back and we are seeing that there is another whole realm of reality that we never knew about in the church systems. There is a whole other feast, an entirely other dimension of *being* in God, another vast realm of glory that we have never entered into!

Pentecost is wonderful! I have loved its power and its praise, its gifts and its graces, its life and its glory! If the firstfruits of the Spirit, the down payment of God’s glory in the Candlestick realm, has been so glorious, the redemption of the fully purchased possession must be beyond anything we can even imagine! Pentecost has not delivered creation from the bondage of corruption, therefore creation still waits and groans and travails for the manifestation of the sons of God. Only the fully manifest sonship ministry can save this old world, demolish the systems of man, establish the rule of the Spirit, and deliver creation from the bondage of sin, sorrow, sickness, fear, torment, hatred, tyranny and death! Ah, my brother, my sister, we have only seen the edges of God’s ways, the borders of His mind, and the fringes of His power, until the fullness of His great redemption is raised up within us!

If you are looking at outward things, the things you can see with your natural eyes, you are missing the point of meaning in the scriptures. When Paul spoke of our being “caught up in the air” he was not looking at the physical bodies of old Adam which are only temporal and return to the dust from whence they came, for the first man *is of the earth*, earthy. Should someone object that only a physical body could be caught up in the air, I would ask if Jesus was speaking literally and physically when He said, “Except ye *eat the flesh* of the Son of man, and *drink His blood*, ye have no life in you” (Jn. 6:53). Jesus wasn’t teaching cannibalism there, my friend, for the spiritual mind discerns that He was speaking of *spiritual realities!* His flesh is His *Word*, for the Word was *made flesh!* His blood is His eternal, divine *life*, for the *life of the flesh is in the blood!* Jesus was speaking

spiritually, and Paul was likewise speaking spiritually! Paul was looking at the inner man, the new creation, the heavenly body, the offspring of the flesh and blood of the Son of God, which is the real person, and which bears the image of the heavenly. It is *this man* that is “caught up” into a new place in the Spirit!

“COME UP HITHER!”

I have no desire to take away your “blessed hope,” but would point you to a blessed reality for the here and now! As Christ in this hour comes to us in and by the Spirit to lift our inner-man nature up into the fullness of union in Him, we certainly do experience a rapture — believe me! While the word “rapture” is not to be found in scripture, there are other words and expressions that bear the same or similar meaning. Paul told the Ephesians, “But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, and hath raised us up together... in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:4-6). This passage says that God H-A-S RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST. Paul told the Thessalonians that the saints would be “caught up together” to meet the Lord in the air (I Thes. 4:16-17). It should not be difficult for any spiritual mind to see that in both cases the apostle is speaking of the same blessed experience! In both cases we are elevated to a higher plane in Christ, and with Him. There is a glorious company of these “caught up” ones! It is a wonderful place of rest, glory, revelation, wisdom, and power far above the beggarly elements of this world. Reba McMurry told of the little boy swimming in the pool who said to another, “Come on in, the water’s fine.” So I say to you who are dwelling in the earthlies, in the low lands of carnal mindedness, tossed by the storms of life, beset by problems, trials, difficulties, hindered by the flesh and the world, manipulated and controlled by the carnal religious systems of man, “Come on up higher — there is a wonderful realm above of peace, joy, victory, blessedness, power, and the mind of Christ!”

The preachers love to proclaim that Jesus is coming to “rapture the saints to heaven” or to “catch His waiting bride away.” But the word of God never says that! When the Bible speaks of being “caught up” or invites us to “come up hither” it is not speaking in terms of miles or light-years away. Let us consider the experience of the apostle Paul’s friend (this was not Paul Himself, as many erroneously assert!). Paul relates it this way. “It is not expediate for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one CAUGHT UP TO THE THIRD HEAVEN. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) how that he was CAUGHT UP INTO PARADISE, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities” (II Cor. 12:1-5).

Where did this friend of Paul’s go? Physically, his body went nowhere! This was a spiritual experience! But he was “caught up” to the third heaven. And when he was caught up into God’s glory, he was actually right here on the earth. He never left the ground for a minute! And thus it is in this hour for all of God’s elect people! So

completely overwhelmed was he, so utterly were his faculties under the control of the Holy Spirit, that he was not sure whether he was “in the body, or apart from the body.” God carried him into that realm of life known as paradise, the third heaven. Heaven is not a location! Heaven is a realm of Spirit in which we touch, experience, and know God. The first heaven corresponds to the Outer Court of the Tabernacle and brings us to the brazen altar where Christ the Lamb is slain for us, giving to us His life. This is our initial “salvation” experience where we know the joy of sins forgiven and reconciliation to God. There is also the laver, representing the washing of the water of the word, or the word of God that begins to cleanse our walk upon earth. The second heaven corresponds to the second realm of the Tabernacle, the Holy Place, wherein dwells the candlestick, the table of showbread, and the golden altar of incense. We enter the door of this dimension through the baptism in the Holy Spirit which ushers us into this second supernatural heaven in Christ where the Holy Spirit fills us and becomes the light of our life, as the oil fills the candlestick and gives light to the Holy Place. Here we begin to be illuminated by the Spirit, as the Spirit reveals Christ to us and we become aware of heavenly and spiritual realities. It is there we truly partake of the bread of God, and the word begins to be made flesh within us. Then we are able to offer up the incense of spiritual prayer, praise, and worship unto God!

The man of whom Paul wrote had already ascended spiritually into the first two heavens in regeneration and the baptism in the Holy Spirit. But now “in spirit” the Lord carried him for a brief moment into that realm of life, that dimension of glory, that third heaven of HIS FULLNESS, typified by the Shekinah Glory of God beyond the veil in the Holiest of all. For this man it was but for a moment, yet this third heaven of God’s fullness is the inheritance of every manifest son of God! Moffatt’s translation says, “In the body or out of the body? I do not know. I simply know that in the body or out of the body (God knows which) this man was caught up into paradise and heard sacred secrets which no human lips can repeat.” The glory, majesty, and power of the third heaven cannot be described by human lips! You cannot explain the glory of manifest sonship to sinful ears or to religious ears! It is not given to them to understand the mysteries of this kingdom! The third heaven must be experienced, for it cannot be told! In this marvelous experience it was not important for this man to know whether or not his body was caught up into that higher realm. He knew he was there! The real man, the inner man, the new man, the new creation, the Christ man, the spiritual body was there! He had entered into the realm of full sonship, the throne realm, the incorruptible, immortal, omniscient, omnipotent sphere of kingdom dominion! And he knew that in God’s due time he would have an abundant and permanent entrance into that realm of glory, by the resurrection power of Christ within, CAUGHT UP. In the Outer Court we die with Christ at the brazen altar. In the Holy Place we are quickened together with Christ by the indwelling of His life. In the Holiest of all we ascend, are caught up with Him into all His glorious fullness and eternal reality!

When the eagle-eyed seer of Patmos, being in the Spirit, looked aloft into the heavens, he saw a throne. There is a throne whose dominion reaches from Adam in Paradise down to “the last man,” whoever he may be. The natural man, in his blindness, looks, but he sees no throne; and therefore he cries, “I will live as I please, for there is no one to call me to

account.” But John, with illumined eye, saw beyond the outer world, and distinctly saw a throne and One who sat upon it. When our eye looks through the glass of revelation, it sees a throne too. The higher we go in God, the more powerful that throne! We feel more and more the influence of that throne and its dominion in our lives. It is the throne of God, the dominion of God by the might of His Spirit within and by the power of the mind of Christ. There is a throne whereon sitteth the King eternal, immortal, invisible; that throne is everywhere by the dominion of God in Christ, and it is experienced in our hearts where dwelleth the King.

“Come up Hither!” That is the cry in my heart for God’s elect in this hour. It is the cry of the Father’s heart for the people He loves. If only we can glimpse the wonder of what John experienced when those immortal words fell upon his ears! “I want to show you something, John — something special.” John beheld with wonder the majesty of the throne of the God of the universe and in that blessed moment he was invited to enter and sit down in the throne room. He was ushered into celestial scenes of divine life, authority, power, and dominion. Today, my beloved, I hear the Lord saying to His chosen, “Come — I am calling you up into the secret place of my presence, into the unknown citadels of my splendor; and when I have finished with you it will be on earth as it is in heaven. I am taking you on a journey into my glory, I am showing you things new and transcendental, I am raising you up into a dimension of union in me you’ve never known before; I am drawing you into the intimacy of the Father in the Son that John beheld, and I am meeting with you in the counsel of my eternal purpose.”

Your mind and heart will be tremendously illuminated once you clearly see that the call to “Come up hither” is the call to leave the candlestick realm and ascend to the throne realm! A tremendous revelation was given to John on Patmos. He was shown in holy vision the seven candlesticks “which are the seven churches” (Rev. 1:20). The seven churches represent THE WHOLE CHURCH REALM THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE CHURCH AGE. If you want to know what the church is like, look at the seven candlesticks! There you have the divinely inspired portrait of the church realm painted by the brush strokes of the Holy Spirit of revelation. Can any deny that they were imperfect, carnal, childish, idolatrous, heretical, rebuked again and again by the Lord — a realm of mixture and duality? The Lord commends and praises them on the one hand, while warning and rebuking them on the other hand. Some of the saints are praised for their works of faith and love, whereas others are warned of impending judgment if they fail to repent, and some are even threatened with extinction.

These seven churches reveal the true state and condition of the whole church throughout the age, and both history and personal experience testify unerringly that John was shown aright! The early church was a church of mixture and duality — flesh and spirit, truth and error, law and grace, spirituality and carnality. Even a casual perusal of the New Testament reveals this! And from that day to this, make no mistake about it — ALL CHURCHES HAVE BEEN THE SAME! Yours is no different, preacher friend of mine, no matter what lofty name you put to it. ALL churches are the same today! The church in El Paso is a carnal church. There are many denominations and groups here, but there is only one church in El Paso. It is composed of every believer in this city that trusts Jesus

as Saviour and confesses the name of Christ. But whereas one says, “We are of Luther,” and another says, “We are Baptists,” and another says, “We are Pentecostal,” while yet another says, “We are of Christ,” are they not carnal and walk as men? There are indeed some spiritual people and some spiritually minded groups of saints in the church in El Paso, but the church in El Paso is a carnal church! And should the church age continue on for another thousand years the church would not have changed — the revelation of the seven candlesticks immutably declares it! The seven candlesticks are the seven churches, and the seven churches are the whole church throughout the entire church age!

As soon as this point is made abundantly plain John heard the voice saying, “Come up hither and I will show you things that must be hereafter.” After what? Why, bless your heart, after the candlestick realm! We’re not dealing here with years or ages of time, but with realms of spiritual experience. The promises had already been given, not to the churches themselves, but to “him that overcometh” — a company out of the church. “Come up hither” the voice commanded. John is now shown another realm HIGHER THAN THE CANDLESTICK REALM! It is the realm of the overcomer, and only the overcomer is promised a place in the throne! It is the realm of the throne, of the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders. John is invited to leave the candlestick realm to ASCEND IN THE SPIRIT TO THIS HIGHER REALM where the Lamb is in the throne. This is what the brethren don’t want to do! They don’t want a change of order. How they cling to the candlestick realm with its five-fold ministry, its man-made systems, its carnal promotions and methods, its old order structure, its rituals, ceremonies, and ordinances, its weakness, limitation, mixture, and duality. This revelation was given to John about the year A.D. 96. The churches of his generation refused to leave the candlestick realm and rise to a higher place in God, and within only a few years the great apostasy set in, and by the third and fourth centuries the apostasy was complete, followed by an awful night of great and dreadful darkness. Even secular history refers to that time as “The Dark Ages.” It was the great “falling away” that Paul prophesied in which the man of sin was revealed in the church, the temple of God, sitting in that temple ruling as God over the nations! I have traveled to the sites of the seven churches in Asia and I can tell you that today there is nothing there — not one church exists, not one saint can be found. The seven churches were in Asia which is the modern nation of Turkey. Within the whole country of Turkey there are only perhaps 1,000 Christian believers — all the rest are Moslem. There are no churches to be seen anywhere except as museums!

Today, my beloved, all who are truly overcomers, pressing into sonship, caught up to the throne, have heard and heeded the call to “Come up hither” and have forsaken the carnality, foolishness, and limitation of the candlestick realm to become related to Christ IN THAT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WHERE HIS LORDSHIP SWALLOWS UP OUR LIVES, WHERE HE IS ALL IN ALL, WHERE HIS SPIRIT, MIND, AND LIFE REPLACE THE OUTWARD STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH SYSTEM. But do not forget, the Lord is still out there in the candlestick realm, for John saw in the midst of the candlesticks “One like unto a Son of man.” As long as there are candlesticks this glorious One will be in their midst! Oh yes, He is there, ministering on that level, blessing by His grace, dealing in His mercy, saving, healing, and helping. I have seen Him there in the midst of all the flesh, error and delusion, in fact I first met Him there in the little light that

remains in Babylon. I'm sure most who read these lines also met Christ in the candlestick realm. Yes, He is there alright, sometimes even manifesting in marvelous moves of His Spirit and rich outpourings of His grace. What love! What wondrous love! What condescension! That Christ Jesus the Lord would "stand in the midst" of all the foolishness of creeds and doctrines, of rituals and ceremonies, of programs and promotions, of formality, fanaticism, and sectarianism, to minister something of life on whatever level it can be received in spite of all.

I would be remiss if I failed to warn every saint of God that He is NOT THERE taking men on to perfection, into incorruptible life, into the fullness of sonship. The "up hither" realm is where that experience is known! If any man can show me any church order, any revival, any move of God, including the early church and the original apostles and prophets, that has ever carried God's people on to perfection and into the fullness of God I will recant and gladly join it. If such a church cannot be produced, then John's revelation of the candlestick realm remains valid and I have no obligation to join myself to that which is impotent to bring me into the depths of Jesus Christ and to the glory of the throne. Hear me now! I am not opposed to gatherings, meetings, corporate praise, worship and ministry! But we must know that all we have done in those realms is still "in part" and not to be esteemed as the vehicle to carry us into manifest sonship in the fullness of God.

As I have been led by the Spirit and taught by the Spirit it has become clear to me that the "open door" in heaven and the command to "Come up hither" separates between the candlestick realm in the earthlies, which are the seven churches, which is the entire church age economy — and the higher realm of His fullness, the throne realm! I say to you today as the trumpet-voice said to John in that long ago, "Come up hither!" We have stood on the sidelines and said, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus, and save us from this old world." And He has sat on His throne and said, "Come my people; enter into my gates, ascend into the heavens of my Spirit." Nearly all Christians have said, "Come get us Lord Jesus," but we who have heard His voice have been instructed, "Come up hither, my people; come up into the realm of my Spirit, into the glory of my presence, into the power and authority of my throne!" THE DOOR IS OPEN IN HEAVEN TODAY. You may live in the candlestick or the throne. You may be an earth-dweller or a heaven-dweller. You may be a "Christian" or you may be a SON!

As we ascend in the Spirit to reign with Christ in His throne it indicates a departure from the candlestick in the Holy Place, to follow our glorious and exalted forerunner beyond the veil into the throne room of the Holiest of all. It means entrance into a greater and deeper and higher relationship with Christ the Lord. The throne of this realm is the mercy seat — the throne of mercy! Thank God, the throne of the universe is the throne of mercy! All men may boldly approach the throne of grace. The understanding of this is very simple. If I were to say to any brother in a gathering, "Brother so-and-so, take us to the throne of grace," in and by the Spirit the brother could take each and every one of us to the throne and we would never have to leave our seats. When Jesus says, "Come unto me," He is not speaking geographically. He is speaking experientially! The journey to Christ and into Christ is not outward or physical, it is inward and spiritual. Sometimes an

evangelist will say, "Twenty-five people came to Christ last night." Does he mean twenty-five people were "raptured"? Does he mean twenty-five people were transported to Galilee and found Jesus walking the shores of the blue sea, and joined themselves unto Him there? Of course not! Chances are they did not move one inch physically. To say that "Come up hither" indicates a physical rapture reveals the innate stupidity of the natural mind which discerns not the things of the Spirit. Christ is Spirit, Christ is omnipresent Spirit, one does not change his physical location to ascend into His glory!

I would draw your reverent attention to the sequence of events outlined by the Holy Spirit in the last three verses of chapter three of the Revelation and the first three verses of chapter four. In the original there is no chapter division here, but there is continuity of thought and a flow of revelation. At the conclusion of the messages to the churches the Lord says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." The same logic that invents the "rapture" would visualize Jesus standing at the wooden door of a church building on Main Street knocking to gain admittance. But Jesus has knocked on the door of the candlestick realm! Notice that Jesus does not call this "a door" or "your door" or identify it as any particular door. He calls it THE DOOR. It is one specific door the identity of which is taken for granted. It is abundantly clear that the door He knocks upon is the door that separates between the candlestick realm and the throne room! This door is the same as the veil that separates the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place!

He has told us our need, He has told us there is another dimension in God beyond Passover and Pentecost, beyond the Outer Court and the Holy Place, He has told us there is something beyond the candlestick realm, and now, if you will hear my voice, and open the door, not only will I come into you, and sup with you and you with me, but there within yourself I will lead you up to heights never known by man! As you sup with me and overcome with me I will grant you to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne. Both of these propositions are spoken in two verses in Revelation 3:20-21. First the Lord says He stands knocking at the door. He follows this with the promise of raising us up to His throne as we overcome all things. Then only two verses later John says, "After this I looked, and, behold, a door stood open in heaven." And through that door he saw the throne! Do you not see the mystery? Is it not clear that the "door" that was opened in heaven was the very same "door" that Jesus knocked upon? It is the gateway between the two realms, the gateway between the candlestick realm and the throne!

First Christ comes out of the heavens of His glory to enter into our lives by His Spirit. He descends through the door. For Him to come into us and sup with us we must open the door. Thank God, some of us have opened the door! Christ came to us to feed us His truth and life and He has fed us wonderful spiritual food that the candlestick realm knows nothing of! What a table He has spread as He has taught us of Himself, of His word, His ways, and His will. Oh, what a grand and glorious table the Lord has spread for us in this feast of Tabernacles! How our hearts have thrilled as He has revealed the mysteries of the kingdom, the path to perfection, the power to overcome, transformation into His image, the putting on of His mind and nature, the hope of full and complete redemption, spirit, soul, and body! How we have been illuminated, strengthened, and quickened by this

heavenly meal! In the holy intimacy of this supping together He has brought us to a fuller and more complete knowing and experiencing of HIMSELF! What a feast it has been! And because we have opened the door...the door is still standing open in heaven! Oh, the wonder of it! Christ came through the door to sup with us, and now He arises from the meal, He bids us go through the door and enter with Him into His throne! It is indeed wonderful!

The voice as of a trumpet was not the voice of a naked cherub floating on a cloud, it was the voice of the Son of God out of a heavenly realm, the prophetic voice heard within the midst of the Lord's anointed. This prophetic voice is always saying to the Lord's people, "Come on up, come up higher, I want you to ascend from glory to glory, from victory to victory, from experience to experience, from realm to realm, from reality to reality." As I was writing this message brother Paul Mueller's paper arrived in the mail in which he shares this inspiring thought: "'Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; the fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vine with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away' (Song of Solomon 2:10-13). This anointed word may be premature as to Father's time and purpose, but we believe the time of its fulfillment is fast approaching. Who knows but what the new morning may break before us in great Glory and Life within just a few short years! Our WAITING PERIOD may soon be over! The time of the blooming of the flowers of spring and the singing of the summer song birds may very well be at hand! Are we beginning to hear the voice of the turtle? Is the fig tree yet putting forth her green figs? Are not the vines with their tender grapes giving forth a good smell, even the fragrance of fresh new growth? Ah, the time when our Father will say to us, 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away,' may soon be here! And where will we go when He speaks that Word of authority and power, calling upon us to 'arise'? Not to any place of earth, of course, but to the heavenly, spiritual Zion, the dwelling place of God, in the Spirit! And when we mature spiritually, the Lord will then build up Zion, clothing us with all those precious new garments of the Life and Glory of Christ! Blessed be His great name!"

Even as you read these lines, precious elect child of God, there is a descending of the Lord into your life. He is descending out from your spirit into your soul, and out of your soul into your body. That is how the redemption works! The mighty work of God begins in our spirit, then moves into the outer realms of our lives. There is a coming forth of the Lord out of the heavens of your spiritual life in Christ. As I have stressed, the heavens are not a geographical location, but a dimension of Spirit. When the trumpet sounds in your spiritual ear, and understanding pours into you by the spirit of wisdom and revelation from God, there is a descending of the Lord into the lowest realms of your life and an ascending of your being into Him! Every trumpet that sounds will lift you up to a higher place, you will be "caught up" by each trumpet that blows its message of revelation into your reality. At last, when the last trump sounds within you, you will be caught up into the fullness of God and you will be totally changed in spirit, soul, and body! It is at the sound of the seventh trumpet, which is also the last trump, that the manchild is caught up to the throne of God to rule all nations with a rod of iron (Rev. 11:15 — 12:6). At the last trump there are also seven vials of blood poured out into the earth, and these are the

revelation of the full redemptive power of the blood of Christ to bring the complete change in the land of our being in Christ. It is there that the carnal mind, the Adamic nature, the flesh, the seat of the beast, all that flows in that realm, with all the powers that generate the fleshly emotions, desires, and propensities of the natural man are forever swept away and brought to naught. **THANK GOD FOR THE VIALS THAT BRING JUDGMENT UPON ALL THAT IS EARTHY WITHIN US!**

A writer from the 1800's described conditions in Switzerland in his time thus: "In the valleys in Switzerland many of the inhabitants are deformed and dwarfish, and the whole of them wear a sickly appearance, for the atmosphere is charged with miasma, and is close to stagnant; you traverse them as rapidly as you can, and are glad to escape from them. Up yonder on the mountain you will find a hardy race, who breathe the clear fresh air as it blows from the virgin snows of the Alpine summits. It would be well for their frames if the dwellers in the valleys could frequently leave their abodes among the marshes and the fever mists, and get themselves up into the clear atmosphere above."

It is to such an exploit of climbing that I invite you today! May the Spirit of God bear on eagle's wings all who read these lines, that we may leave the mists of religion and the fevers of the flesh, and all the ills of sin and death which beset us in this miasmatic valley of earth, the realm of the carnal mind, and get ourselves up to the mountain of the house of the Lord, the kingdom authority in the realm of the Spirit, where it is the delight of all sons of God to dwell in the rare atmosphere of truth and life and light! Oh, yes! God is disentangling us, cutting the cords that have kept us here below and permitting us to mount! We sit, some who cherish the hope of sonship, like chained eagles fastened to a rock, except that, unlike the eagle, we begin to love our chain, and would, perhaps, be loathe to have it snapped. Yet God is granting grace to all who have received the call to the kingdom to leave all the old orders of the religious systems and all the weakness, limitation, and bondage of an earth-centered life at the foot of the hill, so that our spirit may, like Abraham and Moses and Jesus, go to the top of the mountain and there speak with God and be transfigured in His glory.

His voice bids us come! "Come up hither!" And our heart responds with an earnest, Yes, Lord, we desire to ascend, to be with Thee, where Thou art." Come! The Spirit saith it in invitation, yea, in command. Come up from the lowlands of the flesh, come up from the monotony of religion, come up from the emptiness of tradition, come up from the foolishness of the carnal mind, come up from the glitter of the world, come up from the curse of sin, sorrow, and death, come up from your graves, ye risen ones! Come up from the orders of man, ye consecrated ones! Come up to wear my crown, to sit with me upon my throne! Oh, that word has omnipotence lurking within it. That is where God is calling every person whose ears hear the cry, "Come up hither!" It shall be to you your everlasting joy to arise and "come." I tell you that my soul has sometimes been so full of glory that I could hold no more when my beloved Lord has said, "Come," to my soul; for He has taken me into His banqueting house, and His love-banner He waved over my head, and He has drawn me away from the doubts and fears and frustrations of mortal existence, up to "the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon" where He manifests Himself to me.

Ah, dear one, truly He declares to you that when this “Come up higher” shall captivate your ear and ravish your soul, there shall not be the flesh to drag you back, there shall be no sluggishness of spirit, no hesitation of will — you shall hasten to climb the mount of God and enter through the door into the throne room — you shall not mount to descend again, but mount on and on in one blessed ascension forevermore! “Come up hither!”

At this point I am compelled to share the following words from brother Carl Schwing. “I do not write to exalt us, the Father will do that in His perfect timing. I write to exhort us to lose ourselves in the depths of Jesus Christ. To encourage us to love and honor our aloneness with Him. To cherish our birthright and to always give all glory to the Father. To walk with our hearts and our heads up- lifted...following only and always our Beloved Christ. To gather often in His presence, thus partaking of fellowship with Him and with one another. OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH AND IN THE FATHER! Spirit fellowships with spirit, deep with deep. In the body, out of the body, in the light or in the darkness, in life or in death, we are one in Him. Hallelujah!

“Let us walk where others fear to walk. Let us live in the realm above the reach of mortal men. The Father bids us come up higher. Let us not tarry. He calls us to familiar grounds; to the house where only Sons can dwell. To a converse which only Sons can share. To a song that only Sons can sing, and to a place where only Sons can sit. We need not speak, we rest upon the bosom of the Father. We need not search, we ride upon the breath of God into the hollow of His heart. We draw life from the Source of all life. We shout as only Sons can do. And the heavens tremble at the beauty of our presence! All creation is quickened by the words we speak. And in the light of that glorious moment of manifestation, the Father will proclaim: ‘These are my Beloved Sons, hear ye them!’ With each sunrise the eyes and ears of our spirits are opened a little bit more...that we might see the unseen and hear the inaudible. Each sunset we walk deeper into the rising mist of His presence. And in the silence of the night hours we often hear His voice or feel His touch. We awake knowing that we are a little closer to home.

“Everything else becomes meaningless and lifeless in the beauty of His presence. The words that He speaks are pure and life-giving; unspotted by the idle chatter of religious reasoning. Each word He speaks is a drop of life to our hungry souls. He calls us ‘sons’... ‘all that I have is thine,’ are the words that He speaks to us. We are overwhelmed by such love and goodness, we fall before Him in adoration, only to be lifted higher into the excelling glory that the Father has prepared for us. We are realizing that there is nothing left of us, we are reaching the point where we are lost in Him. We are entering into union with God! The doors of eternity are opening to us and we are seeing and knowing even as the Father. Finally we shall love with His love, imparting grace and life to all that are brought before us. It will be the hour when the hope and longing of all creation is fulfilled...it will be the hour of their freedom from the curse. And it all began when He led us to the straight and narrow way” — end quote.

Well did Paul Mueller write: “Many years ago the Lord got my attention through visions and other experiences with Him. One vision, in particular, was an urgent call to ascend the high places in God. In that vision, I saw a large mountain. It was the mount of the

Lord's presence. Many people were climbing that mountain, higher and upward toward the pinnacle of His presence. But few were reaching the heights. In that vision, the mount of His presence was like the literal mountains. The higher one goes, the fewer trees there are. And the higher we go in God, the fewer believers there are at that level. As I watched the people climb that mountain, they appeared on the spiritual level where they were when they died. Some of the people climbing that mountain of the Lord's presence were loved ones and friends. One among them was a man whom I considered a man of God, a man I had known quite well. By the Spirit, I was taken up that mountain but close to the people who were on various levels ascending that mountain. As I passed by some friends and loved ones, they all cried out to me, 'Go higher! Don't stop now, but keep going higher and higher.' That vision made a profound impact on my life. I shall never forget it! By His grace and His Spirit, I intend to keep climbing higher and higher in God!

“Those who have lived and died in Christ are now in a realm where they can see and understand more clearly. The true reality is in the realm of the Spirit, and they know it well now. They know what it means to walk with God toward perfection, and they appreciate it more now than when they were in this earthly realm. If the Lord would give us ears to hear the cries of those who have gone on before us, we would hear them crying unceasingly for us to ascend the very heights of the mount of the Lord. I heard them briefly. And the tone of their voices persuaded me to believe that our spiritual growth will also mean something significant and wonderful for them. Their call to keep going higher was almost a cry of desperation, but was one of hope as well. Without us they cannot be made perfect (Heb. 11:40). Therefore, the remnant of this hour must ascend in the Spirit to the heights of the mount of the Lord, where we shall be changed. And we shall also release many who died in Christ from their limited, static positions where they rest on the mount of the Lord.

“As we ascend the heights of the mount of the Lord, we will find that it is a lonely walk. To take a step higher in God may mean forsaking old friends and loved ones. When Moses made his seventh and last ascent up mount Sinai, the Lord said to him, ‘And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me IN THE TOP OF THE MOUNT. And no man shall come up with thee...’ (Ex. 34:2-3). Like Moses, some are invited of the Lord to ascend the mount of His presence and meet Him there. Half way up the mount will not do! Those who shall partake of His life and the fullness of His kingdom must go all the way up. God said to Moses, ‘present thyself there to me IN THE TOP OF THE MOUNT.’ The top of the mount was Moses' goal, and it is ours as well. And it is impossible for us to take anyone else with us. We must go alone! Spiritual progress is not based on fellowship with people, but on fellowship with God! A few others will also go alone to meet the Lord in the top of the mount, so that a remnant — all the remnant — shall ascend the mount to present themselves to Him in the top of the mount. No one member of that remnant company shall be missing, for the Lord will lead them all there by His Spirit” — end quote.

Scattered among earth's billions is a special species of people. They are in the world but not of it. These have known from the beginning that they were different. They have gone

through the motions, tried to be a good Christian, held every office in the church and tried to live the way they were told. But in the midst of all the effort to belong, there has always been something that kept this people from blending in with the majority. There has been an emptiness and a knowing deep inside that this was not the reason they were here. There has always been something that separated them from all the external forms of religion they have passed through. This, precious friend of mine, is the day of RECOGNITION! This is your day of knowing and understanding where you came from and where you have been in order to arrive where you are right now, and where you are going. Something deep within has cried out, "I didn't come into this world just to get saved from hell." Deep has called unto deep and you knew you were born for a purpose. You knew that you were here by divine appointment. You knew there was something greater, more glorious, and transcendental in God. You knew you were born to unveil God's great plan, will, purpose, wisdom, nature, power, and glory in the earth!

You came into this world out of the bosom of the Father! Before the Creator formed you, He knew you. He didn't know you in your present physical form as Joe Smith or Sally Brown, but He knew you as spirit. God spoke to you about His plan for your life before ever you were formed as an embryo in the womb of your mother. Paul states it so clearly when he says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love" (Eph. 1:3-4). The Amplified Bible reads, "Even as He chose us (actually picked us out for Himself as His own) in Christ before the foundation of the world."

Never doubt this reality for a moment — the only way God could have loved you, chose you in Christ, and picked you out for His own before the foundation of the world is that you truly existed in and with Him before the appearing of the worlds. Nothing can be plainer than that! Yet we have supposed that we were just recently, in this life, apprehended of God to sonship. I thought the work of God began in my life sixty-five years ago. Now I find that the thing God is doing with humanity began in eternity! It didn't begin in time. It began before the ages were framed! God loved me, chose me, knew me, counseled with me, and picked me out for His unique purpose before the foundation of the world. My origin was in God! God begat me out of Himself as spirit before He exhaled me as spirit into a very unique body upon earth.

The "kingdom message" deals with the conformity, maturity, and inheritance of the sons of God — those called to share His throne and reign with Him over all things. This great plan was conceived and initiated in eternity, before time began. "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:28-31). Now notice! These five verbs — foreknow, predestinate, called, justified, glorified — are all in the aorist tense. This denotes action at a given point in the past. All these things happened to us "before" the ages began! Some have

stumbled over the fact that Paul says that those whom the Father foreknew, predestinated, called, and justified, He also GLORIFIED. They have questioned the meaning of “glorification,” wondering how they could already be glorified in their present imperfect, mortal state. Let us understand — ALL of this is in the past! God foreknew us in the past — before the world began. This is also when He predestinated us, called us, justified us, and glorified us. Jesus, the firstborn of this company of sons selected before the world began, reveals the deep mystery of this when He prays, “And now, O Father, glorify Thou me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was” (Jn. 17:5). Oh, yes! Jesus was glorified, had a glory, with the Father before the world began. He left that glory when He was lowered into this earth realm, and now He prays for the Father to restore to Him that glory He had with Him before He came! And that is when every son of God was glorified! It is not something happening now, though it shall be manifested now, but it was given us in Christ in that long ago before the world began. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). Aren’t you glad!

Clarity is coming to the sons of God. Understanding, perception, consciousness, expression, purpose, destiny. God is awakening all of this in us! We are called with an holy calling, called to ascend the mount of God, to ascend to the throne zone! He is awakening within us that reality we knew with the Father from before the foundation of the world. You are here by divine appointment! All your steps are ordered of the Lord. The body you were born with, the family you were born into, your parents, the town you were raised in, the school you attended, the friends you acquired, the mate you chose, the job you held, the life you’ve lived, the experiences you’ve had, the joys and sorrows, the tragedies and triumphs, the apparent mistakes and the victories, all that has taken place in your experience was mapped out in the council of God on that glorious day when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy!

As we ascend into the heavens of God’s Spirit to sit with Him in His throne we discover the truth of these words:

The throne room looks the same
As I ascend back to whence I came;
There’s the scepter that was mine
Before I left there;
And there I sit with all the sages
I was enthroned with before the ages,
But most of all, my Father
Out of whom I came!

The cry of the book of Revelation is the call for us to “Come up hither” into a higher realm of life and glory. The important truth for us to understand now is that in the Revelation there is both a coming out and a coming up. “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her my people, that ye be not partaker of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” (Rev. 18:4). That very word came to us in great power by the Spirit many years ago during the time of a sovereign move of God in our midst. We were obedient to the word we heard from heaven and hasted to come out of the old order

church system, and out of the whole religious order of man. God began in us a process of complete and total restoration of His truth, His ways, His will, His purpose, His life, His mind, and the things of His Spirit!

Then, after He called us out of the religious systems of man, and had consumed the spirit and ways of those systems out of our minds and hearts, we heard another Voice as of a trumpet talking with us, inviting us to “Come up hither” to a higher spiritual realm. When we came up to a higher place in the Spirit, He then said to us, “I will show thee things which must be hereafter.” Then we were immediately in the Spirit and saw “a throne set in heaven (or in the realm of the Spirit), and One sat on the throne.” When, at our Father’s invitation, we ascended in the Spirit into the throne zone, we beheld the Lord seated upon His throne of majesty and power. And what a revelation that was! Yet here is the wonder of it all — not just to see God in Christ seated upon His throne, but to comprehend the deep and eternal significance of His invitation to us to “Come up hither.” “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne” (Rev. 3:21).

Not to every man, not to every believer, not to every preacher is the invitation given to “Come up hither.” Not all have ears to hear the Voice! Not all are willing to leave the candlestick realm! Not all have followed on to be overcomers! If we have really heard the Voice, if the Lord has indeed revealed these truths to us by His Spirit, if we have truly overcome the world, the flesh, the devil, and the false religious systems of man, He also invites us to sit with Him and in Him on that throne! The kingdom of God will be brought to pass in all the earth as we, the overcomers, reign in union with Christ in the Spirit and by His spiritual rod of iron exercise His spiritual authority and power over the nations to break the rule of sin, tyranny, error, flesh, and death. This work will be accomplished by the mighty administration of His throne operating in our lives in and by the Spirit. Isn’t it wonderful!

Chapter 67

THE THRONE

continued

“Immediately I was in the Spirit: and, behold, *a throne was set in heaven*, and One sat on the throne” (Rev. 4:2).

The exclamation, “Behold! A throne!” sets the mood and declares the scene which greets John’s gaze as he passes through the open door into the heavenly court. There is much more to be seen, but the glory of the throne and He who sits upon it is of such fabulous radiance that all else seems dim beside. In this and the next chapter the word “throne” occurs seventeen times.

The scriptures continually speak of thrones in connection with the sovereignty and power of God. The throne of God is a developing throne, just as every purpose of God is *progressive* and *unfolding* from age to age, the body of Christ is *growing* and *being builded up* a spiritual temple, the bride of Christ is *being prepared* and is *making herself ready* for the marriage union, and the kingdom of God is *expanding* so that “of the *increase of His government... there shall be no end.*” Let us then see that this is not the throne of God in its eternalness, but a new and fresh and more glorious revelation of the throne in an advanced manifestation and administration. John sees it, not as long since fixed and settled in this locality and form, but just as it was taking up its rest in this place. It was *being set* as He was looking! That is the sense of the Greek text. The expression is in a tense which denotes unfinished action, reaching its completion at the time of the seeing.

“I saw a throne as *having just been set* in heaven!” This is truly marvelous, for it shows that this vision refers to *a new order of things*, which first comes into being at the time to which the vision refers. The apostle’s language implies that the act of the placing of the throne where he saw it, was only being completed at the moment of his looking. That moment was the moment of him being called up out of the earthlies into the heavenlies! The prophet Daniel beheld this same scene and describes it thus, “I beheld till the thrones were *set* (not *cast down* as the King James Bible has it), and the Ancient of days did sit, whose throne was like the fiery flame” (Dan. 7:9). Daniel’s vision embraced the *placing* of the throne, as well as the throne itself.

When John, being in the Spirit, looked aloft into the heavens of God’s Spirit, *he saw a throne* which is the seat of universal authority and dominion. But he saw that throne in a new and more glorious administration, to bring into view a new order of things. It is the same throne — but in a new dimension! Up until the vision of the open door in heaven only one man out of all humanity had access to the throne realm to capture the power, the

glory, and the majesty of the throne realm, and then come back into the earth realm and reveal it. But now a many-membered man will have access to the throne realm, thousands of in-Christed ones to step forth from the mercy seat in the Holiest of all to express the life, light, love, goodness, deliverance, salvation, and power of God before the face of all nations and unto all the ends of the earth. This is the *manchild upon the throne!* These are the overcomers who are called to *sit with Christ in His throne!* These are God's called and chosen elect who rule the nations with a rod of iron! This is the new administration of the throne that John beholds, high above the limited ministry of the candlestick realm, bringing the new order of the kingdom of God through manifested sons!

In a little nursery rhyme that many who read these lines will remember from their childhood we have a picture of the pathetic shroud of darkness that hangs like a pall over the church's understanding of these deep and wonderful truths of God:

Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been?
I've been to London to see the Queen.
Pussy cat, pussy cat, what have you seen there?
I saw a mouse under her chair.

Pathetic as this picture is in the natural realm, it is even more sad in the spiritual realm. So many saints have visions of that bright glory world above, and instead of beholding the glory of sonship and the power of the throne, all they can see is golden streets, celestial streams, roses that never fade, mansions with gold bath tubs, harps, and fluttering angels. Like the pussy cat, they cannot see the queen in all her glory and dominion, they see only the mouse under her chair! The carnal mind simply cannot see the true realities and glorious significance of sonship to God. Instead it treasures the outer things of buildings, meetings, musicians, programs, rituals, ceremonies, ordinances, organization, efforts, and works. But God is calling a people to *come up hither* to the throne realm where **all that God is** many be touched, known, experienced, and manifested!

When one ascends high enough all he sees is the *throne* and *One sitting upon it!* That is all the high priest saw in the Most Holy Place, and that is what John the beloved beheld when the door was opened in heaven. The throne room is so grand and so flooded with reality and glory, yet the old order church has been chasing mice under the throne and perceives not the majesty of that realm. When Isaiah stood in the throne zone he cried out, "The whole earth is full of His glory!" The glory of God became ALL to him in the presence of the majesty on high. When we turn from the religious mice and behold the true wonders of the Spirit world we come to *know Him as He is*. It grieves me when people talk about heaven and miss the glory of God upon earth! My spirit is saddened when believers talk about heaven in terms of mansions over the hilltop or a cabin in the corner, while they live out their lives void of a true spiritual understanding of Christ raised up within His people in the glory of kingdom authority and power — the **throne zone**. Golden streets, gates of pearl, and walls of jasper are merely spiritual poetry expressing to us deep and profound *spiritual realities*. They are figures of speech employed by the Holy Spirit of truth to help us leap over the walls of our logic and

capture that which is indescribable. Oh, that all men might see the awesome glory of God that dwells in these vessels of clay! The kingdom of God is *within you*, precious son and daughter of the heavenly Father!

My deepest prayer is that men may get their eyes off the mouse under the chair and *behold the throne*, the wisdom and glory and power of the kingdom of God within. You need not go anywhere to come up hither to the throne realm! It is closer to you than the air that you breathe. It's closer to you even than the blood that courses through your veins. In the power of the kingdom of God within you there is no limitation at all. All things are possible! All the wealth of divinity, all the riches of the mind of the Father, all the abundance of joy, peace, love, faith, and power is **in your spirit**, the throne room within Christ in you! All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Him **are in you today**, in the Spirit of the living God which is in your spirit, that spirit which you **are** upon this earth! Discover that throne within today, my friend, draw from its wealth, suck from its life, receive from its power and you will walk as a new creation, transformed into the image of God. In the surpassing glory of sonship to God golden streets will have no importance at all! You won't even see the mouse under the chair! All the virtues and values of God, all the attributes of wisdom, righteousness, and power, are centered in the **throne zone**. All that God is and ever shall be and all that He does is in the **throne zone**. All of God's mercy, grace, and goodness radiate out from the **throne zone**. In the **throne zone** you can see all things as they really are!

“When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy messengers with Him, THEN SHALL HE SIT UPON THE THRONE OF HIS GLORY” (Mat. 25:31). When the Lord comes into His temple, which temple we are, and we are raised up into His glory and power in the Spirit, then He sits upon the throne of His glory! Darkened minds picture our Lord soaring down out of the skies on a great cumbersome throne, all dazzling white (Rev. 20:11), like a king arrayed in all his trappings in the natural. But we should remember that “the words I speak unto you, *they are spirit*, and *they are life*” (Jn. 6:63); we should remember that prophecy is given in prophetic language, in highly figurative speech! A throne means dominion and power and authority. White denotes righteousness. So a white throne denotes *righteous dominion*. That is God's throne! His dominion is righteous, that is, it is *right*. It is *just*. It destroys evil and redeems men unto God. It destroys sin and death and quickens men unto righteousness and life. It is a throne of mercy and judgment, even corrective judgment, that makes what is wrong, right. That is what is *right* or *righteous*! And that is the throne God is raising up within His sons! That is the spirit every son must have toward *all men* before we can reign upon the throne!

THE OMNIPRESENT THRONE

God is not a limited physical being that can sit on a tangible throne in one restricted locality somewhere out beyond the blue. God is spirit and God is everywhere and thus His throne is a spiritual throne and is everywhere. The one great truth that all theologians agree on is that God is *omnipresent spirit* who not only created, but upholds and *fills* the whole universe and all things! And our scientists tell us that in the universe there are

more worlds than individual grains of sand on the beaches of all the earth. Astronomy informs us of the enormous distances that separate the stars of the physical universe. So remote are the nearest ones that four years are required for light traveling 186,000 miles a second to traverse the distance. Yet speaking astronomically, such stars are very near neighbors! Galaxies have been discovered which are billions of light years away.

You cannot put a God who is that great and everywhere present and bottle Him up on a physical throne in one limited spot. Oh, no! *He is everywhere and His throne is everywhere.* The throne of the God who is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent **spirit** is not a material one but bespeaks the REALM OF HIS SUPREME AND UNIVERSAL AUTHORITY AND RULERSHIP; and our Lord Jesus Christ has been exalted to the glory of that rulership. The throne of God is a sphere of power and authority, a position of eminence, a condition and a state of being. The reign of God's Christ is the assumption of the almighty power and universal dominion of the Father. It is the dispensing of HIS POSITIVE ENERGY FORCE into His creation in specific ways. Exalted to that high realm Jesus no longer walks in a limited physical body, but He now indwells the church, **which is His body**, the FULLNESS OF HIM THAT FILLETH ALL IN ALL (Eph. 1:22-23).

If heaven were a "place" out beyond the galaxies somewhere, can you imagine how long it would take for God to hear a prayer, how long it would take to *get* to heaven were we to travel there, how long it would have taken Jesus to get from heaven to earth when He descended to dwell among us? Why, bless your heart, after two thousand years Jesus would still be on His way back to the throne even if He traveled at the speed of light! And He would need billions of more years to get there! The angel Gabriel was dispatched from heaven *while Daniel was praying* and was able to reach the prophet Daniel *while he was yet in his prayer* (Dan. 9:20-23). Real distance is measured not in miles or light years, but rather in time required to reach a destination. Heaven, therefore, is **not far away!**

When we pause to think of the terrifying vastness of the universe, our human tendency is to think that God could never pay close attention to the tiny details of our lives. Our walk to the store, the streets we cross, the entrance we use, the groceries we select, the people we meet, the mood of the cashier, the price we pay at the checkout, the thousand and one little decisions we must make and challenges we face — does God care about these trivial details? The McDonald's restaurant chain says, "We do it all for you." But they don't. They can't. Larger crowds make for less personal attention. So how can God direct the whole vast universe and give us personal attention at the same time? Well, says Jesus, amazingly God does! "Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Mat. 10:30). To God both small and big are beautiful and worthy of His loving attention. And I will tell you how He does this!

The scriptures use many terms that are suited to our understanding. When God speaks to us He uses terminology that is comprehensible to us, in order to convey concepts that are beyond us. These are called "terms of accommodation" or "anthropomorphic terms" if I might use that \$10.00 word. It means simply this — there are certain attributes that

belong to us as human beings that are attributed to God and they are used of God in order that you and I might understand God better. For instance, the scripture says, “the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the earth.” Now God doesn’t have physical eyes! And frankly, I don’t understand how you can see without eyes, and therefore the only way I can understand it is for God to say to us, “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the earth.” And now I understand that God *sees!*

Not only do I understand that God sees, but I also understand that God sees everything, everywhere. Nothing is hid from His sight! The “eyes” of God are *spirit eyes*. God is omnipresent, that is, present everywhere at the same time. The spirit eyes of God, or His ability to see by Spirit, are as omnipresent as God is omnipresent! That is, the eyes of Spirit are not localized — God doesn’t have two remarkable eyes somewhere in His head with wonderful X-ray vision that can pierce the vast distances of the universe and see everything, everywhere at will. Oh, no! His eyes are omnipresent — He sees everything, everywhere at the same time and He sees it from right there where He is, not from some distant vantage point. His Spirit is right there present with you as you read these lines and He sees you there by His Spirit that is there. Because He “fills all things” His Spirit is at the same time in Moscow, Cairo, Beijing, Washington, Caracas, Johannesburg, and Paris and He sees everything there by His Spirit there. Omnipresent eyes! It is indeed wonderful! And yet they are not eyes as we know eyes, but just His *universal ability to see* by His Spirit. The One who made the eye can see without an eye! I don’t understand it — therefore the term “eye” is given to us as a symbol standing for the reality in God the Spirit.

Again the scriptures say that the heavens are the “handiwork” or “fingerwork” of God. God doesn’t have fingers like we have, but He can do the work of fingers, therefore the Holy Spirit speaks of the creation as the work of His fingers. So the One who made the fingers, the hand, and the arm can do the work of the fingers, the hand, and the arm, *by His Spirit*. The hand of the Lord is not localized, it does not exist in some specific spot somewhere in the universe from whence it moves out through time and space to perform some action. Oh, no! God is omnipresent Spirit — therefore the hand of God is as omnipresent as God Himself. His hand is a spirit hand and speaks of His great ability to act, perform, do, make, and create. God acts by His Spirit in every place at the same time. Therefore “His arm is not short that it cannot save.” God’s hand is right there in the room where you sit this very moment. And His hand is everywhere else in all the unbounded heavens at the same time!

Furthermore, Christ is now seated on the right hand of God — He is seated there on that right hand right there where you are, yea, even in the deepest depth of your being, so that the throne of God is nearer to you than the air that you breathe! Christ is seated at the right hand of power, that is, in the position where God acts, does, works, and creates, so that all God does He does in and by and through the Son of God. And He does it right there where you are! Can we not see by this how simple yet profound is the knowledge that we have been raised up and made to sit in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus! The spiritual dimension of God’s abilities in Christ have been awakened and quickened within us, our spirit joined to His Spirit, so that we sit in that spiritual dimension by spiritual

consciousness, and we haven't moved one inch to get there! Somehow I understand that today and it makes the reality clear to my own dull human way of thinking.

The "ears" of the Lord are not huge elephant-like ears possessing such super-sensitivity that they can hear sounds from billions of light years away. Oh, no! The ears of the Lord are spirit ears, equally present in every place His Spirit is; He hears you not from a distance but from right where you stand in His presence. The ears of the Lord permeate all places and all things by His Spirit and they are all about you and within you. He hears every thought of your mind, every desire of your heart, every cry of your soul! And His wonderful omnipresent *spirit mind* is able to instantly and efficiently assimilate, process, compute, utilize and respond to all these untold trillions of bits of information with the same ease that you and I can drive our car while talking on the phone and be conscious of the weather all at the same time! God is all He is everywhere, and He can do all that He does everywhere. The mouth of the Lord is an omnipresent spirit mouth, His ability to speak in every place at the same time. Out of His Spirit He can speak within your own heart or ears, while at the same instant He is speaking to millions of other people around the world and to holy angels and creatures of all kinds in far distant worlds. He speaks to each by His Spirit present within them, not from some distant "place" where His "mouth" is! In like manner the creative power of God is an omnipresent power and God creates, not in one locale, but out of the infinity of Himself.

The dwelling place of God cannot be any smaller or more limited than He is! The whole vast realm of the heavens is His throne. The Lord spoke through His anointed prophet, declaring, "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool" (Isa. 66:1). He fills the entire immense extent of the heavens, which is the realm of the Spirit. The heavens are His throne, which means that He rules and reigns in the realm of the Spirit and by His Spirit. If we could measure the extent of the Spirit, from one end of the heavens to the other, we would then be able to estimate the extent or bounds of His throne. Just as scientists cannot discover the extremities of the physical universe, so is it impossible to know the expanse of the Spirit. Neither the heavens, nor the earth, nor the whole universe can contain Him. Solomon said that the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him. Our Father is greater than all! He and His throne are limitless and boundless! And He shall reign until all principalities and powers, all creatures and men, and all things of all orders everywhere throughout the unbounded heavens have acknowledged Him, and being reconciled in their hearts come to love, adore, honor, and obey Him with willing hearts. He shall reign until all things everywhere both perceive and resonate with the glory that He is!

Truly the throne of God is a **spiritual throne** and is as omnipresent as God is! God is everywhere, and His throne is everywhere, for His throne is naught but THE REALM OF HIS ALMIGHTY AUTHORITY AND OMNIPOTENT POWER. There is no need to go anywhere physically to relate to God's throne. The journey is a spiritual one! The throne is all around you, within you, and present equally everywhere within the realm of Spirit in which God exists and dwells. You can either experience or ascend that throne within yourself through union with Christ and the release of His power. "All authority in heaven and in earth is given unto me," Jesus said. The ascension of Jesus was the supreme event

of world history. He ascended not to a place, but to an office in and by the Spirit. He departed from the arena of humiliation and limitation to enter into His glory. He, in one instant, vaulted from the status of despised Galilean teacher to the cosmic King of the universe, rising over the heads of Pilate, Herod, and Caesar Augustus. The ascension catapulted Jesus to the right hand of God where He was enthroned as King of kings and Lord of lords. The implication of this event for every son of God and for the world is staggering. He has invited us to share that throne! He has beckoned all who have received the call to sonship to ascend in Him to that place in the Spirit where all authority and power is accessed. That is the destiny of every manifest son of God. That authority is present everywhere by His Spirit! But it must become appropriated, embodied, and expressed through a people who attain to the FULLNESS OF CHRIST. “*Come up hither!*” That is the reality of His throne in and by the Spirit!

The following words by brother Paul Mueller speak profoundly to our hearts. “Seeing that the throne of God is in the heavenlies, or in the realm of Spirit, there is no power anywhere that can withstand the power and authority of the throne of our Father. As His sons, we must ascend in the Spirit to the heavenlies, worship the Lord, and give Him all honor and praise. As we do this, we are establishing a vital link between heaven and earth by which the kingdom of God more fully comes to earth, thus unseating the powers of man. Each time we rise in the Spirit to worship our Father at His spiritual altar, the fire from His altar is cast into the earth to change the world (Rev. 8:1-5). That fire, which God is, also burns away the dross from our lives, and delivers us of this sinful, Adamic nature. This is the direct result of the reign of Christ, which shall continue to increase until all is changed!

“The Lord’s greatest dominion at this time is in the lives of His elect and chosen ones. We are now being ruled and governed by the Lord totally and absolutely. He has extended the dominion of His kingdom to our hearts and lives, and now the Lord will rule us with complete and undisputed dominion. And He will continue to rule and reign in our lives until every enemy within us is made subject to Him. This is the present truth of the kingdom of God!” — end quote.

The Greek word *thronos* means “the place and seat of authority” and refers to all executive authority that is committed into the hands of God’s Christ, Head and body. Understand that the throne is here now; here is infinity; here is eternity; here is omnipotence, waiting for you to enter into your heritage in God! Again and again in the Psalms and in the Prophets David and others make this beautiful and significant assertion: “*The Lord reigneth...*” The Lord reigneth over the heathen, the Lord reigneth over the nations, the Lord reigneth in Zion, the Lord reigneth in the midst of His people! It is always present tense. The Lord reigns now! That doesn’t mean that He has purposed to deal with every thing and everybody now, but He has assumed the dominion of the world and all things, and all is safe in His care and all will experience His sovereign purpose in His timing and according to His program and will. It brings joy and victory to know that the Lord reigneth! His throne is established forever. The scepter of His kingdom is a right scepter. He is clothed with strength that is unperceived by the world.

The Hebrew word translated “reigneth” is *malak* and means to reign, **to ascend the throne, to induct into royalty**. Thus, when we are called to “*Come up hither*” to share His throne, we are called to ascend the throne and to be inducted into the royal power of that throne! Therefore, as the elect hear His voice and hasten to His call, we are ascending the very throne of Christ in a greater relationship with Him and in Him. We are being *inducted* into the royalty of the throne of Christ — into His *reigning realm!* Through the experiences we encounter in this earthly life, with all their testings, trials, and provings, we are becoming overcomers and thereby *learning to reign* over all things by His royal mind, will, and life!

What does it mean when the door is opened in heaven and John sees a throne having just been set in a heavenly place? What is the divine message we should understand when the Voice as a trumpet invites John to come up to the throne room? When the Father shows us in the heavenly realm of the Spirit His throne of glory established in a fresh and more glorious revelation, it thus indicates an expanded manifestation and administration of His dominion. God is ready to deal in a brand new way with things not dealt with before! It indicates an increase in spiritual activity in the earth. **It indicates a time of the greater dominion of the Lord as King in the earth.** He calls His chosen ones to see His throne in the heavens, with Christ seated on that throne, to reveal His truth that He will now rule in them in a greater way, yea, completely, fully, so that He may then reign through them over the New Day He is birthing in the earth. It thus marks the beginning of a period of the revelation of divine truth and the dealings of the Father in His sons to bring them to the hour of manifestation.

Oh, how blessed the prospect! Truly we have come to that time! May the Holy Spirit reveal to all His elect the power and authority of His kingdom that is now to be revealed through the sons of God! May all God’s called ones understand that God now determines to change things in the earth! As He allows His chosen ones to see the open heavens, with Christ seated on His throne, and to hear the Voice bidding us to arise and come on up into that place with Him, we know that He is coming to reign in our lives to redeem us fully and completely in spirit, soul, and body. And He shall reign in us until His throne is fully established in us, even that fresh, new, advanced manifestation and administration of His throne that shall subdue all things until the knowledge of the glory of the Lord covers the earth as the waters cover the sea! Hallelujah!

THE ONE WHO SITS UPON THE THRONE

“Immediately I was in the Spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *One sat upon the throne*. And *He that sat* was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald” (Rev. 4:2-3).

Let us notice — **THE ONE ON THE THRONE DID NOT HAVE AN IMAGE!** All John saw on the throne was colors, beautiful colors. And yet, John saw One sitting there. What about this One that sat on the throne, that could be seen, and yet, was not visible to the natural eye? He had no form, only radiance! John was not looking into the natural elements when he saw the One on the throne. The scripture says he was in the Spirit on

the Lord's day! John stood in the very reality of heaven as he was caught up in the highest realm of the Spirit. The One he saw *was spirit*. Do not look, my beloved, at the throne of God as a natural seat sitting there for someone to sit on. Don't imagine a throne-like chair! Here seated in the splendor of the omnipresent heavenly-spiritual realm John beheld One of many colors. Even though He did not have a figure, John could see Him in and by the Spirit.

The One John saw is spirit. In the tenderest of words Jesus explained to the woman of Samaria this great and eternal truth: "The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father *in spirit* and *in truth*: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. *God is a spirit*: and they that worship Him *must* worship Him *in spirit* and *in truth*" (Jn. 4:23-24). God is Spirit, and we will understand a great mystery when we see that **spirit is light**. "God *is light*, and in Him is no darkness at all" (I Jn. 1:5). We cannot see God with natural eyes. No man hath seen God at any time! Pure light is invisible. That is why in outer space there is nothing but darkness, although the light rays from every star are passing through. It is only when light is *reflected* that it becomes visible. The rays of the sun strike the earth and are reflected off of it, creating the light of day on the planet. God is light, and no man hath seen God at any time! Only as we see the light **reflected in God's Christ** do we see Him! "The only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath led Him forth into view" (Jn. 1:18).

As I have mentioned, pure light is invisible. One writer has pointed out that a scientific analysis of sunlight reveals that it consists of three kinds of rays. (1) *Chemical rays* or *actinic*. These rays are invisible and can neither be seen or felt. (2) *Light rays*. These rays can be seen but never felt. (3) *Heat rays*. These rays are felt but are never seen. GOD IS LIGHT, and in Him there is no darkness at all. Therefore God, in a spiritual way, has His being, function, and expression on those three levels. We know that God has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father corresponds to the chemical rays of sunlight. *No man hath seen God at any time*. The Son, who is the light of the world, corresponds to the light rays which are reflected, the One whom we can see but not feel. The Holy Spirit corresponds to the heat rays, since He is felt in the lives of believers but is never seen. Now, these are not three *kinds* of light, but three dimensions of the one reality of light. In like manner, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not three *individual Gods*, but three dimensions, three expressions, or three operations of the one and only God!

Many a sermon has been preached about the throne of God in heaven, and I think most of them have missed the mark because they see only the Father on the throne. The greatest mystery of the ages is that seated on the throne of God today is a MAN. God Himself came down from heaven and invaded humanity, He took upon Himself the nature and the body of a man, so that when He went back to the throne (His omnipotent power in the Spirit) He would take humanity back to the throne. There is no mystery to it that God sits on the throne, He belongs there; but to think now that MAN is sitting on the throne! "Jesus of Nazareth, a MAN approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs... THIS JESUS hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore BEING BY THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD EXALTED..." (Acts 2:22,32-33). Our Lord Jesus Christ has been exalted to the glory of supreme and universal rulership! The right hand of

God is the realm of power and authority, a position of eminence, a condition and a state of being. It is the assumption of the almighty power and dominion of the Father! It is the dispensing of His *positive energy force* into creation. Exalted to that high realm Jesus no longer walks in a physical body, for He now indwells the spirits of His many brethren, who are the fullness of Him who filleth all in all (Eph. 1:22-23).

John has given us a description of the radiant glory of this One who sits on the throne. It is interesting to note that the identity of this One is given us further on in the book of Revelation. “And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And He said unto me, It is done. **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end**” (Rev. 21:5-6). Oh, yes! The One sitting on the throne identifies Himself as “Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.” Then in chapter twenty-two this One whose name is Alpha and Omega says, “**I Jesus** have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things” (Rev. 22:13-16). There can be no mistake about who Alpha and Omega is! Throughout the book of Revelation He is the Lord, Jesus Christ!

Yet — I show unto you a mystery. In chapter five John beholds a Lamb as it had been slain. The Lamb is standing *in the midst of the throne!* But then the Lamb comes and takes the seven-sealed book out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne. It looks like an impossibility! If Jesus is the One sitting on the throne, how could Jesus come and take the book out of the hand of Him who sits on the throne? Throughout the New Testament only Jesus is the Lamb! Only He has redeemed us by His blood! Only He is Alpha and Omega, the Creator of all things! We can only conclude that *both* of these are Jesus! But how can this be? The answer is very simple. We do not see here *two separate persons* but two manifestations, operations, or ministrations of the same person. Do we not have these “parts” within ourselves? Each of us are composed of spirit, soul, and body. Are we then *three different persons*? Not at all! We are but one person in three dimensions of being. My spirit can speak to my soul and say, “Bless the Lord, O my soul!” And my soul will bless the Lord, prompted by my spirit. Then my soul may say to my body, “I am joyful — laugh!” And my body — facial expression, vocal cords, breath — will produce visible, audible laughter. Can you not see the mystery? People talk about the three “persons” of the Godhead — there is no such thing! Just as man is a tri-partite being, yet only one person, so is God a tri-partite Being, yet only one person of God!

In chapter four of Revelation, every description of Christ there is Christ in His deity, Christ as God, sitting on the throne, the eternal Lord, God Almighty. But then when we look at chapter five we find that every description of Jesus is Jesus in His humanity — the Lamb slain, the crucified One, the lion of the tribe of Judah. It was the humanity of Christ that was of the tribe of Judah. It was the humanity of Christ that was crucified. It was the humanity of Christ that died — the Lamb of God. The things seen by John are *symbols, pictures, terms of accommodation* to help us understand the mystery. You see, my beloved, the true and full revelation of God could not come to man until it came in the man Jesus. Through His sinless life, through His sonship walk, through His death, burial, and resurrection *God in man* overcame sin, limitation, death, hell, and the grave. Through this wonderful work God took everything that was in deity and *transferred it*

into humanity! Therefore the Lamb is *worthy!* He is worthy to take the book! He is worthy to open the seals! He is worthy to bring to mankind the full revelation of God! Jesus the Lamb, Jesus the man, taking the book out of the hand of the Father, is just a picture of this transferal of divine, incorruptible life and glory from the realm of deity into the world of humanity! It is in and through Jesus the Lamb that this has been accomplished! Isn't it wonderful!

A dear brother was caught up in the Spirit. I know not whether he was in the body or out of the body, but he was caught up in the Spirit and he saw, in spirit, the throne of God. There was *One* that sat upon the throne! He did not see three thrones: God the Father sitting on one, God the Son sitting on another, and God the Holy Ghost sitting on a third. Nor did he see one throne with three persons of God sitting side by side upon it. He saw *One* on the throne and the One that he saw was Jesus. He saw Jesus sitting on the throne! But emanating and radiating, in an unending, all encompassing, out-raying of glory, majesty, wisdom, dominion, power, love, mercy and goodness was the Father! God was *in Christ* and Christ was *in the Father* and they were *one*. Shining out of Jesus was the glory of the Father so that Jesus could say, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself (of my humanity): but the Father (deity) that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works sake" (Jn. 14:9-11).

Blessed be God! It may stagger your imagination to hear what I now say, but, once you see the truth of it, the mystery of God will be complete. All those blessed ones who now hear the call to "*Come up hither*" are apprehended "in Christ Jesus" to share the honor and glory of His throne. "To him that overcometh will I grant to *sit with me in my throne*, even as I also overcame, and am set down *with my Father in His throne*" (Rev. 3:21). This shows that as we come to know the overcoming power in the resurrection life of Christ, we are also made to experience the *ascension* of Christ. We are chosen of God not only to be made alive from the dead and have God's life, but also to sit in the heavenly places as ASCENDED MEN! And furthermore we are called and chosen not only to be ascended men, dwelling in the heavenlies, but also to sit upon the throne of Christ, which is the Father's throne, as ENTHRONED MEN! Therefore ascension and enthronement truly are the position of those who know Christ in His fullness.

The position of ascension rests not only on the fact of Christ's ascension, but on THE LIFE OF ASCENSION WE HAVE OBTAINED WITHIN US. Likewise the position of enthronement rests not only on the fact of Christ's enthronement, but on THE AUTHORITY AND POWER OF HIS KINGDOM DOMINION THAT HAS BEEN RAISED UP WITHIN US. The Christ who indwells our hearts and is being formed in our lives is the ascended and enthroned Christ, and His life is ascended and powerful and heavenly, and is given from heaven, out of the realm of the Spirit. Although in the conditions of our outer man we still live on earth, yet according to the inner man we are already in heaven. The situation is just like our Lord's during His time on earth. He said that though He "descended from heaven" He was still "in heaven" (Jn. 3:13). This was

due to the fact that His life and consciousness were heavenly and one with heaven — the realm of the Spirit.

It is true therefore that as we ascend into the high places of God in the Spirit, we are reigning with Christ in His heavenly, spiritual throne. As we truly become overcomers by the ascended life of Christ, we are also given power over the nations to rule them with a rod of iron, and as the vessels of a potter they shall be broken to shivers (Rev. 2:26-27). This rule is given to the overcomers *in Christ!* As the life of ascension within us raises up kingdom dominion in our lives we reign with Christ in the Spirit, and the worldly powers of man shall be displaced by the power of the Spirit and replaced by the spiritual power of the kingdom of God. We are a spiritual people. And the throne of God is the spiritual realm of our Father's dominion. Therefore our reign in Christ is a spiritual reign, which is accomplished as we move in and by His Spirit in relation to things in the earth realm. Through that spiritual dominion God's will is brought to pass on earth as it is in heaven.

The implication of such a marvelous truth is staggering to the imagination. I want you to see yourself *in Christ*. I want you to know that we have a great and eternal King upon the universal throne in the heavens! But He is not only in heaven, for God's elect is *the body of Christ* — the body of the One sitting on the throne! “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: **so also is Christ**” (I Cor. 12:12). If you can see that one throne where the Father of glory and the Son of man are seated together *as one*, and then see yourself and all God's sons seated in them *as one*, you will understand that even if there should be 144,000 sons *in Christ in the Father* sitting on the throne, there would still be *ONLY ONE UPON THE THRONE!*

This is the mystery. “That they all may be *one*; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be *one in us*...and the glory which Thou gavest me I have given them; that *they may be one, even as we are one*: I in them, and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one...Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory...and I have declared unto them Thy name (nature), and will declare it (through them): that the love wherewith Thou hast loved me may be *in them, and I in them*” (Jn. 17:21-24,26).

Such high and mighty purpose is certainly beyond the comprehension of the natural man or the natural mind. The truth and fullness of the wonder of it all only begins to seep into our quickened spirits when the spirit of revelation gives us a view of what it means for our life to be *hid with Christ in God*. Beholding in and by the Spirit the scenes of the wonderful heavenly scheme we see that in our union with Christ in God we are the *fullness of Him* that filleth all in all. GOD is upon the throne of the universe in the heavens! *In the Father* CHRIST sits upon the throne of the universe in the heavens! And *seated in Christ* WE are raised up and made to sit together with Christ in His throne, just as He sits in His Father's throne. There is only *one throne* and there is only *One* upon the throne!

There need be no question in the mind of any saint who is called to reign with Christ that the One on the throne is a CORPORATE ONE composed of many members. John

described Him as having the appearance of a jasper and a sardine stone. That is only the radiance of the glory of the Father! Methinks that when all the sons of God have been perfected, changed, transformed, and caught up to the throne of God, one day another dear brother will be caught up in the Spirit and will see, in spirit, the throne of God. And he will not see many thrones: with God the Father sitting on one, God the Son sitting on another, God the Holy Ghost sitting on a third, and many sons brought to glory sitting on a vast array of thrones. Oh, no! He will see one throne and he will see One on the throne. He will see Christ, a Christ of many members, Head and body, sitting on the throne! And emanating and radiating, in an unending, all encompassing, out-ricing of indescribable glory, majesty, wisdom, dominion, power, love, mercy, and goodness *will be the Father*. Shining out of this corporate Christ will be the glory of the Father, He in us and we in Him, so that we can say, "If you have seen us, you have seen the Father: for we and the Father are ONE!"

Jesus has promised us to sit down with Him in His throne. Not in another little throne beside His throne! Just as there are saints who are stones in the wall of the heavenly temple, or pillars in the temple, so there are those who become a *throne people*. These are the ruling sons of God, and it is from the throne of God and of the Lamb that the living river of life proceeds! The greatest manifestation of life the world has ever seen shall yet come forth in the earth through a people who **become the throne of God in the earth!** The glory of God fills the city, and the whole earth is full of His glory, and His glory is above the heavens — yet God *sits* upon His throne — there is a unique *concentration* of divine life, power, and dominion from those who make up the throne of God!

To be identified with His throne is the ultimate attainment of union with God. He is making us one with Him to such a degree that when He acts we act, when He moves we move, when He speaks we speak, and when He speaks all will speak the same thing because of the united life in the Spirit. It is a unity with Christ and with all who have grown up into the full measure of His stature. When God speaks from His throne, it is the voice of the many-membered Son, the voice that is as the sound of *many waters*, **many spirits merged into one gigantic waterfall — ONE GREAT RIVER OF LIFE!** Take the shoes from off your feet, oh saint of God, for the ground on which we stand is holy ground! Put away all lightness and foolishness that with heads bowed down, and hearts lifted up in worship, the Spirit of God may make plain how the life of God flowing in the exalted and enthroned Christ and the life of Christ flowing through His many brethren is ONE STREAM OF THE WATER OF LIFE! And these chosen ones who share His throne are included in the scene John saw as He gazed with holy wonder upon that glorious One who sat upon the throne!

Later John sees in the midst of the throne four living creatures, and also a Lamb standing as though it had been slain. And round about the throne, in the same position as the rainbow, which appeared as an emerald, were seated twenty-four elders. All of these are mere symbols of HIM who is seated upon the throne! I will write of this later, Lord willing, but let me say in passing that everything in and around the throne bespeaks of the different spiritual aspects, attributes, faculties, functions, powers, and ministrations of that many-membered One who occupies the throne. Oh, the wonder of it!

As we ascend in spirit to that heavenly realm of throneship we then realize this is where we really belong. The yearning deep within our hearts, wrought by the revelation and love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, to bless the world, right the wrongs, heal the wounds, assuage the suffering, abolish evil, and set creation free from its bondage to sin, sorrow, limitation, and death, is the divine indication that we are destined for throneship. Everything in the realm of the Spirit makes us feel at home with God and His Christ. As we consciously ascend higher and higher into the realm of Spirit, we see that a throne is set up in the heavens of His Spirit. We also see that One who is all glorious, arrayed in the Light that no Adamic man can approach unto, surrounded by a vast multitude of others who are arrayed as He is, and seated there upon the throne of the heavens. Truly it is a glorious scene of heavenly illumination and splendor to those who have been blessed of their Father to see as He sees!

A brother has shared the words of a prophetic song that was given by the Spirit at the time of a special moving of God some years ago. What a wonderful word it brings! The following are the words of that anointed song:

Don't you hear the Spirit calling,
Rise up, my love, and come away?
Leave the things of earth behind you,
Come and walk in God's new Day.

Enter now into His kingdom,
Bright the Light that points the way,
For the shadows now are fleeing,
Can't you hear the Spirit say?

Cast your doubts and fears behind you,
All His leading now obey.
Man's traditions will but blind you,
Jesus is the truth, the way.
The New Age is just before us,
Ye sons of God come lead the way.
Tell all the earth God's great salvation
To be revealed in this great Day.

Yes, I hear the Spirit calling,
Rise up, my love, and come away!
I've left the things of earth behind me,
And now I'll walk in God's new Day!

Chapter 68

THE THRONE

continued

“Immediately I was in the Spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He that sat was to look upon *like a jasper and a sardine stone...*” (Rev. 4:2-3).

The occupant of the throne appeared like the crystalline brightness of jasper and the fiery sardine (sardius) stone. The glory of the One sitting upon the throne is overwhelming in its impact upon the Seer. Yet, in the midst of it all, John recognizes certain truths expressed by the glory of all that he sees, and channels that truth to us by means of established oriental symbols which are to be found in the Old Testament. The first of these are referred to as the jasper and sardine stones. These were the first and the last precious stones in the breastplate of the high priest, only the sardine stone is there the first while here it is the last. The names of Benjamin and Reuben were engraven upon these two stones (Ex. 18:17-20). Benjamin means “the *son* of the right hand” and Reuben means “behold a *son!*” clearly and unmistakably connecting the throne with *sonship*. Thus we can conclude that God’s Christ, Head and body, God’s *corporate son* ready to reign in power — that is what the seer sees in his vision! The beauty and brightness of the jasper and sardine bespeak of *the glory of manifest sonship*. The sons of God who are coming to maturity shall be invested with the authority, power, and dominion of the throne of God, and they shall reign unto the ages of the ages.

Here is glory indescribable! The scene is one of luminous splendor! The One sitting on the throne was in appearance like unto a jasper and a sardine stone — not as to form or shape, for the idea is not one of physical appearance, but of glory and power. The scriptural representations of jasper are that it is “most precious,” crystalline, and purple in hue. The sardine, or sardius, is also described as exceedingly precious, and of a beautiful bright red or carnation color. It is capable of a particularly high and lasting polish. Uniting the qualities of tint and brilliancy belonging to the purer specimens of these precious gems, we have the appearance of *flames*, without their smokiness — a pure, purple, fiery, red, crystalline, *flashing light!*

We find this bright, fiery appearance of the Lord also described in the books of Ezekiel and Daniel. “From what had the appearance of His waist upward, I saw a lustre as it were glowing metal with the appearance of fire enclosed round about within it; and from the appearance of His waist downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness round about Him. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the

day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of *the likeness of the glory of the Lord*” (Eze. 1:27-28).

The scriptures are many which describe God and His throne as fire. **“Our God is a consuming fire!”** This is the aspect of God that so many fear. When Yahweh came down upon mount Sinai in a blazing, burning fire the children of Israel were frightened and refused to approach Him, sending Moses into God’s fiery presence to hear from God for them. Many today will not enter through the open door into the fiery presence of God’s throne because they fear the loss and pain it would bring to them! This fiery throne speaks of the Lord’s authority in our lives, first *in* us, then *through* us. By the power in His throne God consumes all we have and all we are in Adam, while at the same time catching us up into the brilliance of His ineffable glory where dwells divine life, immortality, wisdom, holiness, power, and authority.

The physical symbols of the great and eternal God who is spirit are *fire, light, and life*. Fire, as seen in the sun, is a terrible and consuming power. Yet it is the source of all life on this planet! Should you seek to enter into the sun, pain and death are the penalty. The sun will consume you! On the other hand, from this flaming source radiate all the marvels and beauties, colors, illumination, food, energy, and warmth that fill our earth. No fire means no light. No light means no life. The fire is only known and mediated to us in its eternal begetting of the light. It is the light from the fire that passes into all nature, quickening, transforming, sustaining, giving color, form, and substance to all things. This beautiful type teaches us the mystery of God with more force than any spoken word! To perform His life-giving work in creation our God, who is a consuming fire, reveals Himself in three operations: the fire must burn, the light must shine, and life must be quickened in us. These are the glorious and eternal realities emanating from the fiery presence of God and His throne! And these are the glories to be revealed through all of God’s sons who *become* the light and the life of the world!

THE RAINBOW AROUND THE THRONE

“And there was a *rainbow* round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald” (Rev. 4:3).

There is one thing you can absolutely count on in this world — there will *never be another world-wide flood!* It was God who in the days of righteous Noah opened the windows of heaven and broke up the fountains of the mighty deep, sending upon the inhabitants of earth a flood to destroy the utterly wicked and perverse civilization of that time, but it was the selfsame Lord who, after the fearful flood of waters had abated, made this covenant with Noah and his seed: “And I, behold, I establish my covenant *with you*, and *with your seed* after you; and *with every living creature* that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, *This is the token* of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations. *I do set*

my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a *token of a covenant* between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that *the bow* shall be seen in the cloud: and *I will remember* my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall *no more* become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be *in the cloud*; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the *everlasting covenant* between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, *This is the token of the covenant*, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth” (Gen. 9:9-17).

Throughout the long centuries since that fearful day, God in His great faithfulness and mercy has hung His bow of seven-fold witness in the clouds of millions of storms throughout the earth that we may know His heart of love toward all His creation. Would God that every man and woman, boy and girl, who see the rainbow when it appears in the sky would lift up their hearts in praise and thanksgiving to Him whose promises never fail and who keeps His word of salvation and redemption to every man.

There is something entrancingly wonderful about a rainbow! When by the spirit of revelation we look beyond the earthly symbol with its excellent beauty, we find God and see a truth and a glory that awakens the heart to worship at His feet. Thus did Ezekiel worship, when, caught up in the ecstasies of the Spirit, he beheld a *vision of God* so sublime that the heart of man has never yet been able to fathom its depths nor the tongue of man to expound its meaning. “Above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw...the appearance of fire round about...and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the *bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain*, so was the appearance of the likeness of the *glory of the Lord*. **And when I saw it I fell upon my face...**” (Eze. 1:27-28).

It is interesting to note that the Greek word used for rainbow in Revelation 4:3 is *iris* and denotes a bow that is a *complete circle*. In classical Greek the word was used of any bright halo surrounding an object. Everyone knows that the iris of the eye (brought into English from the Greek) is a complete circle that wraps itself around the pupil in the center. The bow surrounding the great throne of the heavenlies is revealed as a circular bow which completely wraps itself around the throne. This is indeed wonderful! In all the world there has never been a circular bow seen in the cloud. Every rainbow beheld by the eye of man is a half-circle and if it is a full bow it connects with the earth at both sides. I’m certain that all who read these lines have heard the old myth that there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Of course, as many a curious child has discovered, one can never find the end of the rainbow! Yet *the rainbow ends where the earth begins*. That is just the mystery of it!

Let your heart consider what I now say. The rainbow in the heavens of God’s Spirit is a complete circle simply because there is no “earth” to break it! Only the earth prevents the natural rainbow from being a circle! In like manner, is it not the *earthiness* of man’s carnality, fear, and unbelief that obstructs the full revelation of the glory of the Lord and the dominion of His throne in our lives? My heart greatly rejoices today in the knowledge

that God is forming a people, His chosen ones, raising up within us the dominion of His throne, *subduing all things in us, ending* the old fleshly nature, *rooting out* the old carnal mind, the old Adamic will, and the old soulical emotions, *consuming* by His fiery presence the old worldly ways, desires, plans, ambitions, hopes, and dreams, and the old Babylonish religious spirit and ways, that Christ may be all in all to us and through us. Oh, yes! How wonderful the path of the called and chosen really is! How blessed beyond belief to know that the rainbow of the glory of the Lord shall be beheld fully encircling the throne of God *within us* when there is no more “earth” in our hearts to break it!

Arched above and around the throne John saw a rainbow. As I have previously pointed out, the rainbow was *the sign of the covenant* that God made with Noah and all the inhabitants of the world proclaiming that never again would He destroy the earth and all creatures with water. Noah is a picture of how we get out of the old world dominated by the flesh and under the curse, and how we get into the new world of the kingdom of God dominated by the spirit of Life in Christ Jesus, wherein dwelleth righteousness. The only vehicle out of the old world is not a cruise ship, but a wonderful Person who has already made the transition! The rainbow around the throne is the symbol of God’s eternal covenant of mercy and grace whereby we escape from the old world of sin and death. In order to escape we must, like Noah, “find grace in the eyes of the Lord” in the very face of judgment upon the world in which we live. To escape we must pass through the judgment in the provision of God so that we come out of the judgment in our “ark” which is Christ!

In addition to this the rainbow has seven colors. The covenant has *seven levels*, just as the tabernacle of Moses had seven pieces of furniture and Israel had seven feasts by which men approached unto God. The seven pieces of furniture and the seven feasts picture the seven-fold process of our complete entrance into Christ. People are at different levels, but each and every son of Adam must experientially pass through all levels in order to fully enter into the new world of Christ. When we have fully entered into the new world of Christ we *shall be like Him* in nature, mind, wisdom, and power and experience the fullness of His resurrection life in spirit, soul, and body! There will be no more sin or death, no more carnal mind or corruption, no more weakness or limitation, for we shall have put on the Lord Jesus Christ in all the glory of His life and victory, and even our vile bodies shall be changed and fashioned into a body like His body of glory! This new world, fully entered into, is the world of *manifest sonship!*

The rainbow is a display of the colors of visible light — white light. The colors are arrayed in the order of the spectrum, red at the top, followed by orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. One writer has explained that when we analyze sunlight, we find that it consists of *seven* visible colors which compose the solar spectrum seen in the rainbow, or in the flashing colors of a well-cut diamond or beveled glass. If we pass a shaft of sunlight through a prism of glass, we find that the different colors have different angles of refraction, and when thrown upon a surface, the prism will appear in seven colors. The fact that light can be divided into the seven basic colors from violet to red speaks of the perfection of the divine nature, for the number “seven” stands for that which is complete and perfect, and God is perfect!

As I did some research on the rainbow I discovered that scientifically a true and complete rainbow has *seven colors*. This is important! It fits with the whole scheme of seven throughout the Word of God and in the book of Revelation. It is interesting to note that the New Age Movement today makes much of the rainbow. Their rainbow, however, has only *six colors* — and six is the number of *man*! What a revelation this is! I have made the necessary discovery that the “inner Christ consciousness” of which New Agers speak is in fact the *soul* of the natural man rather than the *spirit* which is in-breathed and regenerated by God. Does this not powerfully explain why New Age people as a whole do not embrace the fundamentals of the gospel, but in fact reject the life-giving blood of the Lamb of God and the quickening, regenerating power of the Holy Spirit?

I have no hesitation in telling you that the “true inner self” the New Age people have discovered within themselves is the awesome, unexplored *power of the soul* — the selfhood — of the ADAMIC MAN! This can easily be demonstrated. The popular emphasis among nearly all new age groups has to do with *psychic powers*! The word “psychic” comes directly from the Greek word *psyche* which means — guess what — “soul or mind.” Nothing psychic has anything to do with the *spirit*! All the major thrust of New Age philosophy concerns itself with *psychics, psychic powers, psychic phenomena, extra sensory perception, transcendental meditation, bio-feedback, alpha-psigenics, alpha mind control, krishna consciousness, telepathy, hypnotism, psycho-analysis, psycho-therapy* and a host of other *soulical* or *mind sciences*. None of these have anything to do with the Holy Spirit! And when they do delve into “spirit” realms it is always “spirits” of one kind or another from the “spirit world” and never the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD! All such activities stem from the recessed delusions of the Adamic mind or from *familiar spirits* out of the occult realms of darkness. I earnestly exhort every reader to seek the face of the living Lord Jesus Christ until the spirit of wisdom and discernment from God *reveals to you by His Spirit* the power of the *living word of God* which is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the deepest depths of our nature, even to the dividing line between *old Adam’s soul* and the *quickenning spirit* of the living Christ in the spirit of every born-again, regenerated man.

The glory emanating from the throne of God’s power brings transforming rays of Life and Light and Love. It awakens dead and darkened worlds, and like natural light that is complete with seven colors, His emanating glory expresses the completeness of His divine attributes. Let us notice briefly these seven colors of light and see how they apply spiritually to the realities of Christ within:

RED — the color of LOVE. The ultimate manifestation of that love is when “God so loved the world, that He gave His Son.” His love went to the cross and poured out His life (blood) for all mankind. Love is forgiveness, acceptance, long suffering, gentleness, kindness, mercy, and blessing. “Whosoever loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.”

ORANGE — the color of PASSION. Passion in scripture is God’s *burning desire*, His great and unchanging purpose to produce growth power, warmth, life, change, transformation, like the power of the natural sun.

YELLOW — the color of the DIVINE NATURE. The divine nature is the heavenly nature of true and eternal joy, gladness, purity, peace, righteousness, wisdom, and power.

GREEN — the color of LIFE. This principle of life is typified by the green grass, vegetation, shrubs, and trees. It speaks of eternal, incorruptible life with healing and creative powers.

BLUE — the color of the HEAVENLY. Blue bespeaks of that which is high and exalted, far above corruption, limitation, and darkness of earth. It points to the higher principles of truth, the mind of Christ, and the power of God in our lives.

INDIGO — the color of PRIESTHOOD. Being a deep blue with a hint of sacrificial, redeeming red, it speaks of the heavenly calling, the ministry of reconciliation, the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, through which man and God are consciously made one. The writer to the Hebrews speaks of this ministry thus: “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our profession*. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched by the feeling our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Wherefore, holy brethren, PARTAKERS OF THE HEAVENLY CALLING (of this priesthood), consider the apostle and high priest of *our profession*, Christ Jesus” (Heb. 4:14-16, 3:1). As every high priest must be a high priest over a house of priests (else he would not be the “high priest”), so Christ is the Head of His body, the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.

VIOLET — the color of ROYALTY. This is the color of kingly authority and dominion. Thus it is the color of *sonship*. “And of the *angels* He saith, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire. But unto the *Son* He saith, *Thy throne*, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom” (Heb. 1:7-8). “To him that overcometh will I grant to *sit with me in my throne*, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne. He that overcometh shall *inherit all things*; and I will be his God, and he shall be *my son*” (Rev. 3:21; 21:7).

What this portrays is the prism of our experience in God by which the pure white of God’s unfathomable glory is filtered into our lives on different dimensions. Just as you cannot take a spacecraft and fly into the sun (and expect to survive!), so no natural man can approach unto that pure white light in which HE DWELLS. “Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, *dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto*: whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen.” (I Tim. 1:15-16). The words of this wonderful passage might seem to exclude us from ever reaching the throne! But such is not the case. The pure light in which He dwells is, like the sunlight, bent, broken, so that we see it in its parts and experience it progressively through all its levels of power, glory, and life. The marvelous reality of it is that having fully experienced the light that God is, in all His aspects, we come at last to that union in Him whereby the full WHITE LIGHT of His nature, wisdom, and power is perfectly blended in us and it is “no longer I but

Christ that liveth in me.” The intense white light of God’s nature and glory consumes out of us all that is Adamic, so that we, our carnal mind and human identity, no longer exist. Christ dwells in that light which no *man*, that is, no *natural man* can approach unto! The natural man passes away in the fiery blaze of His glorious throne, and we stand in the light clothed in our new mind, new nature, new life, new identity which is Christ. THIS IS THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST!

The throne is referred to in scripture as the throne of **His glory**. What is glory? What is its shape, size, and color? Perhaps you feel that you have never seen it, you feel that it is spiritual, and therefore cannot be seen. Not so, my friend, it can be seen. How my heart thrills to *see the glory!* The literal meaning of the Hebrew word for glory is *weight or substance; worth, dignity and honor; splendor and majesty*. In the eyes of men this literal meaning frequently lent itself to the idea that a person possessing glory was laden (heavy) with the substance and honor of this world. Jacob’s flock was his “glory” (Gen. 31:1). The Assyrians’ power was their “glory” (Isa. 8:7). Joseph’s high position was his “glory” (Gen. 45:13). The Israelites thought that they were living to the glory of God by acquiring a weight of material wealth, power, and position. Today, a number of “prosperity preachers” have the very same idea! They think God is glorified in the heaping of the weight and substance of worldly possessions and earthly blessings upon His people. But the prophet Jeremiah told God’s people that they should not consider such human values their glory. Rather, they were to glory in the fact that they knew the Lord, whose glory was His kindness, justice, and righteousness!

When the word was applied to God, it was meant to bring out the weightiness of God’s attributes. All Bible dictionaries agree that “glory” is “the exhibition and display of the excellence of the subject to which it is ascribed.” Thus, in respect to God, it is the *visible manifestation* of His attributes — His nature, character, power, love, justice, righteousness, etc. (Jer. 9:24). The glory of God is the visible manifestation of WHAT GOD IS. The glory of God is God REVEALED, God PUT ON DISPLAY, the EMMANATION OF HIS ESSENCE, all that God is brought into demonstration on the visible plane so men can perceive what God is like. That is what men saw when they beheld the glory of God! God is love, God is light, God is truth, God is peace, God is power, God is life, God is righteousness. When God brings what He is into expression so we can either see or perceive it, we then “*behold HIS GLORY.*” It was with this same sense of glory that Jesus spoke about how He would bring glory to the Father. Jesus would not acquire worldly wealth, fame, power, or position. On the contrary, His life would be “heavy” with the glorious heavenly qualities of love, mercy, goodness, purity, compassion, righteousness, wisdom, and spiritual power. And that is the call and aim of *every son of God. This is the rainbow around the throne!*

Now Christ has given His glory to His “many brethren” — the sons of God. “And the glory which Thou gavest me *I have given them*” (Jn. 17:22). What a treasure! What riches! What heavenly splendor! God has called us to His kingdom and *glory* (Col. 2:12). We have been called to the obtaining of the *glory* of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Thes. 2:14). The Captain of our salvation was made perfect through sufferings that He might bring *many sons to glory* (Heb. 2:10). The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be

compared with the *glory* that shall be *revealed in us* (Rom. 8:18). We are even now partakers of the *glory that shall be revealed* (I Pet. 5:1). Christ is coming to be *glorified in His saints* (II Thes. 1:10). We are called unto *glory* and virtue (II Pet. 1:3).

As I mentioned earlier, God's great glory is His wonderful nature and character, the substance of His Being. Some people foolishly talk about dying and "going to glory" as if glory were a place, an astral location on a planet called heaven. But one doesn't "go" to glory — the Bible says nothing about such a crude notion. Glory is *revealed!* Glory is revealed *in us!* Glory *comes to us!* Glory is *given to us!* Glory is not a place you go to, glory is something you become! When the glory of the Lord is fully revealed in the manifest sons of God "all flesh shall see it together." That is the scriptural testimony about glory! If you don't apprehend and experience God's glory here on earth, forget about "going" somewhere to find it! As the sons of God ascend into the heavens of God's Spirit, into the spiritual realm of His throne, the glory of God emanates through us and out from us — ***the rainbow around the throne!*** It is indeed wonderful!

Jesus Christ the firstborn Son of God is the *brightness of God's glory*, the express image of His person (Heb. 1:3). That's why in Old Testament times when the glory manifested, God covered it with a cloud. He had to protect mankind from it to keep it from obliterating them. In Jesus, however, the light of God was bent, broken, so that men beheld the light as a rainbow rather than a blinding sun. The bow is in the cloud, the Lord told Noah. Under the Old Testament economy God covered His glory with a cloud, but the people never saw the rainbow of promise. ***When Jesus came the rainbow appeared in the cloud!*** He was the promise of redemption, blessing, and life for all men!

While living here on earth our Lord was extremely kind. He picked up little children and blessed them. He healed all who were suffering with pain. While relatives were weeping over dead loved ones, He raised four of them to life again. The Saviour of *all men* said to the woman caught in adultery, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (Jn. 8:11). His *kindness* made an evangelist out of the wicked woman at the well (Jn. 4:29). Because Jesus really loved the weak, helpless creatures whom He had created, He wept over them, prayed for them and taught them continually. Except those religious Pharisees, Jesus never spoke *one cross word* to the unconverted masses. He was very tender and kind in all His dealings with men, even the most wicked among them. He sat at meat with the rich and ungodly and never upbraided them for their sins, shortcomings, and moral failures. His approach to them was very gentle, delicate, and considerate. Surely then, we are safer in His hands than anywhere else! The things He has in store for every one of us are far greater than we could plan for ourselves!

The Holy Spirit has taught me three things relative to the life of sonship. These three principles are expressed in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is God's ***rainbow of promise around the throne.*** First, Jesus never *condoned sin*. How do I know this? Because, when the woman caught in adultery was left before Him, He spoke prophetically and redemptively into her life, saying, "Go, and *sin no more.*" I believe she did just that! His words were spirit and life unto her, transforming and lifting her life. Jesus did not come to condone our fallen state and sinful conduct, He came to *save us*

from it! He didn't come to say, "I'm O.K., you're O.K., everybody's O.K." Everybody is *not O.K.!* Jesus was often forgiving sin and then admonishing, "Go and *sin no more* lest a worse thing come upon you." He perfectly understood the law of sowing and reaping, the law of sin and death, with its inherent process of judgment.

Hear me now! Secondly, Jesus never *condemned the sinner!* Never! His testimony was that "God sent not His Son into the world to *condemn the world*, but that the world through Him might be *saved*." Though Jesus never condoned sin, He never condemned the sinner! He didn't go around reminding men what terrible sinners they were. Most men already knew that! He didn't counsel them about all the bad they had done or were doing. He knew what was in man, He understood that people really, within their own human strength and nature, could not *help* what they were! They needed compassion, love, mercy, and deliverance — not condemnation! Never, in all His years of ministry, did He ever condemn even one sinner! Jesus could do something that very few of our modern fundamentalist and evangelical preachers can do — He could preach salvation without first informing his audience about how fallen, rotten, wicked, and despicable they were, and how hot was the hell that awaited them if they didn't repent! He didn't say, "Repent, or you're going to eternal hell!" On the contrary, He said, "Repent, for *the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*" "Repent — because I have something infinitely better prepared for you!" Isn't it wonderful!

Sometimes people write to me and they have a son or daughter who has just announced that they are "gay". This is so repulsive and an abhorrence to them, and they are so devastated by the news, that they don't know how to handle it or even what their attitude should be. Sometimes the homosexual child wants to visit them and bring along their lover! The first inclination is to tell them what an abomination this is in the sight of God, and in their sight, and tell them in effect to "get lost." They want to shut them out, cut them off, disown them. Or else they do tolerate them, but are continually offended and emotionally traumatized by the blatant life-style of their once beloved offspring.

The difficulty arises because we live still under an Old Testament mentality of that which is an abomination to God, worthy of judgment or death, and we view things as men under the law. But you see, my friend, the truth is that *sin is sin, any sin IS SIN!* We tend to "grade" sin according to our ideas of their perverseness. While on one level there is some truth in that, in the final analysis all sin is sin; the sins of gossip, hatred, covetousness, cursing, cheating, lying (even a little white lie), or drinking a little too much are just as *deadly* as the sin of adultery or homosexuality. The wages of sin *is death* — any sin! When it comes to the wages of sin all receive the same wages — there are no little sins that only make us sick and bigger sins that result in death. The wages of sin — any sin — is death! Because all have sinned, all have died, the apostle tells us. There is no difference. When the woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus He said to her accusers, "Let him that is without sin, first cast a stone." ANY SIN would prevent them from casting a stone! All were equally guilty, regardless of the nature of their sin. To shut one kind of sinner out of our lives while receiving another kind of sinner into our friendship is utter hypocrisy! The glorious truth is that *Jesus paid the debt for every*

sinner, we are no longer under the law that condemns, but under grace that redeems!
When Jesus came the rainbow appeared in the cloud!

I say to all who face situations such as this, what you need above all else is *peace* from God, the ability to rest in Him, and commit your son or daughter, or whoever it is, into His almighty and loving hands once and forever. You can never condone their state of being or their conduct, but neither can you condemn them and shut them out of your life! To do so is to shut them up from the flow of God's love, mercy, and life. We are neither called to condone or condemn — God sends His sons into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through them might be *saved!* Sons are not called to be condoners, nor are they called to be condemners — a true son of God can be neither! God is bringing *saviours* up to mount Zion! Because Jesus understood this great sonship truth, He became *saviour of all* and *condemner of none!* Jesus loved unconditionally and infinitely. All sons must *so love!* And it is just at this point that the work of God must be fulfilled in our lives, bringing the rest, peace, joy, and confidence to *wait* for God's deliverance to be wrought out. When you love, *love never fails!* Pray, intercede, and *love unconditionally* and you will BECOME A SAVIOUR! **THIS IS THE RAINBOW IN THE CLOUD!** Will you be a rainbow person?

In the Old Testament the glory was seen in the cloud, fiery, blinding glory, muted by the cloud. We see an example of this in Exodus, when God appeared to Israel at mount Sinai. "And the glory of the Lord abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days; and the seventh day God called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like a *devouring fire* on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel" (Ex. 24:16-17). As we search the scriptures we see that "devouring fire" again and again. The prophet Habakkah says, "God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. And His brightness was as the light; He had horns coming out of His hand: and *there was the hiding of His power*" (Hab. 3:3-4). According to various Bible helps the word horns in this passage refers to bright beams. One translation calls them lightning-like shafts of splendor. The Bible tells us that in these fiery, lightning-like shafts lies the hiding place of God's power. That alone is enough to let us know that experiencing the glory is more than having a warm, "spiritual" feeling. It's an encounter with the very nature, being, and power of God because His nature, being, and power *is* His glory!

The rainbow around the throne reveals the great truth that the throne is not a power of destruction, but the very *power of life!* While most rainbows have more than one color, this rainbow was in appearance like unto an emerald — accentuating only the color *green*. Webster defines *emerald* as: (1) A green transparent variety of beryl used as a gemstone. (2) A clear deep green color. Ireland is called "The Emerald Isle" because of the abundance of lush dark green vegetation. The green is of course the middle tone of the color spectrum (red, orange, yellow, GREEN, blue, indigo, violet). The spectrum divides the white light into its parts, as the departing rainstorm does to the sun's light and flashes back to the human eye the complete rainbow. God is light, not in the cosmic sense but in that spiritual reality of which cosmic light is the wonderful parable. Light in its

energetic principle is the secret of creation, as the LIGHT WHICH GOD IS, is the source principle of *all life*.

Green in scripture is the supreme color of LIFE! Yes, there is death to the old, but in the throne we ascend to the highest dimension of life — divine, incorruptible, immortal life. John fell as dead before the face of the One sitting on the throne — his old Adamic life, identity, nature, and mind slain by the fiery glory of God! But let your heart consider the words of this glorious One when He says to John, “Fear not. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore!” In other words, “Don’t be afraid to give up *your* will, John, *your* ways, *your* desires, *your* emotions, *your* plans, *your* hopes, *your* dreams, *your* thoughts, *your* carnal, human identity. Don’t be afraid, says the Lord Jesus, for I had to give them all up when I walked in the flesh. I died! BUT BEHOLD, I AM ALIVE FOR EVERMORE!” Therein is both the power and the promise of the throne! The consuming fire of God will absolutely destroy every vestige of the carnal mind and the flesh life. And then the rainbow of promise establishes within the covenant of divine, heavenly life and reality. Adam dies and Christ arises within us! This is the glory of sonship! This is what is happening within the life of every son of God who hears the call to “*Come up hither!*” Oh, no, you are not going to be raptured up to a mansion in the sky, but as you *ascend in the Spirit* you are being changed, transformed into the image of Christ. Oh, the wonder of it!

THE RAINBOW IN THE CLOUD

I will speak of one more thing concerning the rainbow, for my joyful spirit goes far beyond even the blessed truths we have discussed thus far. As has already been pointed out, a rainbow is an arch of beautiful colors that appears when the sun shines after a rain shower. As the light passes through the rain drops still in the air, the rays of light are bent. When this happens, the sunlight separates out into its different colors. You see a rainbow when the sun is behind you, and the rain is in front of you. The ray is refracted as it enters the rain drop, and it is separated into the various colors. Then, as it strikes the inner surface of the drop it is reflected. That is when you see the rainbow in the cloud. The marvelous reality of this beautiful type points to the truth that there *must be the idea of rain or moisture connected with the throne*, or would it not be self evident that there could be no *rain-bow*? Where there are no clouds and no rain there is no rainbow! That is the type. That is the symbol. And Revelation is a book of symbols!

Jesus used graphic language when He spoke of His appearing. To the disciples who asked what His coming would be like He said, “They shall see the Son of man coming *in the clouds of heaven* with power and great glory” (Mat. 24:30). The picture language of the Bible employs essentially all the created things of God with which we here on earth are acquainted. There are various reasons why the Holy Spirit has used so much symbolic language in the Word. I think that one of these is its unchangeableness. The meanings of words change somewhat through use and misuse. For instance, three hundred years ago the English word “let” meant to hinder or prevent; today the very same word means exactly the opposite — to allow or permit! Whatever man creates is also subject to change, but this is not true of the created things of God. Only a little more than a hundred

years ago nearly everyone used oil lamps for light, today we use electricity. In the sign language of the Bible God has employed the sun, the moon, the stars, and clouds; and on earth, oceans, rivers, mountains, valleys, sheep, goats, horses, wheat, tares, fig trees, and so forth. The characteristics of these have not changed throughout the centuries, and when used in scripture to illustrate the exalted thoughts of God they should have the same meaning to us as they did to the ancients. As signs, they have a spiritual meaning and application.

One of the rabbinical names for the Messiah, based on Daniel 7:13-14, was “The Cloud Man.” Daniel writes, “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like unto the Son of man *came with the clouds of heaven...*” Christ, of course, is plainly identified as the “One who comes with the clouds” in the Salutation of Revelation 1:7, “Behold, He *cometh with clouds*; and every eye shall see Him...” Furthermore, when our Lord was adjured by the high priest to tell whether He was the Messiah or not, Jesus answered with the old equivalent of “Yes!” Then He said, “Ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and *coming in the clouds of heaven*” (Mk. 14:62).

What, then, are those clouds with which, and in which, the Christ comes? Why, bless your heart, WE ARE! The incontrovertible proof that the “clouds” in which Christ comes are in reality the sons of God *in their glory* is couched in the terminology of the scriptures on this subject. Note that in most places the passages in question speak of Christ coming “with clouds.” There is only one other group or plurality of objects of which it is stated that Christ comes “with” them or “in” them, and that is — the SAINTS! It is very careful to tell us that He comes “with” clouds. And it also tells us that He comes “with” His saints! “To the end He may establish your hearts...at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ W-I-T-H ALL HIS SAINTS” (I Thes. 3:13). Jude says, “And Enoch also...prophesied...saying, Behold, the Lord cometh W-I-T-H TEN THOUSANDS OF SAINTS” (Jude 14). The Amplified Bible is helpful, when it reads, “Behold, the Lord comes W-I-T-H MYRIADS OF HOLY ONES — ten thousands of His saints.” But the Interlinear reading from the Diaglott translation gives the clearest of all renderings from the Greek text, “Lo, comes Lord I-N HOLY MIRIADS OF HIMSELF” “Myriads of HIMSELF!” All of them begotten out of His life, all of them partakers of His divine nature, conformed to His image, filled with His mind, matured in His life. *Myriads of Himself*, of His own kind, born of His seed, a many brethren company of *sons of God*. The apostle Paul once expressed the truth in this way, “When He shall come to be glorified I-N HIS SAINTS, and to be admired I-N ALL THEM that believe in that day” (II Thes. 1:10). And again we hear the testimony, “And the Lord my God shall come, and ALL THE SAINTS W-I-T-H T-H-E-E” (Zech. 14:5). John the beloved sees this same scene in wonder-filled vision and speaking in prophetic language writes: “Behold, He cometh W-I-T-H CLOUDS; and every eye shall see Him.”

The apostles Peter and Jude both tell us that *false ministries* are “clouds *without water*...carried about of winds.” A *true* ministry then, is a cloud *with water*. A true ministry has life to give, and like a cloud is willing to empty himself out in order to be a blessing to dry and thirsty souls. Jesus was a bright cloud laden with water, for “The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and give His life...” (Mat. 20:28).

A cloud is made up of millions of tiny droplets of water in a big group. The clouds you see in the sky were formed when a mass of warm, moist air rose from the earth and reached a section of colder air. The invisible moisture in the air condensed and made a visible cloud, just as your breath condenses on a cold day. When a cloud becomes so heavy with droplets that it can no longer hold them, it spills over, and we have rain. “O Lord my God, Thou art very great...who layeth the beams of His chambers in the waters: who maketh the *cloud His chariot*: He *watereth* the hills *from His chambers*” (Ps. 104:3,13). The clouds are the chambers of God containing the water of life! A cloud is full of water and water speaks to us of life. Water typifies both the Word of God and the Spirit of God (Eph. 5:26; Jn. 7:37-39). A cloud speaks to us of a vessel which contains water or contains life. Even so, God by His Spirit gives *Living Water* to refresh and impart life to His creation! It is the nature of a cloud to empty itself! “If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth” (Eccl. 11:3). When the cloud gets filled up, it rains. That is the nature of the clouds — rain pours out. All that God is was emptied into Jesus Christ! All that God is was poured into Him, He became a receptacle, a vehicle for all the fullness of God (Col. 1:19; 2:9). He was filled up with the life-giving properties of God! Now, all that Jesus Christ is, is being emptied into His body until we are filled with *all the fullness of God* — having all the life-giving properties of God! **HE IS FILLING THE CLOUDS!** The nature of each matured, manifest son will be to pour out that life just as God poured it into Jesus and Jesus poured it into us. *That is what will deliver the creation from the bondage of corruption!* Every eye shall see His glory. They shall SEE HIM IN THE CLOUDS!

If the saints be full of God they will pour Him out upon the earthly-natured, unconverted, tormented and bound, and unspiritual ones. This is the only hope of creation! This is why the whole creation still waits and groans and travails for the manifestation of the sons of God! A true ministry has life to give, and is willing to empty himself in order to be a blessing to a dry and thirsty people. Pour out his life for others — that is what Jesus did! We are called and chosen of God to empty out that same life *on a larger scale* on a groaning creation and break the bondage of corruption. Jesus was only one cloud, now we are many clouds! We will rain on all peoples and all nations! Life shall spring forth everywhere throughout the whole earth! All creation is awaiting with bated breath this *son company* of people who will *be the clouds of glory!* Their life-giving rain will be emptied upon a dry and cursed earth and creation itself shall be released into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. Aren't you glad!

With these thoughts in mind we can better understand the fact that Christ Jesus departed this earth in *one cloud*, yet He comes again *in many clouds*. The one glory has become the multiple glory. Christ the Head has reproduced His life in a many-membered body. The *one cloud* of His presence has become *many clouds* of His presence *in His many brethren*. Isaiah foretold of this day: “Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the *glory of the Lord is risen upon thee*. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and *His glory shall be seen upon thee*” (Isa. 60:1-2). The sign of the coming or the presence of the Lord has always been the *shekinah* or the *glory cloud*. It was God's sign to Moses, to Ezekiel, to Daniel, and

when our Lord comes again in fullness in a many-membered body of sons, it will be IN THE CLOUDS OF HIS PRESENCE!

From earth's teeming millions of all ages there is a people arising in the image of Christ. We who watch the spiritual heavens are seeing a cloud as we have never seen before. We have seen inky black clouds, and clouds of snowy whiteness; clouds brightly tinted and many silver lined; clouds made brilliantly gorgeous by the afterglow of the setting sun. But we never before have seen a cloud made magnificently glorious by the blazing splendor of the Son of God! We have seen clouds charged with thunder and lighted up by flashes of lightning as those who call themselves the representatives of Christ have thundered at the world, intimidating them with words of condemnation and threats of judgment, telling all what awful sinners they are and frightening them with promises of certain hell-fire and eternal damnation. Clouds with thunder and lightning, but little rain! Not yet have we seen clouds charged with the power of omnipotence and flashing with the incorruptible radiance of the love of God in Christ! Afar off we have seen the morning clouds as they have enwrapped the distant mountain peaks and splendidly capped the hilltops. We have yet to see the clouds which shall enfold the absolute fullness of the Mighty One!

We have seen clouds driven as chariots to carry rain to the dry and thirsty fields here and there, as God has periodically visited people with revival by the moving of His Spirit. BUT NOW BRIGHT CLOUDS ARE FORMING IN THE HEAVENS OF GOD'S SPIRIT THAT WILL BE SEEN, THAT WILL BE THE CHARIOT OF HEAVEN'S KING OF GLORY WHEN HE COMES IN SONS TO REFRESH AND RESTORE AND QUICKEN ALL THINGS. What a sight it will be! Even as I pen these words droplets are forming, individual sons over all the earth, on every continent, in every nation, in every city, town, and hamlet are being filled with the *spirit of sonship* which is the *fullness of God*, and soon, my beloved, soon! these droplets will band together by the sovereign operation of God and these brilliant bands will fill the glory-flashing skies from end to end and flood the world with life and light and love. How magnificent will be the pageantry of the skies! How sublime beyond all mortal comprehension will be the flood of redeeming love, quickening power, transforming grace, the spirit of understanding, the impartation of righteousness, the breaking of the curse, the collapse of man's vaunted kingdoms, the end of the rule of flesh, the resurrection unto life that shall spring forth in all the earth upon all peoples, bringing God's kingdom to pass everywhere the rain doth fall!

Oh, the wonder of it! Having beheld these wonders in the Spirit, may our hearts be assured that the rain from God's *clouds of sons*, refracting and reflecting the blazing Shekinah of His glorious presence and power, is what FORMS THE RAINBOW AROUND THE THRONE OF HIS RIGHTEOUS GOVERNMENT OUT OF HEAVENLY REALMS. That is the mystery. It is indeed wonderful!

A MAN IN THE RAIN

When light breaks through from the side of the skies
And finds itself caught and impaled and it dies
In the rain that descends from the dark cloud above,
A rainbow is seen, a sign of God's love.

Oh, the colors were there in the light all along
But only the rain can bring out the song
That's been sung by the glory around heaven's throne:
Light's manifold nature displayed and made known.

When the ark came to rest on Ararat's horn
And Noah went forth into mankind's new morn,
God's judgment drew back with the storm on the wane
And His mercy shone forth in the sunlight's new reign.

These two seeming foes did meet in the bow
That was set in the clouds God's promise to show
Both to Him and to us the witness of light
That's been caught in the rain, making peace of the fight.

Has your heart ever looked with wonder and awe
At the bow in the cloud and sensed more than you saw
In the judgment and mercy that met in the rain
And looked beyond that to the Lamb that was slain?

Look — a man just like us who lived life in our shade
And by that pure life a pure light He displayed
That shone with compassion and candor and grace
From Bethlehem's manger to the skull's awful place.

And there did God's wrath and His love fully meet
Finding perfect fulfillment: a work that's complete.
The whole spectrum of love through sorrow and pain
Was declared unto us by a man in the rain!

-- Thomas
Worth

Chapter 69

THE THRONE

continued

There are pictures in the book of Revelation. The candlesticks are the churches. Jesus is addressing the church as One standing in the midst of the church. Millions of Christians read the picture language in this book with carnal minds, devoid of any spiritual understanding. They read of a golden candlestick, a golden altar, a golden ark, a sea of glass, or a book of life and suppose them to be some kind of ornate furnishings in a city on a planet called heaven, somewhere “just inside the eastern gate.” But the better we understand the types and shadows of the word of God by the quickening of the Spirit, the clearer we see that these are much more than exquisite pieces of furniture in a great heavenly temple out there somewhere beyond the Milky Way. What they are is *furniture from the tabernacle of Moses!* One of the most important teachings any child of God could have as a foundation for correctly interpreting the book of Revelation is a clear understanding of the symbolisms of the tabernacle of Moses. The tabernacle with its construction, furnishings, offerings, priesthood, and rituals is the root of nearly all spiritual revelation. Everything in the tabernacle portrays something of our reality in Christ!

The entire book of Revelation is communicated by means of signs and symbols. It is wonderfully true that the language in which John is writing is *redemptive language* — symbols that appear time and again throughout the Bible. There is no possibility of exhausting scriptural truth! Scripture is as inexhaustible as God Himself. There is no end to His wisdom nor His understanding. Therefore it behooves us to prayerfully search out the symbols to see what message they proclaim. Of course, many believers are satisfied with the mundane because they were born into it; their preachers and teachers only dabble in the elementary principles of the truth of Christ, so they’ve never known anything else.

Sooner or later, if our heart hungers and thirsts after God, we come to the point reached by the little boy with the red wagon. That is to discover that the toughest resistance to pressing into the depths of God is not from *without*, but from *within*. The little boy loved to play with his little red wagon. But one day it suddenly occurred to him that he could not recall ever seeing an adult playing with a little red wagon. The moment that thought struck him he burst into tears. His mother was finally able to get out of him what it was that was causing such terrible grief. He sobbed through his tears that he didn’t want to grow up because he was afraid that then he wouldn’t be able to play with his little red wagon. His mother encouraged him as best she could. She assured him that as far as she knew there was no reason why he should not play with his little red wagon after he grew up, if he *wanted to*. No one would prevent him. That cheered him a bit. But after a few minutes he

burst out crying again. When she asked him what the trouble was this time, he sobbed, “I’m afraid I won’t want to!”

FROM THE CANDLESTICK TO THE THRONE

From within each one of us who have received the call to sonship there comes at last the decisive decision to give up the little red wagons of our childish religious past, and at costly consequences to grow up into the maturity of our glorious Head, the firstborn Son of God! We grow spiritually by hearing the voice of the Lord for ourselves and by following the Lord wherever He leads us, by releasing all He calls upon us to release, and doing all His perfect and holy will. Our Father is leading us beyond the Outer Court with its brazen altar of atonement and forgiveness of sins, and beyond the Holy Place with its lighted candlestick fueled by the oil of the indwelling Spirit. He is also leading us beyond the feast of Passover where we first met the Lamb of God who died for us, and beyond the feast of Pentecost where we received the firstfruits of the Spirit — yes, beyond the *candlestick realm*, beyond the *church order*! By the leading of His Spirit we are growing up into Christ, becoming mature adults in the kingdom of our Father. The call for this New Day is to “*Come up hither!*” The journey of this New Day is *from the candlestick to the throne*! The divine evidence that we are heeding that call is if we have truly begun to grow up and become a spiritual adult, we are done with the childish ways of the past and have put them all aside. A spiritual child delights in the childish ways of the past. He or she enjoys those childish ways, and continues to cling to the little red wagon — continues to romp and frolic in the entertaining programs of the old order church system. But when we grow up and become spiritual adults in the more glorious kingdom of our Father, we then put away the childish toys of the past, and with joy set our face toward the throne, ascending in the Spirit into that which is more perfect and complete — kingship with Christ!

A brother shared this experience some time ago. He said, “My eighteen-year-old son graduated from high school last spring. The ceremony was a great celebration for both the graduates and their parents, symbolizing the passage from childhood and dependency to greater freedom on the journey to becoming an independent, responsible adult. How ludicrous it would have been for the kindergarten teacher of these students to reappear, proclaiming that in order to keep their diplomas, all graduates must now report to her in September to review their ABC’s. You do not take young people who have matured and are ready to accept adult responsibility and treat them like children. Even the graduates would have said, ‘We are not going back!’” Oh, no! We who are growing up into Christ and have tasted the powers of the age to come *are not going back* to the kindergarten of our walk in God! Let the children play, let them sit Sunday after Sunday and hear the same salvation story, the same elementary teachings, observe the same forms, rituals, ceremonies, entertainment, and work and labor feverishly in the same tired old church programs and promotions. If they still *want* to play with the little red wagon they are not ready yet to leave it. And there is no condemnation in that! Children are supposed to play! BUT WE WILL NOT GO BACK!

With keen spiritual insight the late George Hawtin wrote this admonition to the Lord's elect. "Centuries ago Israel marched across the burning wilderness of Sin (Ex. 16:1). Forty years they journeyed under the continual care and correction of God. Angels' food was their meat (Ps. 18:25) and spiritual water was their drink, for they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them and that rock was *Christ* (I Cor. 10:4). Their bodies grew not weary and their garments waxed not old; neither was there a feeble one in their tribes (Ps. 105:37) as they journeyed under God's orders and moved at His command. So it came to pass that, *'on the day that the tabernacle was reared up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning. So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents. At the commandment of the Lord the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the Lord they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents. And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the Lord, and journeyed not. And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the Lord they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the Lord they journeyed. And so it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and that the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether it was by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed. Or whether it were two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed. At the commandment of the Lord they rested in their tents, and at the commandment of the Lord they journeyed'* (Num. 9:15-23).

"We today are under similar care and similar orders though we know it not. From time to time through the ages the church has been commanded to move on with the cloud to new revelation and experience in God, and after each move to pitch our tent and patiently wait for the moving of the cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night. What a tremendous sight it must have been for Israel, after having camped for a day, a month, a year, or many years, to see at last the cloudy pillar of God's presence and glory begin *to move on*, and what a hustle and bustle there must have been as they broke up their *old camps* to follow the cloud, *every tribe in his own order*, and every man in his order whithersoever the Spirit led them!

"As time has swiftly passed, the light of that same fiery pillar has illuminated to our waiting hearts *many truths* which we have embraced and have made part of ourselves and ourselves part of them. But with *many of us*, as with *many of them*, God was *not well pleased*, and they were *overthrown in the wilderness* (I Cor. 10:5). They lusted after *evil things*, became idolaters, and committed fornication just as thousands today are doing who once were baptized in the cloud, drinking of the spiritual rock and eating the spiritual meat (I Cor. 10:2-4). We have made jobs and money, possessions and pleasures our idols and our gods, and we have committed fornication with the harlot daughters of Babylon times without number. We have tempted Christ and murmured because of the

rigors of the way, *sat down to eat and drink* in the fleshly realm, and *risen up to play* — *to play at church* and make a play of religion (I Cor. 10:5-11). These things that happened to them are for examples for us upon whom the *ends* of the *ages* are come.

“In the depths of my spirit I seem to hear the trumpet call to a new awakening. It is time to move on from the revelation of the past years. It is time to partake of the resurrection, the bread of God, the *better blood* and the *water of life*. The pillar of fire is moving; it is time to move on! The great mystery of the ages, ‘*let us make man in our image*,’ is about to be fulfilled when *all things* will begin to find their *one head* in Christ” — end quote.

That blessed company called to sonship is now passing through a strange time of transition. In the midst of deep dealings and great testings and mighty shakings a people is being formed to be the Lord’s true expression in the earth. Old things are passing away, new things are coming into view! The saints who make up the body of Christ in the earth are progressing from the childish prattle and playing of the carnal church systems to the new and higher order of the kingdom of God. Those who are truly apprehended have left their old camps and have left all their religious play things behind and have released their grasp on every vestige of that old, passing order, and are laying hold on the new order of the kingdom of God. In this transition time when everything is being shaken, we are at peace, resting in Him! We have taken our seat in the heavenly places in Christ, with the assurance that we are becoming His will and His salvation for all the ends of the earth. He is establishing the rule of His throne in our hearts and lives that we might reign with Him over the nations and all things.

“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the *angels of the seven churches*: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest *are the seven churches*” (Rev. 1:20).

We do not randomly, haphazardly, or arbitrarily interpret these symbols, but they are interpreted for us by the Spirit of God. The candlestick is revealed as a symbol of the church of Christ. The candlestick in the tabernacle in the wilderness was located in the Holy Place. All the churches of the world, all the churches of history have had their experience in the Holy Place realm of spiritual experience! And just for that reason every move of God in the church realm, including the early church, the Reformation churches, the Revival churches, the Pentecostal churches, and the so-called Latter Rain churches have eventually stagnated and gone into apostasy. You see, my beloved, the Holy Place is *not a permanent realm*.

I can hear someone say, “But the candlestick is made of *gold*, a metal of value and permanency; doesn’t that speak of abiding things and of an eternal realm?” The gold of the candlestick is not the whole story! The gold does indeed speak of the essential nature of the church — the divine nature. But *men* had to make oil for it, or it gave no light. The oil itself was *man processed*. It was made according to a God-given formula, after the art of the apothecary, but human hands were necessary to make it. There is the element of the *flesh*. Who can deny that *the flesh* has entered in to just about everything done in the church! Furthermore, the oil had to be made again and again, or it would run

out. It was not the infinite supply of God! Then, too, within the lamps there were wicks that daily must be raised or lowered, and trimmed to keep the light burning evenly. The ministry of a man was required to snip the wick. Without these ministrations of men the candlestick could in no way fulfill its purpose — there was no light!

The Holy Place, representing the Pentecostal realm, or the church realm, for the church was birthed at Pentecost, also had bread meal associated with it. The bread meal was sown with leaven, and leaven throughout the word of God is a type of *sin* or *error*. That's why we read in the book of Hebrews, "Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle (Holy Place), accomplishing the service of God. But into the second (Most Holy Place) went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: the Holy Ghost thus signifying that *the way into the Holiest of all was not yet made manifest*, while as the first tabernacle (Holy Place) was yet standing" (Heb. 9:6-8).

The Holy Place had an entrance into a realm ***beyond the Holy Place!*** The Holy Place had an entrance into a realm ***greater than the Holy Place!*** In that realm, the Holiest of all, there was no oil to be made, no wick to be trimmed, no bread laced with leaven to be baked. The light of the Holiest of all was the light of the incorruptible, eternal glory of God alone! It never ran out of fuel, man's hand never touched it, and no man could add anything to it. And this light shone over and upon and out of the throne of God upon the ark of the Covenant! By that incorruptible light the manna was preserved without breeding worms and stinking, and there was no decaying, deterioration, or dissolution of anything in that realm! Oh, yes, the ***throne zone*** was the Holiest of all! Once each year, in type, the high priest heard, as it were, the call to "*Come up hither!*" into a higher and more glorious realm than the candlestick realm. As he passed through the veil he made the journey FROM THE CANDLESTICK TO THE THRONE! This is not the church realm we have known, my friend, this is the *incorruptible, immortal, unchangeable, omnipotent, eternal realm of God!* And it is not a realm we enter after death, in some far-off heaven somewhere, but it is the realm prepared for God's mature sons right here upon earth, the realm of God's fullness, of perfection, of maturity, of wisdom, of power and dominion, where God is all that He is in His people — the realm of *manifest sonship!*

Most of those who read these lines met Christ as Saviour in the Outer Court and then served God in the Holy Place. But that's not where we have to stay! Our great high priest, even Jesus, has entered into the Holiest of all at the right hand of God. We are the *body* of the high priest, who is the Head of the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, and *in Him* we have access into the Most Holy Place! "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which *entereth into that within the veil*; whither our *forerunner* is *for us* entered in, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to *enter into the Holiest* by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He *hath consecrated for us*, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us *draw near* with a true heart..." (Heb. 6:19-20; 10:17-22).

As we read previously, the Holiest of all is not accessible as long as the Holy Place is standing (Heb. 8:8). In other words we can never enter into the Most Holy Place, into the fullness of God, into *manifest sonship* IN THE CHURCH! As long as the candlestick realm is standing in our lives, in our hearts, in our experience, in our practice, as long as we cling to it, we cannot pass beyond the veil into the Holiest of all! That order must no longer stand in our lives! Even if we set our foot only one step beyond the veil, we have completely and totally *left* the old order of the candlestick realm behind! Another picture of this truth is shown us in chapter twelve of the Revelation. In this wonderful chapter the *manchild*, the overcoming company of the sons of God, is *birthed out of the woman church*. The sons of God are separate from their church mother just as a baby is separated from the body of its mother at the time of birth. The manchild does not reign *in the woman* — He reigns IN THE THRONE! (Rev. 12:1-6).

Is this not the same truth that unfolded within John's wondering spirit when he stood in the candlestick realm and heard a voice that commanded, "Come up hither, and I will show you things which must be hereafter" — *after the candlestick realm!* Immediately he was caught up in the Spirit and beheld the throne room of God. The throne was *not in the midst* of the candlesticks, it was in a higher realm which necessitated being *caught up* — beyond the candlesticks! There is even now a change of seasons upon us. The voice of the Son of God has been heard by many in this hour out of the heavenlies, calling a people to *come up higher* and prepare themselves for the next feast, the next realm, the next experience, the next moving of God in the earth, the third feast, the third day, the third compartment of the tabernacle — the realm of the fullness of God in the Holiest of all!

From time to time the Lord speaks to me in dreams — usually at about six o'clock in the morning. On October 15, 1995, Larry and Betty Hodges were scheduled to be here in El Paso, sharing with some brethren who would meet in a home. That morning I awoke from a dream. In the dream I was in a large hall such as is used for meetings and functions of various kinds. At one side of the hall, against the wall, was a table. To the right of the table were several people seated in chairs along the wall. Brother Hodges was standing before the table, facing the wall, ministering to the people seated along the wall to his right. His back was to the large hall. He was ministering from a manuscript on the table — I could see that it was typewritten, with a number of pages, and double-spaced like a manuscript prepared for a publisher. He had reached the bottom of the first page and was speaking words that evoked a great excitement in my spirit. I was saying within my own thoughts, "Amen! That's right, brother! That's what the Lord has been teaching me!" It seemed it had something to do with *death to self*.

Then I noticed two long tables out in the center of the hall. And I noted that brother Hodges was facing the table and the people along the wall — his back to the hall and the tables. I was aware that a great number of people would soon be arriving. The tables, however, were cluttered with food and dirty dishes left over from a previous banquet. There were two place settings that had not been used at the head of one of the tables. Obviously, the banquet that had been held there had ended, and things were not ready for the people that would be coming. I thought, "We must clear all this away and

make preparations for the arrival of the people!” Someone began to help me and we cleared the tables. Then a folded map appeared in my hands. I laid the map on a shelf — and awoke from the dream.

In my meditations that morning the Spirit gave me understanding of the dream. Needless to say, I was very interested to see what brother Hodges would be ministering that day! I saw that the manuscript he was ministering from was as an *unpublished manuscript* — a fresh word, a new revelation for a new day — not known by the masses of Christians. It is that which can only be known by the Spirit and is witnessed to by those who are hearing from God in this hour! Those that receive this word are few in number compared to the millions of believers — a “little flock,” even the “remnant” of the Lord. But there is coming a great change! God is setting the stage to move in a new way, in the power of the kingdom of God, and there shall be a great ingathering! Multitudes will flow into the kingdom of God through the ministry of the sons of God! But things are not quite ready — there are yet preparations to be made.

The tables with the left-over food and dirty dishes bespeak of the previous move of God — the feast of Pentecost. It was a glorious feast with rich blessing for many — but the feast *has ended*. The meal is over! Only remnants of blessings and the vessels used remain. Those that were ordained to partake of that feast came and ate. Some that were bidden to the feast didn’t make it, or refused the invitation. This was represented in the two place settings that had not been used! Some today do not believe that the feast of Pentecost has ended. But I tell you that I have been a life-time witness to the power of Pentecost and have beheld with my own eyes the glory, the signs and wonders, the miracles and manifestations, the gifts and the ministries of that realm, and what I have witnessed in my life-time is marvelous beyond words to express! Believe me when I now tell you that *it is over*. Oh, yes, there are still scraps of food on the table, there are still tongues and prophecies and occasional miracles and signs, but the vast majority of what I see today does not impress me at all, it is naught but showmanship, charlatanism, the power of suggestion, mass hypnosis, psychologically induced emotionalism, and evangelistic hype. THERE IS NO REAL POWER OF PENTECOST ANYWHERE IN THE LAND TODAY. I do not hesitate to say it. I have been a glad partaker of the real, and I have been a sad spectator of the imitation. There *is* a difference!

The truth that gripped my spirit that morning in 1995 was just this: The former feast is over and God is now speaking from an unpublished manuscript! What He has to say has only begun (brother Hodges was only at the bottom of the first page), and He is dealing with His called and chosen ones about the *price to be paid* and the *preparations to be made* for the next great move of God — the feast of Tabernacles! This is the hour of preparation! Let us prepare our hearts! All who treasure the beautiful hope of sonship now leave behind the feast that has ended and set our sight and our hearts upon the feast that is ready to begin! In my dream brother Hodges (who represents all the elect of God) had his back to the hall with the tables and dirty dishes. In other words, he had renounced that which was past, he had turned away from that with which God was finished. He was speaking from a higher realm, a fresh and greater word, proclaiming a new Day, and pressing into a new glory.

Finally, I saw that the map represents our present walk in the Spirit and our destination in God. I laid the folded map on a shelf, meaning that we have not yet received the full revelation of Father's timing, and just when or how the Lord will bring every son to manifestation. I confess that I do not know all about it, but I do know the word we have received from God, and today we go forward *by faith!* In this hour God is raising a people in consciousness to heights never known by man, we are walking in a new place in God, He is establishing a new order in our hearts, and is beckoning us onward to a new attainment, a ministry and a glory never before experienced by any except our glorious Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us, beloved, prepare our hearts for the thing God is doing in our day! And — interestingly, these are the very things brother Larry ministered that Sunday morning — to which my spirit gave a hearty “Amen!”

Let no man think that any of the blessings, gifts, anointings, manifestations, revivals, miracles, or movings of the Spirit we have experienced along our journey have the power to usher us into manifest sonship or in any way represent what the sonship ministry will be like. None of the few grapes and pomegranates we have received on our journey into the Canaan Land of promise can meet the need of this Day! None who has spiritual eyes of understanding believes that there is much left of the fruit of Canaan in the midst of the Lord's people. When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, the twelve spies brought back samples of the fruit of the Land and they were wonderful beyond description! But the children of Israel were not in the Land, they were in the wilderness, and the grapes and pomegranates brought to them in the wilderness were indeed incredibly tasty and exciting, but were soon gone and the people were still in the wilderness. That's how it is with Pentecost — the *firstfruits* of the Spirit! Even those grapes of Eschol, and the pomegranates and figs of former revivals are now but a fleeting memory of the good old days. And the Lord's people are still in the wilderness! Many are looking for a return of those blessed times of past revival and visitation, instead of anticipating a still greater and eternal glory that lies ahead. For no matter how great those days were in the past, the full measure that God has reserved for His manifested sons is *yet to be revealed!*

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which *shall be revealed in us*. For the earnest expectation of the creation *waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God*. For the creation was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creation itself *also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption, into the glorious liberty of the children of God*. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but *ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit*, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the *adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body*” (Rom. 8:18-23).

This, then, in some small part, is the *glory* for which the *sons of God seek* — the glory of *incorruption*, the glory of *adoption*, the glory of *immortality* — total and eternal deliverance from the power of sin, sorrow, limitation, and death! The spirit of that adoption now pulsates within our consecrated hearts. “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the *spirit of adoption*, whereby we cry,

Abba, Father! The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children, then heirs; *heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ*: if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also *glorified together*" (Rom. 8:15-17). Daily the spirit of adoption increases in victory and power within every son called to glory, that in union with Him we might receive the fullness of the graces, virtues, powers, and riches that are in Christ Jesus!

The history of every son of God will eventually be the story of a progression from the natural through the spiritual to the celestial; passing from the realm of darkness and death through the realm of quickening, change, and transformation, to the fullness of stature and glory in the image and likeness of God; from the world of sinners through the realm of the church to the power and glory of the throne of God; from the brazen altar of sacrifice for sin in the Outer Court to the golden altar and table of prayer, praise, and communion in the dim light of the candlestick in the Holy Place, then on into the Holiest of all, where shines the undimmed and more excellent glory of the undiminished majesty of God.

Many and varied are the ways and paths by which the Lord in faithfulness prepares the people He has chosen. A most enlightening aspect of this preparation is found tucked away among the priceless gems in that treasure house of truth which is the Song of Solomon. At the bursting beauty of spring, standing in the garden of delights, the little Shulamite maiden's Beloved counsels her, "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes" (S.of S. 2:15). Her Beloved warns that it is not enough to dwell in the garden and admire the beauty of the flowers and trees and smell their fragrance. It is not enough to listen to the singing of birds and look forward to the harvest. It is not enough to rejoice that we have been called and made worthy to become partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, that we have been delivered out of the power of the darkness of the world and religion, and translated into the kingdom of God's Son. Oh, no! There is responsibility; we must *keep the vineyard of our own lives and souls!* And we must take every fox, especially the young foxes that hide away and eat the vines, stripping them of the bark and destroying them.

In this hour at the transition of the ages there is a precious thing being formed, a *new thing*, a *new day*, a *new people* who are of the day, even the firstfruits of the kingdom. The thing God is doing today cannot be compared with *anything* He has done in the past in the religious systems and church revivals. The only pattern is CHRIST! Christ is the SON OF GOD, the first and so far ONLY MANIFEST SON OF GOD. The harvest of the church age is MANY SONS BROUGHT TO HIS GLORY, CONFORMED TO HIS IMAGE, FILLED WITH HIS FULLNESS — A VAST COMPANY OF MANIFEST SONS OF GOD! It seems that always when men pray for a fresh moving of God in their midst, they begin to examine all the former "moves" and "revivals" of church history and try to find the "key" as to what will bring the glory of God again, as if God will ever repeat the past. But He declares of this day, "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a *new thing*; now it shall spring forth..." (Isa. 43:18-19).

As long as we are deeply enwrapped and entangled in the old, yea, even those *old things God has done*, we cannot ever behold the new, for our eyes and hearts are blinded by the cloak of the old. There are no little foxes anywhere more cute, deceitful, or treacherous than these little foxes of *the old ways of Babylon* which cling to the vines of our walk in God. How cunning they are! The little foxes of the religious systems prey upon the sentimental senses of our soul, with their music, programs, ordinances, activities, promotions and entertainment. But, blessed be God! by the eye of the Spirit I have come to behold the formations of *a completely new move of God* ready to be birthed in the earth. I do not hesitate to declare it! I do not condemn any of the present orders of meetings and worship, of hymns and testimonies, of prophecies and prayers, of exhortations and teachings, of sermons and altar calls, of gifts and ministries, for we know that God uses them all; yet, the Spirit is speaking, stirring, dealing, quickening, convincing the hearts of His called and chosen elect to be alert to the little foxes of the *old order that is passing away* and those who hear His voice are not allowing the ways, methods, traditions, and practices of the old to so cling to us that they choke and strip us even as our hearts cry out for the NEW and the tender grapes of HIS SONSHIP appear on our vines.

That great man of God, Dr. Charles S. Price, many years ago penned this prophetic poem:

Can Christians grow by holding firm
To doctrine or to creed?
The Shepherd leads His sheep to where
They in new pastures feed.
Can food of yesteryear suffice
For hunger of today?
Was it not for our daily bread
That He taught us how to pray?
A soul can never grow in grace
That is content to stay
In blissful contemplation of
The things of yesterday,
And live alone in memory
Of some bright evening star
His grace had sent to lead us on;
Not keep us where we are!
Unfolding revelation is
God's purpose for this hour.
Why live in flesh? The stratospheres
Are vibrant with His power!
There is a Spirit realm to which
We can triumphant rise,
And blend redemption's melodies
With music from the skies.

It is my deep conviction that the time appointed of the Father for the manifestation of the sons of God is nigh at hand. Sons of God shout it loud and clear! Let the earth know her redemption draweth nigh! The King of Love is coming! Hallelujah! The Deliverer is coming out of Zion, the whole Christ-body is being prepared, and the time is at hand. There is no other way out of the darkness of this hour. While the religious systems “play church” and the Christians “dabble in politics” trying to save the nation and the world, the royal heralds are going forth blowing their trumpets, proclaiming the message of the kingdom in the power of the Spirit, preparing the stage for the appearing of the KING in a vast company of the sons of God — the King in the midst of the kings, for He is the King of *kings* and the Lord of *lords*! What a glorious and mighty and exultant victory lies before us!

In my years of ministry I have had occasion to reflect upon this saying of our Lord, “No man, having put his hand to the plow, *and looking back*, is fit for the kingdom (government) of God” (Lk. 9:62). Some people come to the hard work of pressing into the kingdom only under painful duress. Once the price of entrance becomes clear to them, they drop the plow and turn back to the beggarly elements of religion, joining themselves again to the programs and activities of a church system in a lesser realm. They are not yet ready for the kingdom! They refuse to enter into the kingdom! In contrast are those who find themselves *unable* to leave the kingdom walk! They are drawn irresistibly to the transforming and creative process going on within them, and thoroughly understand that there is nothing in the church systems of man for them anymore. Nothing could entice them — not blessings, not gifts, not programs, nor fellowship, nor personalities, nor needs — to turn from their quest of the kingdom. **THEY HAVE REACHED THE POINT OF NO RETURN.** No looking back! The hook is in their jaw. They can do nothing else, so help them God. They have been quickened, captivated, possessed by the voice bidding them to “*Come up hither!*”

If we are the elect of God in this hour, there is a call within us, and deep calleth unto deep. I tell you, my beloved, there is something within me, an inner compulsion, and I know that I have set my face as a flint and cannot turn to the right hand or the left from my journey into God’s fullness. I can’t go back to the world — the world has nothing to offer me; it is all vanity and vexation of spirit. I can’t go back to religion — religion holds nothing for me anymore; it is wearisome to my soul and an abomination. I can’t even go back to Pentecost, back to the Holy Place — for the veil has been rent and I have tasted of the powers of the world to come and beheld the glories of the throne realm. There is no turning back because my heart has turned to the Lord! As the apostle says, “When it (the heart) shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away...and we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, *are changed into the same image* from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor. 3:16-18). For some in this hour the veil has been rent in their consciousness and we have found an entrance to behold the transcendent glories of that promised land that lies before us. By the blood of Jesus we have been granted the opportunity to enter into the kingdom of God!

We must love every man, especially those who are of the household of faith. I do love them. I love them every one! I pray for them all! I care for them all! I yearn after them more deeply and fervently than they could ever imagine! I ask God's blessing upon them all without partiality! I want only God's best for every believer in Jesus Christ, irrespective of their level of spiritual development, or what doctrines or religious systems they are involved with. But I cannot walk with many of them. I cannot join myself to them in their childish traditions and carnal institutions. I cannot partake with them at their table of static creeds and man-made doctrines. I cannot participate with them in their empty rituals and ceremonies. I cannot be involved in their grandiose schemes and soulish promotions by which they imagine to save the world. Their insipid vision of waiting to die and fly away to that bright glory-world above has nothing in common with the beautiful hope of sonship to God and the revelation of the kingdom birthed within my ransomed spirit by the quickening breath of my Father in heaven. Their expositions, sermonizings, homilies, meetings, projects, hopes, aspirations, and goals are but dim flickering candles compared to the *light of the glory of God* in the face of Jesus Christ!

The ministry all creation is waiting for, longing for, groaning and travailing for, is the ministry of *sonship*. Only Jesus has demonstrated what it is! But the ministry of Jesus was not in the gift realm of Pentecost, it was not "in part," it was not "by measure," but His ministry was the ministry of a MANIFESTED SON OF GOD in all the power and wisdom and glory of the Father! Some tell us that the ministry Jesus demonstrated on earth is *not what manifest sonship is*. If sonship ministry is not what Jesus Christ, the *Son of the living God*, revealed on earth, then pray tell me, what is it? I never thought I would see what I see today, brethren who received a revelation of sonship now "watering it down" to something far less than what Jesus has shown us. Let me tell you — the great secret of the ministry of Jesus was that it was not in limitation but in fullness. Jesus Himself said that the Father did not give Him the Spirit *by measure*. He also said that the works the Father did through Him were the proof and evidence of His sonship! Jesus did not receive a "gift" in the church realm, but He was the incarnation, the embodiment, the personification of the FULLNESS OF THE FATHER! That is the realm of *sonship*. And that is why creation is not groaning for another gift-ministry, another apostle, another prophet, another evangelist, pastor, or teacher, another gospel crusade, or another revival.

Creation is in pain and travail waiting for the *manifestation of the sons of God!* Oh, yes! Only the sons of God will possess within themselves the fullness of the **power of the kingdom of God** as did Jesus! They will have all that He had *plus* the **power of His resurrection!** Only the sons of God, in the power of Christ's resurrection, can deliver creation from *the bondage of corruption*. Jesus is not the firstborn among many Christians, or among many evangelists, or many teachers, or even many apostles and prophets. Oh, no! He is the firstborn among MANY BRETHREN! The brethren are *like Him*. They are completely *like Him!* That is what *makes* them brethren, and that is what makes them *sons!* He is not bringing many gifted Christians to glory, He is not bringing many musicians to glory, He is not bringing many deacons to glory, He is not bringing many Sunday School teachers to glory, He is not bringing many preachers to glory, He is

not bringing many apostles and prophets to glory, but He *is* bringing many **SONS** to glory! Aren't you glad!

Sonship is glorious beyond anything our eyes have seen or ears have heard. Jesus Christ is the firstborn Son of God. He is what *sonship is!* And now all His brothers are empowered to follow Him to maturity and into the power of His resurrection. All will follow His steps, becoming what He is. The spiritual life of every son has the same origin as the firstborn, for all are born of God. We are being perfected by the same process, and will ultimately achieve the same result. Jesus Christ was and is the personification of the Father, and so shall we be. The holy and divine nature of Jesus Christ is ours to be raised up within us. The works He did we shall do as well. The authority of Jesus Christ, the power of His throne, even the dominion of the ages and all things, He will share with those who come unto the measure of the stature of *His fullness*. Jesus possesses the totality of God's essence and substance, and this is the heritage of every manifest son of God. The present resurrection, ascension, and enthronement of Jesus Christ is the portrait of our destiny! Oh, the wonder of it!

The sons of God are destined to inherit all things; they are selected by the Father to become the dispensers of blessing to all created realms. Thus creation groans in sympathetic birth pangs, longing for their arrival! From powerful angels in heaven, to worlds in the farthest galaxy, the universe resonates with anticipation of the glorious unveiling of the sons of God. The sons will share the fullness of the glory of their Father. They will grow up into the attributes of God as a permanent state of being. The sons of God will partake of Godlikeness, and a spiritual inheritance that is incomprehensible to natural men, even religious men, saved men, and Spirit-baptized men! This celestial race of beings shall be endowed with all the authority and capacity of God. Immortal omnipotence will flow from them as the light rays from the sun. In the heaven blest days before us, those who have attained to sonship will be displayed in the blazing glory of immortality. This climatic finale is a fast approaching certainty.

From the difficulties, struggles, testings and processings of this present time the son company will burst into everlasting splendor, streaming glory, wisdom, and power as a shower of stars. With Jesus as the Captain, this reigning government of God shall invade the bastions of darkness and by war, yea, by *spiritual warfare* shall they take the rule from the kings of the earth. These are celestial kings and priests, trained and tested in conquest. They are invincible in the nature and power of the Father. Nothing shall confound them; all will succumb to their sway. This company of sons is the final world government — it will never be overthrown! They will subdue every enemy, transform every life, renew every mind, and be the fountainhead of every blessing! They are the solution that God has ordained for the travail of earth's teeming billions. This is the destiny of God's Christ, Head *and* body!

God has put His hand to the task; He is ready to grasp the *whole world* and, through the sonship ministry, switch it on to another track, changing its course and destination. I tell you, dear ones, as sons of God we are laborers together with God in inaugurating the **next stage** of the kingdom which will impact every living nation of earth. We are now called

to “come up hither” to His *throne!* We shall work and work, minister and minister, reign and reconcile and bless and deliver and transform all nations and all men and all realms and all worlds and all ages until we accomplish **the end.** “Then cometh **the end,** when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign, until He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” (I Cor. 15:24-26). If it takes a week, a month, a year, a decade, a century, a millennium, a billion years or a trillion years, it matters not one whit — the kingdom of God shall increase and expand and triumph until that blessed day when from pole to pole and from sea to sea and throughout all the vastnesses of infinity everywhere God shall be ALL IN ALL!

Let the mountains reverberate with the sound of the message, let the hills shout aloud for joy, and all the trees of the forest clap their hands! For we now stand on the threshold of a new dimension of the kingdom of God, and we must be prepared to receive HIM in fullness. As we earnestly look for His appearing, we are to receive ALL THAT HE IS, for when He appears in His glory in His manifest sons, all the traditions of yesterday will be swept away and the realms of limitation swallowed up in His surpassing glory. I cannot overemphasize this great and important truth: When Christ appears in the fullness of Himself in His many brethren, we must be prepared to receive Him on a higher plane than we have known Him hitherto. We cannot tell Him what portion of Him we will receive and what portion we will not receive. WE WILL RECEIVE AND MANIFEST HIM IN FULLNESS, and without any reservations or preconceived ideas, or we will not receive Him at all. Either we will walk in the power and glory of His sonship, or we will miss the glory. We will not bring into that new order of life and power the old ways and traditions of the church systems of man. Should we cling to the ministries and methods of the past, we will not be manifest sons. Vast multitudes of Christians will not stand in this new glory because of their tradition — but their time of visitation will come later. But for those who are willing to pay the price, to be thoroughly purged of all that is of the flesh, and disposed to turn loose of the past religious traditions, the old forms and ceremonies, the former means and methods, and the stagnant remains of yesterday’s visitations, there awaits great glory and heavenly wealth, and a world-shaking ministry beyond the comprehension of mortal mind.

Captain James Cook was an English explorer who lived more than two hundred years ago. His adventurous life began when he joined the British navy at the age of 27. He surveyed the St. Lawrence Channel and the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador before he was given his own ship, the *Endeavor*, to command. He sailed this ship all the way around the world, exploring the coasts of eastern Australia and New Zealand on the way. After returning to England he set out again for the South Pacific with two ships, the *Resolution* and the *Adventure*, and explored the icy Antarctic Ocean. He explored the New Hebrides Islands and discovered the island of New Caledonia in the Pacific Ocean off Australia. Early in his career Captain Cook made this amazing statement, I don’t remember the precise words, but the thought was this: “It is not my desire to merely go where other men have not gone; I WANT TO GO AS FAR AS IT IS POSSIBLE FOR MAN TO GO!” And his wish was granted, for when he was killed in 1779 by natives in

the Hawaiian Islands, there were no more frontiers on this planet to explore, and no more coasts to be charted.

Ah, in the spiritual world just such a desire has arisen within a company, those destined to manifest sonship, the desire to not merely press on in God to heights and depths not discovered by those great ones who have blessed this earth with God's grace, wisdom, and power, but indeed to GO AS FAR AS IT IS POSSIBLE FOR MAN TO GO IN GOD! What a vision! We are well acquainted with the "in part" realm, where God anoints men with the Holy Ghost and with power, and their gifts increase and their ministries expand and many are blessed. But then they die, and while others might try to carry on their vision, it is never again the same for those left behind do not possess the same wisdom or have the same anointing from God, so the movement crystallizes around the "part" the ministry possessed, and when men try to perpetuate it, it finally stagnates and dies. For one thing, every generation needs a new vision and not a carry-over of the old, but in this transition of the ages God is birthing a SON COMPANY that desires not merely to rebuild and restore the work of God of yesteryear, be it New Testament Church Order, five-fold ministry, gifts of the Spirit, expressions of worship, methods of evangelism, or whatever; but we are possessed of a heart to become identified with Jesus Christ *beyond the veil*, in the Holiest of all, after the power of an endless life, to know God not just in a measure, but in His fullness, and receiving that ministry after the order of Melchizedek which can proceed through the ages until a full victory is consummated and God is ALL IN ALL.

The compelling passion of my life is to be filled with all the fullness of God and be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. That is what sonship is! The deep cry of my heart is for the satisfaction of knowing that my life counts for God. As God knows my heart, it is not a selfish desire. The reason I want to be like Jesus is because I love Him so, and also because it is the *only way* I can ever be used in the restoration of fallen creation. I see the needs of the world around me, and realize that I am practically powerless to do anything about them. And should I initiate a program it would not even scratch the surface of the need. We thank God for all who are ministering to mankind on whatever level, and they shall receive their reward. Yet, men hold great crusades today and when you listen to their glowing reports you would think the whole world is turning to God. But should you walk the streets of the city they just left, you can barely find a trace of evidence that they were ever there. City-wide life goes on as before. Oh yes, we can pray, believe God, and touch whom we can, and see some people saved, blessed, healed, and delivered. But anyone who says that they have reached the place where their ministry is meeting the needs of the world and changing the order of things is either blind to the realities on this planet, a proud hypocrite, or a liar. But God is not blind to the need of this day, nor is He impotent to move. He has a plan, a wonderful plan! And He is going to move in mighty power just as soon as the time is ripe for it.

God is shaping our lives with a view to the future. What is happening to each son of God today has a bearing on what his role will be in the kingdom of God throughout the ages to come. Our present travail will be easier when we understand this truth. A crown prince cannot live like other people. When the crown prince of Great Britain is born, he is a

marked child from the day of his birth. He is different from other children. He cannot go just anywhere or do or be anything he chooses. His education, his way of dress, what he is taught in the home, his associations, his activities, where he goes and when and how, his leisure time — everything about his life is planned to prepare him to be a king. The man or woman called to sonship cannot be like other people or other of God's children any longer. God has a special plan for this one! The truth is that a son of God marches to a different tune than his contemporaries. He hears the band playing the march of victory! He stays in line with those in-Christed ones who march with him. He keeps in step with his leader, Jesus Christ. He marches to the music of the celestials. He marches in the procession of Christ. His music is the music of the kingdom. Because this is a different kind of marching from that of those in the church systems, he is often out of step with them. They are *not* all marching to the same place! Most Christians are marching to a place in the sky with golden streets, harps, and palm branches to sing and dance and play and frolic for eternity. Sons do not have time for such frivolity, for they are marching to the throne of the universe, to a position of eminence, power, authority, responsibility, and eternal glory as lords and kings and priests and creators after the likeness of their eternal Father. Their business is not dancing over the hillsides of glory, but bringing the kingdom of God to pass throughout the infinity of God's universe!

Always men have greeted friends and loved ones at the beginning of a new day with a cheery greeting, "Good morning!" In these words is the story of the night that is gone and the day which beckons. Fled from us are the lurking shades of night; eagerly we rush to greet the rosy countenance of the dawn. It is fitting that the discovery of the resurrection of our Lord should have been realized in the dawning light of a new day. Behind the disciples was the nightmare of the cross and the tomb. "Very early in the morning" they came to the sepulcher to minister to the dead body of Jesus — only to hear the angels' words, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen." It is as if the angels had said, "Good morning!" It was a good morning; there was nothing more to fear. A new day had dawned for mankind! Forget the fears and dreads of the night; rejoice in the wonders of the day!

Out of the deep and sovereign movings of God a prophetic voice has sounded forth in our generation. The church age is over! The old order is done! God is calling a people by revelation of His Spirit to arise and make the transition into the new age of the kingdom of God, into the new day of manifest sonship. We have heard the voice, we have responded to the call of the voice as of a trumpet to "*Come up hither!*" In the Spirit we have beheld the throne set in the heavens. It is set for us. Aren't you glad! The throne is our destiny. The kingdom of God is at hand. The manchild is ready to be birthed — to be caught up into the throne. A new order for all mankind is on the horizon. The Day has dawned and the daystar is rising in our hearts. The time of our change has come. Even now a mighty power, a living hope, is working in our lives. "GOOD MORNING SONS OF GOD!"

Chapter 70

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES AND THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

“...and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to whom be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” (Rev. 1:6).

With these wonderful words John introduces the New Testament church to Old Testament understanding. For the first time in the book of Revelation, here at the very beginning, he is bringing the Old Testament literal types and shadows over into the New Testament fulfillment. The Old Testament was all about natural, physical, earthly types and shadows of kingship and priesthood. Their kings and priests sat on physical thrones and offered animal sacrifices upon brazen altars in temples made with hands. But now John is raising this kingship and priesthood into a higher, spiritual dimension and announces to the saints that Christ now “hath made **us** kings and priests unto God and His Father.” With this simple beginning John does what he will do constantly throughout the book of Revelation — refer to Old Testament *terminology* within the context of New Testament *spiritual reality*!

More than 270 direct quotations, or expressions, couched in Old Testament language, are found in the Revelation. Rooted in this fertile soil, it is like a tree yielding the rich fruitage of the inspiration of the ages. Because the whole Bible is a prophecy and picture of Christ, therefore this book, drawing its nurture from the prophets of old, and showing forth the reality to which they pointed, could be nothing else but THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST! As from the mountain ranges of the Pacific the gold was once washed down and buried in the deep valleys of California, so from the mountains of the scriptures, from Horeb and Sinai, from Hermon and Carmel, from Zion and Moriah, the precious ore of divine truth and reality has been brought down and deposited in this alluvial book, till it is everywhere glistening with gold seven times refined.

The books of Genesis and Exodus especially, together with portions from the Psalms and the Prophets, form the *seed-bed* for the whole Word of God. The deepest book in the Bible, theologically, is the book of Revelation because in it we see the harvest, the fullness, the consummation of every seed planted in the Old Testament. It is my conviction that one doesn't need CNN, Time, Newsweek, or USA Today in order to understand the book of Revelation. All you need is a good copy of the Bible, and the spirit of wisdom and revelation from God! Every symbol, every sign, every picture, and every figure of the Revelation is already described and defined in the books of Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets. All the information one needs to interpret the Revelation is already given in the pages of sacred scripture. Our problem is that we haven't understood the seed-bed, so we don't understand the harvest!

It is interesting to note that Genesis begins with a Garden, and the book of Revelation ends with the Paradise of God. In Genesis there is a river flowing out of Eden, whereas in the Revelation there is a river flowing from God's throne. In Genesis 2:12 there is gold in the Land, but in the Revelation there is gold in the City. In Genesis the tree of life is in the midst of the Garden, while in the Revelation the tree of life grows in the midst of the street and on either side of the river in the City. In Genesis there is the bdellium and the onyx stone, and in the Revelation there are all manner of precious stones. In Genesis God walks in the Garden, and in the Revelation God dwells in the City. And we could go on and on for pages! The Word of God is more than a history book, my beloved, and more than a set of rules, laws, and commandments. A lot of people think we should throw the Old Testament away, and if that is what they think it is obvious they have no clue as to what it's about! The Psalmist, by the spirit of prophecy wrote, "In the volume of the book it is written of ME." Then Jesus said to His disciples, "These are the words which I spake unto you...that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, *concerning ME*. Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures" (Lk. 24:44-45). With these things in mind it should not be difficult for any to see that THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST is *the subject* of the entire Bible, which meets its acme, culmination, fullness, and consummation in the revelation given to John on Patmos!

We must be careful to read the Old Testament in the Spirit of Christ, or we will think everything will be fulfilled *literally* some day *in time*, instead of seeing that the FULFILLMENT IS **IN CHRIST!** All the imagery and typology in the book of Revelation involving the temple, the ark of the testimony, the throne, the most holy place, altars, offerings, incense, fire, seals, wheat, barley, horses, trumpets, wars, Armageddon, tribes of Israel, Jerusalem, mount Zion, the lamb, living creatures, the lion, the ox, the man, the eagle, eyes, wings, robes, harps, vials, and so on, ALL have their fulfillment *in Christ*. **THEY ARE FULFILLED IN HIM!** They are not fulfilled in America, Russia, the Middle East, or the so-called Holy Land. Oh, no! Christ is the substance of all the shadows (Col. 2:17). Whatever you are looking for to be fulfilled, don't look at a spot on the map, don't look at a date on the calendar, just look into Christ in the Spirit!

The book of Revelation is without doubt one of the most important and wonderful books ever written. Vivid imagery marks the book of Revelation. There are powerful representations of scenes both in heaven and on earth. The central scene is the THRONE OF GOD. All other things are related to the throne. This throne is the very center of the universe. Not the physiographical center — but the *spiritual center!* The throne is a symbol bespeaking of that realm of God's absolute dominion and omnipotent power over all things. The throne is not a literal seat in some far-off heaven somewhere; it is the omnipresent dimension of God's sovereign authority and power.

In the book of Revelation all "heavenly things," that is, all *spiritual realities*, are revealed in their relationship to the throne of God. And while the King James Bible states that "*one* sat upon the throne," you will note that the word "one" in your Bible is in italics, meaning that the word does not appear in the Greek text but is supplied by the translators in an effort to clarify what they perceive to be the intent of the passage. And

while it is wonderfully true that there is ONE sitting upon the throne, it is evident that that ONE is a CORPORATE ONE — a many-membered body! God is a God of corporateness. Christ is a Christ of corporateness. “For as the body is *one*, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, *are one body, SO ALSO IS CHRIST*” (I Cor. 12:12). While there is only one God and one throne, yet the God of the throne is ultimately and eternally manifested in corporateness through God’s Christ, that vast company of sons who are themselves “the *fullness of Him* that filleth all in all.” Therefore, He who sits upon the throne is One — yet that One is a Corporate One even as Jesus says, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne” (Rev. 3:21). This is that eternal unity of the many-membered FAMILY OF GOD of which Jesus spoke when He said, “That they all may *be one*; as Thou, Father, art *in me*, and *I in Thee*, that they may be *one in us*. And the glory which Thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be *one, even as we are one: I in them, and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect IN ONE*” (Jn. 17:21-23). It is indeed wonderful!

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES

“And *round about* the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And *out of* the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning *before* the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And *before* the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and *in the midst* of the throne, and *round about* the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind” (Rev. 4:4-6).

As I stated earlier, in the book of Revelation all “heavenly things” are revealed in their *relationship* to the throne. Therefore in the passage just quoted, in addition to the beautiful description of the symbolic throne with its effulgent glory, our attention is immediately directed to certain objects *before* the throne, *round about* the throne, *in the midst* of the throne, and proceeding *out of* the throne. Each of these positions is vitally significant! Everything in the heavenlies is shown to be either in the throne, proceeding out of the throne, around the throne, or before the throne. This is a throne scene, and concerns sitting down with the Lord Jesus in His throne just as He overcame, and is set down with His Father in His throne. This throne cannot be seen with mortal eyes, yet it is a living reality in the lives of God’s chosen people! All that we both become and perform in God’s great *throneship purpose* is lived out either in the throne, out of the throne, round about the throne, or before the throne. That is the mystery of it!

Four wonderful beasts are brought into view. “And *in the midst* of the throne, and *round about* the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.” When I first heard about beasts in heaven I was just a child and young, not only in years, but in my walk in Christ. So therefore, the only way I could understand these beasts was to think of them in the natural, which could not

have been! When you turn to the natural understanding and try to mix the natural with *heavenly things*, you move into the world of imagination and delusion. I never could understand the heaven I hoped to go to, and dreamed of so much — for how could this heaven have *beasts* in it? How did they get there? Did God have some celestial “pooper-scoopers” to keep the throne zone clean? Now, I understand, of course, that the heaven we are talking about is *the realm of the Spirit in which God eternally dwells!*

The scriptures are abundantly clear that “YE are the temple of the living God” and the throne of God is *in His holy temple!* With this wonderful realization firmly abiding in our hearts we are better prepared to grasp the truth Christ clearly gives us that it is from the throne of that temple which *we are* that God now speaks by His Spirit. The lightnings, thunderings, and voices “out of the throne” are God speaking out of His kings and priests who sit with Him upon His throne. So what are these “beasts” in the midst of the throne? These are not some kind of weird animalistic creatures out of Star Wars on a far-away planet called heaven. That is foolishness! We’re seeing men who walk here upon the earth in the exaltation and glory of the God-man, Christ. These are characteristics that are fulfilled in those who are the sons of the living God. My beloved, this is *you* in this picture! God is revealing Himself *in you!* Few believers understand the great truth that God is not external. Earth’s voices must fall silent here, for only by revelation of the Holy Spirit can a man know that God dwells in him and that he dwells in God. What eternal purpose would be served by the knowledge of some weird creatures flying around a throne somewhere out beyond the Milky Way? We must know what is for us in the revelation of Jesus Christ! Today I see more clearly than I have ever seen that the revelation of Jesus Christ is in and through the body of Jesus Christ. Sweet mystery of the ages!

Let us get a firm mental picture of this scene which John saw in heaven, in the realm of the Spirit. He saw the throne of God and God sitting on the throne. And in the middle of the throne, and also encircling the throne, were four beasts, full of eyes in front and behind. These each had six wings, and their faces were like a lion, an ox, a man, and a flying eagle. In a circle around the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on these thrones were twenty-four elders clothed in white robes and with crowns of gold on their heads. In the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a lamb as it had been slain. Before the throne, evidently between the elders and the throne, stood seven lamps of fire burning. Outside the circle of the elders stood the great multitude of the redeemed from every nation and tribe on earth; they were clothed in white robes and had palm branches in their hands. Around all this were the angels of heaven, an innumerable host — myriads upon myriads, thousands upon thousands. What a scene!

The word “beasts” is an unfortunate translation, being necessarily associated in our minds with the brute creation and that which is typified thereby. It is not the Greek word *therion* which in thirty-five instances in the book of Revelation is translated beast, meaning “a wild and ravenous beast,” thus denoting an animal of ferocious disposition. It is, rather, the Greek word *zoon* which signifies simply a “living creature” and is so translated in nearly all modern translations of the Bible. In the Revelation the

word *therion* is used as a type of the base corruptible and fleshly nature of the natural man and of the brutish and tyrannical kingdoms of *this world*, ruled by the carnal, depraved, and vicious nature of unregenerated men. The word *zoon*, however, means **living creature**, or a **creature expressing life**. It comes from the root *zao* from which also is derived the word *zoe* which is used always in reference to *divine life* or the *life of the ages*. All of these words denote that which is alive or is lively! How significant, then, that these four **creatures of life** are found “in the midst of the throne” and “round about the throne,” occupying the central position in the throne while emanating as an essence, glory, and power out from the throne.

This term “in the midst” is very significant! The prophet Ezekiel once saw far in the distance a great whirlwind moving toward him, and in the whirlwind a fire. As it moved closer and closer, and his eyes were opened more and more, he beheld in that fire the four living creatures, until finally he beheld the Almighty in the midst thereof. The picture is clear — these are in some way identified with, or representative of, “HIM that sits upon the throne.” A further key to their identity is found in Revelation 5:6 wherein we read, “And I beheld, and lo, **in the midst of the throne...stood a lamb** as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.” Ah, notice the divine parallel: “**In the midst of the throne...stood a lamb**” and “**In the midst of the throne...were four living creatures.**” Both the Lamb and the four living creatures are thus *manifestations* of the *authority and power of life* in the One who sits upon the throne!

Imagine this headline in today’s newspaper: *Cure Found for Death!* Newspapers would soon be sold out. Everyone would be scrambling to find out what this fantastic announcement had to say. But suppose the article under the headline reported that a traveling teacher has announced that he personally is the cure for death — he has not made a scientific discovery nor found some secret fountain of youth — but by revelation he has proclaimed *himself* as the source of life and immortality! We might begin to suspect that he’s just another religious teacher who has gotten carried away with delusions of self-importance, even if he has raised a few dead people back to life. And when we read about his claim that the only way to escape death is to believe in him, we’d say, “How preposterous!” Perhaps it’s not surprising that relatively few people take Jesus’ bold statement seriously — “He who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die” (Jn. 11:25-26). After all, it’s probably the most startling claim anyone has ever made! Why should anyone believe it? We should believe it, not because Jesus raised Lazarus after he had been dead for four days, but because Jesus Himself arose after He died for us — and because He still lives today! The Lamb that was slain is in the midst of the throne, and He has sent forth from the throne the very *spirit of His life* into us by the power of the Holy Ghost! It is a glorious fact, for we have received it! Christ alone has the credentials to claim that He can give life and immortality to men!

The Greek word *zoe* is the word used throughout the New Testament for the **God kind of life**. There are three primary Greek words translated “life” in the New Testament. *Zoe* is the first, always used when speaking of divine and spiritual life. Then there is *psuche*,

denoting natural, soulish, or human life. The third is *bios*, meaning the affairs of this world and our living in it. Jesus declared that He came into the world for one purpose — “I am come that they might have *life*, and that they might have it more abundantly” (Jn. 10:10). The Greek word translated “life” in this verse is *zoe*. This eternal life He came to give us is the very nature of God! “For as the Father hath *life (zoe)* in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have *life (zoe)* in Himself” (Jn. 5:26). And again, “In Him was *life (zoe)*; and the *life (zoe)* was the light of men” (Jn. 1:4). By His *zoe life* God imparts His very nature, essence, substance, and being into our human spirits! *Zoe*, then, means what we call eternal life, or God’s life, or divine life. This new kind of life is that which *quickeneth the human spirit*, awakening us and making us alive unto God! This has already happened in those who believe. This life effects great changes in our lives, transforms our minds, and raises up the image and likeness of God within us. Ultimately this is the heritage of every son of Adam! “Therefore as by the offense of one (man) judgment came upon *all men* to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon *all men* unto justification of *life*” (Rom. 5:18). “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the *life of the world*” (Jn. 6:51).

Only the life that is both divine and eternal can be counted as life, for every other kind of life ends in death. Only life which is immortal can be considered life, for that which is immortal is unchangeable; it remains the same and continues living even after passing through any kind of blow or destruction. A life which is subject to any change, weakness, or death is neither unchangeable, indestructible, immortal, nor eternal. Such cannot be considered *life!* Only that which is *divine*, the *God quality of life*, is truly life. Though a man might claim that he has put on immortality in his body and will never physically die, if his body is still capable of being splattered on the highway by a Mack truck, he obviously does not have *life* reigning in his body! Even Jesus could die physically, until He came forth in the power of resurrection in a body possessed by divine life. That divine body could pass through any kind of blow or destruction without being affected in any way. He could pass right through the wall, appear and disappear, and nothing could overcome Him. What does it mean to have life? It means to have God Himself! Life is a mighty power! We will know the full power of that life when we have come to live fully out of that life. This life is centered in the throne. The One in the throne is the *LIVING*

ONE! How do we know this? “...those *living creatures* give glory and honour and thanks to Him that sat on the throne, who *liveth for ever and ever*” (Rev. 4:10).

In the midst of the throne! The four “Living Creatures” are four manifestations of LIFE — the LIFE OF THE GOD OF THE THRONE! They are four representations of NATURE — the NATURE OF THE GOD IN THE THRONE! The four Living Creatures are four expressions of the POWER AND DOMINION OF THE THRONE! If you want to know what the God of the throne is like, then take a look at the four Living Creatures in the midst of the throne. In them is manifest the attributes of the life of the God of the throne. If you wish to know the nature of the authority, rule, and dominion of the throne, then understand the nature of the four Living Creatures in the midst of the

throne; for these embody within themselves the character of the dominion of the God of the throne. Not only do they represent the life and nature of the God of the throne; not only do they express within themselves the character of the dominion of the throne — they likewise reveal the very life, nature, character, and dominion of A-L-L WHO SHARE THE THRONE!

This is the *life of the throne!* The throne means **kingship!** The One on the throne **REIGNS!** This is the glory of the *sons of God* who reign with Christ! This is the fourfold character of God revealed through the dominion of God from the throne. This is God's identity through His kingdom administration in and through those who share **His kingship**, to reconcile and restore all things into God again. The four Living Creatures are the four faces of God revealed in His power, grace, wisdom, and exaltation. The four Living Creatures are the fourfold nature of God revealed in dominion. When the power, grace, wisdom, and exaltation of God have been raised up in that earth which *you are*, as it is in heaven, you will behold the four Living Creatures within yourself! Ah, precious friend of mine, if you have received the call of the overcomer to “sit with HIM in His throne,” then all that the four Living Creatures represent is even now being wrought out in your life, their nature becoming your nature, for naught but the nature of the Lamb and of the four Living Creatures can stand **“in the midst of the throne.”**

My spirit thrills with the harmonies of heaven as I contemplate these things and the glories typified by the four Living Creatures unfold within my spiritual understanding, for truly they reveal the nature of throneship, the realm of God's omnipotent power and sovereign dominion. They bespeak the position and ministry of **KINGSHIP**. God **REIGNS!** The Lamb **REIGNS!** The four Living Creatures **REIGN!** The overcomers **REIGN!** The manchild **REIGNS!** All are **IN THE THRONE!** What else would you do in the throne? And if you would share that throne as a king in God's kingdom, then the nature of God, which is the nature of the Lamb, which is the nature of the four Living Creatures, is now becoming *your nature*, too! “And...the four Living Creatures and the four and twenty Elders...sung a new song, saying, Thou art worth to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed **us** to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast **made us** unto our God **KINGS AND PRIESTS:** and **we shall reign on the earth**” (Rev. 5:8-10). There we have the clearest possible identification of the four Living Creatures. They are God's kings! They represent His kingship! They are they that reign! Not in heaven — *on the earth!* They are God's government on earth!

Now let us consider for a moment the fact that these Living Creatures are *four*. When ancient man went outside of his home and looked about him, he had no conception of the modern world as we know it. No Copernicus had ever opened his eyes to the vast significance of the universe. To him the world was a great flat surface with four boundaries, east and west and north and south. There were four winds from the four sides of the earth. Thus, when he thought of the world he thought in terms of **four**. Four became the cosmic number. The world in which men lived and worked and died, was conveniently symbolized by four. There were four corners of the earth; four elements of earth, air, fire, and water; four seasons, and four phases of the moon; the great “World

Powers” as revealed to the prophet Daniel were four in number: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Four is the number of all that is worldly, world-wide, or universal. Thus, the four Living Creatures in the midst of the throne, who reign on the earth, signify the world-wide, all-encompassing, and universal power and dominion of the life of God from His throne!

What power pertains to those who are seated with Christ in His throne! And you, dear called and chosen of the Lord, are seated with Christ in the highest of the heavens! You are not seated there to sing and shout and dance all over God’s heaven. Oh, no! You have been apprehended to His throne to rule, to reign over the earth! Simply speaking, to reign is to exercise authority for God — to rule all things. God’s one intention from the beginning has been that He may make man in His image and likeness and *give him dominion* — that he may reign for Him in the universe. Although this matter of reigning will not be completely realized until the manifestation of the sons of God, yet today God wants it to have a beginning on earth. If any believer has not yet reached the degree of reigning for God, he has missed God’s purpose in creating man. There must be such people prepared by God that through them the authority of God can be executed and the kingdom of God can come to pass upon earth.

The Lord says, “Behold, I have given you *authority* to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the *power* of the enemy: and nothing shall in any wise hurt you” (Lk. 10:19). True, the King James Bible states that Christ has given us “power” to tread on serpents and scorpions, but the Greek word is *exousia* meaning *authority* or *jurisdiction*. When Jesus speaks of the “power” of the enemy, however, He uses a different word, *dunamis*, meaning *power*. Our English words dynamite and dynamo come from that Greek word. Praise God, all that the adversaries of this present age have is POWER — but what the Lord gives us is AUTHORITY! This shows that authority is greater than power and can control power; therefore authority is over power. People talk about the power of the adversary; yes, the adversaries do have some power, but they have ABSOLUTELY NO AUTHORITY! The satanic realm has been stripped of all authority!

The Lord gives us authority in order to deal with all the power of the enemy. We may illustrate this by an automobile moving along the street. Although it has hundreds of horsepower under the hood, yet a traffic policeman has authority over it. When he blows his whistle the mighty engine must slow to a whisper and the car must stop. That is authority over power! Again, it is like an army. Although it has great power with its men, tanks, airplanes, guns, and bombs, yet the General has the authority. Nothing moves or does anything until he gives the order! He has authority over power! Authority is over power and controls power, therefore authority supersedes power. The Son of God who sits upon the throne has given us *authority* over all the *power* of the enemy! Rejoice ye kings and priests! You have authority to speak to the power of the adversary and that adversary must obey your word! You have authority to command every stratagem and work of the enemy, that its hold be broken. You have authority to speak life to men, situations, and nations. That is the wonder!

What a reign God shall bring forth through His king-priest company! Who shall banish cruel oppression? Who shall drive savage war with all its horrors, from the face of the earth? Who shall stay the ravages of famine, pestilence, and disease? Who shall free the sad world from murder, suicide, hatred, and crime? Who shall release the prisoners of sin and death, and wipe all tears from off all faces, that there be no more crying, neither sorrow, nor pain anywhere in God's beautiful earth? The moan of the world's agony comes to me as the surge of the sea upon a rocky shore. Alas, Lord! for the sorrow, bondage, sin, torment, and death which all our efforts cannot undo, and all our sympathy cannot banish. What can'st Thou do for these, O Lord? And I hear the Lord's whisper from within my deepest spirit. "The sons of God are arising to set creation free. As the sons arise in the power of my *peace* — fear, hatred, and violence shall cease. As the sons arise in the authority of my *victory* — oppression and tyranny shall end. As the sons arise in the strength of my *righteousness* — the bondage of sin shall be broken and mankind released into my holiness. As the sons arise in the intelligence of my *mind* — ignorance and superstition shall surrender to my wisdom. As the sons arise in the quickening of my *life* — death's hold shall be broken and the way of life opened to all mankind. As the sons arise in the splendor of my *light* — the darkness shall flee away, the sorrowing shall be comforted, the meek exalted to reign, the broken-hearted healed, and the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Hallelujah!

The anointing of the sons of God shall be an anointing *without measure*, and the message of these sons shall be a message stripped of all the ineffectual absurdities that have been preached throughout the years. The sun is sinking in the western sky of this age of the "in part" measure of the candlestick realm. A new day is dawning for those who have received the call to "*Come up hither*" to the throne realm. And there shall be an exultant victory! For now the day is dawning when "**ALL** nations shall come and worship before Thee" (Rev. 15:4). "And...all nations...shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to **KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES**" (Zech. 14:16). It cannot be denied that throughout the church age all nations have never come up to worship the Lord. They don't today! Iraq doesn't come. Israel doesn't come. Saudi Arabia doesn't come. China doesn't come. Tibet doesn't come. And the list goes on and on. Furthermore, none can deny that throughout the church age those nations that have come to worship the Lord have worshipped Him in the feasts of Passover and Pentecost. But there is a day, glorious day! when ***all nations shall know the Lord and feast with Him in the blessing and glory that flow from the FEAST OF TABERNACLES!*** Aren't you glad!

I have met men who professed that they had no desire, no ambition whatever, to rule and reign with Christ. It is enough, say they, to know that we are saved by grace and shall make heaven at last. In fact, I have been greatly criticized by some for my hope of inheriting the kingdom and sitting with Christ upon the throne of universal dominion. In the eyes of these accusers I am vain, conceited, self-righteous, presumptuous, heretical, and power-mad because I cherish the beautiful hope of sonship and rulership in the kingdom of God. I do not hesitate to tell you that it is none other than Christ Himself who has graciously bidden us to overcome and share with Him His authority over the nations and all things! He would both be king *in us* and exercise His regal power *through*

us. Such high and holy purpose for those who go all the way with Him is merely the tangible expression of the approval of God, and we may no more deny Him the pleasure of fulfilling His purpose in us than we may renounce it once it is conferred. HE WHO DESPISES A THRONE DESPISES HIM WHO CONFERS THE THRONE. This was one of our Lord's rebukes to the Pharisees — "The glory that cometh only from God *ye seek not*" (Jn. 4:44).

Throneship involves far more than mere power over men's lives and events. IT IS A MINISTRY AND AUTHORITY TO BLESS. I might add that it is the greatest ministry available with the largest capacity to bless. The purpose and scope of this kingship ministry is stated by the apostle Paul in these words, "That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together into one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in Him" (Eph. 1:10). We do not desire the throne for what we can get out of it, for our own fame and fortune, but for the infinite potential it holds for blessing and restoring creation. Today the world is full of broken hearts, the hospitals are crowded, the cemeteries are being filled, even nature itself is groaning. You go down to the seaside and you can hear the sob of the waves, you go to the mountains and you can hear the low sigh of the wind in the tree tops, you walk through the forest and you can hear the anguished shrieks of the animal kingdom. Creation is groaning, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God!

It is not more preachers we need. It is not more radio broadcasts or television programs. It is not more missions and missionaries. It is not more tracts or even Bibles. It is not more programs and crusades. It is not another revival. All we need is the cry of the groaning creation and the prayer of the travailing saint to be joined with the unutterable longings of the Holy Spirit, all crying in unison and harmony for the manifestation of the sons of God. Oh, how my heart cries for it! There is an elect people who, even as I pen these words, are being made participators in this grandest of all dramas of history. Their prayer, praise God, is soon to be answered!

Ah, my brother, my sister, do not sell creation short! Do not settle for less than God's best! All creation is standing on tiptoe, waiting and counting on you. If you love Israel; if you love the Chinese; if you love the Africans; if you love the Muslims; if you love all the nations and kindreds of the earth who know nothing of the Saviour; if you love the sad, the tormented, the impoverished, the deceived, the sick and the dying; if you love the multitudes held captive in the blindness and stupidity of religious systems; if you love the burdened brute creation; if you love the mountains, the trees, the rivers, and the oceans so mindlessly being destroyed under the hand of greed — you will joyfully welcome the hope of the manifestation of God in His sons; for it is the hope that shall bring to the groaning creation emancipation from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God; to Israel, her Messiah; to the heathen idolater, the knowledge of God; to the rebellious, correction; to the sick and dying, health and life incorruptible; to the bride, the presence of the bridegroom; to the captives of religious Babylon, the living reality of the Spirit and the Truth; to mute nature, blessed release from the cruelty of man and the blight of the curse.

One of the amazing features of human experience is man's capacity for ascent and descent. No creature of God throughout the vastnesses of infinity is capable of ascending to such heights and descending to such depths as is man. The carnal mind has never been endowed with the ability to measure the limits of man's upward reach, for "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). Revelation, however, has given the spiritual man a vision of the possibility of his rise into dizzy heights of splendor and glory.

Man is not destined to ascend to heights *angelic*. Man is not programmed to become either angel or archangel. The man Christ Jesus is Himself the revelation of man's destiny and of Him it is written, "Being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art my *Son*, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a *Son*? And again, when He bringeth the first begotten into the world, He saith, Let all the angels of God *worship Him!* But to which of the angels said He at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool?" (Heb. 1:4-6,13).

"*Now are we the sons of God*, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but...we shall be *like Him*," proclaims the Word of God. Divinity through sonship to God is the limit of man's ascent. He may be *like* the Son of God who *is* God, blessed forevermore. Sons of God must learn to think of themselves as a totally different sort of people. We are indeed a peculiar people, for we have been begotten again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and have become new creatures in Christ Jesus, the very sons of very God. We have been lifted by Christ into a heavenly realm and all our behavior and ambitions have altered their course. So much are we become inhabitants of a new sphere that we discover that we are no longer citizens of this present evil world. We have acquired a new citizenship in a celestial realm, both experiencing and enjoying the rights of citizens of that higher world.

THE MULTITUDE "BEFORE" THE THRONE

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And one of the Elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation (pressure) and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth upon the throne shall dwell among them" (Rev. 7:9-10, 13-15).

This is the great company of the redeemed of all ages who wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. But note their location relative to the throne: “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude which no man could number...stood before the throne, and before the Lamb.” The Lamb is IN THE THRONE — REIGNING upon the throne! The four Living Creatures are IN THE THRONE — KINGS reigning with Christ! But the great multitude is not in the throne; it is “before” the throne. The great multitude is not “reigning” with Christ upon the throne; it is “serving” Him who sits upon the throne. These do not rule and reign as kings, but they are redeemed, washed in the blood of the Lamb! These have been delivered out of the sin and death and travail of this present evil age, and receiving the life, joy, and victory of Christ’s redemption are now “servants” of God. These did not “grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head,” to become kings and priests upon the throne, but by His matchless grace they have become beloved children of God and serve Him in His temple “before” the throne — that is, in the Holy Place and the Outer Court. They are blessed indeed! “He that sitteth upon the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore...for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes” (Rev. 7:15-17).

The imagery is drawn in allusion to the encampment of the children of Israel in the wilderness. God is represented as sitting upon His throne in the tabernacle of Moses, within the Most Holy Place, between the cherubim, upon the throne of mercy. There “before” His throne camped the tribes of Israel, three tribes on each side of the tabernacle, and He that sat upon the throne dwelt among them.

Israel is used in many instances to typify the church, the body of Christ. For instance, when they left Egyptian bondage, they were a type of God’s children who hear His call to come out from the bestial spirit of this world and follow Him into His kingdom. But while Israel is thus and in other ways used to represent the body of Christ, yet as we are now viewing it, in its relation to the tabernacle in the wilderness, it is a wholly different type. In this setting the whole of Israel lay totally outside of the tabernacle, outside of the place of sacrifice in the Outer Court, outside of the ministry of the priesthood in the house of God, outside of the presence and glory of God, separated by the white curtain of Christ’s righteousness from all that lay within. Thus “the Camp” was separated from all holy things by the curtain of white linen surrounding the tabernacle, representing to those within a wall of righteousness by faith, but to those without a wall of unbelief which hindered their view of, and access to, the holy things within. Therefore Israel, in its relationship to the tabernacle, represents the whole world of mankind that is outside of Christ, excluded from His promises, separated from His presence, estranged from His life, barred from His glory, having no hope, and without God in the world.

The Outer Court of the tabernacle represents the condition of justification, entered through faith in Christ, the “gate.” There was only one gateway into the Court, the type thus testifying that there is but one way of access unto God — one “gate” — Jesus! “I am the way...no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” “I am the door, by me if any man enter in he shall be saved” (Jn. 14:6; 10:9). It was at this gate that the sin-offering

was slain, and it was on behalf of the whole Camp that the blood was sprinkled upon the mercy seat of God's throne in the Most Holy Place. The Camp of Israel represents, on one hand, the whole world of lost mankind and, on the other hand, the great multitude of the redeemed which no man can number that stands "before" the throne and "before" the Lamb, "serving" God.

Someone will surely inquire, "How can the same Camp represent both the lost world and the redeemed saints? The answer is very simple! We were all sinners before we became saints. J. Preston Eby was once a sinner; now he is redeemed: the same man, but transformed into a new state of being, with a new relationship to God. It is the blood of the Lamb that makes all the difference! "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them" (II Cor. 5:19). "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:13).

Chapter 71

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES AND THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

continued

“And *round about the throne* were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw *four and twenty elders sitting*, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads *crowns* of gold” (Rev. 4:4). “Twenty-four other thrones *surrounded the throne* and seated on these thrones were *twenty-four Elders*, arrayed in white clothing, with Crowns of Gold upon their heads” (Amplified Bible).

The Greek word for elders is *presbuteros*. By the way, the word “presbyterian” comes from that, and I am reminded of the story about the little girl who came home from her Presbyterian Sunday School, and her mother asked her what they had talked about. “We talked about heaven,” the little girl replied. “Well, what did they say about it?” her mother asked. “The teacher said that there were only twenty-four Presbyterians there!” Seriously, elders were representatives. We know that Israel had elders and that elders were ordained in the early churches to rule and to represent the entire church.

The twenty-four Elders in the book of Revelation bear a special signification for they are represented as distinct from both the four Living Creatures “in the midst” of the throne and the great multitude “before” the throne. These Elders occupy a unique position described as “round about” the throne — yet UPON THRONES! In order to fully appreciate the scenery here drawn by the Spirit, we need to go back and examine one particular of the order established by God among the people of Israel after they came up out of the land of Egypt. It is important that we get a clear idea, not only of the structure of the tabernacle of Moses, but also of the arrangement of both the people and the priesthood in relation to it. On page two of this article I give you a diagram of that arrangement.

What do we see then? In the second chapter of Numbers we find the order given for the encampment of Israel as they journeyed through the wilderness. The camp of Israel as it was established in Sinai formed a hollow square. In the center of the hollow was the tabernacle of Moses. Around the tabernacle Israel was divided into four camps: one camp of three tribes on the east side, another camp of three tribes on the south side, another camp of three tribes on the west side, and the last camp of three tribes on the north side. There was to be one ensign for each camp of three tribes. Judah was to be the head tribe of the first encampment, and they were to camp “on the east side toward the rising of the sun” (Num. 2:3-9). The tribes of Issachar and Zebulun were to camp with Judah around his standard or ensign, which ensign was the *lion*. Therefore, the flag of the tribe of Judah with

a lion of gold on a background of scarlet was erected in front of the camp of Judah, Issachar, and Zebulon.

Next in order was the camp of Reuben on the south side along with the tribes of Simeon and Gad. These three tribes were to camp around the ensign of Reuben, which ensign was the *man*. On this flag a man was represented against a background of gold. The third camp was made up of the tribes of Manasseh and Benjamin, with Ephraim as the head tribe to camp on the west side of the tabernacle. The ensign of the tribe of Ephraim was the *ox*. The flag of Ephraim had a black ox with a background of gold. The final camp was the camp of Dan together with the tribes of Asher and Naphtali. History shows that the ensign of the tribe of Dan was the *eagle*. This flag had an eagle of gold on a background of blue.

The tabernacle with its courts set “in the midst” of so many thousands of saved and happy Israel, must have been an imposing sight — an all-absorbing scene of wonder to the whole nation, as well as to each one of the mighty host. In this arrangement we see the same typical picture, under different symbols, as that presented to us in chapters four and five of the Revelation. The Most Holy Place was the abode of the God of Israel among His people. When the tabernacle was set up as described in Exodus chapter forty, then the Shekinah, the Cloud of God’s Glorious Presence, covered the whole tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. It is interesting to observe that while the Cloud of God’s Glory rested upon the entire tabernacle complex, the glory of the Lord also “filled the tabernacle,” thus designating the Most Holy Place as the dwelling place or the tabernacle of God.

Later God said to Moses, “Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the Most Holy Place within the veil before the mercy seat...that he die not: for I WILL APPEAR IN THE CLOUD UPON THE MERCY SEAT” (Lev. 16:2). Isaiah testified, “O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, that DWELLEST BETWEEN THE CHERUBIM, Thou art God” (Isa. 37:16). God was *in* the cloud, He *appeared* in the cloud, He *spoke* out of the cloud, He *led* Israel by the cloud, and in the cloud He *dwelt in the Most Holy Place, over the ark with its mercy-seat or throne of grace*. The tabernacle, and especially the throne upon the Ark, was in very fact **GOD’S THRONE** among Israel from which, by His word and His power, He ruled over them!

The “Mercy-Seat” was a slab of solid gold, in fact a lid, with cherubim, one at each end facing each other, all made of one piece. The tables of the law of Yahweh were to be put in the Ark and the Mercy-Seat placed above it. The mercy-seat, or Throne, was to be put upon the Ark of the Covenant within the veil, in the Most Holy Place. That was the only piece of furniture in the Most Holy Place. It was indeed the THRONE ROOM! It was there, upon the mercy-seat, that the glory of the God of Israel dwelt, and from there God communed with His people and set judgment and mercy in the midst. “And thou shalt put the mercy-seat above the Ark...and there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy-seat...” (Ex. 25:21-22). “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel...Thou that dwellest between the cherubim, shine forth” (Ps. 80:1).

The covering of the Ark of the Covenant was the place of the judgment-of-mercy for Israel's sins. It was the Judgment Throne of the Invisible One, Israel's King. It was the Throne of Mercy! Everything in the law of Moses centered in that Mercy-Throne. All the sacrifices had to do with that Mercy-Throne within the veil. All the shedding of blood of offerings had to do with that one chief sprinkling of blood upon the Mercy-Throne. The Mercy-Throne was, in the arrangement of things, the center of all! The tabernacle was in the center of the camp. The Most Holy Place was in the center of the white linen curtains or outer wall which marked off the tabernacle territory. The Mercy-Throne was in the center of the Most Holy Place. So the Mercy-Throne was in the *center* — or midst — of everything! The Mercy-Throne was what the Most Holy Place was made for! The mercy-seat, as the King James Bible calls it, was not a "seat" as we know a seat; the old English word means the "origin" or "center," just as when you speak of the "seat of pain" or the "seat of government" as the point of origin of it. The mercy-seat was the place where MERCY ORIGINATED! This is the description of something supreme — M-E-R-C-Y! The writer to the Hebrews calls it "the throne of grace."

The mercy-seat is an absolute picture of Jesus Christ. There was no wood in it at all. It was made of pure gold. It speaks of God and all that is the nature of God as revealed in Christ. The word for mercy-seat in the Greek language is *hilasterion*. In the New Testament there are only four verses that use this word, as follows: "And over it the cherubim of glory shadowing the *mercy seat*" (Heb. 9:5). "Whom God hath set forth to be a *propitiation* through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past" (Rom. 3:25). "God...sent His Son to be the *propitiation* for our sins" (I Jn. 4:10). "And He is the *propitiation* for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I Jn. 2:2).

From these four verses you will see that the Greek word *hilasterion* has been translated both as *mercy seat* and *propitiation*. Christ, we are told, is the propitiation for our sins. But the word is MERCY SEAT! It simply means that Jesus Christ BECAME OUR MERCY SEAT, He became the origin or center of God's mercy and goodness toward us, and it is He from whom that mercy *originates!* So now, blessed be God! we have a faithful and *merciful high priest* who is also the seat, the center, the origin, and the powerful *throne* of EVERLASTING AND INFINITE MERCY! I do not hesitate to tell you that God is not dismantling His Mercy Throne, He is not evacuating His body off of this planet, He is not taking His Holy Spirit out of the earth, the day of grace is not, as the preachers so ridiculously proclaim, about to end; indeed, it is barely beginning! God is even now forming a body, a son company, kings and priests after the order of Melchizedek, to display and reveal His mercy and power unto creation throughout the age and the ages to come, making all things new. Therefore, though we have but tasted of His mercies, through vast ages yet unborn He will continue to unfold the riches of His grace, manifesting it through His vessels of mercy, until the fullness thereof is revealed, and God becomes, finally, ALL-IN-ALL!

The Most Holy Place is, then, an earthly picture of the throne of God — the realm of God's manifestation in power and dominion. The Most Holy Place prefigured Christ the King together with all those holy sons of God who reign with Him in the authority of the

Spirit. It is the glory of KINGSHIP! Armed with the understanding that the tabernacle constituted God's throne among His people, let us remember that there is "before" that throne a "great multitude" of people receiving the blessings and benefits of His kingdom ministered through the typical sacrifices and ministrations of the temple service and the priesthood. As you will note in the diagram, the arrangement of the tabernacle, the priesthood, and the camp of Israel in three distinct divisions (tabernacle, priesthood, camp of Israel), sets forth the three-fold economy of God in His redemptive and restorative processes.

The tabernacle is the dwelling place of God — His throne, His sphere of activity, the center of His power, glory, and goodness. The camp of Israel, the great multitude "before" the throne, is the whole world of mankind outside of God, estranged from His life, yet redeemed, blessed, and brought nigh. But there is a third company — the **CAMP OF THE PRIESTS** — situated, as it were, "round about the throne," directly *between* the "throne" and the "great multitude"! The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "The Israelites shall encamp each by his own tribal standard or banner, with the ensign of their fathers' houses, opposite the tent of meeting (tabernacle) and facing it on every side. Then the tent of meeting (tabernacle) shall set out, with the **CAMP OF THE LEVITES IN THE MIDST OF THE CAMPS**" (Num. 2:2,17). The tribe of Levi was not counted among the tribes of Israel, therefore they were not camped with the other tribes, for they were the Lord's priests, ordained to be camped in the center of the encampment near the tabernacle. Divine infinite purpose lies behind this whole arrangement and the moment the wonderful significance of this dawns upon our spiritual understanding, we see that God has placed a **PRIESTHOOD COMPANY *between Himself and the world of mankind!***

A priest or priesthood infers that there is a reason why such has been raised up by God. It denotes that there has been in the minds of men an estrangement between God and His creatures and the priest ministers to bridge that gulf and bring about peace and at-onement. Deep in the heart of every man there is a strong and instinctive demand for a priest, to be a mediator, to lay one hand on man, and the other on God, and standing between both to bring the two together into unification. Webster's dictionary defines priest as: A mediatory agent *between* God and man. In the Old Testament the word priest is translated from the Hebrew word *cohen*, the root meaning of which is "one who stands up and draws nigh for another." The Greek word, in its root, means "to minister." Thus, a priest is one who draws nigh and ministers in *two directions* — drawing nigh to God on behalf of the people and drawing nigh to the people on behalf of God! The priest ***stands between***. The ministry of the priest is an intermediate or go-between ministry. He reaches forth with one hand and takes hold of God; he reaches out with the other hand and takes hold of humanity; and brings the two together by the power of his priestly ministration. Can we not see that this is the very reason God placed the priesthood of Israel in an encampment directly *between* the tabernacle throne and the great multitude of the people. That is the picture! Most people miss this great truth, and I don't remember ever seeing a drawing of the tabernacle and the camp of Israel in the wilderness with the tribe of Levi correctly positioned in the open area of the hollow square between the tabernacle and the camps of the tribes. It is abundantly evident that they correspond precisely to the twenty-four Elders that John beheld "round about the throne." Isn't it wonderful!

THE ORIGINAL TRUTH

In the book of Hebrews we read that our great High Priest, even Jesus, is set on the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens where He is *minister of the sanctuary*, the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man (Heb. 8:1-2). In ancient times there was in every temple a god, an unseen god, among the pagans an idol god, concealed in the Holy of holies, to whom the temple was devoted. Religion is as old as the human race and religious systems and observances pre-date the oldest empires of antiquity such as the empires of Sumer, Egypt, and Babylon. As these religions spread over the world they developed into an expression in all lands and kingdoms with only a slight change in the names of the gods and slight variations in the rituals. The almost identical knowledge, stories, myths, gods, temples, priesthoods, sacrifices, and belief systems and observances of all kinds had their origins *very early in human history*. The question is, of course, where did all this come from? Was religion merely an “invention” of superstitious savages, or did it originate somehow as an integral part of man’s constitution, revelation, and experience from his very beginning?

The evidence certainly suggests that religion had its origin from the dawn of history. Every religion shared similar characteristics — even among the indigenous cultures of the Americas. The Mayan temples of Central America and the Aztec temples of South America were constructed, even to their “holy of holies,” along lines similar to those in Egypt and elsewhere. *The evidence points to the fact that behind them all there was some ancient historical reality*. There are no traces of evolution from simple to sophisticated. All theological systems stemmed from some common but exceedingly ancient source. This raises the question — what was that common but exceedingly ancient source? The evidence unquestionably points to some meaningful design right from the earliest time of man’s appearance upon earth. This type of uniformity suggests a guiding hand at work. Oh, yes! There is the same supernatural *design* throughout practically all the ancient religious systems — God, temple worship, sacrifice, priesthood, after-life, redemption, eternal life, resurrection, judgment, etc. *Design* from the beginning!

The Bible affirms that the worship of God originated with an ***original truth*** revealed to man by His Creator. Adam and Eve stepped forth from the garden with this original truth implanted firmly in their hearts. They knew of the tree of life, which was Christ as life. “*In the beginning* was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In Him *was life*; and the *life* was the *light (illumination, inspiration, revelation)* of men” (Jn. 1:1,4). They experienced the presence of God and the glory of God, for the Lord God Himself walked with them in the Garden in the *cool* (Hebrew: *spirit*) of the day. They knew what it was to *walk in the Spirit!* They conversed with God and understood His will, His word, and His ways. The only government they knew was the life, spirit, and word of God! But then they came to know the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which indicates a living after human reasoning and law, instead of life. They knew about sin and death, for they both sinned and died. They understood *conscience*, for after partaking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they perceived that they were naked and were ashamed, hiding from God because of their shame. They tried the impotent route of *religion by works*, symbolized by them sewing their own flimsy

aprons of fig leaves in a futile effort to cover their shame. They received the divine revelation of redemption by sacrifice, for God Himself slew a lamb (the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world!) and with it covered their nakedness. To be naked means to have your *flesh exposed*, that is your own carnal mind, will, and nature revealed for what it is, and this was covered by the life of the Lamb! They thus received the revelation of being clothed in the righteousness of Christ! They had the promise of a redeemer, and a restoration to life and glory. They were instructed that this redeemer would be known as “the seed of the woman” a *manchild*, Christ, Head and body, and that He would bruise the serpent’s head. They had been introduced to the “god of *this world*,” the serpent, who cunningly allured them into the living out of the natural intellect, reason, human conscience, and man’s own perverted sense of man-made law, instead of out of the living Spirit of *Christ as Life*. Let us now acquaint ourselves with the following important fact: All the so-called *wisdom* of this *present world*, yes, all the vaunted wisdom of the worlds of science, philosophy, education, politics, government, psychology, astrology, economics, religion, and a thousand more things that shape our world systems are one and all ***brought forth out of the illumination of the serpent-mind***. For this reason we are admonished, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is *not of the Father, but is of the world*. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that *doeth the will of God abideth for ever*” (I Jn. 2:15-17). In that long ago beginning our first parents were given the promise of redemption, reconciliation, and restoration of all things to God! They saw afar off their regained dominion by the wisdom, spirit, and power of God. Their first offspring knew about *worship*, sacrifice, offering, redemption, and living in the presence of God, and by the revelation of God, for Cain and Able brought their sacrifices out of a knowledge of the plan and purpose of God. But what happened was that as man moved farther and farther from Eden and the presence, life, and glory of God, that ***original truth*** was passed through the polluted corridors of time and human nature, becoming distorted, contorted, embellished, misconstrued, disfigured, and mutilated. This is what the scriptures call *apostasy!*

We see examples of what apostasy does to an original truth in our own age, the church age. Jesus and His apostles came and brought an original truth — redemption and transformation of mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of His kingdom in and by the Spirit. Now consider what happened to that original truth as it was filtered through time and human imagination! Look at the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and other ancient disciplines with their cathedrals, priests, vestments, traditions, holy water, candles, incense, altars, statues, icons, shrines, holy relics, ceremonies, confessionals, rituals, masses, rules, celibacy, monastic orders, and on and on. Do any of these even faintly *resemble* the original truth and the power and glory and experience of the early church? Not at all! The church world today is but a grotesque caricature of the gospel of Jesus! Yet — the *essence* of that original truth is still present on some level *in all of them!* They all acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God who came and died for the salvation of mankind! And all their carnal-minded procedures seek in some way to illustrate that truth.

What I am saying is that the similarities in all ancient religions *reveal an original truth* from which they stemmed — God, worship, temples, priesthoods, altars, sacrifices, forgiveness, prayers, salvation, resurrection, eternal life, judgment, future life, paradise — all of this and more, though convoluted, twisted, distorted, misfigured, embellished, and even demonized — still reflected something of that original truth! What becomes evident is that the Sumerians did one thing with that original truth, the Babylonians did another, the Egyptians another, and so on through all the pagan systems. All had temples, priests, altars, incense, sacrifices, gods, saviours, worship, prayers, etc. In the most powerful and enduring myths that man inherited from his beginning, the human race had retained a confused and perverted memory of *the original truth*.

Some years ago Lorain and I were privileged to take a tour of Egypt. At the many temples of Egypt I stood in several “Holy of holies” including the one in the temple of Luxor. There is no denying that Moses’ tabernacle in the wilderness was fashioned somewhat after the model of the temples in Egypt. The Egyptian temples each had their “Holy of holies” in which the only item present was the idol god. Superficial thinking might reason and conclude that since Moses was from Egypt, and learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, he simply modeled his tabernacle after the order of the Egyptian temples. *But such reasoning misses the point altogether!* All the ancient temples reflected the *original truth* of God tabernacling among men. Therefore, that Moses’ tabernacle would be similar should be self-evident! It would have been a blunder and an absurdity of momentous proportions if his tabernacle would have been completely different. Here is what happened. Religion, from the time Adam and Eve left the garden, had been on a steady decline, apostatizing into wretched forms and gross misrepresentations of the original truth. False and hideous portrayals of God sat in their temples — grotesque idols of imaginary beings and animal gods. In the land of Egypt this pagan stupidity had sunk as low as man’s serpent-inspired imagination could carry it.

Oh that the darkening veils of ignorance might be torn from our minds that we might see that just at that point in history GOD GLORIOUSLY INTERVENED! The great difference between Moses’ tabernacle and the Egyptian temples was just this — the Holy of holies of Moses’ tabernacle, for the first time since its type in Eden and its archetype in the heavenlies of God’s Spirit, now held **THE LIVING PRESENCE, GLORY, AND POWER OF THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD** — *not an idol!* The bottom had been reached, religion had sunk as low as it could go, the point of return had arrived, and the ascendancy of the original truth back to its purity, fulfillment, and *consummation* had begun! The Exodus and Moses’ tabernacle was the *turning point* for God’s purpose among men in the history of the human race! That, precious friend of mine, is *historical fact*. God manifested Himself as a living reality in the midst of His called and chosen people there in the wilderness and eventually in the temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. And now — isn’t it interesting that temple worship survived *only until Jesus came!*

The ascendancy of the original truth came about this way. God manifested His presence and power in the midst of His people in Moses’ tabernacle. He established His throne there in the midst of Israel. Later His presence, power, and rule in the midst of His people was *intensified* when Israel possessed their land, through the prophets, judges, kings, and the

temple of Solomon. Then the presence, power, and rule of God was *intensified again even more* as out of that nation God came in Jesus Christ and tabernacled among men! The ascendancy of the original truth reached a higher level yet when on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was outpoured from on high and God came and dwelt and walked and talked *in men*. Is it not significant that within that very *same generation* when the *true tabernacle*, the body of Christ, was raised up in the earth, the Jewish temple was violently and completely destroyed, *never to rise again!* And within a few generations all the temples of the ancient gods would stand empty and silent. The turning point came with the tabernacle of Moses! There is no idol god in the temple of Luxor today — only because Moses came on the scene by the intervention of God to change the course of human history, beginning the ascendancy of the original truth revealed in Eden, and the eventual consummation of God's purpose in man. THIS IS THE TRUE MEANING OF HISTORY.

All God's holy prophets since the world began *prophesied* that the *coming One*, the redeemer of the world, would banish all the gods of the nations, that He was the hope of all creation, that all nations would come and worship before Him, that all things and all men would be reconciled unto Him, and that all principalities and powers would be made subject to Him. Oh, yes! And history clearly records that in relation to all the mystery religions and the ancient gods of all the great empires of antiquity, THESE PROPHECIES WERE EXPLICITLY FULFILLED IN JESUS CHRIST! Of all the religions of earth *only Jesus triumphed* over the ancient gods! There are no temples or altars to Zeus today, nor to Athena, nor to Baal, nor to Diana, nor to any other of the ancient gods and goddesses. And He triumphed not only because those gods, by man's imagination and manipulation, had become false gods, perverted representations of the *original truth*, but truly because HE BECAME AT LAST THE VERY EMBODIMENT AND FULFILLMENT OF THAT ORIGINAL TRUTH SO FAINTLY SHADOWED IN THEM! Jesus appeared right on schedule, by divine destiny, and accomplished all that the prophets had foretold and that the myths of all religions pointed to! Thus He is the fulfillment not only of all the types and shadows of the Old Testament, but even of the figures still set forth in all the pagan religions of antiquity! Oh, the wonder of it!

THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Let us return now to the encampment of Israel in the wilderness. In every temple there was a priest, the priest of that temple, who was to receive the petitions and the sacrifices of the worshipper and to get the answer back from God. So it was with Aaron in the Old Testament. It was said of him and of the priesthood of Israel, "They shall stand in my presence to minister," and "they shall go out and bless in my name." This great truth reveals why God placed the camp of the priests directly *between* Himself and the people of Israel. It should be clear to any thinking mind that the priesthood camped "round about" the tabernacle-throne corresponds precisely to the twenty-four Elders seated "round about" the throne in Revelation chapter four!

I would remind the reader of the account in I Chronicles chapter twenty-four of how, under king David, the Levitical priesthood was divided into TWENTY-FOUR COURSES under the headship of TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS! The twenty-four courses or orders of the

priesthood were chosen by families — according to the twenty-four grandsons of Aaron the high priest. Each course was named for one of these twenty-four grandsons and the male descendants of each grandson constituted one of the twenty-four courses throughout their generations. We are inclined to lightly pass over many profound statements of holy scripture. The priesthood was divided into twenty-four orders for this stated purpose: “This was their order for coming on duty to serve in the house of the Lord, according to the procedure ordered for them by their grandfather Aaron, as the Lord God of Israel had commanded him” (I Chron. 24:19, Amplified).

The priesthood numbered, in the time of David, some 18,000 who lived in the countryside of Galilee and Judea. Of course, all those priests could not go into the temple at one time, so they were divided into courses and assigned to work shifts, each “course” of priests and Levites came on duty for a week, from one Sabbath to another. When a “course” was on duty, all its members were bound to appear in the temple, and the service of the week was subdivided among the various families which constituted a “course.” This order continued until Jesus came. We read about Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, in these words, “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, *of the course of Abia*: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth” (Lk. 1:5). The point I wish to emphasize here is this: It took *all twenty-four courses* to **MAKE UP THE ENTIRE PRIESTHOOD OF GOD!** As the Father unfolds these truths to the inner man, we become convinced that as the four Living Creatures “in the midst of the throne” reveal the glory of KINGSHIP, so the twenty-four Elders “round about the throne” reveal the glory of PRIESTHOOD. **KINGS AND PRIESTS! A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS! PRIESTS THAT SIT UPON THRONES! REIGNING PRIESTS!**

This is the great truth revealed in the four Living Creatures and the twenty-four Elders. John the Revelator summed up in three short verses the wonderful truth of which I now write: “And when He had taken the book, the *four Living Creatures* and the *four and twenty Elders* fell down before the Lamb, every one of them having harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the saints. And *they* (the four Living Creatures and the twenty-four Elders) sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed **us** to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast **made us** unto our God **kings and priests**: and we shall reign on the earth” (Rev. 5:8-9). That is the mystery!

The twenty-four Elders represent the whole priesthood of God, of which Jesus is the Head, our great High Priest. The priesthood of God ministers from the Holiest of all, from the Mercy-Throne in the heart of the Father. It is written of our Lord Jesus Christ, “Forasmuch then as the children (of God) are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same. For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a **MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST** in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people” (Heb. 2:14-18). When the Word of God consented to be made flesh, to strip Himself of the glory He had before the world was, and become a man, a human being, to live among the vileness of the sinful, rebellious, and dying, to be touched by the same infirmities, weaknesses, and feelings that

touch us, to suffer being tempted in all points like as we are, to be rejected and suffer the agony of false accusation and the humiliation of ridicule, the pain of the stripes received from the Roman lashes, and the trauma of the cross itself — why did He submit to all this? The stock answer is that He had to become a man and suffer and die in order to purchase our redemption. That is true! That is certainly part of the reason He became a man, *but only part of it*; there is much more to the reason He became a man, *much more!*

In the passage quoted above we see that Jesus became a man and suffered all that mankind suffers, not merely to die on the cross for our sins, for He could have died without all the lifetime of suffering, pain, temptation, sorrow, weakness, rejection, and infirmity. He suffered so that after having redeemed us to God He might become a High Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, a faithful High Priest and a MERCIFUL HIGH PRIEST. Ah, Jesus could be the eternal *King* without having been so completely compassed about with infirmity. But He could never be a *Merciful High Priest* without it! He might have been perfect in character and desirous to help us; but, if He had never tasted death, how could He allay our fears as we walk through the dreadful quagmire of this *death realm*? If He had never been sorely tempted, if He had never encountered the allurements of the flesh and the almost irresistible drawing power of sin and the world, how could He succor those who are tempted? If He had never wept, how could He soothe and dry our tears? If He had never suffered, hungered, wearied on the hill of difficulty, or threaded His way through the swamplands of grief, how could He be a *merciful* and faithful High Priest, full of understanding, compassion, and kindness?

My purpose in writing of these mysteries is that all who read might see that the nature of the firstborn Son of God, the High Priest of our Profession, must be the nature of every member of the *house of sons* who are also the *body of the High Priest* — the *Priests and the Priesthood* of the most high God! This company of priests, reigning priests, are the twenty-four Elders “round about” the throne! “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou hast made us unto our God kings and *priests*: and we shall reign on the earth.” “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and...they shall be *priests of God and of Christ*, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:4,6).

The wonderful book of Hebrews is literally packed full of mysteries, types, shadows, and allegories, all pointing to the ministry of the *sons of God* who are God’s *Royal (Kingly) Priesthood*. These are only unfolded by the Spirit as we are able to bear it. Hebrews chapter five sets forth the qualifications of that typical High Priest under the law, and therefore the qualifications that Christ Jesus, the anti-typical High Priest of the new order of the Kingdom, must possess. All the members of the Royal Priesthood, the Kings and Priests of the Kingdom who are, with Him, “partakers of the heavenly calling,” must also have the same qualifications, for they are the *body of the High Priest*.

“For every High Priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: *who can have compassion* on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way, for that *he himself is compassed about with infirmity*” (Heb. 5:1-2). Here we have defined the intrinsic nature of the priestly office! First, he must be “taken from among men,” that is, he must partake of both the

nature and circumstances of those on whose behalf he acts. Second, he acts not as a private individual, but as a public official: “is ordained for men.” Third, he came not empty-handed before God, but furnished with “gifts and sacrifices for sins (errors, missing the mark).” Finally, he himself must not be exempt from infirmity, so that he might the more readily succor the distressed and distraught.

All this is important for it points to Jesus’ qualifications to be our great High Priest, the Head of the priesthood company. A High Priest must know and experientially understand the problems and limitations of those he represents. “Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; **for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.**” On three different occasions Matthew tells us that our Lord was “moved with compassion” on the multitudes. Frankly, when you read the Gospels you read of Jesus doing miracles, healings, mighty signs and wonders; but Jesus never went around looking for a miracle to perform! HE WENT ABOUT DOING THE FATHER’S WILL. The Father brought Him to a place where His heart could be moved with compassion. It was not a gift of compassion that came to Him by a spiritual experience; it was the compassion wrought out in His life by His many sorrows, sufferings, and testings. He had suffered loss, He had suffered pain, He had suffered reproach. Coming to a town He sees a funeral procession and as a Son, having suffered the loss of Joseph and friends and family members, and shared in the sorrow of His mother at the loss, thereby developing the nature of a priest, He is filled with compassion when he sees the widow and her dead son. There was no Social Security in those days, and the boy was the only person to look after the widow, so He stops the procession, raises the boy, hands him over to the mother, and goes about the Father’s business. I find that the basis of Jesus’ sonship ministry was *not power* — IT WAS COMPASSION!

When He saw the multitude He was moved with compassion. They were hungry, and He had known gnawing hunger, so He said, “Let us feed them.” When He met the leper He was moved with compassion, for He had experienced pain and shame, and He laid His hands upon him and healed him. He could have spoken a word to heal him, but the man needed the touch of somebody’s hand on him, he had been separated from people so long, he needed more than to be healed from his leprosy, he needed the sense of the hand of God upon him. When Jesus looked upon the careworn faces of the toiling, tax-ridden multitudes — taxed by cruel priests; taxed by Herod; taxed by Pilate; taxed by their own sins and sorrows; wearily burdened, wounded at heart, and heavy laden — He was not looking for a chance to show off His power — He was moved with compassion.

“Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; **FOR THAT HE HIMSELF ALSO IS COMPASSED ABOUT WITH INFIRMITY.**” Ah, the condition which develops compassion in us, is that *we ourselves* get compassed — surrounded, hedged in — by the problems, the difficulties, the needs that are going to be represented in the people to whom we minister. So many of us are intolerant in certain areas of our lives because we have not gone through the pressure, we have not been drawn by that insidious temptation, we have not been compassed by that particular infirmity, weakness, sorrow, or need. Priesthood demands suffering, trial, testing, tribulation, and pressure. *Sonship* demands relationship with God. He sends the spirit of the Son into our

hearts and we cry, “Abba, Father!” Now God intends that all of us who have been called should be sons of God, and that all of us should be a Kingdom of Priests, a Royal Priesthood unto God. But you may be a *son* and still not be a *priest*!

John the Revelator said, “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them...and they shall be **priests** of God and of Christ, and shall **reign** with Him a thousand years.” Here you see that it is not the sons who are reigning — it is the **PRIESTS**! What about the sons? “He that overcometh shall **inherit all things**; and I will be his God, and **he shall be my son.**” The sons inherit, for they are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17). Who, then, is destined to reign? **THE SONS WHO ARE PRIESTS**! Christ was a Son before He was a Priest. He was not a Priest during His years in the flesh, although He was qualifying to be one, but He was a Son. Christ in His ministry from the heavens today is not merely the Son of God. As a Son He is “heir of all things.” But to become the great High Priest and provide the priestly ministry on our behalf the Son had, as a Son, to go through the experience that was necessary to perfect Him for the understanding heart of the Priesthood. “We have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; **BUT WAS IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED LIKE AS WE ARE...**” (Heb. 4:15). “Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; and being *made perfect (for the Priesthood)*, He *became...***AN HIGH PRIEST AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK**” (Heb. 5:8-10). Ah, Jesus could have been a **son** without being so totally compassed with infirmity, **BUT HE COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN A PRIEST WITHOUT IT!**

There have been those precious folk who have said to me, “Brother Eby, I don’t understand. Since I came into this kingdom message things have gotten worse — all hell has broken loose.” That is just what you need — **IF YOU WOULD BE A PRIEST!** Have you not known some beautiful saints to whom you naturally betake yourself in time of trial and sorrow? They always seem to speak the right word, to give the very counsel you are longing for; you do not realize, however, the cost they have had to pay ere they became so skillful in binding up gaping wounds and drying tears. But if you were to investigate their past you would find that they have suffered more than most. They have watched the slow untwisting of some silver cord on which the lamp of life hung. They have seen the golden bowl of joy dashed at their feet, and its contents spilt. They have stood by ebbing tides, and drooping flowers, and darkened skies; but all this has been necessary to make them comforters and healers, **the priests of men.** The reason our blessed Lord is *touched with the feeling of our infirmities* is that He *knoweth our frame*. He remembereth that we are dust. He knows this not by revelation or by divine omniscience, but He Himself was a “man of sorrows and *acquainted with grief.*” Aren’t you glad!

Merciful priests! The priestly heart is above all things a caring, sympathetic, compassionate, merciful heart in which the love of Christ constrains us to express His goodness unto men. The Bible-waving preacher on the street corner, screaming at the passersby that they must repent or burn in hell, knows nothing at all about being a priest of God. If a vicious serial killer is caught and put to death, or some homosexual activist is murdered or dies of aids, there is that deceitful self-righteous spirit within us which silently judges, saying, “Good...there is one less murderer and one less pervert in the world.” As

righteously moral as that appears, I tell you earnestly that it is not the Spirit of God, and it is not the judgment of a Priest of God! ***A priestly heart!*** Oh, Spirit of God, write upon my heart with indelible letters the merciful heart of my High Priest!

It is my deep conviction that it is more important to express the tender, forgiving, compassionate nature of Christ in meeting a person's need, than in witnessing to people about the "plan of salvation." Christians have become so conditioned to the idea that they aren't "doing anything for God" unless they go out and witness, skillfully using the sword of the word of God. But, my precious brother, my dear sister, when you are unconditionally loving and merciful and encourage and speak life to people in their desperate need, you **become a living word** to them that says, "I care and God cares for you!" Jesus said that He did not come into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Priests are not *condemners*; priests are *saviours!* Jesus speaks His word through us in actions, we become a word that is alive to men, not a dead doctrinal word, or religious word, but a Living Word. This is a life to be lived, as Jesus did, and it is more important than quoting scripture, witnessing, teaching or preaching. Instead of witnessing, we BECOME THE WITNESS of what our Father is *really like*.

Those who are called to the high calling of sonship to God are the kings and priests who shall reign on the earth and restore all things back into God again. There is both a Godward and a manward work in redemption, reconciliation, and restoration. As I mentioned earlier, there was this Godward and manward ministry expressed through the priesthood of Aaron in the tabernacle in the wilderness. It is written of him and the priests of Israel, "They shall stand in my presence to minister," and "they shall go out and bless in my name." And so our great High Priest, Jesus, stands in the heavens of God's Spirit as the "minister of the sanctuary," as the priest of the tabernacle which the Lord has pitched, and not man, and He ministers in this dual way. He both carries us to the Father and brings the Father into us. In and by His blood He Himself brings us nigh to God. But He does more! Without interruption there flows back from the Father to the Son, in whom He delights, a stream of blessing to impart to His people on earth. And in Him, the entire priesthood, the body of the High Priest, so ministers both unto God and unto men. Anything short of this is *not priesthood!*

The High Priest was thus the mediator between God and the people. He carried into the presence of God the sins and needs of the people, and carried the people in him. The people drew nigh to God in the person of the High Priest, identified in him as he entered into the Holiest of all by the blood. He obtained from God the power to declare remission of sin and the right of blessing the people. Then when the High Priest came out of the Most Holy Place, God drew nigh unto the people in the person of the High Priest. Oh, we see it so clearly in these instructive words, "And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and BLESSED THE PEOPLE: and THE GLORY OF THE LORD APPEARED UNTO ALL THE PEOPLE" (Lev. 9:23). The service of the priesthood is thus clear, FIRST TO MINISTER TO THE LORD, then to stand between the Creator and His creation, to minister the life of Christ to those who sit in darkness, in the region of the shadow of death, until all are fully reconciled to God again, and behold the

glory of the Lord! The body of Christ, like its glorious Head, is a **kingdom of priests**, a people for a purpose.

I cannot emphasize too strongly the important truth that *all priesthood* has a double outreach — ministry to both God and man. Notice how Jesus often spent the whole night in prayer communing with the Father; then He came down from the mountain, from the high place in the Spirit, to touch and bless and deliver the multitudes of the helpless and needy. It could not be otherwise, for a priest is one who “stands between” the throne and the great multitude, and the moment a priest ceases to touch both God and man, unifying the two, he simply ceases to be a priest. He may be a worshipper who speaks *to God*, or a king who rules *for God*, or a prophet who speaks *on behalf of God*, but no man can have a one-sided ministry and be a priest! The priest ministers unto God on behalf of men and unto men on behalf of God. The priest touches God with one hand and mankind with the other hand, bringing the two together by his priestly ministrations. *That is priesthood!* Anything less or different than this is not priesthood at all.

Let us then stand assured of this marvelous truth: the four Living Creatures represent *kingship*, for they dwell *in the midst of the throne*. The twenty-four Elders reveal within themselves the ministry of *priesthood*, for they are *round about the throne*, standing between the God of the throne and the vast multitude “before” the throne. These are not *two separate companies*; these are rather *two aspects of ministry* that have their source and power in the throne. This is the KING-PRIEST MINISTRY OF THE MANIFEST SONS OF GOD! These are all sons of God in the power and outflow of life and glory from the throne. God is raising up within each of His called and chosen elect the *spirit and nature of sonship*, the *spirit and nature of kingship*, and the *spirit and nature of priesthood*. These are the realities John saw in the throne room! Oh, the mystery of it!

Chapter 72

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES AND THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

continued

“And *round about* the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw *four and twenty elders* sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold...and *in the midst* of the throne, and *round about* the throne, were *four beasts* full of eyes before and behind” (Rev. 4:4-6).

The word “beasts” is an unfortunate translation, being necessarily associated in our minds with the brute creation and that which is typified thereby. Beasts in this passage is translated from the Greek word *zoon* which signifies simply a “living creature”. It comes from the root *zao* from which also is derived the word *zoe* which is used always in reference to *divine life* or the *life of the ages*. All of these words denote that which is alive or is lively! How significant, then, that these four **creatures of life** are found “*in the midst of the throne*” and “*round about the throne,*” occupying the central position in the throne while emanating in glory and power out from the throne!

In the midst of the throne! The four “Living Creatures” are, then, four manifestations of LIFE — the LIFE OF THE GOD OF THE THRONE! They are four representations of NATURE — the NATURE OF THE GOD OF THE THRONE! The four Living Creatures are four expressions of THE POWER AND DOMINION OF THE THRONE! Not only do they represent the life and nature of the God of the throne; not only do they express within themselves the character of the dominion of the throne — they likewise reveal the very life, nature, character, and dominion of A-L-L WHO SHARE THE THRONE! The throne means **kingship!** The One on the throne **REIGNS!** This is the glory of the *sons of God* who reign with Christ!

The twenty-four Elders in the book of Revelation bear a special signification. These Elders occupy a unique position described as “round about” the throne — yet UPON THRONES! In order to fully appreciate the scenery here drawn by the Spirit, we need to go back and examine the order established among the people of Israel after they came up out of the land of Egypt. The Camp of Israel as it was established in Sinai formed a hollow square. In the center of the hollow was the tabernacle of Moses. Around the tabernacle Israel was divided into four camps: one camp of three tribes on the east side, another camp of three tribes on the south side, another camp of three tribes on the west side, and the last camp of three tribes on the north side. Then — in the open area *between* the camp of the tribes of Israel and the tabernacle was camped the tribe of Levi with its priesthood —

“round about” the tabernacle. In order to go to the tabernacle from any of the tribes of Israel it was necessary to *pass through* the camp of the priests! This great truth reveals that God placed the camp of the priests directly **between** Himself and the people of Israel. It should be clear to any thinking mind that the priesthood camped “round about” the tabernacle corresponds precisely to the scene of the twenty-four Elders seated “round about” the throne of God! For you see, the Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle constituted the *throne* of Yahweh in the midst of His people! And “round about” that throne was His *priesthood*!

Further confirmation that the twenty-four Elders represent the ministry of priesthood lies in the fact that in I Chronicles chapter twenty-four we read of how, under king David, in preparation for their future ministry in the temple, the Levitical priesthood was divided into TWENTY-FOUR COURSES under the headship of TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS! The priesthood had become so numerous that all of those priests could not go into the house of the Lord at one time, so they were divided into courses and assigned to work shifts, each “course” of priests and Levites came on duty for a week at a time. It took **all twenty-four courses** to **MAKE UP THE ENTIRE PRIESTHOOD OF GOD!** The twenty-four Elders represent the whole priesthood of God, of which Jesus is the Head, our great High Priest!

Let us then stand assured of this marvelous truth: the four Living Creatures represent the ministry of *kingship*, for they dwell *in the midst of the throne*. The twenty-four Elders reveal within themselves the ministry of *priesthood*, for they are *round about the throne*, standing *between* the God of the throne and the vast multitude “before” the throne. These are not **two separate companies**; these are rather **two aspects of ministry** that have their source and power in the throne. This is the KING-PRIEST MINISTRY OF THE MANIFEST SONS OF GOD! These are all sons of God in the power and outflow of life, glory, and power from the throne. God is raising up within each of His called and chosen elect the *spirit and nature of sonship*, the *spirit and nature of kingship*, and the *spirit and nature of priesthood*. These are the heavenly realities John beheld in the throne room! Isn’t it wonderful!

The four Living Creatures — KINGS! The twenty-four Elders — PRIESTS! Together they bow low before the great King of kings and the High Priest over the house of priests, intoning this **new song** — “Thou hast **made us** unto our God **kings and priests**: and we shall **reign** over the earth!” (Rev. 5:9-10). Ah, beloved, these are not mere words. God’s meaning of a “song” is “message; revelation; experience.” All songs are meant to convey a message! Man calls *anything* a song, any weird beat, any unnatural accents, any harmonic dissonance, any melodic discord, the ba-ba-bu of the jungle, the raucous racket of rock music, the monotonous drone of hip-hop is merchandised as a song. A “new song” in spiritual language means a NEW REVELATION, a NEW MESSAGE, a NEW EXPERIENCE in God! A new song is born when men experience the inworking of a new message, the message and the messenger so becoming one until the messenger **becomes the message**. I am reminded of Cartwright, the backwoods preacher of a past century, who used to sing a hymn as he went through the woods:

“No foot of land do I possess,

No cottage in the wilderness;”

and one day a man presented Cartwright with a cottage and a piece of ground, and he went on his way singing:

“No foot of land do I possess,
No cottage in the wilderness;”

and he stopped and said, “Joseph Cartwright, that is a lie; you have got a cottage and land; *you cannot sing that hymn!*” Every time the Spirit of God unfolds new dimensions of truth to our hearts, effecting further transformations into His image, bringing us into a new place in God and a further appropriating of our inheritance in Christ, a ***new song*** is born. The old song was good and true for its time, but we can sing the old song no more, for a new day has dawned, a new glory has arisen, a new reality is birthed within, praise His name! While this is not all it means, yet it is true that many songs we sang in church when I was a boy growing up I cannot sing today because they no longer express what God is doing in my life, or the reality, word, and purpose He is bringing forth. Some of them are so far from the truth as I now know it, that I cannot bear even to *listen* to them, much less sing them!

God is even now preparing a people, a royal priesthood, a kingdom of priests, sons of the Most High; and while the church world continues on with its time-honored traditions and childish delusions, singing about flying away to cabins in the corner of gloryland or to mansions over the hill-top, a people is arising in the earth with a new and wonderful vision — to become kings and priests unto God — their hearts vibrating with the melodious strains of a ***new song***, the song of a people with a purpose, a company gathered out of the generations, grown up into the fullness of Christ, conquering every enemy within and without, which in due time shall be led forth to be the manifest expression of His image, character, and nature, the revelation of His glory, power, and dominion, with an outflow of life and light and love sufficient to change the course of history, transform the nations, and restore all men and all things back into the life of God. What a song!

For these manifest sons the whole creation groans, and they are in the process of preparation, *being made*, in the skillful hands of the Great Potter, a KINGDOM OF PRIESTS. God knows every detail of His plan for His kings and priests, and precisely the work to be wrought upon each one to conform them unto His own priestly heart. Ah, those who receive *this call*, those who behold *this vision*, those who cherish *this hope*, indeed sing a ***new song*** which can be learned by none but those apprehended, the firstfruits of His redemption. This is the ineffable, preeminent Song; ineffable because it strikes a chord, the vibration of which cannot be discerned by the carnal man; preeminent because it is the Song of the Lamb who stands in the midst of the throne, the King of kings and the High Priest of *our profession*, who in all things has preeminence!

PARTAKERS OF THE HEAVENLY CALLING

HE THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS! Across the land and around the world the Spirit is saying today that He is preparing a people, He is preparing a body, He is preparing sons who shall be conformed to the image of *the Son*, partakers of the divine nature, who shall have the mind of Christ, who shall be brought to glory and who then shall become the very express image of the Father, the very brightness of the Father's glory and the outraying of the Father's person. Even as the first Son, who went into the ground and died as a grain of wheat to produce other sons in His likeness — He was the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of the Father's person — and God sent Him to be the Saviour of the world. God is now preparing sons, God is now preparing a body for that first Son, we are the body of the first Son, the body of the Christ, the body of the King of glory, the body of the great High Priest in the heavens after the order of Melchizedek. We are the body of the Christ, and in and through these sons, when all have been brought to His fullness, His salvation shall be manifested, exhibited, and demonstrated unto the ends of the earth. All peoples and all nations shall at last *see what God is like in the fullness of His love, glory, wisdom, and power!* The Lord is saying to His people in this day, "For this cause I have raised thee up and sent thee to be a light unto the nations and thou shalt BE MY SALVATION to the ends of the earth" (Isa. 9:6; Acts 13:47).

"Wherefore, holy brethren, *partakers of the heavenly calling*, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus" (Heb. 3:1). The subject in the book of Hebrews is Christ's priesthood and the writer says that we, the holy brethren of Christ Jesus, seeing how true it is that the Christ came into man's world and fully shared his weaknesses and sorrow; seeing how true it is that the Christ is now exalted as the High Priest to the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens — as ***partakers with Him in this heavenly calling of priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, let us consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of this order of priesthood to which we are called.*** If you would know the meaning and the glory and the power of that to which you are called — CONSIDER HIM! Don't consider Him any longer merely as Saviour, Healer, Blessor, and Baptizer — consider Him as the Apostle and High Priest of the order of priesthood to which you are called!

An *apostle* is the *first advocate* and *initiator* of a new order. A *high priest* is the *head* and *chief* of an order of priesthood. Jesus is the *apostle* of that order to which we are called. He is the *sign Son*, the *first-begotten Son*, the *pattern Son* for all who are called to be sons of God. He is the *apostle* and the *High Priest* of the Melchizedekian Order of Priesthood! All who are called to sonship and priesthood through the age shall come into that same wonderful image and fullness of Jesus Christ. It is time now, above all times, for us to mightily stress these truths. I see no possibility of any long delay until the hour of the *manifestation of the sons of God* becomes a reality. One does not attain the realities of sonship by thumb twiddling or presumption. Sonship appears as a great vision before our understanding by the quickening of the spirit of revelation and we attain it through surmounting faith, patience, endurance, testing, proving, obedience, and growth into His fullness through eternal vigilance. Men in the church order may have other men as their apostles, but when it comes to sonship, kingship, and priesthood, the apostle of this realm is

only Jesus! This realm has only *one Apostle* even as it has only *one High Priest*. As our *Apostle* Jesus Christ proclaims and opens up the way before us, and as our *High Priest* He reconciles us fully to God that we may walk in the calling ordained for us.

The “heavenly calling” is the calling unto the priesthood of Christ. Hebrews is very clear about this! “Now the main point of what we have to say is this: We have such a **High Priest**, One who is seated at the right hand of the majestic God **in heaven**, an officiating **priest**, a **minister in the holy places** and in the true tabernacle which is erected not by man but by the Lord” (Heb. 8:1-2, Amplified). Hear it, O ye sons of God — Christ is the great High Priest **of the heavens** and we are called to be **partakers with Him in that heavenly calling!**

THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE PRIESTS

The notion, held by the vast majority of evangelical Christians, that the priesthood of the Christ is an *individual, singular priesthood* exercised by Himself alone in some far-off heaven, is an absurdity. The term “high priest” is a relative term, “high” being translated from the Greek word *archiereus*, meaning “chief” in order or rank. It is the same word translated “chief priest” or “chief priests” in numerous passages. It is a title denoting the CHIEF OR HEAD OF AN ORDER such as the terms “Chairman of the Board,” “Archangel,” “Chief of Police,” “Speaker of the House,” “King of Kings,” etc. It should be clear to every thinking mind that you cannot have a High Priest without a priesthood any more than you can have a Chairman of the Board without a board for the Chairman of the Board to be chairman over. You cannot have a High Priest without a priesthood any more than you can have an Arch-angel without an order of angels for the Arch-angel to be leader of. You cannot have a High Priest without a priesthood any more than you can have a Chief of Police without a police force for the Chief of Police to be chief of. You cannot have a High Priest without a priesthood any more than you can have a Speaker of the House of Representatives without a House of Representatives for the Speaker of the House to be speaker for. You cannot have a High Priest without a priesthood any more than you can have Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords without any kings or any lords for Him to be King and Lord over.

High Priest! The High Priest in the heavenlies! Ah, yes, we are holy brethren, **partakers of the heavenly calling**, receiving the vision to become **one in Him**, to share in this heavenly priesthood, and as we follow on to know Him in all His glorious fullness we shall see a ministry unfold before us which leads to deliverance and restoration for all God’s creation. Our task will not be left undone, for we shall have the ages before us to carry it through to victory, praise His name!

The priesthood of Aaron foreshadows that of Christ in a very striking way. The honor of being a High Priest is not open to man’s ambition. No man can claim it for himself (Heb. 5:4). The High Priest ministers in such high and holy matters that only God can appoint him! Thus it was that Aaron was called of God to this task. He did not take it to himself; nor did Moses make him High Priest. God called him to do this work, and no one else could have done so. In the same way, “Christ glorified not Himself to be made an High

Priest” (Heb. 5:5). He is High Priest because God made Him so! He was “called of God” (Heb. 5:10) to this office.

It is inspiring to meditate upon the thought given us in Exodus 28:1 wherein we read, “And take thou unto thee *Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him* from among the children of Israel, that HE may minister unto me in the priest’s office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron’s sons.” God chose five men, Aaron and his four sons, and then referred to them in the singular pronoun, “That HE may minister.” The ministries of these five men were inseparably wrapped up in each other, so that God saw them as one. Aaron did not minister without the priests (except on the day of Atonement), and the priests could not minister apart from the High Priest. This is all very wonderful, for Christ does not minister alone! God has called us to be priests that we might share in the ministry of reconciliation. We, too, like the priests of old, cannot minister apart from our great High Priest upon whom we depend at all times. We have understood what priesthood is only in a very limited way and have fulfilled this ministry feebly in a measure. But these are days of restoration! God is about to bring forth the full power and glory of Christ’s priesthood after the order of Melchizedek in this earth so that all creation may be delivered from the bondage of corruption and set free to *know and serve the Lord!*

The Father has called us unto sonship that we might stand with Him and cry, “*Our very own Father!*” He is apprehending a people for the authority of kingship that He might be “King of kings,” a many-membered kingship. He is raising up a people to be priests after the order of Melchizedek that He and they may stand in ***one ministry*** unto the Father — satisfying the heart of the Father for the fellowship of sons, the rulership of kings, and the outflow of priests through whom He may reveal His person unto the whole creation. And even now, all creation is standing on tiptoe to behold the glorious sight of God’s sons, God’s kings, and God’s priests *coming into their own!* Because of the wise and gracious council of God from eternity, Christ now has no identity *apart from us*, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all. The Father looks at His Son and His sons, His King and His kings, His High Priest and His priests, and says, “That HE may minister unto me!”

In my meditations upon the order of Melchizedek, I find it impossible to separate between the High Priest and the priests. Under the Aaronic order the HIGH PRIEST was the one, and the only one, who went into the Holy of holies. He passed through the veil and entered into the place of God’s blazing fullness unseen by all others. The PRIESTHOOD did not do this. But, precious friend of mine, if you think that Jesus is keeping all the glory of that realm to Himself, then you just haven’t read these inspired words: “Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the ***forerunner is for us*** entered, even Jesus, made an High Priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek” (Heb. 6:19-20). Let me repeat — the only person permitted an entrance ***beyond the veil*** was the High Priest!

While manifested on this earth plane, Jesus Christ left us His personal example that we might follow in His footsteps. It is a way that leads ***beyond the veil*** into the glories of the Father. It was necessary that He tread all the course that we might be able to follow all the way into divine fullness. HE IS THE WAY unto the Father, and in our union with Him we

find it is first a way of humiliation before it becomes a way of exaltation. Thus we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, assured that in due time HE will lift us up, and we shall live in His sight.

A *forerunner* is one who goes ahead of others. He goes ahead as a sample of those who are to follow. Jesus is our *forerunner*, which clearly indicates that others are expected to follow on into the same realms of glory. Christ, a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, is our *forerunner*, He went first, and where He went, we are to go. The Forerunner blazed the trail all the way, and we rejoice in this fact, but then He also came back, in and by the Spirit, to escort us all the way into the glory beyond the veil, the glory of a PRIESTHOOD FOREVER AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK. Full well He knows the route, for He has traveled it all the way through to victory, and now is able to guide us down the same path into the glorious victory which He obtained. It is HIS daily enabling that gives us strength to carry on until the consummation is reached.

WE HAVE A HOPE! That hope is the anchor of the soul. Our hope in the Christ is the anchor of that life both sure and firm, and it has entered into the veil, taken there by our *forerunner*, even Jesus. He ran ahead of, or before us! Thus it is evident that WE ARE GOING TO RUN ALSO! What He entered into we also will come into. He simply has opened the way for us and He is the anchor or the hope of that life which is behind the veil.

Let us remember — in the Old Testament order it was only the High Priest who could enter into the Most Holy Place. None else could enter, and even the High Priest would enter in with fear and trembling and only after much preparation and vested with special garments. But how glorious the word that now comes to us! “And having an High Priest over the house of God, *let us* draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water” (Heb. 10:21-22). And then we read, “Having therefore brethren *boldness to enter into the Holiest* by the blood of Jesus.” We, the Royal Priesthood, *do have boldness to enter in!* We do not wait, and we do not have to go to some far-off heaven somewhere. This thing is taking place *within us* right at this time, blessed be the name of the Lord!

For those who understand with a spiritual mind it is a glorious privilege to enter in because Jesus Christ, our High Priest and Forerunner, has opened the way and bids us enter. Christians have generally entertained the idea that entering in beyond the veil means simply that every believer now has access to enter into the presence of God and offer up his prayers with no human mediator in between. It is much more than that! Multitudes know Jesus as their Saviour, Baptizer, Healer, Sanctifier, and Blessor, but do you know Jesus as your *forerunner*? Do you know Him as the forerunner of the MELCHIZEDEKIAN PRIESTHOOD? Do you know what it means to *be* a priest after the order of Melchizedek? Now we hear the word of the Lord to us and it is that we are to come in with *boldness*. Come right in to the Holy of holies! Come right in to the presence of God! Come right in to the full glory of God! Come right into that high and holy realm that only HIGH PRIESTS enter! We need not be afraid that we can enter as a priest after the order of Melchizedek, for we have a High Priest of that order who is now appearing in the blazing fullness of God’s glory *for us*, not *in our place*, but *on our behalf*, for that is the

true sense of the words “for us.” This wonderful High Priest *abides* in the power of His priesthood and we are to come right in to reign as priests!

You may stand without. Many believers today dwell in the Outer Court of salvation while others tarry in the Holy Place of the baptism and gifts of the Holy Spirit. How obvious it should be that all believers, while children of God, are *not part* of the elect company of the Melchizedek Priesthood. All the tribes of Israel, while God’s people, we not *priests!* And not all priests had access to the Holy of Holies! True, the veil has been rent, but also true to the type, the vast majority of believers throughout the church age have dwelt and do now dwell in the *Outer Court* of spiritual experience. In spite of all their noisy profession, and constant flurry of religious activities, they inhabit that realm where the natural man understandeth not the things of the Spirit of God. They never plumb the depths of Jesus Christ! Deep spiritual things are foolishness unto them; neither can they know them, for they are spiritually discerned. These are comfortably at home with the lifeless forms, static creeds, empty ceremonies, entertaining programs, and repetitious works of Outer Court religion, and have not the foggiest notion of what the *Royal Priesthood* is about! The harlot system has sapped and sucked away their spiritual life and left them in spiritual poverty, void of understanding of the high and holy purposes of God, and like little children they wait expectantly for the thrills that await them in that far-away Disney World in the sky with its golden streets, mansions, harps, and wings!

God has a people today who are not ordinary people. They are not people of this earth, earthly minded, but citizens of the Celestial Kingdom. They are God’s dwelling place and they dwell in God. The great High Priest of that Heavenly Kingdom, the One after the order of Melchizedek, HAS ENTERED THE HOLY PLACE NOT MADE WITH HANDS. He reigns there as a priest! The great invitation to God’s elect now is, “COME ON IN.” After such an awesome revelation as this we find it impossible to return to the old way. The old-order church systems and methods, the old preaching of man-made creeds and petty religious traditions has become a stifling boredom. We can have nothing to do with such things. The ways of Babylon are the ways of death to us. WE HAVE A HIGH PRIEST OVER THE HOUSE OF GOD! HE IS EXALTED IN THE HEAVENS! THERE IS STILL ROOM UPON THE TWENTY-FOUR THRONES AROUND THE THRONE! THE VOICE SAYS, “COME UP HITHER!” WE HASTEN TO ENTER IN, TO BECOME ALL THAT GOD HAS APPREHENDED US TO BE!

CROWNS OF GOLD

“And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty *elders* sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads *crowns of gold*” (Rev. 4:4)

It is instructive to notice the characteristics of the twenty-four Elders. Throughout the scriptures *only men* are “elders.” *Only men* sit on thrones. *Only men* wear white raiment. And *only men* wear crowns! This is fitting because the Greek word means a “victorious crown” won in an athletic contest or on the field of battle. It bespeaks of one who has gone through the battle of life on earth, in obedience to the will of the heavenly

Father, with all the testings, trials, tribulations, provings, and triumphs in order to earn the victor's crown! In Bible days it was *men* who won and wore such crowns.

We are not, however, speaking naturally, but *spiritually!* “Men” represent spiritually those persons who, irrespective of their gender in the flesh, have developed within themselves the *spiritually masculine qualities* of divine life — strength, authority, discernment, wisdom, dominion, and power! These are *mature ones!* There are many different spiritual states of being, planes of development and levels of growth, revealed in the Word of God. Some are called “babes” in Christ, others “little children,” others “young men,” others “mature men,” others “women,” some are called “sons of God,” others “daughters of God,” and there is a class identified as “the bride” of Christ.

Children are children. Children are not “sons” in the scriptural sense, for the word for a child is the Greek word *teknon*, whereas the word for a grown son is *huios*. When the scripture speaks of the manifestation of the *sons* of God it refers to those who spiritually have grown up into the nature, stature, and authority of the Father! On the other hand, a girl, as long as she is a child, is neither prepared for, nor capable of, fulfilling the role of a *wife*. In order to enter into marriage a young girl must pass through years of physical, mental, and emotional development. Finally, upon becoming mature in these areas, she is fitted for marriage and her role as a wife. And so is it in God's Family! The term “child” describes the believer in his walk of immaturity in God. But as one begins to grow up into *spiritual maturity*, it is then that the truly feminine and masculine aspects of divine life take form and become manifest. “Vive la difference!” someone once said. And starting from early childhood we all begin to notice there is indeed a difference! We become increasingly aware of it as we grow up. It is only as fully developed adults that the real power, potential, and purpose of the feminine and masculine attributes find their fulfillment.

The following words by Ray Prinzing are freighted with spiritual wisdom and godly instruction. “There are many relationships that are spoken of in the scriptures, and for years all we heard taught was on ‘the bride of Christ.’ Then came the unfolding of the precious truths of sonship. And soon the one was pitted against the other with emphasis on the position to be obtained, this greater than that, etc. But we are coming to see that all these relationships are allegorical — we can draw from them all some needed instruction, but we must not reduce them to physical, carnal realms, and hold them there. All these allegories serve to bring out the characteristics desired. ONENESS WITH CHRIST in its full reality goes beyond being a bride, or a son, or male, or female.. So regardless of the symbol at which we are looking, it is the deeper meaning and truth which we desire, and may the Lord quicken to us this vital instruction for our up-building in Him. To be perfect in Christ, complete, mature, *one in Him*, this sums up all the facets used to illustrate our growth and development, characteristics, attributes, etc. Dare we settle for anything less? Can any parabolic example reveal such glory? Each part reveals something unique and wonderful, but they all fall far short of expressing the *whole* which is *summed up in Christ*. He is ALL IN ALL, the fullness that filleth everything with Himself” — end quote.

As God becomes so many things to us, even Mother, so must we become many things to Him. When God created man male and female in His image, He revealed that He is Himself male and female within the attributes of His nature. In spiritual maturity we enter into relationship with God in all the facets of His nature. We may truly become the bride of Christ and the sons of the Father and many other things as well! The bride relationship bears the feminine nature whereas the sonship relationship bears the characteristics of the masculine nature. Aggressiveness, boldness, strength, valor, authority, power, and dominion are among the dominant traits of the masculine sex. Hence, the Lord says to the overcomer, “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my *son*. To him will I give *power* over the nations: and he shall *rule* them with a rod of iron. To him that overcometh will I grant to *sit with me in my throne*, even as I also overcame, and am set down with *my Father* in His throne.”

Modesty, gentleness, tenderness, love, sensitiveness, nurturing, and dependence are attributes of the feminine sex. Can we not see by this that *brideship* bespeaks of the spiritually feminine relationship of intimate love and reverent submission to Christ, whereas *sonship* embodies the spiritually masculine characteristics of strength and dominion to rule over all things. Ah, beloved, let us not become so over-balanced in our zeal to become *sons of God* that we circumvent the marvelous reality of *brideship*! The simple yet sublime truth is that THE WAY TO SONSHIP IS BRIDESHIP! This is why the Spirit has given us in Revelation chapter twelve the beautiful example of a glorious sun-clad woman giving birth to a remarkable man-child who is to rule all nations with a rod of iron. It is the inworking of brideship that *births* the realm of sonship! Jesus said, “I am the *way*...no man *cometh unto the Father* but by me.” Our relationship to Christ as a bride foreruns our relationship to the Father as a son! Brideship is the harbinger of sonship! It is through the intense love, intimacy of fellowship, and vital union with Christ, made *one in Him in love*, that we are initiated into that illustrious glory of strength and dominion over all things as sons of God. The manchild comes out of the woman. These are both realities *within each of us*! Until one falls madly in love with Christ, and submits to Him in all things as the Head of the body, he will never go on to become a son of the Father. That is the mystery!

The twenty-four “elders” are *mature men*, those who have grown up into Christ, putting on His wonderful mind, strengthened with His might, filled with His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, equipped and enabled to minister the blessings and benefits and powers of the kingdom of God! These are the sons of God who are the kings and priests of the Most High! The twenty-four Elders are clothed in white raiment, which means they have glorified bodies made pure by His indwelling Spirit and the righteousness of Christ, and on their heads are *crowns of gold* which means they have divine authority to rule and reign with Christ as priests because they have faithfully followed the leading of the Spirit and have overcome all things.

The crowns of gold are upon their *heads*. Though this appears a very natural statement, yet it is freighted with deep significance! The Greek word for “head” is *kephale* which comes from the root *kapto* meaning “to seize.” Is it not the head, the mind, that the adversary most wants to captivate and take hold of? The mind is the gateway to the whole being! It

is in the *mind* of man that he is alienated from the life that is in God (Eph. 4:18), and it is by the renewing of the *mind* that we are transformed into the image of Christ! It is the head or mind that the Spirit of God is today “seizing” or “laying hold” upon in every one who has received the call to sonship, that HE may be fully manifest therein. What a battle has been waged by the serpent-inspired philosophies of men, political ideologies, educational agendas, advertising, entertainment, and religion to keep the mind in subjection to the bondage and darkness and ignorance of the *world system*. But contrariwise, there is also a battle whereby liberty comes to the mind to bring it enlightenment and renewal. It is thus upon a *renewed mind* that the crown of gold rests!

It is also interesting to note that the Greek word *kephale* is in the feminine gender! Although the ones crowned are men (spiritually), yet the head upon which the crown rests possesses the spiritually feminine qualities of gentleness, kindness, mercy, love, goodness, grace, nurturing, sensitiveness, compassion, etc. These are, one and all, necessary characteristics in the nature of a PRIEST! Kings rule, but from a priestly heart flows forth love, mercy, kindness, grace, gentleness, forgiveness — the very spirit and word of RECONCILIATION! What a beautiful blending of the masculine-feminine nature of God!

These crowns are not the coronets worn by the sovereigns of this present world. The feeble kings and rulers of this dark world system represent in their weakness the transient glory of earth’s passing kingdoms, but the golden crowns on the heads of God’s Royal Priesthood are not like one of these. The most common term rendered “crown” in the New Testament is the Greek word *stephanos*. This crown was usually a laurel wreath woven of fragrant branches, or the like. It was granted to winners in the Panhellenic games and also as a token of public honor for distinguished service — especially of military leaders who had been victorious over their enemies on the battlefield. It was also given at marriage feasts, especially in royal families, to celebrate the joy of the bridegroom in having “won” the maiden for his bride. This crown always denotes a VICTOR’S CROWN — the crown of an OVERCOMER!

How appropriate that we should read of the Royal Priesthood: “And round about the throne were...four and twenty elders sitting...and they had on their heads ***crowns (stephanos) of gold.***” Golden Stephanos! Golden Victor’s Crowns! Gold is a symbol for the divine nature. And how true that we are only able to fully overcome by being made partakers of *His divine nature!* To be “crowned” means to be given kingly authority. As the kingly authority and dominion of God’s divine nature now ascends the throne of our lives to rule within us — we are CROWNED, RULED OVER by our Father, but more than this, *made rulers*, not after the carnal concepts of the flesh, but in the love, justice, and glory of God’s own character!

Of course the crowns of fragrant branches won by the Greeks in their athletic contests were short lived, for they soon wilted and became dead and brittle. In contrast to this, *our stephanos* are incorruptible crowns which will never fade away — for the Royal Priesthood is of the Melchizedekian Order — after the power of an endless life! In the Theater of Ephesus there was found an inscription which read: “He fought three bouts, and was

crowned two times.” In like manner the sons of God will soon be rewarded for their bouts with the flesh, the world, and the principalities and powers which have their rule in the darkness of the carnal mind. God is even now bringing forth an *incorruptible* people, overcomers, who are overcoming all things. And of them, finally, it shall be said: “They fought many, many bouts, and were crowned *every time!*” No more weakness and failure. No more flunking two tests and winning one. Overcoming *all things!* Oh, no, we have not always overcome all things, but those who are called and chosen in this hour are being strengthened by experience and by the power of the spirit of life within and are becoming strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. God is teaching us to reign in our lives and in every situation! He is making us a Royal Priesthood! Priests reigning in the Father’s own nature, love, and power! Reconciling the world. Subduing all things. As kings these are seated *in the throne*; as priests they sit *around the throne*. Their rule is rooted in authority as kings, but as priests they become the bond between the God of the throne and the creation so desperately needing *His life*. Isn’t it wonderful!

THUNDERINGS, LIGHTNINGS, AND VOICES

“And *out of the throne* proceeded *lightnings and thunderings and voices...*” (Rev. 4:5).

The scene is drawn from the time when God came down in the midst of Israel to *speak* to His called and chosen nation. The Hebrews had come up out of Egypt, and were standing in front of mount Sinai. The mountain was full of fire and smoke. Thunderings and voices were bursting from its mysterious awfulness. Great trumpet-blasts came piercing through the frightened air. Everything bore witness to the awesome presence of God! The Hebrews were appalled and terrified. We can see them cowering and trembling. They turn to Moses and beg him to stand between them and God. “Speak thou with us, and we will hear,” said they, “but let not God speak to us, lest we die.”

At first it seems as if their feeling were a strange one. This is their God who is speaking to them, their God who by a mighty hand brought them “out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” Would it not seem as if they would be glad to have Him come to them directly, to have Him almost look on them with eyes that they could see, and make unnecessary the interposition of His servant Moses, bringing them messages from Him? Will they not feel their whole history of rescue coming to its consummation when at last they find themselves actually in the presence of the God who has delivered them, and hear His voice?

Ah, they would not *hear for themselves* the words of God, and they never did hear, for they rebelled in unbelief, they broke His laws, they went after other gods, then they imprisoned, stoned, and killed the prophets sent to them, and crucified the very Lord of glory. They hid themselves from the glory of His presence and refused to hear His voice! But now, praise God, He is speaking again out of His throne in the midst of His people, out of our innermost being, in and by the Spirit, and there is a people who *hear for themselves* the word of the Lord! Many believers are like the Hebrews in the wilderness, they have neither desire nor capacity to hear from God themselves, so they seek an apostle, a prophet, a pastor, a teacher, a church order, someone to hear from God *for them* and communicate His

message *to them*. God certainly does use ministries and fellow members of the body of Christ to *confirm* to us the revelation of the Spirit. Thank God for it! But we who do know our God now hear His voice speaking out from His throne right within our spirit, and out of those who are one in Him. Oh, yes! He speaks in the *power of thunder*, with flashes of light, *sudden bursts of brilliant illumination as of lightning*, and with the clarity and manifoldness of the *many voices* of a corporate unfolding. The ones who so hear His voice are those who have become related to His throne, for only in the throne-room does one see the lightnings and hear the thunderings and voices. It is indeed wonderful!

THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD

“And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the *seven spirits of God*” (Rev. 4:5).

For many years we did not know that God has seven spirits! Although we were raised in church, and had read the Bible through, we had never understood the mystery of the seven spirits. We all knew that “there is one body, and *one Spirit*” (Eph. 4:4). We all thought that when we were baptized in the Holy Spirit, receiving the one Spirit, that was the beginning and the finish of it! We spoke in tongues and prophesied, did a few miracles, danced in the Spirit and rejoiced with joy unspeakable and full of glory, and that was it! That is all we knew God had for us this side of heaven.

The question follows — are there seven spirits of God? If you say that God has seven spirits, to some that makes you a heretic! If, on the other hand, you say that the Spirit of God is not seven spirits, you are disagreeing with the heavenly revelation given to John! Is the Spirit of God, then, seven or one? If God says there is one Spirit, then there is one Spirit; and if God says there are seven spirits, then there are seven spirits. That is the mystery of it!

One of the keys to this mystery is found in the passage quoted above, “And there were seven *lamps of fire* burning before the throne, *which are* the seven spirits of God.” In the Old Testament, the structure of the lampstand or candlestick was quite unique: below was one lampstand, above there were seven branches, and in each branch there was a lamp (Ex. 25:31-37). It was one lampstand, yet it had seven lamps; there were seven lamps, yet it was but one lampstand. The same picture is presented in Zechariah 4:2. Therefore, it is correct to say that there is one lampstand, yet it is not wrong to say there are seven lamps! So also is the Spirit of God. Without question, He is one Spirit; but He is also called “the seven spirits,” that is, the ***sevenfold, intensified spirit of God!***

Seven, in the scriptures, is the most sacred number of the Hebrews. This number is used more often than all other numbers, save the number one. It is the number denoting *spiritual perfection and completeness*. In this connection it is instructive to note that in the title “Holy Spirit” the word “holy,” according to Webster, comes from a root meaning “whole.” Hence, the Holy Spirit is the WHOLE SPIRIT! The seven spirits of God, seven denoting spiritual perfection and completeness, are likewise a figure of the “holy” or the “whole” or “complete” Spirit. When we understand that the number seven conveys the

idea of unity and completeness, rather than diversity, then we can see with unclouded vision that the seven Spirits of God are the *sevenfold, intensified Spirit of the Lord* — the absolute ***FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD!***

Great is the mystery and the wonder of it, for there is one Spirit and yet there are seven spirits! This can easily be understood from the natural creation. Have you drunk a glass of water today? How many things is water? To us water is one thing, one item, one substance. But no — water is actually two things! Two parts of a gas called hydrogen and one part of a gas called oxygen are fused, and they make water. But water is *not gas!* When the two gases are mixed they produce an effect. You have something new, something different, something of another quality — *liquid*. I didn't get up this morning and tell myself that I needed a glass of H₂O. It was unnecessary to bother with the chemical formula. I just knew I needed a glass of water. If I never knew anything about hydrogen or oxygen it would make no difference. Water is water! God knows how He made it. Scientists discovered God's formula, but God invented it!

The almighty Creator has used that same principle of compounding to make everything that appears in the material creation. In the whole universe, the heaven, the earth, all the stars and suns and planets and moons, there are exactly ninety-six different things which are called *elements*. Everything we see everywhere is composed of some combination of some of those ninety-six elements. We think of salt as one thing. Yet salt is not one thing; salt is two things. Somebody has taken a piece of metal called sodium and a piece of a gas called chlorine, and mixed the two things together. The result is what chemists call *sodium chloride* and we common folk call it *salt*. How about air? Isn't that one thing? Wrong again! Air is always three things. Seventy-nine parts of a gas called nitrogen mixed with twenty-one parts of a gas called oxygen, and a tiny, tiny portion of carbonic acid gas, make up the simplest kind of air. Air is not one thing. It might be as many as twelve or fourteen things, depending on how close you live to a glue factory or a garbage dump!

God has used that simple principle of *compounding* to make everything that appears in the vast expanses of the universe! And the physical creation is simply the mirror of the spiritual world! In just this way it is no longer necessary to see the Spirit of God as just one thing — for God Himself is not just one thing. God is *light*. God is *love*. God is *life*. God is *spirit*. Those are four things and we haven't even begun! In like manner, contained in the Spirit of God are all the attributes, characteristics, faculties, and powers of God that ***are spirit***. It is the complete or whole Spirit, the sevenfold intensified Spirit of the Lord!

The seven spirits are seen by John shining in the brightness and light of the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, its glory radiating the sevenfold splendor as of a rainbow which is seen in beauty like unto an emerald. These seven lamps of fire represent THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF SONSHIP. All that is connected to the throne reveals the mystery and the glory of *sonship* to God, for it is the Son who has been exalted to the throne. God's sons are His kings and priests who reign over the earth! The Lord Jesus Himself is the *firstborn* among many brethren, the proto-type of what sonship is. Isaiah prophesied of this sevenfold anointing of the spirit of sonship, saying, "And there shall come forth a rod out

of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. And 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*. And shall make Him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears: but with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth...and righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins” (Isa. 11:1-5).

This is the sevenfold sonship anointing that rested and does rest upon the firstborn Son of God! And this mighty and glorious anointing shall come also upon all the manifest sons of God to enable God’s kings and priests to inaugurate the wonderful and blessed age of the kingdom of God upon all the nations of mankind, and shall endue them with power and all the attributes of Him who is the Head of the body. They shall not judge after the sight of their eyes, nor reprove after the hearing of their ears, but with righteousness shall they judge the nations. This anointed company of sons of God shall be girded with the righteousness of Christ and the faithfulness of Him who loved them and lifted them from the pit of sin, sorrow, and death, and exalted them to the glorious heights of the throne. Then the wolf nature in the carnal man will be tamed and will lie down with the nature of the lamb in the throne, the fierce leopard nature shall lie down with the innocence of the kid, the calf and the young lion together, with a little child (for of such is the kingdom of heaven!) leading them. In that blessed day of glory, “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain.” Oh, the wonder of it!

Think of it! A world governed by the sevenfold intensified spirit of God! What a different spirit that is! It is the spirit of love, grace, mercy, peace, joy, righteousness, pardon, reconciliation and transformation! It is sometimes difficult for those kings-and-priests-to-be who have come out of the church system with a heavy hangover of condemnation and charging every man with guilt and shame. It was a sin to do this, it was a sin to do that, and we were so sin-conscious that we were not able to kindle any consciousness of the awesome power of HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

How we have ranted and raved and stormed at men about their sins and judgment! But it has been well said that there is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer; no disease that enough love will not heal; no door that enough love will not open; no gulf that enough love will not bridge; no wall that enough love will not throw down; no sin that enough love will not redeem. It makes no difference how deeply seated may be the problem, how hopeless the outlook, how muddled the tangles, how great the error or mistake — *love never fails* — and God is about to bathe the world in redemptive love through the government of the sons of God and by the power of the sevenfold spirit of God radiating from His throne!

Chapter 73

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES AND THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS *continued*

“And before the throne there was a *sea of glass* like unto crystal...” (Rev. 4:6).

Before we consider the *sea of glass*, I would like to point out that throughout the scriptures the *sea* is a type of the raging, restless, surging masses of unregenerate humanity, tossed to and fro by the inner storms of the turbulent nature of the carnal, Adamic man. The prophet Isaiah penned these inspired words, “The wicked are like the *troubled sea*, which cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked” (Isa. 57:20-21). Jude also described the natural man when he said, “These are *raging waves of the sea*, foaming out their own shame” (Jude 13). The beloved John, banished on the Isle of Patmos, had a vision of a great whore sitting on *many waters*. The angel that spoke with him revealed the meaning of the many waters, saying, “The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are *peoples*, and *multitudes*, and *nations*, and *tongues*” (Rev. 17:5).

John also saw a vision of a *beast rising out of the sea*, a beastly expression coming up out of the midst of the multitudes of raging, restless, seething humanity, the *sea of man*. The natural sea is a great deep, an abyss (Gen. 1:2; 7:11; 8:2; Deut. 8:7; 33:13;). The Psalmist wrote of this abyss of fleshly men, “They *search* out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent *search*: both the *inward thought* of every one of them, and the *heart is deep* (an abyss)” (Ps. 64:6). To the enlightened mind of David the depth of iniquity of which the human heart is capable is so great that it is beyond the ability of man to comprehend! The heart of man is an *unfathomable depth*, or, as Jeremiah observed, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: *who can know it?*” (Jer. 17:9). While John the Revelator saw the beast (outward manifestation) rising out of the sea (abyss, depth) of humanity (carnal mind), Jesus expressed the same truth thus, “For from WITHIN, O-U-T O-F THE HEART OF MEN, proceed *all these evil things!*”

Yet God, blessed be His wonderful name, has a remedy for the raging of the sea of fleshly emotions and devilish passions within man! The word of the Lord declares, “Thou *rulest* the *raging of the sea*: when the waves thereof arise, *Thou stillest them*” (Ps. 89:9). Long centuries ago the Spirit of God inspired these beautiful words of promise, “The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. The Lord on high IS MIGHTIER THAN THE NOISE OF MANY WATERS, yea, than the MIGHTY WAVES OF THE SEA” (Ps. 93:3-4). Praise God! HE rules the *inner raging of the sea* and HE stills *all its tempests!* That unstable nature within, so quickly moved by the

storms created by the carnal mind, the torrents of passion, the streams of vain imaginations, the waves of frustration and fear, the winds of doubt and unbelief, the turbulent emotions of body and soul — all are quieted by the Lord, the Spirit, who arises from within in peace, confidence, truth, and faith to RULE THE RAGING OF THE SEA. And then follows the calm, the state described by Paul, “that we be no more tossed to and fro with every wind...but may grow up in all things into Him who is the Head, even Christ” (Eph. 4:14-15). The Spirit of Life within is great peace, overflowing joy, unending love, unwavering righteousness, and omnipotent power! Oh, yes! It is only necessary then to gain the *conscious awareness* of the presence and life of God as the very essence of our being, and to know that this life is the law and substance of our reality. When our consciousness is imbued with the Spirit of Truth — not merely the letter of truth, but the Spirit of Truth — all inner and outer tempests are stilled, the sea is calmed, and the dragon out of the sea vanishes over the horizon!

When John beheld in holy vision the unveiling of Christ — Christ the Head and Christ the body — he also saw “a throne set in heaven” with God’s Christ upon the throne. It is then that we read, “And *before* the throne there was a *sea of glass* like unto crystal...” As surely as the raging sea represents multitudes of restless, clamoring, surging, sinning humanity, so does the exquisite sea of glass before the throne of God represent an assembled throng of quickened and transformed saints IN WHOSE HEARTS THE PEACE OF GOD RULES. This great *sea of redeemed men* is calm and serene, tranquil and quiet, transformed “even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” Furthermore, the *sea-dwelling beast* has been dealt with! The inner nature of man has been transformed, satan is bound, and the sea is now calm. In contrast with the hurricane and the tumult of winds and waves, we now perceive the effectual dominion of God — the peace and rest of the divine nature, undisturbed by earth’s changes and storms. The sea of glass illustrates the ineffable calm of the divine nature — a mighty deep within of holy, divine love and purpose, of understanding and confidence, of righteousness, peace, and joy, upon which no wind blows, no tempest strives, no violent currents disturb its unfathomable depths.

Just how did this crystal sea become what it is? John envisions this sea of glass twice. In both of these descriptions, they are symbolical views of both a people and a state of being. They have been as individual grains of sand — for glass is *melted sand*. John beheld this sea of glass mingled with fire — having come through the furnace of afflictions. As the Lord says, “Behold, I have refined thee...I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction” (Isa. 48:10). These have been perfected through their fiery trials! “Tried with fire...and now they have been...found unto praise and honour and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (I Pet. 1:7). In the image and likeness of Christ, they are bonded together in a divine union of life. John sees the whole redeemed company not as millions of individual grains of sand, but as one body, even as a crystal sea of glass!

Glass is sand that has been heated in the fire and is melted and flows together until each grain of sand loses its individual identity as sand. These myriads of grains of sand are melted together into one piece of glass. This shimmering sea that John beholds is composed of a vast throng of the Lord’s people who have passed through the fires of tribulation, trials, testings, and provings, and have overcome the world, the flesh, and the

devil by the power of His indwelling life. They can never again be affected, moved, tossed, disturbed, agitated, distracted, disquieted, bothered, or tempted by anything in those realms, for they have fully and forever *overcome!* They are standing in their eternal victory over the fleshly, beastly nature of the carnal, human identity, and the spirit of this world, as well as the false religious image of the man-made church systems.

A sea of glass like unto crystal! The figure is a striking one, and later on in the book of Revelation we find the overcomers *standing on the sea of glass mingled with fire* (Rev. 15:2). These have harps and sing the song of Moses and the Lamb — the song of deliverance, the song of the overcomer! Here we see a picture of a people who are neither going through the sea, nor being tossed by it, because they are standing on top of it. The message is clear — the crystal sea speaks of the *nature in which they stand*, and their *walk* has become stable and transparent! The fact that what is underneath their feet is solid, brilliant, and clear reveals to us the great truth that they are rooted and grounded in the pure, perfect, and holy nature of the Christ within.

The sea of glass *mingled with fire* represents the purification that is necessary for every son of God who enters the throne zone. It is not possible to partake of the realm of God's sovereign, unlimited, omnipotent power and authority until we have passed through the crystal sea mingled with fire and been purged from all carnality and self-hood by the quickening radiance of Christ's own pure and divine life. By the regenerating power of the living water which Christ is we lose the scent of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Every son of God is today passing through the sea of purification, into the state of transparency, which gives us access to the throne room of God!

It is here that all the fickle emotions of the soul and all the relentless passions of the body have been put under our feet until they toss us no more. There is a great calm! There is substance — a solid foundation — under our life and our walk, for we cannot fail to observe that God Himself possesses the same attributes as the glassy sea which surrounds His throne. The sea before the throne is the very nature of God established within a people until they stand and walk in the power of it. The sea is the emblem of mystery in many of the apocalyptic writings. But here we are told that the mystery which surrounds the nature of God is no longer mystery to those who are able to see Him *as He is*. The sea of glass is crystal clear with the light of truth! The glassy sea is thus a beautiful figure for the perfect revelation of the grace, righteousness, and glory of God.

Those who stand upon the sea of glass have escaped from the imprisonment of self into the mind of Christ. They have lost themselves so completely in the life of God that there is no longer any distinction between "I" and "Christ." They have reached the good beyond the good; the right within the right; the truth of which the truth we have known is but the shadow. They have been lifted out of the tossing sea of human passion and carnal understanding into the eternal calm of Christ-consciousness. These love without fear of losing, and worship without ceasing that which is the living God reflected in our own being — our very reality and state of being *being the homage* we render unto Him who is the source and substance of all.

This is what every man is searching for who is tossed by the raging waves of the sea of humanity! It is what the greedy man wants when he goes out to make himself rich; he does not want the money and the things money buys, but that of which the wealth is the symbol, that *something* for which his soul is craving and will not be denied, even though he is seeking it in the wrong way. It is what the evil man wants when he spreads havoc and ruin in the path of his ambition and lust; he is looking for heaven in the hallways of hell. It is what drives every man to be a workaholic, or a pleasure seeker, or a drunkard, or an adulterer, or a money grabber, or a tyrant over men, or seeker of fame, power, popularity, or one who loses himself in the carnal programs and promotions of man's religious systems. Man is so constituted that he can *never stop seeking* until he has found the eternal calm of the perfect and pure reality of God. If you try to rest in anything less you will be spurred on again and again by your own spirit and swept upward from height to height until you enter upon the great peace on the shores of the crystal sea!

All who attain to the heights in God are moved to climb the steep and winding path that leads from the valley of the shadow of death to the everlasting heights of divine life and nature. As we scale the heights of mount Zion we *become what we seek!* We shall never enter upon the realization of any reality which is external to ourselves. Knowing is being, and apart from *being* there is no knowing of the things of God! Only those who can stand upon the glassy sea, are those who walk in the spirit and come off victorious in the conflict with the beast of the flesh and the carnal mind. That means waging war with the foul and degrading desires of the flesh and the deceptive illusions of the old Adamic mind — even the “good” religious mind! When the sea waves toss your little ship to and fro in the storms of life, lift up your eyes to the throne in the midst of which is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Understand that that throne is here now — the power and dominion of the Christ within ourselves is strong and mighty enough to cause us to enter into our full heritage in God! To follow Jesus to the heights of victory; to be privileged to gaze upon that infinite crystal sea, the manifested life, light, love, righteousness, and power of Christ in our very own spirits, is the vision John saw and has shared with us. The reality is far greater than the symbol!

I'm sure it would be thrilling to stand upon a literal, physical sea of glass and play a harp while waving a palm branch. But that would change nothing within us! How much more glorious to stand in that *eternal calm* where all warfare, strife, struggle, fear, temptation, and failure have forever ceased — far, far above our own soulish efforts, yet deep within our spirits even now! When shall we behold that glorious expanse of righteousness, peace, and joy? When? Only when we ourselves *become* the perfectly manifest life, light, and love of God, eternally at one with Him, and with all that is His image and likeness. This alone is real; all else is but seeming. There is nothing beyond the crystal sea but the throne of God!

THE FACES OF THE LIVING CREATURES

“In the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. And the first living creature was like a *lion*, and the second living

creature was like an *ox*, and the third living creature had a face as a *man*, and the fourth living creature was like a *flying eagle*” (Rev. 4:6-7).

The four living creatures had four faces in the likeness of four different creatures. These represent four aspects of *kingship*, and are the four “faces” of the corporate Christ which reveal the qualities of His dominion and His appearance when He is doing a specific work at a particular time. Each of the faces reveals the work of Christ *in* His body of sons as well as His work *through* His son company in the earth. They are, furthermore, the four-fold manifestations of Himself to all mankind!

The four living creatures had the face of a lion, the face of an ox, the face of a man, and the face of a flying eagle. The lion speaks of *strength* — power, authority, and dominion — for he is the most powerful of all the big cats, and is known as the king of beasts, the king of the forest — by virtue of his awesome prowess! The ox is symbolic of *servantship*, for he is the largest and most useful of all domestic animals and is historically a beast of burden, a servant to man from time immemorial. The face of a man indicates *intelligence* — understanding, knowledge, and wisdom — for this is what distinguishes man from all the creatures beneath him. Adam was made in the image and likeness of God, revealing in his face the attributes and character of God, and was thereby given dominion over all the works of God’s hands. The eagle speaks of *exaltation*, for it is a heavenly creature, one who flies high in the heavens and lives, makes its home, and raises its young in the highest peaks of the mountains. These four faces reveal the intrinsic qualities that define God and His sons in the ministration of kingship!

The picture presented here in the faces of the four living creatures is that of God’s called and chosen elect who have been completely conformed to the image of the Son! They have grown up into His nature and character in each of these four areas! They have been made like unto Him in His spiritual strength and kingship; they are made kings to reign with Him upon His throne. They receive the highest position in the kingdom because they have done as their Lord taught them. Instead of exalting themselves in self-importance, they humbled themselves as the ox, took their place as servants, to love unconditionally and serve and bear the burdens and bless those to whom they were sent. The face of a man indicates that they have put on the mind of Christ and have matured in the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom of the ways of God. The face of the eagle shows that they have ascended into the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, high into the heavens of God’s Spirit, freed from the limitations of the flesh and the shackles of men, and follow only and always where the Spirit leads. These living creatures portray a life that is completely yielded unto God and His purpose, and whose transformation into the image of the Son is full and complete!

THE LION

With the face of a lion Christ reveals and manifests Himself as the “lion of the tribe of Judah.” As the lion of the tribe of Judah He is the mighty, victorious King and Lord of all who reigns in righteousness and faithfulness. Judah is the royal tribe of Israel, the portion of the Lord’s nation to whom the reigning scepter was given (Gen. 49:8-10). As He reigns, Christ and His body shall subdue every enemy! He shall bestow on all the

inhabitants of the world and upon all realms everywhere the blessings and benefits of His kingdom of righteousness, life, and peace. This symbol speaks of KINGDOM AUTHORITY. Wherever the firstborn Son of God went, He demonstrated the authority and power of the kingdom of God! Sin, disease, the very elements, devils and death all obeyed His word! Jesus' sonship ministry was only a "firstfruit," a sample and proto-type of the kingdom authority and power and blessing that shall subdue every enemy and restore all things into God. And now, through His many brethren brought to glory, the further "revelation of Jesus Christ," more of His kingdom authority shall be revealed in us to set creation free and establish His rule in every heart and life of mankind.

There is a further truth concerning the manifestation of Christ as a lion. As the lion devours its prey, so Christ becomes a lion to His people. The lion of Judah is King over all the beasts of human nature. He springs to unscaled heights and to unfathomed depths, and nothing escapes His grasp. He reveals Himself as with the face of a lion to all who receive the call to sonship and to the throne, to devour the bestial nature within them and fully redeem them from carnality, sin, and death. Oh, yes! The lion will consume all of your flesh nature and break every bone of old Adam's body. There will be nothing left of the old human identity! In order for this company of overcoming rulers to be fully transformed into the image of Christ, each of them must experience Christ as the lion of the tribe of Judah who is devouring all our flesh and carnality. The lion of the tribe of Judah raised up within all the sons of God who are called to kingship is the first of the living creatures in the midst of the throne! This is the authority of His Spirit within our spirit, raised up to bring the strength of Christ to ascendancy in our lives! This is the power of His life expressed through us! His authority and power by His Spirit and His Life are the lion in the midst of the throne — the manifest KINGSHIP DOMINION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

Now let us look further at this lion of the tribe of Judah who reigns in strength from the throne in the hearts of His chosen ones. Some people tell me today that the manifest sons of God will not go about personally touching men, healing the sick and emptying out the hospitals, performing mighty signs and wonders, casting out devils, raising the dead even out of the mortuaries where they have been embalmed, and so transforming men's lives on a massive scale that even the maximum security prisons can open their doors and let the inmates walk out free. They tell me that that is not what sonship is! Well, if that is not what sonship ministry is about, *what is it about?* The sons of God are manifest for the express purpose of ***setting creation free from the BONDAGE OF CORRUPTION!*** I wish someone would explain to me how you can set all mankind free from the *bondage of corruption* ***without*** healing the sick, emptying the hospitals, casting out devils, raising the dead, and bringing total redemptive power into all men's lives. Anything short of this will leave this old world right where it is!

Jesus was Himself the demonstration of the power of the kingdom of God on earth! The miracles that Christ wrought while on earth in flesh were His Kingdom Credentials. His miracles announced to the Jews that He was the promised Messiah, the One of whom the prophets wrote. After John the Baptist was arrested and imprisoned he sent messengers to Jesus to inquire, "Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?" Jesus told

John's inquiring disciples, "Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them" (Mat. 11:2-6). The signs and wonders wrought by Jesus, the firstborn Son of God, were tangible evidence of the power that would reside in the kingdom — power that would be seen, felt, and experienced!

The miracles Jesus did set forth the nature of the blessings that would exist when the kingdom of God has come to earth as it is in heaven. Jesus on another occasion said, "If I by the Spirit of God cast out devils, then *the kingdom of God is come unto you!*" Jesus clearly shows the relationship between the kingdom and His miracles. Without miracles the kingdom cannot be revealed! Miracles are the manifestation of possessed power, and Jesus is the firstfruits, the firstborn, the first example, and the pattern for all the holy sons of God who shall reign with Him in the kingdom. And while we have now received the firstfruits of the Spirit, and have in fact experienced a *foretaste* of this miracle power of the kingdom, when we have completely put off the Adamic mind, and have fully matured unto the measure of the stature of the *fullness of Christ*, and the Father witnesses to our sonship, declaring out of the heavens before men, "These are my beloved *sons*, in whom I am well pleased," then shall all the sons of God be *manifested* in power and great glory, and shall go forth doing even those "greater works" that Jesus promised His brethren. Only God can teach us these things! Truly He is training us in this very hour in the ways of His kingdom. We have a poster on the wall of our office which says, "We Do Not Believe In Miracles — WE RELY UPON THEM!" Through experiencing the power of God daily in our lives we are learning to walk in the power of the kingdom of God! Aren't you glad!

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And His fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy: and He healed them. And there followed Him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judea, and from beyond Jordan" (Mat. 4:23-25).

Jesus' power was unlimited, unceasing, and unstoppable! He took the time to do all those things. He didn't have any mass healings — He prayed for, and spoke to, and ministered to, every single one of those people individually. He touched them and imparted His life to them and healed them and blessed them. Multitudes came to Him and He had to make time for every one of them — and I don't have time for the things that clutter up my life *today!* So what did Jesus do? He *sacrificed* His life doing nothing but demonstrating the power of the kingdom of God that restores men to wholeness again. No sickness could stand in His presence! No demons could resist His command! The very elements obeyed His voice! Death fled at His word! There was a funeral procession and a widow's son of Nain lay dead, and weeping they passed by Jesus, and the *dead could not stay dead!* Can you imagine the expression on those people's faces when that boy sat up on the bier! If this isn't *sonship ministry*, then *what is?*

Jesus was the firstborn of God's vast family of sons. He came into the earth to reveal the glory of sonship and the power of the kingdom of God. In Him we see what it means to be a **manifest son of God!** When the storm on the sea was great, and the wind was violent and the waves contrary, and their lives were in danger, all He had to do was speak, "Peace, be still!" and the wind ceased and the waves went to rest in the bosom of the deep. All nature cries out for the manifestation of the sons of God! Can you imagine a world where all natural disasters of earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanoes, floods, and so on are subject to the authority of the word of the sons of the living God? That is what Jesus came to show us! The purpose of sonship is to *remove the curse* from off all the creation! What a world that will be!

When He needed money to pay taxes, and had none, He sent Peter to get it out of a fish's mouth. When the multitude was fainting with hunger, He multiplied the loaves and fishes of one little boy to feed five thousand men. That is the kingdom principle of *supernatural supply!* There was never a need that He could not meet! Can you imagine a world where the poor, the impoverished, the down-trodden, the starving, the men and women with thin, emaciated bodies and sad sunken eyes, the little children with bloated stomachs, and the tormented and dying are finally *ruled and governed by a vast company of sons of God who have come to unleash on the whole world of mankind the power of the kingdom revealed in Jesus Christ?* If that doesn't sound like **sonship ministry**, then *what does?* Jesus always had the power, the wisdom, and the means to take care of them all. This is the power of the kingdom manifested in the Son of God, and it is the power of the kingdom to be revealed through all the sons of God! For this *all creation earnestly and expectantly waits!* THIS IS THE STRENGTH, AUTHORITY, POWER, AND DOMINION OF THE LION IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE! Hallelujah!

With what joy and holy wonder do I tell you today that this is the power that will again be manifested on earth through the ministry of Christ's *many brethren*, the sons of God! What a calling rests upon the firstfruits! How humbly we should seek God, how fervently we should cry out to the Lord, that His work be completed in us to bring this sonship ministry to pass in the earth! How we praise God for the in-part ministry of the church age — it has been glorious beyond words. But none can deny that the ministry of Jesus has not been fully duplicated in all the power and glory of the kingdom of God! Who among us can raise his hand and tell me that in him, or in his prayer group, or in his church, or in his movement, or in his crusade the miraculous sonship ministry of Jesus has been reproduced in all its fullness and power? Just think about it! Were we to make such a claim we would all be found liars. After two thousand years of the meticulous formation of the Christ body, creation *still* groans and travails, *waiting* for the *manifestation of the sons of God* who shall *deliver creation itself from the bondage of corruption!*

The greater ministry of the sons of God will allay every disturbing element; break the power of sin and death; put down every wrong; still every clamoring tongue; calm every raging sea; touch every inflamed sore of society; banish all ignorance by the power of truth; unite into harmony every quarrelsome crowd; convert every sinner; convince and transform every terrorist; heal every excruciating pain and suffering; pilot every tossed soul into the harbor of rest; banish all fear, malice, bigotry, and hatred in the melting fire of divine love;

bind every demonic power; sweep away every false religion; heal every sickness, disease, and torment; fill to the full every lack and void; impart life more abundant to all men everywhere; and give joy unspeakable and full of glory until the whole earth is full of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea, and all creation pulsates with the scintillating life and light and love of God!

The Lord has absolute power over all nations and all mankind and is the architect of all the ages of time and the destiny of world history. The coming of the firstborn Son into the world was a mighty manifestation of omnipotent power! By the power of the kingdom resident in Him the whole course of human history was altered and the direction of multitudes of lives was changed as men repented of their sins and were reconciled to God. By the power of His indwelling life the lives of multiplied millions of people have been wonderfully transformed. All through the centuries since that time the *seed of the kingdom* has been working in the earth, bringing forth a harvest of blessing and righteousness among men. The object of all this working and dealing is to bring forth in the earth a company of fully redeemed, transformed, and matured sons of God who shall be so conformed into the express image of the firstborn Son, and so quickened in spirit, soul, *and body*, by the power of His resurrection, that the manifestation of sonship shall be fully produced in them in the power of the kingdom. This, fully this, and nothing short of this, is the hope of all creation!

The kingdom of God is not in word, but in power! (I Cor. 4:20). The fullness of the kingdom authority and power of God is that power which is coming first to the elect to transform them fully into the image and glory of Christ. That is how it came in the days of the first Son. The power of God came first in the life of Jesus to raise up within Him all the nature and glory and authority of the Father, *before* showing it forth through Him to bless and deliver and restore men to God. The Father spent thirty years of Jesus' life developing in Him the understanding, wisdom, discipline, maturity, overcoming victory, authority and power of sonship. Today *we* are experiencing the power of God within and God must first finish the work of perfecting and maturing His sons, before showing them forth to creation. It is our turn now, and we who have been called to sonship are in *our Nazareth* growing in wisdom and in stature and in the ways of the Father. The truth we should now know is that when God's sonship company is ready, fully developed, prepared, and matured, this kingdom power will flow out from them unrestrained and uninhibited — power to the full extent! THE LION IN THE THRONE SHALL ROAR WITH A MIGHTY VOICE AND SUDDENLY LEAP FORTH TO THE PREY!

When this idea of power is used in the New Testament the Greek word is *dunamis*, from which we get our English words dynamite and dynamo. It speaks of God's power as explosive, His divine energy and ability to move and change all things. The other use of the word power is in terms of *authority*. The Greek word for this is *exousia*. It speaks of authority inherent in a role or office. Simply put, *dunamis* is the *ability* to do something, *exousia* is the *right* to do it. The President of the United States possesses in his office the authority needed, for instance, to defend the national and international interests of the United States. This authority is given him by the Constitution of our nation. The word that is understood in the church world is "ordained." When a church ordains a person to teach

or preach, they have empowered that person so that they have the *right* to act in that place. They are given *authority* to teach and preach and do the work of the ministry.

In the Old Testament, the king had a ring and a scepter. His seal was on his ring and at the end of his scepter. When the king gave someone his ring or his scepter, they had the king's permission to operate in his name. Anything the king's seal was affixed to, the king had given his approval to. His seal was his signature. Only the most trusted, those who had been proven to have the king's best interest at heart, were trusted with this seal. Those trusted men were given *authority* to operate in the king's name! God has men He has entrusted to operate in His name! He has set His seal in their forehead! Those who receive the seal of the living God in their forehead have come into total submission to His will and way.

It is important to understand that *ability* or *force* does not always win out in the area of ruling and reigning. The privilege, the freedom, the *right*, the *authority* of *exousia* always wins out over the force or power of *dunamis*. The words of Jesus make this truth crystal clear. "Behold, I have given you *authority* to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the *power* of the enemy" (Lk. 10:19). True, the King James Bible states that Christ has given us "power" to tread on serpents and scorpions, but the Greek word is *exousia* meaning **authority** or **jurisdiction**. When Jesus speaks of the "power" of the adversaries, however, He uses the word *dunamis* meaning **power**. Ah, all our adversaries have is POWER, but what the Lord gives us is AUTHORITY! The Lord gives us authority in order to deal with all the power of the enemy!

I mentioned this recently, but will use the following illustration again, as it illuminates the truth so beautifully. Consider an automobile moving along the street. Although with its engine, transmission, and gasoline it is full of power, yet a traffic policeman has authority over it. When he blows his whistle and raises his hand the mighty engine must slow to a whisper and the car must stop. That is the difference between power and authority! Power is always subject to authority! The Son of God gives us *authority* over all the *power* of the adversary! As we understand these two terms by the light of the Spirit, it becomes clear that authority without the power to act is worthless, and the power to act without authority is worthless. An army without a general has no direction, and a general without an army has no force. These two realities must be brought together within us if we are to have both God's power and God's authority operating in our lives. You cannot have one without the other! Should you have one without the other you will fail.

This is what made Jesus' sonship ministry so mightily effective! An example of this is when Jesus dealt with the demon in the synagogue in Capernaum. "And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! For with *authority and power* He commandeth the unclean spirits and they come out" (Lk. 4:36). Jesus obtained both power and authority in His life! Jesus had the Father's authority within Himself, and He had the power to execute His authority. One without the other is ineffective. When the people witnessed the power and authority used together they were all amazed. The unclean spirit had power but no authority. When One with authority showed up, the spirit had to obey. His power was subject to authority. When people witness those who have obtained

God's authority and power to act in a given situation, they stand amazed. We have all been witnesses to this at times and in certain situations when the Spirit has moved through men to accomplish miraculous things. But God's power and His authority will yet come together *in all fullness* in the manifestation of the sons of God. THIS WILL BE THE UNVEILING OF THE LION IN THE THRONE!

Authority depends entirely upon our standing, position, and rank. With the position there is authority; without the position, there is no authority. A president-elect has no authority to run the government of the United States until he is sworn into office, until he has been installed into his position. A policeman without his uniform and not standing in the assigned post has no authority to direct traffic. A general taking leave from his duty has no authority to command an army. Likewise, our heavenly authority depends solely upon the reality of our calling and position in the order of God. All the authority of the sergeant or lieutenant who commands soldiers depends not only on his uniform and position, but also on his submitting to his superior. If he rebels against his superior and refuses or fails to obey orders, he will lose his official rights. In like manner we must not only be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, but we must also *walk in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, and obedient to the will of the Father*. As many as are *led by the Spirit of God*, they are the *sons of God!*

The ones who receive power and honor from the Father, who are seated together with Christ in the heavenlies, and are submitted to HIS LORDSHIP, are then in the position to accomplish great and mighty things in the kingdom of God! We have experienced a *measure* of power and authority in the church realm by the gifts and ministries of the Spirit. But there is yet to be an **official installation** of the sons of God into the realm of **HIS FULLNESS**, just as Jesus received at the river Jordan. When the Father witnesses from heaven before men, "These are my beloved *sons*, in whom *I am well pleased*," then shall the greatest drama in the history of mankind begin! The manifest sons of God shall go forth in the fullness of the power and authority of the Spirit to subdue the nations and deliver creation from the bondage of corruption. For this very thing the Father is preparing us in this hour!

The kingdom of God is the authority and power of the Father manifest first in the personal lives of His elect, then in the world around us, unto all times and the ages of this world, and finally in the whole universe. The kingdom is the power of God that changes everything in its reality, function, and influence, as determined by the Lord in His great and glorious program of creation, redemption, and the restitution of all things. The power of the kingdom of God shall eventually change us in our consciousness and experience from human to divine, from earthly to heavenly, and from mortal to immortal; then it shall in like manner change the world around us, including all the nations of men and the earth itself, and then it shall change the vast universe unto the endlessness of infinity. THE WHOLE CREATION SHALL BE DELIVERED FROM THE BONDAGE OF CORRUPTION! I wonder sometimes whether we have yet fully understood the enormous, fathomless implications of that word! The elect of the Lord today is experiencing the unfolding power of the kingdom of God within; it is the power of the kingdom that is consuming everything within us that is foreign to the life, nature, ways, and will of the Father. Christ is taking His

throne and is now reigning in our lives! And He must continue to reign in us until He has put every enemy under His feet! THIS IS THE MIGHT OF THE LION IN THE THRONE!

The lion of the tribe of Judah within us is the dominion and authority of God being formed in our lives. It is the spirit of *kingship!* It is the omnipotent power of Christ manifest within us as He reigns on the throne of our hearts to transform us into His image and stature. As we truly seek the fullness of His kingdom with our whole heart, we experience the power of His kingdom to purge us of all iniquities and present us faultless before His throne. We shall first be presented *before* His throne, standing upon the sea of glass mingled with fire, as a people fully prepared, equipped, and qualified to *ascend* to His throne and sit and reign with Him upon His throne (Rev. 3:21). When His power has cleansed us of all that is foreign and contrary to His nature, not only will He have taken His great power to reign *in* us, but He shall then proceed to reign *through* us. He wisely withholds the fullness of the authority and power of His kingdom until He has thoroughly changed us into His very own image and likeness.

Jesus rose from the dead and appeared on earth in the sight of men in the body of His resurrection, which is the spiritual body of incorruption and immortality. With this clear and obvious demonstration of the power of the kingdom of God, all doubts and fears were removed from the minds of His disciples. Now they knew that He was the King of kings! Now they knew the reality of His message of life and glory! In Him they saw the fullness of the power of His kingdom! He was now forever above and beyond the *bondage of corruption*, free from the limitations of this mortal body and this physical, material realm, and free from any possibility of ever dying again.

And now, in the end of this age, Christ's *many brethren* shall come to that same fullness of His kingdom. In them the kingdom of God shall come with power, even the *power of His resurrection!* Then shall creation see a race of men upon earth who dwell in a realm above sin, sorrow, limitation and death, for in them the bondage of corruption has been completely broken. Then shall creation see the *manifestation of the sons of God*, just as Jesus' disciples saw Him manifested in all the glory and power of resurrection. Christ was revealed to His disciples, and He is still revealed only to His disciples, His very own brethren. But the manifest sons of God shall be revealed **unto all creation!** It is the Lord's own people who now hunger and thirst after Christ as life. But it is the **creation** that waits and longs and travails to behold the manifestation of the *sons* of God! Christ is now *our* hope of glory, but Christ revealed in His many brethren is the hope of the groaning creation! Christ is now *our* life, but His life in His sons shall become the life of creation, delivering *all men* from the bondage of corruption, raising them up into a wonderful place in the liberty of the children of God (Rom. 8:19-21). Oh, the wonder of it!

For those who entertain the notion that the "revelation of Jesus Christ" is just the ordinary living out of the Christ life in the every-day experience of believer's lives, let me tell you plainly that the world has been blessed for two thousand years with beautiful spiritual men and women who have walked in high places in God. Love and grace and mercy and power have flowed out of the lives of many godly saints throughout the age. But none of this has

delivered creation from the bondage of corruption nor raised it up into the glorious liberty of the children of God! God has a greater plan than these dear folk are capable of grasping. Jesus personified the kingdom of God! From the time of His birth until the moment of His ascension He revealed within Himself all the powers of the kingdom of God. We can understand absolutely nothing about what God intends to do for creation through His sons until we SEE JESUS! In Him we see what the power of the kingdom is, and what it can do, and what it *shall do* for all mankind. He is the *firstfruits* of kingdom dominion! We are also becoming a firstfruits of His kingdom by virtue of our calling *in Christ*.

The power of the kingdom was manifest in Jesus' virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His revealing the nature and purpose of the Father on earth, in the power of His word, in the signs and wonders and miracles He wrought, in the transformation of men's lives He effected, in His transfiguration on the mount, and in His resurrection from the dead. The glory that was manifest in His wonderful life, in His outward works of power, in the impartation of salvation into men, in the glory of His transfiguration, and in the power of His resurrection was the result of His inner condition. The power within Him was such that the scintillating brilliance of His Father's glory radiated from within and shined through His garments on the holy mount. The Amplified Bible states that Jesus "became resplendent with divine brightness." It is the same divine brightness that blinded Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus and totally transformed and revolutionized his life!

I do not hesitate to tell you that it is that same divine brightness that shall out-shine from within **us** just as it did with Jesus, and that is the power of the kingdom of God! If you think the kingdom is merely establishing righteousness on earth by some display of divine *force* for a thousand years, you have completely missed **the power** of the kingdom! Oh, yes, the kingdom will bring righteousness to the nations — but **much, much more!** The fullness of the ***power of His resurrection*** is what we long to experience; it is that same power for which the whole creation groans and travails, by which *all things*, and *all men*, and *all creatures*, and *all worlds*, above and beneath, shall be given an entrance into the holy, righteous, divine, incorruptible, immortal, eternal SPIRITUAL WORLD OF GOD!

Hallelujah for the lion in the throne!

Chapter 74

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES AND THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

continued

“In the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. And the first living creature was like a *lion*, and the second living creature was like an *ox*, and the third living creature had a face as a *man*, and the fourth living creature was like a *flying eagle*” (Rev. 4:6-7).

The four living creatures are in the “midst of the throne” denoting *kingship*. The four living creatures had four faces in the likeness of four different creatures, representing four aspects of *kingship* which are true in Christ Jesus and are also wrought out in the life of every son of God apprehended to share His throne. Each of the faces reveals an aspect of the attributes, characteristics, and qualities which qualify one to rule and reign with Christ in His kingdom. They are, furthermore, the four-fold manifestation of Himself to all mankind!

THE OX

In our previous message we considered the face of the *lion* which speaks of *strength* — power, authority, and dominion — for he is the most powerful of all the big cats, and is known as the king of the beasts, and the king of the forest, by virtue of his awesome prowess! This brings us to the face of the *ox* which is symbolic of *servanthood*, for he is the largest and most useful of all domestic animals and is historically a beast of burden, one that draws wagons, plows fields, can be milked, and gives meat — a servant to man from time immemorial. With the face of the ox, Christ is revealed and manifested as the *compassionate servant* of all. The firstborn Son of God did not come to lord it over people, or to compel them to obey Him. He came to serve! (Phil. 2:7). The service Christ renders is done with compassionate mercy and out of a heart of divine love. It is the greatest service ever! He stoops to touch and receive and bless every man right where he is, without condemnation or judgment. His is the service of redeeming love and transforming grace that draws a person to serve and obey Him. When He comes to us and draws us with the cords of lovingkindness, by the sacrifice of Himself, we can do nothing else but respond in love and devotion to Him who has redeemed us!

Only the spiritually ambitious man will lay hold upon the kingdom of God. To be spiritually ambitious is to earnestly desire God’s best — in His way and time, according to His purpose, and always and only for His glory. It means to seek first the kingdom of God in all things! It means to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind, soul, and strength. It means to come only to do the will of the Father, and to do only what we see the Father doing. To be spiritually ambitious is the very *spirit of sonship*! There is a place for

ambitious men in the kingdom of God! Jesus explained the process, “Whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be *servant of all*.” He did not turn the man away from the ambition to be great. He simply told him how greatness can be achieved — become the servant of all!

Then there are degrees of this greatness. If you want to be *great*, be “the servant of all.” If you want to be *first*, be “the bond-slave of all.” The servant and the bond-slave represent degrees of self-giving, and they, in turn, represent degrees of greatness attained, namely, “great” and “first.” Beyond that is a level to which Jesus Himself attained. “The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to *give His life a ransom* for many.” In other words, since He went deeper than being servant of all, or a bond-slave of all, in that He gave His very life, so He becomes the Son of God upon the throne of the heavens, which is more than being great, or first, among a group — it is the acme of being! So the door is open for ambition. You may be least, or less, or great, or greater, or greatest, or first, or a son of God upon the throne!

Yet, it does not mean that we *give* in order to *get* — that is not the kingdom of God at all! We do not put on humility and serve others with the motive of becoming great, attaining to exalted positions of power and honor. If we are serving to gain advantage, to receive a position of authority over others, for the sake of authority, then we are not truly humble servants at all, but devious, cunning, crafty, deceptive, scheming, snaky, contriving, plotting, insincere hypocrites — and our motive is all wrong! That is not how the kingdom works! We do not serve to be made great — we serve because we are great with God’s greatness!

This is not a position of exercising power over others but of serving them. Serving is the power and the greatness! The motivation of the desires of those who are truly called to sonship is the same as the Captain of our salvation. Filled with the great love of God, the desire to attain to this position is to give ourselves in sacrifice and service for the deliverance and restoration of the rest of God’s creatures. Having attained to this deliverance from the bondage of corruption as the firstfruits of the creation, our only desire is to labor together with the Lord in the deliverance of the rest of His creation, to lift them up to the same level of life as He has lifted us. The heart of God, the heart of unconditional, unlimited, and sacrificial love and all goodness, is the greatest heart in the universe. It is not serving that *makes us* great, it is true divine greatness that *causes us* to serve! Oh, the mystery of it!

Let us see how beautifully Jesus taught this by His own example. Everything is prepared and set in order for the last supper, to the very water to wash the feet of the guests, as their custom was. Christ and His disciples gather in the upper room to eat and fellowship together on this solemn night. Each one waits for the other, for there is no servant available to perform the customary service of washing the guest’s feet. Washing feet was one of the basest tasks in the culture of Jesus’ day. It was a job usually done by a house slave. Just as we offer a visitor hospitality, so in Jesus’ time they customarily washed a visitor’s feet. Washing feet was undesirable responsibility: the roads were dusty well enough. But the filth of the road was more than dust! The transportation of that day was the camel, the

donkey, the horse, and the mule. It takes little imagination to understand that the streets and roads were littered with their manure. The traveler's feet would be covered with this as well as being caked with dust. The washing of feet was assigned to the lowliest slave because it meant handling the filth of the streets. This job was thought to be beneath the dignity of the "good man of the house."

Not one of the twelve thinks of humbling himself to do the job, for, after all, are they not the honored ones, the disciples of the very Son of God, the flaming apostles of the kingdom, the future rulers of the world! Even at the table they were full of the thought — who should be greatest in the kingdom that was then beginning to dawn. Suddenly, unexpectedly Jesus stood up from the table, and began to take off His inner layer of garments until He was stripped to the waist, wearing only His loin cloth. He then took a large towel and wrapped it around Himself, poured water into a large brass basin, and, beginning with one of the men at the end of the table, laid heavy emphasis upon His words of a few moments before, "I am in the midst of you as one that serves." Oh, the wonder of it! on which angels gazed with adoring wonder. Christ, the Creator and King of the universe, at whose word all worlds and galaxies flooded the infinity of space, who might with one word have compelled any man or legions of angels to do His bidding, Himself chose the slave's place as His own, taking the soiled, filthy feet in His own holy hands, and washes them. It was to this task that the Lord of glory stooped!

But listen more carefully to the divine *why* and *how* of this wondrous spectacle. Jesus does it in the full consciousness of His divine glory, for the apostle John records, "Jesus *knowing* that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He was come from God and went to God, rose..." What a startling combination of sublime cause with curious consequence! How could Jesus have done this? How could the Master and the King of the universe wash dung from His disciple's feet? He could do it because HE WAS SECURE IN WHO HE WAS. He *knew* that the Father had given all things into His hands. He *knew* that He had come from the Father and that He was the Son of God and was soon to ascend the throne. He *knew* that He was going back to the Father after He defeated sin, sickness, death, hell, and the grave. He didn't have to prove anything to Himself or anyone else. His life had already proven who He was to those who had eyes to see. And He didn't stoop so low to become a tyrant, to rule over this world by force. Oh, no! He came to heal and bless and deliver and transform, to reign by serving! Ah, yes, my beloved, once we thoroughly *know* who we are there is no need to proclaim it, no need to sound a trumpet, no need to wear a badge, to remind people of how special we are. Once we *know* that we are the sons of God WE ARE FREED TO SERVE!

You see, it wasn't *in spite* of the fact of His greatness that Jesus took the place of the servant — it was *because* of His greatness! The greatness of Jesus is the greatness of the Father's heart. The greatness of Jesus is the greatness of divine love and humility. The greatness of Jesus is the greatness of *sonship*! For the hands into which the Father gives all things nothing is common or unclean. Because one is the offspring of the God of all grace, compassion, love, mercy, and goodness, in whose hands all things are given, it is not difficult for him to stoop so low. In this taking the form of a servant, Jesus proclaims the divine order of the kingdom of God and the nature of the kings and priests who reign. The

higher one stands in attainment in the kingdom, the more it is his joy to be servant of all! “Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant” (Mat. 20:27). “He that is *greatest* among you *shall be* your servant” (Mat. 23:11).

The higher I rise in the consciousness of being like Christ, the deeper shall I stoop to serve the creation around me. The reason why we so often do not bless others is that we wish to appear to them as their superiors in blessing, calling, or rank. But that is not the spirit of sonship! The truth is that only as a son can we truly be a servant. It was the Son of God who assumed the form of a servant and humbled Himself. Ah, beloved elect of the Lord, walk among men *as sons of the Most High God!* A son of God is only in the world to show forth his Father’s glory, to demonstrate how God-like and how blessed it is to live only and always to find a way to love, bless, redeem, and restore God’s fallen creation. Someone has well said, “God has three sorts of servants in the world: some are slaves, and serve Him from fear; others are hirelings, and serve for wages; and the last are sons, who serve because they love.”

I once read a story which beautifully illustrates why the mighty God would stoop so low as to appear as a servant in His sons in order to restore creation. A little child was handed over to another by her own father — not because he wanted to part with her, but they were very poor, and so that she could have sufficient food and clothing, a good education and opportunity in life, he gave her into a rich man’s keeping, letting her be adopted by the rich man as his own daughter. He then hired himself as a servant to the rich man where he was given a small cottage to live on the grounds. He was always there and daily kept watch over that little life until she matured; and the girl, as she grew up, always felt a peculiar bond with him and that she could always rely upon the unselfish love and wise counsel of him who seemed but a serving man. Her father, as she supposed him to be, was cold, demanding, and even cruel. The day came when he repudiated her in a fit of rage because she had brought what he perceived as shame upon his name. In that dark moment the serving man stepped forward, and flung his arms around her, shouting, with the fierceness of righteous indignation to the man who had so cruelly abused her, “She never was your child!” Then the girl knew why it was that she had felt such acceptance, concern, care, peace, and joy in the presence of the serving-man. She had listened to his language of love many a time, not knowing the speaker was her real father!

Old father flesh, old father Adam, old father the devil repays all men with cruelty, injustice, baseness, lack, pain, fear, sorrow, and death. But there is a better Father — the One that sent you here, the one who has watched over you, cared for you, counseled you, blessed you, helped you, entreated you, wooed you and overshadowed you with His love as you have passed through this world of tears and trouble. Even when you knew it not, He was already your Father! And in Jesus He came as a servant to minister to your need, to lift and redeem and restore you unto Himself and His kingdom. And now, bless His name, He comes *in many sons* to reveal His heart of love to the whole vast creation and restore all things. We, as sons of God, are among men as Him that serveth!

This is the great miracle of sonship! It unites greatness and humility in a divine combination. It is the figure of an *ox* in the midst of a glorious *throne!* Oh, the wonder of

it! This is the new creation in Christ Jesus! The great secret lies in the indwelling spirit of Jesus. Being made partakers of His nature and mind we are able to stand before Pilate, and when he says, “Are you a king?” we answer, “Thou sayest it.” On the same night it is possible to kneel before our brethren with a towel and a basin of water, washing their feet — cleansing their walk — in the spirit of service and humility. Only in sonship do power and humility find their true relationships and their true balance. Have you ever seen the President of the United States cutting the grass at the White House? How about Queen Elizabeth scrubbing the floors of her palace? Or the Prime Minister of Canada cleaning the toilet? We don’t expect people of high position to do lowly and seemingly unimportant tasks. Yet Jesus has revealed the law of a Higher Kingdom, a kingdom where power and servanthood are joined together in a divine outpouring of love, grace, and goodness!

Lyn Gitchel, a dear friend of ours in Pennsylvania, once shared a precious point about the meaning of what we call *ministry*. She wrote, “The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and give His life a ransom for many. The whole idea that we have of “ministry” has got warped up in these days, and I believe we shall have to have a new picture of what ministry really is put into our minds by God. The word *ministry* comes from two Latin words, *minis*, (from which we get minus), which means *lesser*, and *tri*, which is the Latin word for *servant*. Now, when you think about it, a LESSER SERVANT is a whole lot different from what we think of when the word *ministry* is put in our minds. We think of accomplished pastors, famous evangelists, large meetings, crowds with a tremendous flow of miracles and worship, and people that can really hold your attention by their great preaching — and then we find that the word means LESSER SERVANT!

The impact of this hit me recently and I’ll share the experience with you. For most of my life I have served in a professional capacity. Before I was an ordained minister I was a registered nurse. I have never really worked as a servant of any kind, until recently. A friend of mine was doing a little job here in town which involves helping an elderly lady who has had a stroke. You need to help her in whatever capacity she needs, from housework to bathing her. My friend had to leave town and, to help her out, I took the job. Nearly a year later I am still doing it! One day I was kneeling on the bathroom floor drying her feet when suddenly I said to myself, ‘Whatever am I doing here — I’m supposed to be an Ordained Minister!’ Immediately the Spirit of God answered within my heart, ‘You wanted to *minister*, didn’t you?’

“The time has come when we must understand that ministry is not preaching but servanthood. We are going to have to learn all over again what it means to serve people with the same heart of love that Jesus had when He walked among men. It was not beneath Him to lift a woman caught in adultery to her feet and speak a word of reassurance to her, nor was it beneath Him to eat at the house of an ungodly tax-gatherer and his friends. Jesus did not hire a huge auditorium and put out publicity announcing great meetings. He simply moved among men and women where they were and touched them with love, and healing, and compassion” — end quote.

There is the story of a man who desired from the Lord a true understanding of heaven and hell. One night in a dream he was told that he would soon receive this understanding. He was taken into a room where a few dozen people were sitting around a huge kettle of stew. Each one had only a long-handled spoon to eat with, and their arms were straightened so they could not bend them and bring the food into their mouths. The people were extremely upset and angry at their plight, shouting and cursing those who had done this to them. This, he was told, was hell. Then he was taken into another room which would be a picture to him of heaven. To his surprise, the room was identical. The large pot was there, as well as people with stiff arms and long spoons. There was one major difference, however. In this room, each one would smile and lovingly dip into the stew with his or her long-handled spoon and feed his fellow on the other side of the kettle! In this day we are being translated from hell to heaven within ourselves as we learn the ways of the kingdom which is the kingdom of *love* — by SERVING!

Every new year the Queen of England publishes her Honors List, conferring titles and decorations upon men and women who have rendered distinguished service to mankind or to the country or to the political party in power. I have in mind a little Honors List of my own! There is not much point in publishing it, because you will never have heard of these people. They include a dear sister who was poor in this world's goods, who lived in a little house that approached being a shack, yet was committed to God's purposes for this Day and vibrant with her love of God. She was always sharing the Word with the neighborhood children who graced her porch, continually cooking and sharing with others, fixing up and maintaining a building for the gatherings of the saints, entertaining the ministries the Lord sent their way, and encouraging everyone. She never murmured or complained about anything that came her way.

Honor also goes to a brother who prayed earnestly and is credited with "praying down" a mighty move of the Spirit of God many years ago, by which others with whom he was associated were propelled into world-wide fame, while he unpretentiously cherished the deep truths and hope of sonship and the reconciliation of all things, continuing in prayer, setting an example of righteousness and humility before his family and community, regularly visiting the widows, orphans, and shut-ins. I honor another brother whose name I do not even know who, during our Conferences in Florida years ago, would sweep and clean the meeting place until the wee hours of the morning (without being asked — it wasn't his responsibility!), while most of the brethren and the preachers were enjoying rich fellowship over a mid-night spread of food at the local restaurants. The one thing that these quiet heroes have in common is that they lived the *spirit of servanthood* without pretense or any motive other than a pure love and the deep desire to bless creation and advance the kingdom of God into men's lives. Truly such are to be called *great* in the kingdom of heaven! In the spirit of these precious ones we see THE FACE OF THE OX IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE!

That there are different levels in the kingdom of God, from the least in the kingdom to the greatest, Jesus clearly taught. He told His disciples, "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is *least* in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Mat. 11:11). On another

occasion we read of Jesus' disciples that "they disputed among themselves who should be the *greatest*. Jesus sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be *first*, the same shall be *last of all*, and *servant of all*" (Mat. 9:34-35). Christ Himself was the greatest among them! He said, "I am in the midst of you as he that serveth." He was the humblest, and therefore, the greatest, but had He no authority? He had authority in heaven and on earth! Because He takes the place of deepest humility, does that strip Him of His kingly authority? Not at all! It intensifies and magnifies it! Both the *lion* and the *ox* are *in the midst of the throne!* They reign there together! This is revealed so powerfully in the Lord Jesus.

Many Bible commentators endeavor to make a case for the idea that the characteristics of the four living creatures are portrayed in the four Gospels: Matthew showing us Jesus as the lion of the tribe of Judah; Mark revealing the Lord as the ox, the servant of all; Luke portraying the Lord as the Man above all men; and John manifesting Christ as the eternal Word, or the flying eagle. Personally, I find very little ground for this. The truth is, if I were picking one of the four Gospels as a portrait of Christ as the ox-servant, I would choose the book of Matthew. There are more passages concerning greatness through servanthood in the book of Matthew than in all the other three Gospels combined! You will note that nearly all the scriptures I have quoted on the subject in this message are taken from the gospel of Matthew!

Christ was the greatest, yet He took the place of the lowest. He who stooped from the highest heaven, not only to earth, but to the deepest hell, who descended into the deepest depths to seek for erring and sinful men, is greatest. That is why He exercises authority today in the heavens and on the earth! He now takes the highest place as the Head of the body, the High Priest of our profession, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and the Head of *all* principality and power. He is the greatest! And He is *still* the servant of all!

He that would rise to be the highest,
Must first come down to be the lowest,
And then ascend to be the highest
By keeping down to be the lowest.

God has called a people aside in this hour and brought them to a place of brokenness, humility, and nothingness in the eyes of the world and the church systems of man. We have obeyed the word the apostle Peter admonished, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (I Pet. 5:6). God is about to exalt His sons, but it shall be the exaltation of humility.

Many years ago amidst a great moving of the Spirit of God the revelation of sonship fell with wonder upon our ears and burst with glory within our hearts. We sat enraptured for hours, day after day, and were taught by the Spirit about the Father and His purposes and about that elect company He has called, apprehended and chosen to be His sons to rule with Him in His kingdom and restore all things. We learned that these sons would have power unlimited — power over everything! Power over sin, power over sickness, power over demons, power over the elements, power over the nations, and power over death. We were

going to rule and reign in power, and our eyes sparkled like diamonds in the noonday sun and our hearts swelled with joy in expectation of the wonderful position and authority we would soon have in the kingdom. We could think and talk of nothing else but the power we would have, and in our glorying we tried at times to usurp and demonstrate this power. We were intoxicated with illusions of grandeur as we pressed our way into the kingdom and the exalted position of sitting on the throne with Jesus and ruling the world and the vastnesses of infinity forever.

Little did we understand in those early days that the way up is down! The carnal mind would have us believe that the way up is up. Thus we have pressed our way into ministry, pressed our way into the kingdom, stood on the promises, demanded of God our “rights,” presuming even to *command God* to do this and that, and sought to seize the throne. It is true, elect of the Lord, that God wants to take us UP — high into the realms of God — UP to the throne — but God would have us know that the way UP is always DOWN! The one who serves the people well as a *priest* is the one who will also reign well as a *king*. “They shall be *priests*...and they shall *reign*.” That is the order! Though He is calling us to be kings with authority over all, yet our inner spirit must be that of a servant, that we might freely minister out of a contrite spirit and a broken heart the compassion and love of God right down where creation is. Do you want to know *what manifest sonship is*? CONSIDER JESUS! Jesus was the most lowly and humble of all men, and also the most powerful and authoritative. He was not a super-duper-elite-country-club Son of God. He didn’t bounce onto the platform under the lights with a flare of worldly showmanship and then disappear out the back door to escape contact with the people. Oh, no! He was the *ox* in the throne bearing the burden, pulling the wagon, plowing the fields, and giving His life to be meat for mankind. That is the mystery!

The following prophecy from the late Norene Nicholls has come into my hands at this time, and it surely speaks for this Day. “A strange and wondrous thing is about to come, for the Lord has spoken to those that will hear, and their ears have been sharpened. There is a gathering of the royal family, and the shepherds of Israel shall become rulers on the thrones. They have stood in desolate places and listened to the low sound of the sheep — even a little flock in a wilderness place, but now it shall change. The shepherds who have proven their worth in aloneness shall now come forth to be acknowledged of those who would not have Me to reign over them in times past. Behold the thing is at the door! Some have chosen high places for themselves, but others have allowed the Lord to choose for them, and thus have they been separated from their brethren and lost to sight. But now shall events bring forth the deserted ones and show them before kings who are really not kings at all. The scepter of these kings shall be righteousness and the girdle of faithfulness shall be upon their loins. They shall be recognized, not because they are of great stature nor commanding of personality, but they shall be recognized because the Spirit of the Lord is upon them!

“Men shall no longer gather to men, but *the men of God shall gather to the establishment of truth* where the angels activate the holy ground. There shall strange but wondrous things take place, for instructions from the presence of the Lord shall be heard, and kings shall lift their voices in confidence and courage at the declaration. And, there too, shall be that

peculiar anointing reserved for kings come into being; and that anointing shall teach you all things. Then from that pillar of truth shall the kings issue forth to do exploits and turn the aliens back from the shores of the land promised. Be not afraid nor amazed, for the Lord has spoken in verity and truth and shall bring it to pass. No longer shall you stand idly by and wait for another day, but there shall be activity of a new source — yet activity that is effortless and quiet. You shall slip quietly into palaces and judgment halls and speak a word in season. You shall stand before prelates and counselors, but not one of your words shall fail. You shall see the manifestation of what you have spoken, and men shall shut their mouths nor argue the point. This is a strange work to be done, but it shall come by the decree of God and stand unmovable before heaven and earth. The closing of the day is also the opening of the Day, and to this time have you been called. So it is and shall be” — end quote.

THE FACE OF A MAN

The third living creature had a face as a man. The face of a man indicates *intelligence* — for it is this which distinguishes man from the brute creation. It is intelligence with understanding, knowledge, and wisdom, for Adam was created in the image and likeness of God, revealing in his noble face the inward nature and character of God, and was thereby given dominion over all the works of God’s hands. Every son of God is being filled with this divine intelligence with heavenly understanding, knowledge, and wisdom. We can never reign apart from these!

Let us consider these three ingredients in intelligence. The first is *understanding*. Understanding is an ability and function of the *mind*. Without mind there can be no understanding! A man’s understanding corresponds precisely to the condition, development, and quality of his mind. Every created life form possesses mind and the understanding of the creature is limited by the quality of its mind. Quality of mind is first and foremost an inherited characteristic. For instance, a cat thinks like a cat, knows as a cat, understands as a cat, and acts like a cat because it was *born* a cat, therefore possessing the brain and mind of a cat. Until recently we had a cat in our home. This cat would come and lie in our room or curl up on my lap while I watched the evening news. While I was very interested in the news stories, the cat had positively no interest at all! He couldn’t care less! It’s not that he didn’t see the pictures flashing across the screen or hear the sound from the speakers, he could see and hear just fine, but he had no *understanding* of them, so he just curled up and went to sleep! It simply isn’t possible for cats to understand things human. Humans are of a different and higher order than are cats. Cats may see men, and observe their movements, yet there is no common ground of knowledge. The cat has no true comprehension of what it sees. It discerns only things pertaining to its own realm. It has positively no understanding of the ways of man, or of the meaning of his movements, or words, or plans. Cat minds function on the level of cat nature, while human minds function on the plane of human nature!

Likewise, God, the Spirit, is of a different and higher order of life than is the natural, Adamic man! The mind of the natural man functions on the level of human nature whereas the mind of God functions on the plane of divine nature. There is no common ground of

understanding or knowledge between the two. Therefore, the natural man, the Adamic man, is totally incapable of comprehending that which pertains to the realm of God! God is of a different and higher order than is the natural man. Paul stated it so well when he said, “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are *spiritually discerned*” (I Cor. 2:14). For natural minds to comprehend things spiritual is equally as impossible as for cats to comprehend things human! There is no common ground of knowledge. So, until humans receive of *God’s Spirit*, the Spirit that knows and understands the things that pertain to the realm of God, it is impossible for them to have any understanding, either of God, of His word, or of His ways.

With what truth did Paul write to the saints, saying, “For who could really understand a man’s inmost thoughts except the spirit of man himself? How much less could anyone understand the thoughts of God except the very Spirit of God? We have now received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit of God Himself, so that we *can understand* God’s generosity towards us” (I Cor. 2:11-12, Moffatt). The spirit of man in the unregenerate individual is truly the offspring of God who *is spirit*, yet it does not serve the Lord, for it is in darkness, and knows not from whence it came nor who or what it is. This is easy to understand! If a human baby were placed in a dark room and kept there in captivity without contact with other humans or the outside world, it would grow up knowing neither from whence it came or what it is. It would be unable to talk, unable to understand those who do talk, unable to walk, and incapable of functioning at all in the human world. It would be less than an animal! But let someone discover its plight, give it light, get it in contact with other humans, expose it to the world about it, shower it with love and attention, and it will grow up comprehending and corresponding to the world to which it belongs! That has been the precise state of every man born into this world of Adamic consciousness! Man’s spirit, truly the offspring of God, has been buried, concealed and locked up in the dark room of the dreadful deep beneath the outer shell of our soulical consciousness and the limiting confines of the mortal body. There has been no fellowship with that *spiritual world* from which we came and to which we pertain! But our Lord Jesus Christ is the One who has come to rescue us, and He is that “TRUE LIGHT which *lighteth every man that cometh into the world*” (Jn. 1:9). The wise man has told us that the *spirit of man* is the *candle of the Lord* (Prov. 20:27). Ah, when HE lights our candle, when *our spirit* is quickened by *His Spirit*, there is awakening, illumination, comprehension, and we begin to see into realms of spiritual life and reality to which, heretofore, we had been blind. This involves more by far than someone informing us that we are a spirit, a spiritual being, and that we should therefore actively begin to live out of our spiritual reality and identity instead of from the intellect of our soul and the desires of the body. That would be like someone sticking their head in through the window where the little child I described is in captivity, and saying to it, “You’re a human being, you can talk like a human being, walk like a human being, act like a human being, now get up and act like it!” That’s not enough! It is not by mere information or human effort that we can live out of spirit — the spiritual life! The awakening we must receive involves the sovereign, dynamic, living, quickening, redemptive operation of God within our spirit effecting the actual standing up within us of a new creature raised up by the power of God through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost (Titus 3:5). Regeneration is a renewal

that consists of the inbreathing of God's Spirit into our spirit, effecting union with His life. Only man, of all God's glorious creation, can be penetrated and lighted up within by the mind of God, to have an understanding of things unseen by the inspiration of the eternal Father, in one word, to be spirit, and have the consciousness of God, and contact and communication with the heavenly realm, being irradiated, permeated, filled, enabled, glorified by His infinite Spirit and His divine fullness. It is indeed wonderful!

And then after men receive of God's Spirit, and are quickened and awakened by it, the depth of their knowledge and understanding is wholly in proportion to their growth and development in the realm of the spirit. The mind of Christ must be "put on" and we are transformed *by the renewing of our minds*. Upon being born again we realize that we are actual sons of God, yet babes, "babes in Christ." And the understanding of newborn babes is limited in the extreme! They cannot have a deep knowledge and comprehension until they have passed through many experiences, been schooled in the wisdom of heaven, grown up into the stature of mature divine life, and been filled with the mind of God, the spiritual mind being fully developed within.

We who have received of God's Spirit have been renewed in the *spirit of our mind*, that is, we have taken on a new mind originating in a newly quickened Christ-consciousness, so that we now think and act as an entirely new creation, a new man, a new creature. As we have followed on to know the Lord, more and more we have found our darkened minds giving way to this new creation mind which is the *mind of Jesus Christ*. Paul wrote, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." The mind that was in Jesus was the Father's mind! Because He was fully possessed of His Father's mind, He was able to say, "I and the Father are one." This is the reality into which every son of God is being brought! In every son who reigns with Christ in those glorious ages to come, it will be the mind of our heavenly Father that will rule the world and all things and all realms. The Father has purposed that He will rule the universe by that man, the many-membered Christ, whom He has chosen, and those sons, every one, will be possessed with the Father's mind!

All understanding is in the mind, therefore, the understanding of God is in the mind of Christ, which is the mind of the Spirit, which is the mind of the new creation man. We do not understand the spiritual realities of the world of our heavenly Father with our natural minds. It is not the same mind that understands how to drive an automobile that understands the mysteries of the kingdom of God. Oh, no! It is the new mind, the spiritual mind that comprehends things spiritual. When the firstborn Son of God received the seven spirits of God He received the *spirit of understanding* (Isa. 11:2). This was not the understanding of the same mind that made furniture in Joseph's carpenter shop! This spirit of understanding is the very MIND OF GOD — to know and understand as God knows and understands! The mind of Christ is being developed today within every son from one stage to another until we understand *all things* as our heavenly Father understands! Can you not see the mystery? THIS IS DIVINE INTELLIGENCE, THE FACE OF A MAN IN THE IMAGE OF GOD IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE!

The second ingredient in *intelligence* is *knowledge*. All of the Lord's people are admonished seek after the knowledge of the Lord! The apostle Peter exhorts, "But grow in grace, and in *the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*" (II Pet. 3:18). Paul's earnest desire for the saints was that they might "walk worthy of the Lord, *increasing in the knowledge of God*" Col. 1:10). Something of the magnitude of this knowledge of God is expressed in these words of inspiration, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the *knowledge of God!* How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counselor? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever!" (Rom. 11:33-36).

As the mighty oak lies hidden in the tiny acorn, so the knowledge of God lies concealed in the seed of Christ planted in the womb of our hearts. As the great oak inches heavenward year after year, so the knowledge of God bursts forth from realm to realm out of the life of God in our spirits. "Lie not one to another, seeing ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is *renewed in knowledge* after the image of Him that created him" (Col. 3:9-10). Renewed in knowledge! What a revelation that is! And the knowledge that is being renewed in us is the knowledge we possessed when once we were in the image of God! That is the clear meaning of those words. The new man is being *renewed in knowledge*, and that knowledge restores to us the consciousness of God's image and likeness.

One can only be *renewed in knowledge* by refreshing or recalling something he has known before. We often read over such statements so lightly and carelessly, missing the true implication and import of the words! The scriptures are very clear that each of us came into this world out of the bosom of the Father. Before the Creator formed you, He knew you. He didn't know you in your present physical form as Joe Smith or Sally Brown, but He knew you *as spirit*. God spoke to you about His plan for your life before ever you were formed as an embryo in the womb of your mother. Paul states it so clearly when he says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as He hath *chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world*, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love" (Eph. 1:3-4). The Amplified Bible reads, "Even as He *chose us, actually picked us out for Himself in Christ, before the foundation of the world.*"

Never doubt this reality for a moment — the only way God could have loved you, chose you in Christ, and picked you out for His own *before the foundation of the world* is that you truly existed in and with Him before the appearing of the worlds. Nothing can be plainer than that! Yet we have supposed that we were just recently, in this life, apprehended of God to sonship. I thought the work of God began in my life seventy years ago. Now I find that the thing God is doing with humanity began in eternity! It didn't begin in time. It began before the ages were framed! God loved me, knew me, counseled with me, and picked me out for His unique purpose before the foundation of the world. My origin was in God! God begat me by His Word — in Christ — *as spirit* before He exhaled me *as spirit* into a very unique body upon earth.

Each of us were born into a mortal, physical body and into a world of darkness, sin, and death. Our spiritual life was buried, covered, encased, concealed within the prison house of a natural, worldly, human consciousness just as the little child I mentioned earlier was imprisoned in a room with no ability to relate to the world he was in or to understand, express, expand, or function on that level. But this was according to God's plan! It wasn't Adam that created the cunning serpent or invented the desirable tree of the knowledge of good and evil or placed in man's path the way of death. Oh, no! It was God who planted the garden eastward in Eden and placed all these things strategically in it! But God had both a purpose and a plan! Paul speaks of an action of God involved in that plan when he says that we are "in hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, *promised before the world began*" (Titus 1:2). This is indeed wonderful! We were born into this world with a *promise* from God — the promise of eternal life! This promise of salvation and life more abundant was given us *before the world began*! When we came here we were born with a promise! How could God make such a promise to us if we were not there *with Him* before the worlds appeared? Furthermore, we were *predestinated at that time* to be the manifest sons of God! "For whom He did *foreknow*, He also did *predestinate* to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Rom. 8:28-29). Not only were salvation and sonship promised, the kingdom was promised also! "Then shall the King (Jesus) say to them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom *prepared for you from the foundation of the world*" (Mat. 25:34).

All these wonderful things happened to us, and many more too numerous to mention at this time, before we entered this world as a human being. But do you *remember* any of it? Can you remember when you were there with the Father? Can you remember Him informing you of the plan, the purpose, in sending you to earth? Can you remember what was said, what you knew, what you agreed to, and why, and what you had when you were there with the Father? Do you remember being chosen in Christ, promised eternal life, promised a kingdom to reign in, and predestined unto placement as a son of God, before the foundation of the world? Do you remember the beginning of your journey?

Ah — YOU ARE REMEMBERING! Do you know how you're remembering? The answer is simple — all *revelation* is but a *remembering*! Someone says, "Oh, brother Eby, the Lord showed me such and such — I've had a revelation and I see thus and thus." Yes, you had a revelation! The reality is, however, that what you perceived as a revelation was simply God reminding you; He woke you up, refreshed your memory, and caused you to *recall* knowledge you once possessed before you entered this mortal state of limitation and confinement! We should always be fervently aware that a *revelation* is an *unveiling*. That is the meaning in the Greek. To have something revealed means to have it unveiled. There have been masterpieces of art and sculpture that have had a day of unveiling. Michelangelo was famous for the unveiling of some of his great works. But you see, my beloved, the *unveiling* is not the *creation* of the thing unveiled! The unveiling is simply the *revelation* or *uncovering* of something which *already exists*! Spiritual revelation is not the impartation of either knowledge or experience that you have never known before. Not at all! Spiritual revelation is the uncovering of the secret knowledge of God within our spirit. Revelation is a remembering! The whole purpose of the Holy

Spirit's moving upon us in our journey in God in this life in the flesh is to cause us to remember the realm from whence we came, who we are, what our purpose is — that we might complete the journey and fulfill that purpose! That is the mystery.

How meaningful then is the verse we quoted earlier. “Lie not one to another, seeing ye have put off the old man (human consciousness) with his deeds; and have put on the *new man* which is RENEWED IN KNOWLEDGE after the image of Him that created him” (Col. 3:9-10). I like the Amplified Bible's rendering: “And have clothed yourselves with the new *spiritual self*, which is ever in the process of *being renewed* and *remolded into fuller and more perfect knowledge* after the image and likeness of Him who created it.” How grateful we are that in the midst of all the darkness of *man's knowledge*, our God is bringing forth a light, even the light of the *knowledge of the glory of God* in the face of Jesus Christ. This wonderful light and knowledge is shining in our hearts, the Daystar arising, progressively increasing and breaking forth out of the lives of a firstfruit company. Those apprehended by God for this Day are discovering that the light is indeed growing brighter and brighter, and their one and only all-consuming desire is that they might KNOW HIM “in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” THIS DIVINE KNOWLEDGE IS THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE FACE OF A MAN IN THE THRONE!

The final ingredient in intelligence is *wisdom*. Wisdom is simply the ability to discern and *properly use* the understanding and knowledge one has acquired! As the firstborn Son of God Jesus had within Him the *spirit of wisdom* (Isa. 11:2). How did it manifest itself? In His waiting to hear what the Father spoke! “Morning by morning He wakeneth mine ear to hear, as they are taught” (Isa. 50:4). Perfect teachableness was the mark of the firstborn Son on earth. This is the mark of the Spirit in all the sons! “What things so ever He shall hear, these shall He speak.” The life is the light; as the Spirit finds our life in perfect obedience to Him, He teaches by what He works in us. Wisdom is learned *through experience*! This is the meaning and object of all the testings, trials, provings, processings, and dealings of God in each of our lives in this significant hour. God is teaching us wisdom! Wisdom is in knowing the *ways* of the Lord! Knowing the ways of the Lord goes beyond revelation — such holy knowledge comes by experiencing the contrasts between the fruit of *man's ways* and the results of *God's ways*.

In his first letter to the Corinthians Paul draws the contrast between the *wisdom of this world* and the *wisdom of God*. He says that none of the princes or rulers of this world know the wisdom of God! They do not learn the ways of God, but the ways of man, which are the ways of *human intellect*. Human intellect is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil! It is the food of the serpent! It was in seeking wisdom that man fell. “And when the woman saw that the tree was... a tree to be desired to *make one wise*, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat” (Gen. 3:6). It was in the pride of man's wisdom that heathenism had its origin. “Professing themselves to be *be wise*, they *became fools*” (Rom. 1:23). We see this today in much of the so-called “science” which promotes the most ridiculous of theories as scientific fact. The theory of evolution, for instance, is so absolutely untenable as to be laughable, yet multitudes of scientists and professors with doctorate degrees earnestly teach it to millions of students with a straight, serious face, as though it were

unquestionable, indisputable, historical fact. Professing themselves to *be wise* they have *become fools!*

It was in man's wisdom, philosophy, and the search after truth (science) that the Greeks sought their glory. It was in the external knowledge of God's will, in their constant extrapolation of every jot and tittle of the law into an elaborate system of legalistic phobias, that the Jew made his boast. And yet when Christ, the WISDOM OF GOD, appeared on the earth, Jew and Greek combined to reject Him! Man's wisdom, whether in possession of a revelation or not, is utterly insufficient for comprehending God or His wisdom. As his heart is alienated from God, so his mind is darkened that he cannot know truth aright. Even when in Christ the light of God in its divine wisdom and love shone upon men, they knew it not, and saw no beauty in it.

And so the great apostle Paul says, "My preaching was not in persuasive words of *man's wisdom*, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the *wisdom of men*, but in the power of God. Howbeit we *speak wisdom* among the perfect: yet a wisdom *not of this world*; but we speak *God's wisdom* in a mystery, even the wisdom that hath been hidden, which none of the princes of this world knoweth. But unto us God *revealed (uncovered, caused us to remember) it* through the spirit. But we received, not the spirit which is of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things...of God; which things also we speak, not in the words which *man's wisdom* teacheth, but which *the spirit* teacheth" (I Cor. 2:4-15).

Intelligence — understanding, knowledge, wisdom — THIS IS THE DIVINE QUALITY REVEALED IN THE FACE OF A MAN IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE! IT IS THE MIND OF CHRIST IN THE SONS OF GOD! IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE LIFE OF GOD WHICH QUALIFIES ONE TO REIGN WITH CHRIST UPON HIS THRONE! Isn't it wonderful!

Chapter 75

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES AND THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

continued

“In the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. And the first living creature was like a *lion*, and the second living creature was like an *ox*, and the third living creature had a face as a *man*, and the fourth living creature was like a *flying eagle*” (Rev. 4:6-7).

These four living creatures are in the “midst of the throne” denoting *kingship*. The four living creatures had four faces in the likeness of different creatures, representing the four aspects of *kingship* which are true in our Lord Jesus Christ and are also wrought out in the life of every son of God apprehended to share His throne. Each of the four faces reveals an aspect of the attributes, characteristics, and qualities which qualify one to rule and reign with Christ in His kingdom. They are, furthermore, the four-fold manifestation of Himself to all mankind! The face of the *lion* speaks of *strength* — power, authority, and dominion. The face of the *ox* is symbolic of *servanthood*, revealing Christ, Head and body, as the *compassionate servant* of all. The face of a *man* indicates *intelligence* — divine understanding, knowledge, and wisdom. We can never reign apart from these!

THE FLYING EAGLE

The fourth face or quality of *kingship* is that of a *flying eagle*. The eagle speaks to us of *exaltation* — that which is high and lifted up. The eagle is noted for its swiftness in flight (Deut. 28:49); it hastens to its prey (Job 9:26); its courage and farsightedness (Job 39:28-30); rises to the heavens (Prov. 23:5); and has great strength in flight (Isa. 40:31). Although the eagle is a bird of prey, it is highly regarded as a sign of power, courage, freedom, and exaltation. In the land of Israel there are two kinds of eagles, the *Golden* and the *Imperial*. Gold bespeaks of the divine nature, and the Imperial of kingship. The eagle is the king of birds, just as the lion is the king of beasts. The characteristics of the eagle find a beautiful application in the realm of the spirit, and are spiritual characteristics of those appointed to the high places in God. The “eagle saints” dwell in the high places and soar to the highest heights in the heavens of God’s Spirit! They continually follow on to attain to new heights in the purposes of God! They will forsake the old paths and low places of dead religion, static creeds, empty ceremonies, and flesh-oriented programs and promotions to soar into the highest of the heavens to know and experience God in the heights of life, truth, and reality.

The eagle is the highest form of bird, the only creature able to look as it were directly into the sun’s dazzling radiance. Aspiring to heights far beyond the physical or grossly material, this great bird symbolizes the upward flight of our journey into God. The Lord

Himself is referred to a number of times in scripture as an eagle. “Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how *I bare you on eagle’s wings* and brought you to myself” (Ex. 19:4), and again, “As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: so the Lord alone did lead him (Deut. 32:11). Christ is that royal eagle, flying high; the one who is at the right hand of God; who thought it not robbery to be equal with God; that glorious One, the Son of God exalted on high!

I invite you now to meditate upon both the heights and depths of *Christ the eagle* — Head and body. It is one of the loftiest of spiritual emblems! From the dawn of human history the challenge of flight has captured the imagination of man. The conquest of the air in the past century has imbued men and women with a sense of awe and romance unequalled in the annals of history. Somehow the ability to fly has epitomized the longing of man to rise above the confines of the earthy and the mortal and soar into the realm of the spiritual and the supernatural. God has made wonderful provision in His kingdom for man to have this spiritual need met, yet few believers ever discover the laws by which this escape is possible, few ever achieve the perspective of the eagle, an ability to rise high enough to see things that those on the ground can never see, and to truly see all things as they really are. How can a man break into the high realm of the *spiritual* and the *eternal* — to soar in the heavenlies with Christ? In response let us look at the beautiful illustration used by the prophet Isaiah. “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall *mount up with wings as eagles*; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint” (Isa. 40:31).

The wise man said in the book of Proverbs that among those mysteries in the universe that were too hard to understand, one was the “mystery of the eagle in the air” (Prov. 30:18-19). The symbolism of this passage points to the inexplicable potential of each and every son of God, which is like the eagle’s, which can fly higher than any bird without once flapping a wing. Did you notice that Isaiah said that eagles and eagle saints “mount up” and not “flap up”? Eagles were not made to go flapping about in soulish exercises, unprofitable self-efforts, or wasted fleshly energy — they were created to *soar* high and free! Eagles learn to fly without struggling because they instinctively understand the air currents. The eagle has about 7,000 feathers and weighs only about 14 pounds. When the right wind is blowing he lifts effortlessly into the air with a shrill scream of triumph and freedom. “They that *wait* upon the Lord...shall *mount up with wings as eagles*.” Herein is one of the eagle’s secrets in being able to mount up — *waiting*. Those who *wait* upon the Lord, it is written, who trust in *His moving*, who respond only to *His promptings*, who rest in *His timing*, who move in *His purpose*, will be the ones to mount up!

The “mounting up” process is important and necessary to each son of God who would take his place in the heavenlies, filled with the precious mind of Christ, conformed to His wonderful image, and caught up to the throne of God to reign with Christ over all things. But it only comes to those who will *wait* in His presence until the glory that shines from His face changes them from the image of the earthly into the image of the heavenly. Should the eagle fail to wait for the current that lifts, he would never get off the ground. And the saint of God who does not wait for the moving of the Holy Spirit in the

purposes of God will never get air borne or soar into the heavenlies! We are soaring into the heavenly places of God's Spirit! But some think they have already soared as high as they can go. I know precious brethren who are impatient to wait for God's timing and God's moving to manifest His sons, and have reduced sonship to something less than what God has sovereignly revealed by His Spirit. They claim to be already walking in the power of the third day, in the glory of the most holy place, in the blessings of the feast of tabernacles, and even now are, they say, putting on immortality and ruling and reigning with Christ over the nations and bringing the kingdom of God to pass in the earth. Yet I see no fruit of this in their lives, or in their aging bodies, or in their ministries, or in this cursed earth, or in the agitated, confused, warring, sin-blighted nations they supposedly are ruling over! It is a delusion, they are still sitting on the naked limb of a dead tree, *imagining* that they have lifted into the air and circled high into the crags of the mountain. Not everyone who professes Christ and enjoys the blessings of His grace and embraces the word of sonship and the kingdom will pay the price to follow on to know the Lord in the heavenly places. But God has predestined those whom He has foreknown, and has placed this instinctive and constant call *within* to rise to greater heights in the celestial realms above. And those who are willing to wait for the current of His mighty moving shall in due time mount up with wings as an eagle!

We *are* mounting up from realm to realm! We are learning to recognize the currents of God's moving and how to be lifted effortlessly into the heights of God! Eagles prefer the heights when they soar, and when they rest. His is a soaring spirit! The eagle is the jet plane of the bird family. One of the most awesome sights I ever witnessed happened several years ago when Lorain and I were on Resurrection Bay in Alaska. There was a duck swimming placidly on the water. Suddenly we saw this mighty eagle flying across the bay at an incredible speed. Some eagles have been clocked at 200 miles per hour, as he swoops down upon his prey. This eagle flew right into that bird, catching it in his powerful talons, without even a shudder from the impact, and flew away at the same speed to a place where he could safely feed upon it. The eagle soars the highest, goes the fastest, and is superior to all other birds in this respect. I began to understand why they represent the heavenly thrust of man: power, beauty, freedom, the lord of their environment through their ability to master the air. They move in regal splendor, for they are born as kings! As the eagle is born with the divine right of kingship, so every son of God born from above possesses the inherent potential of soaring into the very highest heights in the kingdom of the Spirit.

You do not have to prompt the eagle to fly, once he has learned how. No need to sing a chorus twenty-five times, clap the hands, stomp the feet, and get loud and all emotional in order to work up the spirit of soaring. Oh, no! If he cannot fly, he is in misery — he was made for altitude. He is born for the heights. And flying is just as natural as breathing. Eagle saints have their citizenship in heaven, in the heavens of God's Spirit. They live in the world, but their feelings, affections, desires, aspirations, conversation, and actions are above it. Their greatest impulses are upward, *ever upward!* They build their nests in the heights of the Mountain of God, and prefer and long to be where they are no more annoyed with the noises, mundaneness, and dangers of this world system.

John Wright Follette has shared in one of his writings some beautiful observations about the eagle. He says, “I believe the Lord purposely uses the eagle as a type here because of special peculiarities of that bird. One summer while in Yellowstone National Park, I had occasion to study or observe some eagles in their natural habitat — and thereby learned some helpful lessons. I think He speaks of an eagle because it is the only bird which goes high enough and sustains its position. They have been known to fly at an height of 6,000 feet. The lark also may reach the upper heights and pour out its songs, but it does not stay so long in the heavens. God *seats us* ‘together with Christ in heavenly places.’ We are heaven-born and now our affections are on things above. The Holy Spirit will hold us in our lofty place!

“The eagle is not often seen — he is the most solitary of any bird. Many birds are common to sight and even afford amusement. Parrots can talk and entertain, causing remarks and comment. The eagle stays *alone*. Did you ever hear of a flock of eagles! The noisy geese go in flocks. But who wants to be a goose? God seeks *eaglemen!* No man ever comes into realization of the best things of God, who does not, upon the Godward side of his life, learn to walk *alone* with God. Had we time we could trace through the Word the lives of many of God’s eaglemen. We find Abraham alone upon the heights, but Lot (a just man and saved) dwelling in Sodom. Moses, skilled in all the wisdom of Egypt, must go forty years into the wilderness *alone* with God. Paul, who was filled with Greek learning, and had also sat at the feet of Gamaliel, must go into Arabia and learn the desert life *alone* with God. Let God isolate us! In this isolation experience He develops an interdependence of faith and life so that the soul needs no longer the constant help, prayer, faith, or attention of his neighbor. Such assistance and inspiration from the other members are necessary and have their place in our development, but there comes a time when they act as a direct hindrance to the individual’s faith and welfare. God knows how to shape the circumstances to give us an isolation experience! This isolation produces another characteristic mark — *quietness*. No other bird can keep quiet so long as an eagle. The soul acquires a new grip on his life and is now moved by God rather than by things seen. He can trust God to control his spirit in the most vexing circumstances. We see this majestic calm and quietness so marked in the life of Christ. When we mount up with wings as eagles...we can keep *quiet*” — end quote.

Many of the Lord’s people have not discovered the way of the eagle. Some who now read these lines know what I’m talking about. You are stuck in a rut! Your life, naturally and spiritually, just isn’t going any place. Some of you are trapped and stuck, mired down on your job, in your home, in your marital relationship, in family situations, in difficult circumstances, frustrating problems, and binding limitations. These are all holding you down in an earth-bound consciousness, hedging you in and shutting you up to a state you *think* you can’t surmount. The cares of this world have turned many people’s lives into a pressure cooker, choking the spiritual life of the kingdom of God. The strain of everyday living is steadily growing worse because of financial problems, pressures at work, responsibilities, sickness, doctor and hospital bills, rebellious children, and a thousand other things.

The pressures of “this life” are too numerous to mention, we are all faced with them every day. There are those involvements of daily living which we cannot shirk, but when they so *overwhelm* us that we find ourselves so fragmented and distressed that we are not able to gather ourselves together to walk in the peace, joy, and victory of the kingdom — then we need to be *loosed* from these things, escape from them, and soar above them! Praise God, we find in Him a realm of freedom from all “these things,” so that whatever state we are in we can rejoice and not be bound by any of them. There *is* an escaping from the pressures of this world, and only “the way of the eagle” can reveal it! You can be like the eagle, my beloved, you can soar like an eagle! Nothing is impossible to those who mount up with wings as the eagle. Whatever it is that is weighing you down, whatever it is keeping you from soaring, it is possible to break away. The ability to soar lies *within* — you don’t have to go anywhere. You don’t have to change any of the circumstances about you, or sit on the fence and frantically flap away. ***You can rise above them.*** The eagle is *in you*. ***You are*** the eagle. You can soar ***high above it all!*** Oh yes, you can!

There is a life within you that transcends all the lowlands of the flesh — it will carry you high as you give yourself to it. It is the life of *sonship*, the power and glory of the *Christ within*. He is greater than all! I speak to you today by the word of the Lord, God is delivering you in this very hour from your earthbound existence, lifting you up by the Holy Ghost into heavenly places in Christ! Fear not, for you are not a child of the earth. Look up, lift up your head and rejoice, for you have come to this planet from the bosom of your Father in the heavenlies, and you are a child of redemption — you have inherited that heavenly nature! Today God looses the prison doors. Be free from your captivity! Let your tears of joy wash away all the marks of the cords which have so cruelly bound you! Be not imprisoned any more by the circumstances about you, but learn the ways of your God which are in your spirit, and follow Him alone. You shall rise above all things and shall not fear nor be dismayed, for I am with thee, saith the Lord!

Oh, to catch the winds of flight and soar where eagles go,
To leave the woes of troubled souls
Behind me far below.
I’d listen to the song of birds
And sail in endless flight,
Then chase the sun through cloudy paths
And play with stars at night.
The boundless heavens for my home,
The breeze to lift me high
To rise above my mortal bonds
And never have to die.
Knowing I had found the way
To trails where angels trod,
And when my wings could fly no more
I’d take the hand of God!
C. David Hay

Actually, we do not move in and out of heavenly realms at our whim. Our citizenship *is in heaven*, we exist constantly in the heavenlies. This is a spiritual state of constant existence, but because we are still in this flesh realm, we are not always conscious of the greater privileges of our heavenly state of being. In the kingdom of God the heavenly man is the only man — the man is Christ. “If I have told you *earthly things*, and ye believed not, how shall ye believe if I tell you of *heavenly things*. And no man hath ascended up to heaven but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man, which IS IN HEAVEN” (Jn. 3:12-14). Jesus Christ while on earth was still in the heavenlies! That is not a strange statement to an eagle saint! “He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which ***is in heaven.***” He had eagle’s wings — the spirit of the heavenlies. His body was on earth and His spirit joined to the heavenly Father far above all. Those who have been swallowed up by Christ gravitate around Him. His life is their life, His thoughts their thoughts, His will their will, His joys their joys, His peace their peace. They have no other life. “For me to live *is Christ*,” said Paul. Paul was an eagle saint. Paul’s life was heavenly. He was above. He would not come down!

Let us look at the scriptural portrait of an eagle saint. “The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the *earthy*, such are they also that *are earthy*: and as is the *heavenly*, such are they that *are heavenly*” (I Cor. 15:47-49). “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed (transformed, transfigured) into the same image from glory to glory, even as *by the Spirit of the Lord*” (II Cor. 3:17-18). “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in *heavenly places in Christ*” (Eph. 1:3). “Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand *in the heavenly places*” (Eph. 1:20). “And hath raised us up together, and *made us sit together in heavenly places* in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:6). “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the *heavenly calling...*” (Heb. 3:1). “But now they desire a better country, that is, an *heavenly (spiritual)*” (Heb. 11:16). “But *ye are come unto mount Zion*, and unto the city of the living God, the *heavenly Jerusalem*” (Heb. 12:22).

In questioning Job the Lord said of the eagle, “Doth the eagle mount up at thy command to make her nest on high? She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place. From hence she seeketh the prey, and her eyes behold afar off” (Job 39:27-29). The eagle sons have the advantage, born of altitude. “Her eyes behold afar off.” The eagle son looks out to regions beyond, to heights and depths in God. The call of God is upon him. The life of God is in his heart. There is response. There are commitments, born of heavenly life. Heaven is in control! The son and the Saviour share the same life, fly the same heavens, have the same destiny. Heavenly bounty fills all! Earth’s splendors are fading for he who soars. Earth’s treasures and recognition hold nothing for him anymore. Heavenly investments are sure. Eternal values are in view. Fear does not plague the eagle son. “The eagle dwelleth and abideth upon the rock.” The rock is the Christ life. The security of every son is in the solid rock of the Christ within. He draws his life from above. Earth’s pleasures and hopes fade. They are made of poor stuff. The saints of all ages have known this. The Lord has taught them, in their hearts! The Lord cuts His elect saints off from the world, from the systems of the flesh,

from the old-order religious activities of the church world, but in the same stroke, He grafts them on to heaven. Far beyond the confusion of play-church...far above the strife of the land, higher than the yearnings of the flesh and the aspirations of the soul...yea, even into the light of the Most Holy Place...the eagles soar! Those who thus soar live in and by their heavenly life! This heavenly life flows out of the very heart of God, like a river forever. It courses through the veins of the inner man, bringing life where ere it goes.

The heavenly life makes heaven. Heaven has come to earth in the life of every son of God! The life of God is heavenly life. The believer who says that should his body die, he will be dead like a dog, unconscious and non-existent, knows not that he has been born from above! The impact of this new heavenly life determines everything. This life governs the universe, and nullifies the kingdom of darkness. Satan is never in his stride, in the presence of heavenly life. This is *raptured* life, the life from above. The old Adamic man of the flesh, of human consciousness, is truly “left behind” in those who live in the heavenly, raptured, life! The eagle son is not waiting for a hole in the sky to escape this world, for he *has* raptured life, the joyful life, the peaceful life, the righteous life, the abundant life, the satisfying life, the all-powerful life, the glorious life. Every step that the firstborn Son of God took on earth was a *raptured* step. Every word that He uttered was a *raptured* word. Every work that He did was a *raptured* work. The life of Jesus was a *raptured* life. He was caught up all the time! That is what gave Him the heavenly touch, enabled Him to hear the heavenly voice of His heavenly Father within. That’s what made Him what He was — the heavenly man! The eagle son does not need death, or a miracle, or a meeting, to get him on the wing. He is in the heavenlies all the time! That’s all the life he knows. He shares with the raptured Christ, the heavenly life!

Learn to breathe the ozone of heaven — the rare, crisp, pure air of the heavenlies, that is sweet to the nostrils and life to the lungs and body. Our mortal bodies shall be quickened *by this heavenly life!* (Rom. 8:11). Mountain air is good, and in ancient times man found it, along with plenty of sunshine, to be the cure for many diseases. There is too much grime and smog in earth’s low atmosphere. There are so many respiratory problems. There is so much low living and difficult breathing. The environment is wrong! Living in the lowlands of the fleshly mind will weaken and kill you. It is good medicine to meet a saint that is above — a saint with eagle’s wings! They quicken and refresh. Spend time with those that live above. You, too, will learn how to stay above. Remember that the young eagles have to be taught to fly. If they refuse to learn they are destroyed. Learn to live the heavenly life if you would save your life. Go as high as you can and stay as long as you can. Get away from the depressing order of the valleys. Learn to live in your habitat — your element. Refuse to be embroiled in confusion and strife. There is nothing to gain. Soar and soar until you master all the strong currents of the upper atmosphere, for they will lift you into the heights of God. If the other fellow falls out of the heavenlies, just do not follow him down to chew on his flesh. As you stay in the heavenlies, you will help draw him back. The wings of the spirit are eagle wings.

THE WINGS OF THE LIVING CREATURES

“And the four living creatures had each of them *six wings* about him...” (Rev. 4:8).

Six is the number of *man*, and having *six* wings speaks of *man*. But this is not the earth-man, this is the *exalted man in the throne!* Long centuries ago the prophet Ezekiel saw visions of the glory of the Lord in the temple of God and in that glory he saw the cherubim with their wings. He described the scene thus: “Then...the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord’s glory. And the sound of the cherubim’s *wings* was heard even to the outer court, ***as the voice of the Almighty God when He speaketh.*** And the cherubim ***lifted up their wings,*** and ***mounted up from the earth*** in my sight” (Eze. 10:5,19).

These words teach us the great truth that the *wings* of the living creatures represent THE VOICE OF GOD WHEN HE SPEAKS! The wings are the *living word of God*, or His *voice by the Spirit*. This wonderful scene also teaches us the great truth that it is by *lifting up His voice*, that is, by *magnifying and exercising His word within our lives*, that ***we are lifted up from the earth!*** The wings speak of flight, and they represent a people who are empowered by the living word and the voice of God within. God is speaking to us a pure word in this hour, the present truth, His word from the very throne-room on high! It is not a word that the carnal-minded believers in the old-order church systems can hear. Religious minds have no idea what God is doing in this Day, nor can they hear even when they are told. God is always speaking! In the perfumed magnificence of Eden He walked and talked with man face to face in the spirit of that day. At sundry times and in divers manners God spoke unto the fathers by the prophets. Two thousand years ago the voice of the Galilean rang out over the hills and through the streets and the hallways of God’s people, Israel. All through the centuries of the church age God has been speaking by His Spirit!

And today God is speaking, not the same word He spoke to any other people in past generations of His unfolding purpose, but He is speaking a fresh word, raining down fresh manna, and His elect are prayerfully and joyfully receiving of His mind and His will for this hour of the manifestation of the sons of God. We are now receiving our daily bread, the bread for *this day*, this new day that the Lord hath made. When this new, fresh, present word of the Lord becomes a mighty power and the inward motivation of our forward walk in God, we are transported from the earth into the heavens of God’s Spirit! God is teaching us to live by every word that is proceeding out of His mouth, and as we do we are lifted up out of our fleshly, earthly, human consciousness into the glorious mind of Christ. These wings of His word will carry us to heights unknown, to the place of their origin — the throne of God! Yet — it is impossible to soar into the heights of God by wings alone. Wings without *wind* are absolutely useless! In like manner, without the winds of God’s Spirit the wings of His Word are as good as dead. Without the wind the wings have no power by which they can rise! It has been well stated that the Word without the Spirit leads to legalism; and the Spirit apart from the Word leads to fanaticism. God is bringing that beautiful *balance* between the Spirit and the Word in those who follow on to know Him in this new Day of the Lord! God is moving powerfully by His Spirit within His elect in this hour, and the Word of God by the Spirit of God is lifting us up into a higher place than we have ever known before. It is indeed wonderful!

THE EYES OF THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES

“In the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living creatures *full of eyes before and behind*” (Rev. 4:6). “And they were full of *eyes within...*” (Rev. 4:8).

The “eyes” are of course symbolic, as is everything else in the visions John beheld in the Spirit. The eyes which are described as “before” and “behind” and “within” denote the superior vision and perspective of God’s Christ, Head and body. Each one in this called and chosen company of kings and priests possesses those wonderful “eyes” of the spirit of wisdom and revelation! John saw seven eyes of the Lamb, which he identified as “the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth” (Rev. 5:6). The elect of the Lord are being given the eyes of the Spirit, which is the fullness of the anointing of the Spirit. That anointing enables them to see things that others cannot! The superior vision of the eyes of the mind of Christ make it possible for us to see the deep things of the Spirit of God, and the eternal realities of the all-encompassing truth of God. The mind of Christ includes the full spiritual potential to see things that are beyond the sight of the natural man. When we have put on the mind of Christ in fullness, we shall indeed make up that “living creatures” expression of the kingship of Christ, which is “full of eyes before and behind and within.”

The spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ is the result of having anointed and enlightened eyes. The firstborn Son of God functioned solely by the “eyes” of the mind of Christ. He did only those things He “saw” the Father do. He said, “The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what **He seeth the Father do:** for what things so ever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and **showeth Him all things that Himself doeth:** and He will show Him greater works than these, that ye may marvel” (Jn. 5:19-20). Jesus had a spiritual vision that was beyond the ability of mere mortal man to comprehend. He did not see these spiritual realities by the eyes of the natural understanding. The things He saw the Father do, He “saw” by the mind of Christ, by the anointed eyes of His sonship. And regardless of how much men proclaim about the so-called “finished work” of Christ, I do not hesitate to tell you that there is much more to be done by the mind of Christ. It is a great truth that Jesus has fully accomplished the sacrifice by which He reconciles all men to God and provides salvation for all the ends of the earth. But beyond that, the Father’s works are not yet completed!

Not until the closing chapters of the book of Revelation does the decree finally go forth, “Behold, ***I make ALL THINGS NEW! And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea.***” We all understand that sin and wickedness still abound everywhere, and sickness, pain, sorrow, and death stalk the whole human race. The wonderful work of the Spirit to put every enemy under the Christ’s feet, to transform and restore all things back into God again, until God is All-in-all, still remains to be done! The very One who is credited with the “finished work” still must ***reign UNTIL He has put all enemies under His feet, and the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.***” It shall be fully accomplished by the wisdom of the mind of Christ and not by man’s carnal mind and works. Jesus said that the Father will show Him (Christ) “greater works than these, that ye may marvel.” Those greater works are yet to be fulfilled by the many-membered Christ! And we shall do those “greater works” when we fully possess the mind of Christ with eyes before, behind, and within, and can “see” as Jesus saw in the power of the Spirit!

The four living creatures, God's kings who reign with Christ, will express within themselves the totality of God Himself. They will manifest the full wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and power of the Father. They have eyes in the forehead, eyes in the back, and eyes within! They have eyes to see in the future. They have eyes to see in the past. And they have eyes to go within to perceive the true identity of themselves in Christ. This signifies that we are able to see all that is true in Jesus which is also true in us, as the apostle John wrote, "A new commandment I write unto you, *which thing is true in Him and in you*: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth" (I Jn. 2:8). This "new commandment" of which John speaks is not a rule, not a law, it is rather the *law of an inward life*, for he says that the commandment is that which is true in Him (Christ) *and in us*. You see, my beloved, it is not sufficient to know what is true in Christ, for what is true in Him must also become substance within us. It is not enough to know that Christ so loves the world, but that love must be shed abroad in our hearts until we love as He loves, yea, until we love *with* His love, and have eyes to see the reality of Christ raised up in us. The eyes before see all things that God's Christ shall perform and accomplish in the future. The eyes behind have perfect revelation of all that has been accomplished in the past, even from the foundation of the world and from eternity. But the eyes within are in tune with the Father and see all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Christ within! They have a complete awareness of the spiritual world, within and without. They penetrate into the deep things of God in the Spirit! And they reveal to us the identity of Christ within ourselves, the awesome potential within our spirit.

The Indian mystic, Sadhu Sundar Singh, said in one of his teachings, "Many there are that are like a hunter who, while wandering in the jungle, picked up some pretty stones on the bank of a stream. Unaware of their value he used them one by one in his sling to shoot at the birds perched on the trees near the river, and so one by one they fell into the water and were lost. With one still in his hand he returned to the city, and as he passed along the bazaar a jeweler caught sight of it, and told the silly fellow that it was a valuable diamond for which he could get thousands of rupees. When the man heard this he began to bewail himself and say, 'Woe is me! I didn't know their value, and have been using many of these diamonds to shoot at birds by the riverside, and they have fallen into the river and are lost, otherwise I should have been a millionaire! Still I have saved this one, and that is something gained.'"

The spirit of Christ in every man is like a precious diamond! Ah, yes, there lies buried within you the greatest of all treasures — the fullness of God in Christ within you. Discover the treasures of that Christ within today, my friend, draw from His wealth, suck from His life, receive from His power and you will be a son of God indeed! The fullness of God is closer to you than the air that you breathe. It's closer to you even than the blood that courses through your veins. All the fullness of the Godhead bodily dwells in Christ, and Christ *is your life*. Oh, the wonder of it! And this is why you are given eyes "within" — that you may see, perceive, understand, and appropriate the life of God that is within you. You are a son of the Most High God. The very life of God is within you today. In that life there is no limitation at all. All the wealth of divinity, all the riches of the mind of the Father, all the abundance of joy, peace, righteousness, love, and power that are in Jesus Christ, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Him *are*

in you today, and God has given you spiritual eyes within to behold all that is yours, all that is resident within your spirit, and all that can be raised up in power and glory in your life as your very own reality.

It is also said that the four living creatures are “full of eyes” before and behind and within. FULL OF EYES! The Lamb had seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God, or the fullness of the Spirit. So these living creatures are *full* of eyes which are the *fullness* of the Spirit of God! The Spirit of God gives you the vision of God, for no man can truly *see* anything spiritual except by the Spirit of God. The fullness of the Spirit brings fullness (perfect clarity) of vision! As it is written, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath *revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God*” (I Cor. 2:9-10). The four living creatures are full of the vision of God! All things are clear and open unto them by the spirit of wisdom and revelation from God. They see all things as they really are, within and without. Nothing in God is hidden from them. This creature that we are becoming is empowered with knowledge! It is truly wonderful!

There is a scripture passage in which the prophet Isaiah speaks of the day when God brings forth His Zion company, and they shall see “eye to eye.” “Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall *see eye to eye*, when the Lord shall bring again Zion” (Isa. 52:8). Many have thought that in order for Zion to see eye to eye we must come to the place where all our understandings of God’s plan, will, and purpose and all our interpretations of scripture are identical in every respect. We thought it meant theological conformity or doctrinal purity. We all need the Spirit of God to clarify our vision about many things found in the scriptures. We are still learning the truths of God’s ways, His will, and His word. We don’t have any stakes put down in what we believe about any number of things in God’s great purposes. We do not tell God that what we now know or think we know is sufficient, that we have learned all there is to learn.

Well do I remember sitting in geography class in the fourth grade in the rural school house in south Alabama where I was raised. I was about nine years old. I sat there with my thoughts running to and fro throughout the world presented to me in my geography book. I gazed out the window in deep contemplation, and suddenly it occurred to me that I understood just about everything there was to understand about life and the world! My childish mind was quite certain that very little could be added to my vast knowledge about all things on earth. Of course, the truth was that I knew nothing as I ought to know, and through many years of crucial experience, growth, and development unto maturity, I finally came to see just *how much I didn’t know!* I personally am very aware that spiritually we *still* see through a glass darkly, we see men as trees walking, and still look at things as we perceive them to be, but often without the crystal clarity of absolute truth and full revelation. We wait upon the Lord for the understanding that comes only from above and crystallizes within our spirits as He moves in our experience. If we abide in the attributes of humility, teachableness, yieldedness, and remain in the atmosphere of His presence and glory we can’t go wrong in this Day of the Lord!

The Spirit is not talking about doctrinal uniformity, as desirable as that may be. It means that “eye to eye” all will be of the same stature, there will not be some little children and some tall men, or diverse degrees of spiritual development and maturity in God. The Lord is growing us up together into a common maturity and stature in Christ — unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the *fullness of Christ!* Thus, in and by the Spirit, all God’s sons shall be elevated to the same place in the Lord, and then shall truly see “eye to eye”! Aren’t you glad!

Chapter 76

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES AND THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

continued

“And the four living creatures *rest not day and night*, saying, *Holy, holy, holy*, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come” (Rev. 4:8).

The general interpretation of this scene is that it is up in heaven in eternity — but the passage says that “they rest not *day or night*.” Day and night are not associated with heaven — they are conditions on earth! “And the *earth* was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light *Day*, and the darkness He called *Night*. And the *evening* and the *morning* were the *first day*” (Gen. 1:2-5). I think most believers are very careless readers of the word of God, for in reality the scene John beheld in the spirit portrays no such thing as people imagine and the meaning is opposite to what has been taught. The four living creatures, as we have seen, represent ***kingship*** — those who rule and reign with Christ in His kingdom. The sons of God, God’s kings and priests, are those who shall rest neither day nor night in the earth as we trumpet the complete, perfect, and full knowledge of the glory of the kingdom of God and establish ***His holiness*** in every heart of man unto the ends of the earth. It is a symbol — not some weird animalistic creatures around a throne in some far-off heaven somewhere monotonously repeating again and again, for ever and ever, the *words* “holy, holy, holy,” but within themselves they proclaim by their very nature, spirit, ministry, and kingdom authority HIS HOLINESS!

“And when those living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to Him that sat on the throne...the *four and twenty elders* fall down before Him that sat on the throne, and *worship Him* that liveth for ever and ever...saying, *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power...*” (Rev. 4:9-11).

The twenty-four elders, who represent ***priesthood*** — God’s kingdom of priests — now take John’s attention. Here they are seen prostrating themselves before the God of the throne which is enshrined in its emerald rainbow of life, light, and love. Now notice the word “when.” “*When* those living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to Him that sat on the throne...the four and twenty elders fall down before Him that sat on the throne, and worship Him...” The “when” of verse nine indicates that the chanting of “holy, holy, holy,” by the living creatures is periodic and not constant. I would point out that the twenty-four elders are seen falling down in adoration before the God of the throne four times. Two of those times they do so alone — here, and in chapter five, verse fourteen. Two other times they fall down in

accord with the four living creatures in chapter five, verse eight, and in chapter nineteen, verse four.

Inasmuch as the twenty-four elders fall down and worship whenever the living creatures cry, “holy, holy, holy,” it should be clear to any thinking mind that they are not constantly repeating the phrase through an endless eternity. Such a practice would have the elders falling and standing and falling and standing without end, which is absurd. And it certainly would contradict the words of Jesus when He taught us, “Use not *vain repetitions*, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking” (Mat. 6:7). These are not literal scenes in any event, but beautiful symbols which convey to us the great truth that in the lives of God’s sons who are called to share Christ’s throne there is no spirit of self-importance, no grasping after power for power’s sake, no lifting up in pride, no sense that we have attained to this place by any works that we have done or by any self-effort on our part, but we are keenly aware that He has called us and chosen us *by His grace alone*, and HE it is who is worthy, and we have been made kings and priests to show forth the virtues and excellencies of HIM who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light and by His mighty hand exalted us to His throne of glory. What a word!

“And when those living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to Him that sat on the throne...the four and twenty elders fall down before Him that sat upon the throne...*and cast their crowns before the throne*, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord!” (Rev. 4:9-10).

All the overcomers are receiving crowns according to their degree of overcoming, the inworking of God in their lives, and their spiritual maturity. There is an incorruptible crown (I Cor. 9:25), a crown of rejoicing (I Thes. 2:19), a crown of righteousness (II Tim. 4:8), a crown of gold, of divine nature (Rev. 4:4), a crown of glory (I Pet. 5:4), and a crown of life (Rev. 2:10). Each one of us, as we overcome, are receiving these crowns as a result of our spiritual growth and attainment in Christ. These are not, nor shall they ever be, literal crowns upon our heads, but speak of virtues, powers, and spiritual realities with which our lives are crowned, which are the very state of being out of which our kingdom authority flows. But when we realize by whose sacrifice, purpose, strength, and power we received these crowns, we will gladly cast them before His throne! It is beyond our human strength or ability to receive any one of these crowns. Only by the sacrifice of Jesus, the calling of His grace, the predestination of His purpose, the inworking of His life, and His great faithfulness to keep us and finish His work in us, could we ever have received these crowns. So we joyfully and respectfully cast them before His throne!

“And the four and twenty elders...cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: *for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created*” (Rev. 4:10-11).

It is wonderfully significant that it is the twenty-four elders who magnify God in respect to *creation*. Before we consider that thought, let us meditate for a moment upon God as Creator. It is my conviction that our God is spontaneously creative, not systematically creative. What I mean by that is that God does not employ a program in His creative activity. God is a God of spontaneity. God moves and acts not by system, but by the creative power and flow of His life. The life of God is the creative instrument of His nature.

Everything that God creates is unique. He is a God of unlimited diversity, infinite variety, and inexhaustible capacity. We see this in the natural, physical, material creation. Scientists tell us that in the visible universe there are more than two hundred billion galaxies. They may be correct that there are that number of galaxies in the *visible* universe, but there are far more galaxies than that! You see, my beloved, not only is the creation co-extensive with the Creator in the sense that God has always been creating, but the creation is co-extensive with Him in His infinite Being. In other words, the only reason that the scientists believe that there are two hundred billion galaxies is simply because *that is as far as they can see!*

No man can see any further than the scope of his vision. God is infinite — unending, unlimited, unbounded, inexhaustible, and unmeasured. Not only is there no “place” where God is not, but God IS INFINITELY whether there is any “place” there or not. God creates out of the infinity of Himself. I don’t know how many galaxies there are, because there is *no end to them*. You would never find the outer extremities of the universe, because God created all things out of Himself, He upholds all things by the word of His power, He fills all things, and if you were to discover the limit of His creation, you would discover the limit of God Himself. Not only does God always do everything that He does, He also does everything that He does *everywhere He is*. God is *infinite*. If God does not create to the extent of His infinity, then there would be some “place” where He is not Creator. So there is no limit. There is no end to the creation simply because there is no end of God!

What an incredible field for diversity! Scientists know that even within the visible part of the universe stars are still being created. They are still coming into existence throughout the immensity of what we call space. The apostle Paul tells us that there are no two stars that are equal in their glory (I Cor. 15:41). Think of that! With my human brain I can’t conceive of creating even two hundred billion trillion stars, making every one of them different, giving each of them a name and a glory that is unique from any other glory, and then realize that infinitely there are galaxies without number and without end, each with its own name and glory. It staggers the imagination!

Even in our little solar system each of the nine planets are very different from the others. You would think that if the scientific theories of origins were correct they should all be quite similar. But they aren’t! How many snowflakes do you suppose have ever fallen upon the earth? They tell us that no two snowflakes have the same design! More than six billion people walk the face of this earth today, and there are

no two fingerprints that duplicate. No two people are identical either in their appearance or in their DNA. Everyone is unique. God sets it all in motion by a word. When God speaks the superlative comes into existence. God is a God of unlimited diversity, infinite variety, and inexhaustible capacity. Behold the majesty and the glory of the almighty Creator of all things!

According to the very first statement in the gospel of John, that kindly Nazarene, that gracious Galilean, that wonderful Teacher and Healer who walked the paths of Galilee and sat beside its shores, was none other than the living God, the Creator of all things. John goes on to say that by Him were all things made and without Him was not anything made that was made. He is the Creator of all! He is the architect of the cosmos! He is the fashioner of the galaxies! He is the designer of suns, the artificer of planets and moons. He is the framer of the vast eons of time. The eternal, omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent God was born a wee baby; He visited this blue-green orb which He had delicately fashioned and spun off into its orbit.

The creation is God's just because all things were created and made by Him and therefore belong to Him. In the light of this truth I would like to reaffirm something that the world at large, and many believers, seem to have forgotten: THIS IS GOD'S WORLD! Long before time began, long before a single heavenly body inhabited the vast regions of space — GOD WAS. God has always been Creator. This creation we know is not the first thing God ever created, nor will it be the last. Yet this particular creation did not always exist! Long before the worlds were made, long before the billows rolled across the boundless seas, long before the mountains thrust their towering, snow-capped peaks up through the clouds, long before there was one flower, or the song of any bird, or the roar of any beast, long before there was any light, or the glory of daybreak, or the beauty of the sunset...yes, long before there was anything at all of this present creation...THERE WAS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. Then the blessed word of God rolls back the curtain of antiquity and shows us God at work, creating all that is, and all that ever was. The very first passage of scripture establishes for all time and eternity the *ownership* of this world and the heavens above: "In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the earth." He made it, and it is His! No one can take it from Him. It was then that God wrote His signature of ownership — a signature that reaches from the earth to the farthest outposts of the cosmos.

The Psalmist David was perceptive in the Spirit when he wrote these immortal words, "*The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein*" (Ps. 24:1). Does the earth belong to the devil? Does the world belong to the devil? Do they that dwell in the world belong to the devil? Does *anything* on the earth belong to the devil? Did any of it, even before Calvary, belong to the devil? Not in David's day, it didn't! "*The earth is the Lord's!*" "*And the fullness thereof!*" "*The world is the Lord's!*" "*And they that dwell therein!*" Who do you belong to? Who do the nations belong to? Who do the wicked belong to? Who do Fidel Castro and Saddam Hussein belong to? IT IS ALL THE LORD'S! The devil doesn't own

one square inch of it, nor does he own one poor wretched human on it. Isn't it wonderful!

There is an understanding that has been quickened in the consciousness of the "called out ones" to know that ALL the earth — is the Lord's. Not just a tree or two, not just a mountain or two, not just a nation or two, not just the church, not just those apprehended to sonship, but all the earth is the Lord's and the very fullness thereof. We are His whether we know it or not, we are His whether we like it or not, whether we desire to serve Him, or whether we are presently in rebellion against His will. God has everything and everyone in the palm of His almighty hand! He is Sovereign! Job said, "In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath (spirit) of *all mankind*" (Job 12:10).

The prophet Daniel penned these inspired words: "The Most High...liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth **according to His will** in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?" (Dan. 4:34-35). God is saying to us that He is sovereign. Another way to express that truth is: God owns the earth and everything in it — He does what He wants to do and nobody can stop Him from doing it. In particular He is sovereign with what He does with the earth. God does not have to ask anybody's permission to do anything He wants with any part of the earth or anyone on it — and none can hinder or resist Him!

If the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, then we need to somehow come to understand that God has never at any time dealt with satan on a percentage basis. God never did tell satan that he could have ninety percent and God would be satisfied with ten percent. Neither did God ever say that satan could have ten percent and He, God, would settle for ninety percent. WITH GOD IT IS ALL! ALL belongs to Him! First, because He created it, and second, because He redeemed it. Just as you may temporarily leave a valuable watch at the pawn shop and later return to redeem it, so God assigned to satan a temporary and limited sphere of influence over the creation, for the outworking of His wise and wonderful plan, but HE HAS NOT CEDED OR TRANSFERRED OWNERSHIP OF EVEN ONE INCH OF IT TO SATAN FOR A POSSESSION. The reality is, after giving the adversary a limited lease and sphere of operation, God came down in the Person of His Son and **redeemed the world and everything and everyone in it!** In the same way that you get your watch back from the pawn shop when you redeem it, so God gained full control of the whole world when He redeemed it. To say that there is any part of God's creation that satan now sovereignly controls or that he will possess forever is a blatant repudiation of Christ's redemption and a horrible blasphemy against God.

The scriptures clearly reveal how **ownership** is the central factor in both creation and redemption, the link that binds them together. Two things are inherent in ownership — *purpose* and *responsibility*. Do you know that if a person makes or buys anything He surely has **purpose** in mind for it? And is it not equally true that when a person

makes or buys a thing he then assumes the **responsibility** for it? The man who purchases a good hunting dog has a definite purpose in owning the dog, and if he is not a hunter he will not buy it. With ownership of the dog there comes the responsibility for the dog, to feed and care for it and treat it humanely. You have, I suppose, sometime bought something? As you have paid your money for it and it was delivered to you did you not have a plan for it? And are you not now responsible for it?

More than forty years ago Lorain and I bought a house in Sarasota, Florida. It was a lovely little two bedroom white frame house, entirely adequate for that time. Some years later the Lord led us to Mississippi to live and minister among a group of saints, and we were there for almost two years. During this time we rented out our house in Florida. The original tenants left, and we rented the house to a man and his wife and grown son, none of whom we had previously known. It is almost unbelievable what those people did to that house within the space of a few months! If you have had rental property you *will believe it!* Evidently they didn't sweep those beautiful hard wood floors even once, the dirt was ground so deeply into the wood until the entire finish was ruined. Windows were broken, the holes stuffed with plastic or rags. Water had been allowed to run over the kitchen and bathroom floors, loosening the tile. The furniture was demolished, sofas and chairs propped up on bricks with great gaping holes staring insultingly at us. On and on the disaster went! The place was completely "trashed." Needless to say, because we were the **owners**, it didn't take us long to swing into action! The tenants were promptly given notice and evicted. Then followed the long, tedious and expensive process of **restoration**. Ah, **because we owned the house** we had **purpose** for it and **responsibility** to it. On the basis of that purpose and responsibility we were willing to spend the money that had to be spent, and expend the energy involved in long days and weeks of hard work until **all was restored** to its original beauty and usefulness!

We are not in this life as the result of our own scheme or plan. We did not make ourselves, therefore we do not own ourselves! The Psalmist declared, "Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is **He that hath made us, and not we ourselves**. We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture" (Ps. 100:3). **God is responsible** for our existence, for it was He who issued the grand fiat: "Let us make man in our image, and after our likeness." It was God who sent us here! It was God who planted the garden eastward in Eden and put man in it! It was God who drove the man out of that garden! You see, my beloved, GOD IS RESPONSIBLE for our existence here in the flesh, lowered into the realm of vanity, sin, and corruption. Oh, yes! God is responsible! The whole human race is God's responsibility because He is both Creator and Owner. We are here because of our Father's plans, desires, purposes and will, just as your children are in this world because of your plans, desires, and will. God is a God of principle! Having begun a work, He will assume responsibility for it, care for it, and finish it and not throw it aside because it was marred by sin and death. This, too, was part of His plan!

While men are busy blaming others for the world's problems, and the devil for their own, God Himself as Owner of all takes His great responsibility for all, and therein lies the foundation of the whole scheme of creation and redemption. Romans 11:36 says from the Diaglott, "Because *out of Him*, and *through Him*, and *for Him* are all things. To HIM be the glory for the ages. Amen!" The Amplified Bible beautifully renders this, "For *from Him* and *through Him* and *to Him* are all things. For all things originate with Him and come from Him; all things live through Him, and all things center in and tend to consummate and to end in Him. To Him be glory forever! Amen." To say the least, it will give us great peace of mind and heart if we can see and understand that God as Creator and Owner **takes responsibility** for the world today! **God is responsible** for every human being that has ever lived, is living, or ever will live. **God is responsible** for every nation, every government, every empire that has risen and fallen, and every condition and circumstance of all mankind today and in every time and place since the foundation of the world. And because He is responsible and has great and eternal purpose for His creation HE WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

This great truth is what makes our text so utterly awesome! "The *four and twenty elders* fall down before Him that sat on the throne, and worship Him...saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: FOR THOU HAST CREATED ALL THINGS, AND FOR THY PLEASURE THEY ARE AND WERE CREATED." It is deeply significant that the twenty-four elders are the ones making this wonderful declaration. The twenty-four elders are God's **Royal Priesthood!** It is this Royal Priesthood that is proclaiming that God *created all things for His pleasure*, and therefore He brings forth the glory and the honour and power of His kingdom. The seed of this beautiful thought is found in the words of the Lord to Israel when they stood before mount Sinai. "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: FOR ALL THE EARTH IS MINE: and ye shall be unto me A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS, and an holy nation" (Ex. 19:5-6).

I have often characterized the above passage as the GREAT DIVINE SANDWICH. A sandwich is two slices of bread between which is placed meat, fish, cheese, or the like. Three items are necessary to make a sandwich: two outer items — two identical slices of bread — and in between another, and different, item. Such is the structure of this passage! There are two statements of like nature surrounding and enclosing another and different kind of statement. Notice the two outer statements: (1) *Ye shall be a PECULIAR TREASURE unto me above all people* (2) *Ye shall be unto me a KINGDOM OF PRIESTS, and an holy nation*. Then "sandwiched" in between these two wonderful promises is this remarkable word: **FOR ALL THE EARTH IS MINE!** Can we not see by this that the purpose of God to establish in the earth a Royal Priesthood is rooted in the great fact that **ALL THE EARTH IS HIS!** That all the earth is His answers the *why* of priesthood. "*Because all the earth is mine...YE SHALL BE UNTO ME A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS.*" The message is clear — God is preparing a priesthood because He owns the earth, the whole world, and all that dwell therein! The priesthood is His instrument that reaches out with one hand and

takes hold of God, reaches out the other hand and takes hold of humanity, and by virtue of the priestly ministration *brings the two together into oneness*. The Royal Priesthood is the *ministry of reconciliation* to restore all things and all men back into God again!

I believe that God loves all lost men and women. There are lost men in jails and prisons and mental hospitals. They are in saloons and brothels and in sickness and pain and sorrow and ignorance and sin and death and judgment and hell, and God loves them all with an undying love. He still remembers them and remembers His Son on the tree, suffering and dying on their behalf, pouring out His wonderful life for them all. And in the redeemed body of this resurrected and glorified Son He now prepares a Royal Priesthood after the order of Melchizedek to restore all mankind back into the image of God. "*Because all the earth is mine, ye shall be unto me a KINGDOM OF PRIESTS!*" is the word of the Lord. The earth, the world, and all that dwell therein belong to God first because He made them, and second because He redeemed them, and now He is sending forth His many-membered body of priests to reclaim for Him that which He has created for His pleasure.

Because all the earth is His, and because Jesus is the redeemer, God is raising up the body of Christ, a royal, kingly priesthood, sons of the God of heaven to reign in mighty spirit power and authority over the earth, not to be little human dictators, but with an irresistible outflow of life and light and love, touching God with one hand, and humanity with the other, bringing the two together, that God may indwell all men by His Spirit and live and rule in them in power and great glory. The kingly nature in us is not to dominate other men's lives, but to deal with and break the power of self-hood and rebellion and sin and death and the devil that men may be quickened to God. Kings have power and authority, priests reconcile in mercy and love. God's Royal Priesthood shall reveal to all realms the awesome POWER OF GOD'S LOVE AND GOODNESS, until all men bow low before Him and with worshipful wonder and joy proclaim, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, for Thou hast created all things, and *for Thy pleasure we are and were created!*"

All who have received the call to sonship have also received a vision of their destiny in God, of what they are being prepared to do for creation. They are here by divine appointment. They have been born for this hour. They have been called and chosen and are being made faithful. They have been drawn out of and separated from all the religious realms that they might learn the higher ways of the kingdom of God. The message of the hope of sonship and the high calling of God in Christ Jesus is going forth in power in this day and circling the globe as thousands of the Lord's people are heeding the call to this unique walk in the Spirit. God has removed from the hearts of these the foolish desire to "fly away" to some far-off heaven somewhere, as He unfolds within their ransomed spirits the heavenly knowledge that God has created all things for His pleasure, and all the earth is His and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein; and for this sublime purpose He has ordained a priestly people!

The good pleasure of God is that which gives Him satisfaction; it is also His delight, His desire, His enjoyment, His contentment, His fulfillment, and His purpose revealed and fulfilled! When the twenty-four elders, God's priesthood company, say of Him, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast created all things, and **for Thy pleasure** they are and were created," they are proclaiming a fully restored creation! Therefore we may be absolutely certain that the same merciful and loving Father would never plan to destroy this world and send billions of people screaming into the torments of hell fire forever and ever. Such false doctrines come out of the carnal mind of man which is never able to receive the things of the Spirit, and are contrary to the wonderful truths of God and His wise and glorious purposes for the works of His hands. God will not fail and because of some unfortunate and unforeseen circumstance beyond His control, lose the very thing He made FOR HIS PLEASURE!

As a priest of the Most High God I claim this earth for God, for He made it. I claim this earth for God, for Jesus has ransomed it with His blood. I claim this earth for God, for the earth is the Lord's. The sea is His, for He created it. His hands formed the dry land. I claim everything that comes out of the bowels of the earth for God, "for all the gold and the silver is His." I claim every man in El Paso, and in Miami, and in New York, and in Calcutta, and in Manila, and in Moscow, and in Beijing, and in the whole wide world for God, for "it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves," and he made us "for His pleasure." I am not willing to cede even one thing or one person to the devil, as some wickedly do, for this is *my Father's world* and I am an *heir* of God and a joint-heir with Christ. He that overcometh shall *inherit all things!* This world and everything in it and every man upon it is part of my inheritance! I am asking my Father for my inheritance even as He has instructed me I should: "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen (nations) for *thine inheritance*, and the uttermost parts of the earth for *thy possession*. Thou shall break them with a rod of iron...be wise now therefore, *O ye kings*: be instructed, *ye judges of the earth!*" (Ps. 2:8-10).

FROM THE CANDLESTICK TO THE THRONE

The call of God in this hour is for a people to move from the candlestick realm to the throne room. This is the Father's great purpose for His called and chosen elect in this new Day of the Lord! Years ago Douglas Wilson penned words that are just as fresh and meaningful for us today. The next several pages of this message is taken from his article titled JOSHUA AND CALEB. May God bless it to your heart!

In all the time that Joshua, Caleb, and the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, their next realm, their next age, was just a short distance away from them. Had they gone directly from Egypt into the promised land, it would not really have taken them very long to get there. It has been said that it was a journey of eight to ten days. And naturally, the wilderness was even closer than Egypt to the promised land! The coming age, especially for Joshua and Caleb, was not some place

a long way off, but it was so very close by. It was of very easy access, yet they could not get into it.

At least some of us are realizing in this hour that the next age, or the next REALM IN GOD of which we speak, isn't in some far distant place, but it is close by. And yet, here we are, apparently unable to enter into it! We find ourselves to be a people unknown to ourselves. We are one type of people, living in one type of age or realm, being prepared for another age or realm that is just over the line, so to speak, from us. Actually it is no farther from us now than it was from Israel when they were in the wilderness! Yet we are prevented from entering in. This we know — Caleb and Joshua had to wander in the wilderness for forty years until all the unbelievers died. After that they could enter in. We had always been taught that **all** who came out of Egypt, except Joshua and Caleb, had to die before the rest of them could enter into the promised land. But this did not bear witness to our spirit, so we began to read and discovered it was not so. It did not work out like that at all. All of those who could not go in were the soldiers, the men in the army, who were over twenty years of age, and who would not believe that they could take the land. All those who were under twenty years of age, and the women, lived on, just as Joshua and Caleb did. It was these soldiers who had to die in the wilderness! They were the unbelievers who were under God's orders to take the land, and they refused to do it, saying they could not, and thus declaring that in their judgment, God was a liar.

God described to the children of Israel the land into which He would take them. It was a land flowing with milk and honey, a land of hills and valleys that drinks water of the rain of heaven, a land which the Lord cared for, a land in which He would bless their seed, and prolong and multiply their days **as the days of heaven upon earth!** They would be placed in a land, a realm, a dispensation about which they knew nothing and that would be entirely different from anything they had known before. He commanded them as to how they should live and walk in the land, and what kind of people they would be unto Him. Now multitudes of people today will not believe we can have days **right now** that are as the days of heaven on earth! They cannot believe it, because they are looking for heaven away off somewhere amongst the starry skies. The people to whom God was speaking these words, were a people of one type and of one dispensation, and He was telling them something about the kind of people they were going to be, and the kind of land in which they were going to live. It was a realm of which they had no knowledge. God told them that their future home was to be nothing like the land of Egypt they had left. The valley of the Nile was the richest known spot on earth. It is so yet today. But God told them their future home was not so, for in Egypt they sowed their seed, then tread on the water wheel, in order to water that seed. But in the promised land they would have rain from heaven! It was to be an entirely new realm, with entirely new conditions and circumstances. It was to be a new age, a new dispensation, a new realm in God, and God was right then getting them ready to go in and take it and occupy it. It was to be as heaven on earth!

That was all in the natural, earthly realm. God was preparing a people for another realm, another age, another dispensation in this realm of flesh. This is a type of what God is doing today! Most of us have no conception of what God is doing in our lives and bodies. Just because we cannot see or feel something being done, is no sign that God is idle and doing nothing within us. We often think that there has to be a lot of external manifestation taking place for God to be doing something. But on the natural plane, termites can invade a building and work, and unless the building is inspected, no one will know of that work until the building is so weakened that it falls. Just so, we have little conception of that which God is doing in the lives and bodies of those people He is working with and that He is preparing as HIS SONS for that age which is to come. There is so much that we don't understand at this time, but we do know that God is working, preparing an elect company to bring deliverance to the whole of the groaning creation in the age and the ages that lie before us.

As we approach the new age of the kingdom of God there are many Joshuas and Calebs in the land today, being prepared to enter into the coming age, the promised land of this day. Though they will enter the same land, their training and their present lives are completely different, for they have a different destiny in the land to come. Shall we say it like this? Caleb was of the people. He was out in the multitudes in the camp. Caleb had absolutely nothing to do with the tabernacle. He had nothing to do with the ministrations of the priests. He had nothing to do with the ministry of Moses in any way. But Joshua is referred to as the minister of Moses. And in the first chapter of the book of Joshua we find God telling Joshua that Moses is dead, and that *he* was now to arise and go over Jordan, and that as God had promised the land to Moses, so would He give it to Joshua, and every place where the sole of his foot trod, was his.

As we have said, we too are in a time of preparation. A people is being prepared for the coming age, and those who are being prepared particularly, *are not the Calebs*. To a certain extent the Calebs are being prepared, in that they possess a different spirit and they see and know that something different in God is coming. They are willing to wait, even in the midst of unbelief, God's time to enter into the next age or realm in God. But all their preparation is to bring them to a place in which they can *wait in faith*, for they are a kind of people who will inhabit the land. But for the Joshuas there is something else! In Exodus 33:8 we read, "And it came to pass that when Moses went out to the tabernacle, all the people rose up and stood every man at his tent door and looked after Moses till he was gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle. And the Lord talked with Moses. And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he (Moses) turned again into the camp,

but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, DEPARTED NOT OUT OF THE TABERNACLE."

Moses was taken up with the work and care of overseeing that vast multitude of people. God had told Moses to move the tabernacle outside the camp, and so when the people saw Moses going out to worship, they would also stand and worship, every man in his tent door. When Moses passed through the tabernacle door, then the cloudy pillar would descend in order to seal off the tabernacle so that God and Moses might commune together. Moses was the one lone man who had access to the Holy of holies whenever he desired to go into it. He was above the high priest in this, for he was the friend of God, and he had need of God's communion frequently. God did not speak with Moses as He would with the high priest, but as to a friend. And the people saw the cloudy pillar come down and when the time together was finished, the cloudy pillar would rise and Moses would come again into the camp. He would have to go back into the multitude in the camp, to judge them and to watch over them, to be their leader, fulfilling the work that God had given him to do.

But God had His hand upon a young man, Joshua, and that young man did not depart out of the tabernacle. The time came when God commanded Moses to lay his hands upon Joshua and impart to him the very same spirit that he (Moses) possessed. God gave unto Joshua the very same promises and the same powers that He had given Moses. No man could stand before him! Wherever he placed his foot, that was his! God told him that just as He had been with Moses, so would He be with Joshua. Joshua was to be strong and of good courage. He was not to fear, for God was with him, even as He had been with Moses.

It was necessary that Moses leave the tabernacle and return to the camp, but it was necessary that His servant Joshua remain in the tabernacle for special training. As we understand it, Joshua was constantly in the place of ministry unto the Lord. He was continually in the place where the priesthood operated. He was in that place where the people were bringing their offerings for sin and where those offerings were being sacrificed. He remained in this place day after day, and year after year, absorbing all that went on in the tabernacle. God had given Joshua a privilege and a work which had been denied Moses. He came into a place that Moses never possessed! Moses had led the people out, but God now provided a young man, Joshua, the son of Nun, or the son of *perpetuity*, to perpetuate and carry forth into new dimensions all that had been started in Moses. This Joshua was to lead the people into the promised land! He was to give to every man his inheritance! For this reason, Joshua **COULD NOT LIVE A LIFE LIKE CALEB**. He could not be just one of the people, another face in the crowd, another pebble on the beach, living the same way, doing the same things. He must know the mind and the will and the purpose and plan of God! He could not have just a vague knowledge of it, He must acquaint himself with each and every detail of it. He must know the boundaries of each tribe, what they were to get, and what they were to do. It was his place to *give out the inheritances to all the people of Israel!*

In this we find a true type of those **sons of God** whom God is preparing today! We have seen this for some time, and we know by personal experience it is true. This class of people is greatly misunderstood, criticized, and condemned, because they are

not doing a great number of wonderful things. They are not generally performing great healings and astounding signs, wonders, and miracles. They are not out conducting great crusades, no vast throngs are following them, and the fact of the matter is most of the people stay away from them! Such people are not participators in the activities of the rest of God's people, even those who will become inhabitants of the land. They are not Calebs, not out in the camp with the tribes. Perhaps not even going out to gather their supply of manna for that day! God has separated this company of people from all those things.

Rather, they are of the class of people who are in the tabernacle, DWELLING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, LEARNING OF THE WORK AND THE POWERS OF THE AGE TO COME! God had a Moses to go out and minister to the multitude in their wilderness walk. Moses and the judges were to minister to the people and all their fleshly needs. But none of this was for Joshua! He never did have any ministry such as this! For forty years Joshua spent *all his days in the tabernacle*. Moses, who ministered to the people, would often come in to commune with God that he might receive the message and the word of God, so that he might go back out and minister to the people.

But Joshua stayed right there in the presence of God! He was absorbing the very life, power, wisdom, knowledge, and spirit of God, *so that when the proper time came*, God could say to him, "Moses my servant is dead, now it is time for your ministry." At that time Joshua would rise up, for all the ministry of preparation would be over. All the work and ministry of the man Moses was now finished, for the people were now at the borders of the promised land, **the new age and realm in God**. It was time for the children of Israel to enter the promised land! It was time for the people of Israel to receive their inheritance! It was time for the fullness of God to be revealed! Now was the work of Joshua to come to pass! He was to bring them into that land, a land of rain and one that flowed with milk and honey. A land entirely different from the Egypt they had left. Now all the tedious training of Joshua would begin to bear fruit! All the years of loneliness and application to the plan of God would lead that vast multitude into a new land, into **a new age**, and give them their full portion!

Knowing that human nature in that day was just like human nature of today, we see the possibility of some saying, "How is this? How and why is Joshua being elevated up over all the rest of us? He has done nothing but sit out there in the tabernacle for forty years! He never healed anybody. He never prayed anybody through to the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He wasn't out holding crusades and saving souls. He wasn't even part of a recognized ministry! He never preached any marvelous sermons. *He just spent his time in the tabernacle.*"

All through those forty years, God was getting a man ready to bring the people far beyond what they were receiving from the hands of Moses and the judges — INTO THEIR INHERITANCE! Moses and the judges were merely preserving the people in their wilderness condition. God had Moses and the judges to take care of the natural things for the people in their carnal state of being, to continually bless, encourage,

and revive them lest they faint in the wilderness. Some of us are well aware of these facts. Even though we did possess such ministries in the past, yet at this time, many of us are not functioning in the ministry of a Moses, nor in the ministry of any of the gift realms where men minister very much unto the people in their natural, fleshly realm of healings, material needs, blessings, revivings, etc. It seems we are set far apart from the multitude of the people, and from the accepted type of ministry, and most Christians do not want much to do with us! But with this company of people, God is working and preparing them for a future ministry and work.

As we stated, God has people, many of them, who are ministering unto the multitudes the things of the natural realm, the loaves and the fishes. But there is another class of people, and God is dealing in a different way with them. They are being prepared to know the plans and purposes of God, not just for this age, but for the ages to come, that they might lead the people into the full inheritance God has for them. There must be someone who will be capable to lead the people in, and get them established in that greater glory which God has prepared for His people. Caleb put in his days with the rest of the people, Moses and the judges put in their days maintaining the people in their wilderness state, but Joshua remained always in the tabernacle, absorbing the mind and life of God for the inheritance to come!

Joshua was an entirely different man! As we meditated upon these things, we saw clearly these two different classes of people. There are those who are in the multitude of all God's people, yet God has done something in them to give them a spirit that is different from the rest. They have received a glimpse, a taste of the glories of this higher realm and know that it is something marvelous beyond where they are living. They have tasted of the powers of the world to come, and know they shall enter into it. But they are still like Caleb, willing to stay in the multitude and put up with all the slanderous reports about the land or the age to come, and wade through the unbelief all around them and just wait for the day of entering in.

At the same time, however, God has the Joshuas placed off somewhere in the tabernacle, *in the presence of God*. It doesn't have to be in four walls, or certain kinds of meetings, but just in the presence of the living God! Apparently they are doing nothing, but they are absorbing the spirit and the life and the knowledge and the wisdom and the purpose and the plan of God. How important this is! When Moses' ministry is over and done, when all the natural ministry of the church orders and religious systems is finished, then God will lead out the Joshuas, having completed their training, and they shall lead the people into the next realm in God, into the next age!

We are sure that we are in such a position now. We are in one age, and we are being prepared for something, though we have only caught faint glimpses of the glory and wonder of it. We do not understand all the workings of God, because we do not know exactly what we are going to do in the future, how it shall be done, or even what we are going to be. "It doth not yet appear what we shall be" (I Jn. 3:2). Therefore it is sometimes hard to understand the training we are receiving, for our training depends

entirely upon **what we are to be** in the next age or realm in God. So we cannot question God concerning the “whys and wherefores” of all we are experiencing in our lives in this hour, and in the lives of others.

The new age was not very far from Joshua and Caleb. It was just over the line, just beyond Jordan, and so it is in this day. This new age *lies before us*, and the glory of it is beginning to be made known unto us by the Spirit. Caleb and Joshua knew the way into the promised land, for they had visited it in a fleeting moment, yet they were forced to await the proper time to enter. Caleb must needs remain with the multitude, and Joshua must be prepared to take the whole multitude into the coming age. We have a wonderful experience ahead of us in the Lord, and we are grateful for it. It is not of our choosing, but of His, and we know He will perfect that which concerns us! — end quote.

That is a powerful word from the pen of Douglas Wilson. He has passed on, but he will stand in his lot in the day of manifestation. As I read this, I was reminded of a story out of history. Several centuries ago, the Emperor of Japan commissioned a Japanese artist to paint a bird to be put on display in the Emperor’s gallery. Months passed, then years. Finally, the Emperor went to the artist’s studio to ask for an explanation. The artist set a blank canvas on the easel and in fifteen minutes completed the painting of a bird that became a masterpiece. The Emperor asked why there had been such a long delay. The artist then went from cabinet to cabinet; he produced armloads of drawings of feathers, tendons, wings, feet, claws, eyes, and beaks of birds; these he placed one by one before the Emperor. The Emperor nodded and left the studio. He understood. The exquisite beauty of the painting completed in fifteen short minutes was merely the result of long years of research, preparation, and work!

Our Father shall have a glorious firstfruits company of sons in His own image which He shall put on display before the entire universe as the revelation of His own bountiful grace and matchless glory! The day of that unveiling shall surely come, and will not tarry. In the meantime, and to that end, the blessed Holy Spirit of God is patiently and unrelentingly operating in the lives of His apprehended ones so that we may be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. This conformation cannot take place in an instant, nor by a superficial experiencing of God. It does not happen in a single “experience” one night at an altar, nor can it be imparted by prophecy with the laying on of hands. The hour of our quickening unto God and His great plan was no more than the declaration of the divine purpose; it is just the beginning of the long work. The whole process is a detailed and painstaking progress “until Christ be formed in you.” When the work is fully finished, the day shall then arrive when there will come to us a new and living and powerful moving of His omnipotent Spirit and the completed work will flash forth in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye; the grand and glorious portrait of God’s Christ, exquisitely wrought upon the canvas of our lives, that He might *display in the ages to come* the transcendent riches of His grace and goodness...for we are God’s own handiwork, created in Christ Jesus! (Eph. 2:7,10).

The new, with its glory, shall come to the fore,
Proclaiming the Kingdom is nigh at the door.
Yet, strange the confusion as some try to stay
Entwined with the old, though it's passing away.
While some try to mix the old with the new,
To be torn by the strife, and the rending in two.
For saviours shall come and His fullness declare,
With beauty for ashes, and treasures most rare.
What ages have veiled as the old order reigned,
Shall burst into view at the time He ordained.

Ray Prinzing

Chapter 77

THE SEVEN-SEALED BOOK

“And I saw *in the right hand* of Him that sat on the throne *a book* written within and on the backside, *sealed with seven seals*” (Rev. 5:1).

John the Revelator, as he entered upon the marvelous visions recorded in the book of Revelation, saw a door opened in heaven and heard a voice as of a trumpet speaking with him, saying, “Come up hither, and I will show thee things...” The door opened in heaven bespeaks of an entrance granted into a realm beyond the flesh, beyond the physical and psychical senses, into the realm of the Spirit. That is where John entered and that is the character of the things John saw. He beheld heavenly things — spiritual realities. He saw a throne set in heaven — he perceived the authority, power, and dominion of the Spirit. He saw living creatures in the throne, the principle of manifest life in the Spirit. He saw the four living creatures in the midst of the throne and twenty-four elders round about the throne, the King-Priest ministry of the Melchizedekian Order after the power of an endless life — the ministration of the redemptive power of the divine life unto creation. It is being seen by a vast company of people that hears the voice of the Lord in this hour that a door has opened in the heavenlies through which those who are obedient shall enter into a state of being and a ministry of unsurpassed and unimaginable glory — in the **throne zone!** That is the message of chapter four of the Revelation!

The fifth chapter of the book of Revelation represents a scene in heaven — the realm of Spirit. A book is held in the *right hand* of the Majesty on high, in the hand of Him who sits upon the throne of Omnipotence. The scene is purely symbolic and spiritual! God is omnipresent *spirit*. God never sat on a throne. He never held a book in His right hand. Let us notice — THE ONE ON THE THRONE DID NOT HAVE AN IMAGE! According to Revelation 4:2-3 all John saw on the throne was colors, beautiful colors. And yet, John saw One sitting there! What about this One that sat on the throne, that could be seen, and yet, was not visible to the natural eye? He had no form, only radiance! John was not looking into the natural elements when he saw the One on the throne. The scripture says he was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day! John stood in the very reality of heaven as he was caught up into the highest realm of the Spirit. The One he saw *was spirit*. Do not look, my beloved, at the throne of God as a natural seat sitting there for a physical being to sit on. Don’t imagine a throne-like chair! His throne is the dimension of His omnipotent power. Here seated, as it were, in the splendor of the omnipresent heavenly-spiritual realm John beheld One of many colors. Even though He did not have a figure, John could see Him in and by the Spirit. And in and by the same Spirit John could see a book in the right hand of him that sat on the throne! The book is the symbol of the revelation of Himself in and through a people.

The book was not a book as we know books, but a scroll of papyrus or parchment, written on both sides, rolled up and sealed with seven seals. The ancient scrolls of Israel were generally sheepskin rolls. One writer has observed that the book of Romans would require a roll of parchment almost twelve feet long; the Gospel of Mark, nineteen feet; and the Revelation itself would require a roll at least fifteen feet long. This can give you some idea of the picture we have before us. Now, when John says that the scroll was sealed with seven seals, it does not mean that the seals covered the outside, but the scroll was rolled up to a certain point, and then at that point there was a seal put upon the very *edge* so that it could not be opened. Then it was rolled up again a little farther and the second seal was put on and so on until all the scroll of parchment was written in seven parts, or sections, and sealed at the end of each section, and thus it was sealed with seven seals. It will be seen that there were six seals on the edge of the scroll, and one seal on the outside fastening the entire scroll, which became the first seal to be opened.

The book is in the *right hand* of Him who sits upon the throne. Stupendous words! Words of deepest mystery, enshrouding the eternal purpose of God. The scriptures portray the *right hand* of God as the hand of strength, power, salvation, blessing, and anointing. The implication is that the right hand of God is the *good hand* of God doing wondrous things! The psalmist confirms this when he says, “In Thy presence is fullness of joy, at Thy *right hand are pleasures* forevermore” (Ps. 16:11). Again, “The voice of *rejoicing* and *salvation* in the tabernacles of the righteous: the *right hand* of the Lord doeth valiantly. The *right hand* of the Lord is exalted” (Ps. 118:15-16). To this the prophet Isaiah adds his inspired testimony: “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will *strengthen* thee; yea, I will *uphold* thee with the *right hand* of my righteousness” (Isa. 41:10). In the Old Testament, whenever God is portrayed as manifesting His power, it is done so with His right hand or arm. “Thy *right hand*, O Lord, is become glorious in power” (Ex. 15:6). “O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He hath done marvelous things: His *right hand*, and His holy arm, hath gotten Him the victory” (Ps. 98:1). “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, Thou wilt revive me; Thou shalt stretch forth Thine hand...Thy *right hand* shall save me” (Ps. 138:7). Numerous other Psalms express the same thought. In the New Testament, after His resurrection and ascension, Jesus was by the *right hand* of God exalted, and made to sit at His *right hand* (Acts 2:33-34; Heb. 1:3,13).

This speaks of Jesus Christ, the firstborn Son, our Forerunner. He is exalted to the *right hand* of God! This is therefore the calling of every son of God! He is the **positive, saving, redeeming force** of God in the universe “who is gone into heaven (spiritual realm of government) and is on the *right hand* of God; angels and authorities and powers *being made subject unto Him*” (I Pet. 3:22). There is no greater prize than *oneness with Christ*. The inspired apostle exhorted the saints in Colosse, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the *right hand* of God” (Col. 3:1). The message is clear — the elect of God are to SEEK THE THINGS OF CHRIST AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD! Seek the things of the *right hand*! What a word is that! There are your orders, dear child of God who treasures the hope of sonship.

People tell us that we are too concerned with *deep things* and with *high things*. Nothing could be higher than the realm of God's right hand! **Seek it! Seek it! Seek it!** That is the word of the Lord to every one who is conscious of being risen with Christ. *Seek* to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might! *Seek* the anointing of His power! *Seek* the investment of His authority! *Seek* to rule and reign with Christ! *Seek* to be victorious in all things! *Seek* to be a blessing to creation! *Seek* to be His salvation unto all the ends of the earth! *Seek* to speak and act and rule by His love! *Seek* to do wondrous things in His name! *Seek* to reconcile and restore all things and all men to God! *That* is what it means to **seek the things of Christ at the right hand of God!** Some of the greatest truths of the word of God are the ones that lie hidden like pearls of great price, unnoticed by the careless but available to all who will search prayerfully and diligently in the depths of God.

The right hand of God is not a physical location somewhere in the universe. The right hand of God is a realm of power and authority, a position of eminence, a condition and a state of divine being. Blessed be God! We now have a share in the REALM OF THE RIGHT HAND! The apostle Paul tells us that "when we were dead through our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ...and raised us up with Him, and made us **sit together with Him in the heavenly places** (the heights of His own exaltation)." This shows that as we come to know the resurrection life of Christ, we are also made to experience the *ascension* of Christ. This is a matter of realization, of consciousness, of appropriation! It is already true in Christ, but it is only true *to us* as we receive the revelation of it, acknowledge the reality, and experientially lay hold upon it. We are chosen of God not only to be made alive from the dead and have God's life, but also to sit in the highest realm of the heavenlies as **ascended men!** This is the present truth of God for everyone who has received the call to sonship. He is causing every son of God to consciously and experientially ascend with Christ and sit with Him in the higher than all heavens — NOW!

It is true therefore that as we ascend into the high places of God in the spirit, we are reigning with Christ from His heavenly, spiritual throne. As we truly become overcomers by the ascended life of Christ, we are also given power over the nations to rule them with a rod of iron, and as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers (Rev. 2:26-27). This rule is given to the overcomers *in Christ!* As the life of ascension within us raises up kingdom dominion in our lives we truly begin to reign with Christ in the spirit, and all the worldly powers of man can be broken by the authority within God's sons! The will and ways of man are being displaced by the power of the spirit and replaced by the spiritual life of the kingdom of God. We are a spiritual people. And the kingdom of God is the spiritual realm of our Father's dominion! Therefore our reign in Christ is a spiritual reign, which is accomplished as we move in and by His Spirit in relation to things in the earth realm. As the anointing teaches us what we should pray for, and what situations and circumstances in the outer world we should speak to by the spirit, the creative power of God is released to bring change and transformation. Through that spiritual dominion God's will is brought to pass on earth as it is in heaven!

The right hand signifies authority and power. Peter referred to this when he declared to the multitude on the day of Pentecost, "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are

witnesses. Therefore being by the *right hand* of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear” (Acts 2:32-33). Later Peter told the rulers of Israel, “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with His *right hand* to be a Prince and a Saviour” (Acts 5:30-31). Paul spoke of the mighty power and the awesome authority and dominion and the riches of the glory that is the inheritance of the saints. He says that this is the very same power that God wrought in Christ “when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own *right hand* in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named” (Eph. 1:20-21). The writer to the Hebrews expressed the truth this way, “...when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the *right hand* of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than angels...” (Heb. 1:3-4).

Scripture could be piled upon scripture showing that the right hand of God is the position of the very highest authority and power in the universe. And scripture could be piled upon scripture to show that it was the crucified, resurrected, and ascended **man Jesus** who was raised up to the right hand of the Father! We have pictured this as a literal throne somewhere in the sky. But there is no literal throne, nor are there “two Gods” up there seated on a throne! You see, my beloved, Jesus *was* and *is* a **man**. Some deny that Jesus is still a man! They tell us to forget the man Jesus! They insist that if we still reverence the man Jesus that we have made an idol out of the historical man of Galilee. But the truth is that “there IS one mediator between God and men, the **man** Christ Jesus” (I Tim. 2:5). The truth is that “this **man**, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool” (Heb. 10:12-13).

When the Son of God came into this world He testified of His own humanity, declaring, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, *The Son can do nothing of himself*, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things so ever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth Him all things that himself doeth: and He will show Him greater works than these, that ye may marvel” (Jn. 5:19-20). The humanity of Jesus had no more authority or power on earth than my humanity or your humanity. It was the Father in Him and through Him that did the works! Oh, the wonder of it! While here in human flesh Jesus manifested a measure of the omnipotence of deity, but clearly stated that the Father would show Him greater works than those that He did. Now, praises God, HE, the **man Jesus**, has been raised up to that place where ALL POWER AND AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH is given into His hands! And yet the mystery is just this. Jesus *still* cannot *of Himself* express the omnipotence of God! The Father is still showing Him the “greater works” than those He did while on earth. The deity *still* must *flow through Him!*

If by the spirit of revelation you can see the **man** Christ Jesus seated in that position of universal authority and dominion, yet that very authority and dominion flowing through Him from a source **beyond and greater than His glorified humanity**, you will then be able to comprehend what it means to be seated at the “right hand” of power, or on the “right hand” of the Majesty on high! If Jesus Christ has no humanity, if Jesus Christ is

something other than a **glorified man**, if Jesus Christ is only deity, then the heavenly scene of Christ at the “right hand” of power, or on the “right hand” of God, is meaningless. It is a misrepresentation and a deception. Oh, yes, Jesus is God’s “right hand” **man!** The power is from God the eternal Father, but it has been ordained to flow unto us by and through our Lord Jesus the Christ. Aren’t you glad!

John sees a book in the *right hand* of Him who sits upon the throne. This hand holds the book. A book is to be read, since it contains words of information, instruction, counsel, or revelation. However, God has no need for such a book, for He forgets nothing, learns nothing, and has perfect knowledge of all things everywhere and of all His works from the beginning of the creation. This book in God’s right hand is for mankind and for the whole vast creation; it is God’s revelation of Himself that is to be read and known of all men! It is interesting to note that when Christ “takes” the book out of the Father’s right hand, He does so with His own right hand. Therefore, when He opens the seals, He does so with the book in His right hand. This reveals the great truth that one of the fruits of His triumph is the power of His own right hand of blessing and salvation to open the seals of God’s book of destiny, to unlock the mystery of Christ in us, and to bring to the ultimate issue all the events that culminate in the manifestation of the sons of God. Think about it!

Beloved sons of God, let us be fully aware of this great truth. **All the sons of God are destined to sit in Christ and with Christ upon the throne at the right hand of God!** There is a people that is possessing the right hand authority and power of God. “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne” (Rev. 3:21). We have been called to share His glory, the very same glory Christ now has with the Father! It is not robbery or blasphemy to proclaim that we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. Many in the sonship realm have sought a glory separate from the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no glory outside of His glory! There is no sonship outside of His sonship! There is no life outside of His life! There is no power outside of His power! There is no throne outside of His throne! Jesus Christ is at the right hand of the Father, and all God’s sons are called and chosen and ordained to sit with Him there. We have a right to take our place in this right hand position and declare the deity of the Father in us!

Multitudes of Christian ministers today are ministering from the lowlands of religious traditions and carnal church creeds and programs. We have a higher calling in God! Only as we rise into the heavens of God’s Spirit and minister unto the Lord and for the Lord from the realm of His greater, spiritual presence in the most holy place of His throneship, shall the blessings and benefits of His heavenly kingdom continue to change us and the world. Since heaven’s greatest desire is that the sons of God be manifested, let us learn that **we are the book in the Father’s right hand** and we must be “taken” by Jesus Christ the Lord; He must rip off the seals from that book which we are so that there shall be a revelation of the life of God that is written within. Father has raised us up into a unique place in this spiritual temple of the body of His sons. Our hearts cannot settle for anything less, for we yearn and long and pray and seek His will to be done in earth as it is in heaven. Nothing else will satisfy! Those who are called to sonship are experientially

ascending in the spirit to the high places in God. They are recognizing and taking their rightful place on the throne of the Lord, by the Spirit, where they reign with Christ.

Today we are living in momentous times. Christ is opening the seals of that book which we are to bring forth the revelation of Jesus Christ in us. We are living in a period between the ages, and God is initiating a new order and ministry in the earth. My prayer is that all who read these lines will see in the spirit this *new ministry* of the kingdom of God in the earth! When we ascend in the Spirit into the heavenlies where God's will is revealed to our hearts, and God's word is put in our mouths, and we worship and intercede and speak from the throne of the Lord, we then begin to defeat all darkness and evil and put every enemy under Christ's feet by releasing the presence and power of the kingdom of God into the world. This is a new ministry we are entering at this time, and it is real and very powerful! Make no mistake about it — sons of God have a tremendous responsibility. Preaching and ministering according to the old carnal methods and techniques of the church systems will avail but little in this battle against the corrupt kingdoms of this world. Nor are we called to merely learn deeper truths; we are called to **RULE AND REIGN WITH CHRIST!** The world has not yet seen or read the revelation of Christ out of that book in the Father's right hand; they have only seen and read the creeds, programs, and promotions of the religious systems. The spiritual ministry from the throne of God out of the heavenly realms of the presence and power of the Lord is the secret to conquering all evil and all darkness! We are called to possess the kingdom, to take the kingdom, to take dominion over all darkness, sin, and death. We are first taking the dominion within ourselves, then we shall be able to break the kingdoms of man to shivers, and to rule mankind and all things as if we were shepherds tending a flock of sheep.

“Thy right hand, O Lord, is *become* glorious in power” (Ps. 15:6). While it is difficult for us to conceive of God becoming something more than He already is, and as to His nature there can never be any change, yet the Spirit reveals that the **right hand of God had not previously been all that it was** when the children of Israel triumphantly marched dryshod through the Red Sea, for the prophet speaks of a day wherein the right hand of the Lord “is *become* glorious in power,” denoting a process in the *unfolding* of the power of His right hand in the midst of men. And, while the right hand of God is first and foremost the realm of God's almighty power and authority, His right hand *became* glorious in power before the eyes of men when it was revealed in mighty signs and wonders through the person of the man Moses.

Now there has been a wonderful enlargement in the revelation of God's right hand, for Jesus Christ has been exalted to the realm of the right hand, and there shall be a further enlargement when all the holy sons of God have been also exalted to sit with Christ in His throne in all the power, authority, and glory that that means. Thus God's right hand is in fact **becoming a people**, the Christ, Head and body, a many-membered **son of the right hand**, and the manifestation of God in this **right hand company** is **becoming** even more glorious in power as the appointed hour for the unveiling of the sons of God is fully fulfilled. These not only declare His word, but have authority and ability to see it established in the earth and in all realms. As the power of God arises in all majesty in His

body of sons, and He is exalted in the people He has prepared, how unspeakably glorious and majestic He will be in the eyes of His creation!

“O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He hath done marvelous things: His *right hand* and His holy arm, hath gotten Him the victory. The Lord hath made known His salvation: His righteousness hath He openly showed in the sight of the nations. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for He cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall He judge the world, and the people with equity” (Ps. 98:3,7-9). This is a prophecy! Think of it — the nations are ready to worship the Lord, His enemies submit, and sing to His name; the ends of the earth and the whole world turn to Him **because His right hand shall do marvelous things**, and He shall make known His salvation to all!

Truly, beloved, this RIGHT HAND COMPANY will get Him the victory! There is no doubt about it — no devil, no wicked men, no conniving politicians, no hostile nations, no massive armies can stop this company from doing the things God has declared they will do, and because of their ministry, the nations will be joined to the Lord and sing His praise. As the work of restoration progresses, what harmony, what glorious unity and bountiful blessings and abundant life shall fill the universe, as this order of King-Priests flows together, to gather together into Christ all things in one, till all has been set in array, and God is indeed ALL IN ALL.

How sweet shall be the influence of this **right hand company**, the **positive force** of God’s omnipotent energy, ministering His life, His love, His joy, His peace, His righteousness, and His wisdom unto creation. How thankful we are not to be numbered among those called to the **left hand**, to walk in darkness, and be vessels of wrath. There is no harshness in the ministry of the right hand — oh yes, even the right hand “dashes the enemies in pieces” — but it is the destruction of the negative qualities that there might be *life*. These bring correction ministered in love, leading all mankind to the Fountain of Living Water, feeding them in green pastures, causing them to lie down and rest, and not be afraid. Ah, we would SEEK THE THINGS OF THE RIGHT HAND!

THE BOOK — CHRIST WITHIN

One writer has pointed out that the seven seals of Revelation are similar to graduation diplomas. In some parts of the country, when a child completes the eighth grade, he receives a diploma. Then, upon graduating from high school, he receives another. When he graduates from college, he receives another diploma. If he goes on to graduate school and graduates, he receives another. Thus, diplomas represent specific accomplishments by the graduate. Much work and varied experiences go into obtaining each diploma! With each one, the skills of the graduate become more valuable and demand for his accomplishments grow.

The Father also designed that when the time came to open the seven-sealed book, there would be a careful process connected to exposing the contents. The process is **the full**

disclosure of all that Christ is! Christ Jesus possesses every power that the Father has, for the deity in Jesus *is* the almighty Father! However, the full glory and authority of Christ has been hidden beneath the veil of *our flesh*, for we are the body of Christ and the temple of God. The restoration of all men and all things to God requires the full disclosure of Jesus Christ *in and through His body on earth*. So, the opening of each seal is connected to a brighter and clearer revelation of all that Christ is! As each seal opens, more of Christ is seen! This is the revelation of Jesus Christ! Can you not see the mystery? The seven seals are similar to seven diplomas. As each diploma reveals more about the accomplishments and worthiness of the graduate, so each broken seal reveals more of the glory, wisdom, love, and power of God's wonderful Christ, Head and body!

Even though John does not call the seven-sealed book the "book of life" in chapter five, he clearly refers to this book as the "Lamb's book of life" in other places in the Revelation. John calls it the "Lamb's book of life" because **it is the only book the Lamb receives in the whole book of Revelation!** Notice: "All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast — all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb..." (Rev. 13:8). "...the inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast" (Rev. 17:8). "Nothing impure will ever enter it (New Jerusalem), nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Rev. 21:7). Can we not see by this that the "Lamb's book" is the very book *the Lamb receives from the right hand of God!* And it is the very book of HIS OWN LIFE WRITTEN IN A PEOPLE!

Four ministers were once discussing the various translations of the Bible. One liked the King James Version because of its majestic English; another preferred the Revised Version of 1881 because of its literal translations of the original language; the third chose James Moffatt's translation for its up-to-date vocabulary. The fourth minister was silent. When pressed to express his opinion, he said, "I like my mother's translation best." The others were surprised. "We had no idea that your mother had translated the Bible." Oh yes," he said, "she translated it into life, and it was the most convincing translation I ever saw!"

Ah, Jesus never carried a copy of the Old Testament when He taught the multitudes. I have in my library many Bibles including the Literal Bible, the Comparative Bible, the Analytical Bible, the Emphasized Bible and the Amplified Bible. But Jesus Himself is the EXEMPLIFIED BIBLE! He is the PERSONIFIED BIBLE! He is the true picture of His Father, the Living Word of His Father. He is the full and complete revelation (unveiling) of His Father's life! Jesus in His humanity upon earth was the very *first chapter* of this marvelous book of the Life of the Lamb! And now the Lamb of God, living out His life *in us*, is the completion of the Book! Through that blessed company conformed to His image the world shall now, at last, read "the *rest* of the story"!

Many years ago the Indian Christian Mystic, Sadhu Sundar Singh, penned these illuminating words: "When I was in Palestine last month I thought about many things and one thought that came to me was that our Lord did not write anything. It would have been a great thing if Jesus Christ would have written the Gospels Himself, but He did not write

a single word, neither did He ask His disciples to write. He did not say to them, ‘I am going to dictate, take down notes.’ The writers in the Bible did not get inspiration by taking down notes but by living with the Word of Life. That is why our Lord did not ask His disciples to write anything! He says, ‘My words are *spirit* and they are *life*.’ It is easy to write words in book form but it is difficult to put the *spirit* into words! His life and spirit can only be put into the hearts of people and not into the pages of books. Jesus Christ knew that He was going to work on the hearts and not only through the pages of books” — end quote.

I do not know how or why Christians came to the conclusion that the Lamb’s Book of Life is a literal book in some far-off heaven somewhere. It is the book of the life of the *Lamb*. Even the most die-hard literalist has enough sense to understand that the Lamb is not a four-legged woolly little creature romping through the pasture squealing, “Baa...baa...baa!” We could preach on the “lamb” of God in any church in America and everyone would agree that this lamb is not a barnyard animal. If the “Lamb” who opens the “book” is not a four-legged lamb, it should not be difficult for anyone to understand that the “book” is not a two-covered book! People do such sloppy thinking about such divine and exalted things!

“And another book was opened, which is the book of life” (Rev. 20:12). The book of life is called “the book of the life of the Lamb” (Rev. 13:8). If I were to give you a book entitled THE BOOK OF THE LIFE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, you would understand at once that it is a biography of the life of the first president of the United States, George Washington. That book should contain everything you always wanted to know about George Washington! Every detail of his life would be there. The portrait of his character and accomplishments would be drawn there. In the same way, THE BOOK OF THE LIFE OF THE LAMB is the autobiography of God’s Lamb, the expose of who He is, what He is like, what He does. Everything you ever wanted to know about the Son of God is contained in this wonderful book of the life of the Lamb! It is not a literal book, of course, for the sons and daughters of the Most High are the **living record and revelation** of the life of the indwelling Lamb! It was to the apostle Paul that the revelation was given that the book of life, the book of the life of the Lamb, the book which draws the portrait of the life, nature, character, and accomplishment of the Son of God — IS A PEOPLE! “Forasmuch as Y-E are manifestly declared to *be* THE EPISTLE OF CHRIST ministered by us, written *not with ink*, but with the *spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone*, but in *fleshy tables of the heart*” (II Cor. 3:3).

The Lamb is our Lord Jesus Christ! The Lord Jesus is seen by John approaching the eternal Father to receive from His right hand the book that is sealed but is now to be opened. What this book is, becomes crystal clear when in holy contemplation we consider what it is that *belongs to the Father*, is then *given to Jesus Christ*, is subsequently *opened by Him*, and through that opening *becomes the revelation of Jesus Christ!* That is the mystery. When our divine and wonderful Christ communed with the Father in His holy prayer in Gethsemane just hours before He offered Himself as “the Lamb slain,” it was concerning this very scene John beheld in figure on Patmos, that Jesus held discourse with

His Father in heaven. I will quote the passage. Dear saint of God, read reverently and prayerfully and the blessed Holy Spirit of truth will flood the passage with light.

*“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name (nature) unto **the men which thou gavest me...thine they were, and thou gavest them me;** and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for **them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.** And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee, Holy Father, keep through thine own name (nature) **those whom thou hast given me,** that they may be one, as we are. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for **these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;** that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: **that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.** And the glory which thou gavest me **I have given them;** that they may be one, even as we are one... Father I will that **they also whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me:** for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world” (Jn. 17:4-11,18-24).*

Can you grasp the fact, dear reader, that our Lord, when speaking of those who were the Father’s, who are now given to Him, who are also given the same glory that is His (at the right hand of God!), and who are destined to be the revelation of that glory to the ends of the earth — can we not see that *these indeed are the book* in the Father’s right hand, given to our Lord Jesus Christ! Opened by Him these are they who bring to pass in the earth the revelation of Jesus Christ! The revelation was given to Jesus (Rev. 1:1) when He came to earth to reveal the Father. Now we are given to Him, bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh, and He is raised up within us to reveal through us the Father in the sons. Oh, the wonder of it!

A further confirmation that this is precisely the meaning of the seven-sealed book is found in the events that transpire as soon as the book is taken from the hand of the One upon the throne — a paean of praise breaks forth as the four living creatures (kingship) and the twenty-four elders (priesthood) cry in rapturous exaltation, “Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and has redeemed **us** to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made **us** unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth” (Rev. 5:9-10).

The following words from brother Paul Mueller shed precious insights into this wonderful Book of the Right Hand. “The fact is, the Bible as we now know it will one day become obsolete for us. The blessed book that we carry around, study and sometimes memorize, is to be imparted into our lives so that we are truly *epistles...known and read by all men*. This is not to downgrade the Bible or to denigrate its effectiveness, authority, and

inspiration. The book we call the Bible is, for the most part, the inspired word of God, and we are truly and deeply grateful for all it means to us. However, our respect for the Bible will not alter the great truth that it is God's intention that **we become His living word**. Every truth that has been given by the Spirit will eventually become a part of our lives, so that we will not need to turn to chapter and verse for guidance and truth, but rather, that truth will be written and engraved upon our lives so that **we do by nature** all the truth the Bible contains to the glory of God.

“The laws and covenants of God were not intended to be repeated on the pages of the book we call the New Testament. The old covenant clearly states that the *next time* the Lord writes His laws and covenant, it would be upon the hearts of His elect and chosen ones. The highest fulfillment of anything is to become that which it contains and reveals. When we have fully become the promised living epistles, manifesting the very Life of Christ, we shall then be able ministers of the new covenant! Then the law shall go forth of Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem (Mic. 4:2). It will not be the dead letter read from the pages of a book, but the living, anointed truth of God coming forth from lives that have been transformed by the power of that word! Many nations shall then desire to come up to the house of the Lord, where dwell those living epistles. Then shall they learn the ways of the Lord from kings and priests who express the experiences of the Spirit. Then, many peoples and nations shall walk in the paths of the Lord, for they will have witnessed the grand fulfillment of the new covenant within an anointed and holy people.

“Each kingdom ruler will be like streams of water in a dry place, and like the shade of a great rock in a wearisome land. The presence of Christ will flow out of their lives like streams of water gushing from an overflowing fountain. The glory, power, and life of the Spirit will be so manifest that all who had ears but could not hear will then hear and understand the truth of God clearly. Eyes that once were blinded to revelation and reality will be opened by the power of the Spirit that is flowing out of the elect. The minds of those lacking true judgment and the ability to apprehend will then be able to comprehend fully God's abundant, redemptive love for them, as well as His living truth. Then the tongue of the stammering will be quick to speak plainly. The multitudes will receive the anointed message of Life coming from those living epistles” — end quote.

How tragic that the people of earth for the most part have never read this beautiful *epistle of Christ*, this glorious *book of the life of the Lamb*. They have poured over the books of religion, the commentaries of learned scholars who write out of carnal minds with the words of man's wisdom, the books of hypocrisy, the books of forms of godliness that deny the power thereof, the books of dead doctrines, empty rituals, lifeless ceremonies, and man-made rules and regulations of self-righteousness. But precious few have ever seen the **BOOK OF THE LIFE OF THE LAMB!** Oh! What a wonderful gospel shall fill the earth beneath and the celestial realms above when God fully opens His holy book of Life! The book of Life is that blessed company of the sons of God in whom the life of the Lamb is fully and eternally formed! This book is being carefully written word by word, sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph, page by page, and chapter by chapter in the nitty-gritty of our daily experience with God until the full revelation of the Christ shall be written

therein. Time's clock is striking the hour for the *manifestation* of the sons of God, the opening of God's book of life people, and what a manifestation it shall be! That book is being opened *within us* even now, for it is the *spirit* that giveth life. As Christ in our spirit is opened within ourselves, the life of the Lamb is released to swallow up all sin and death.

God has a *message* for the world — the revelation of Jesus Christ! The message is being written in flaming words of glory upon the pages of the lives and hearts and minds of men and women who are dying to that impudent and death-dealing devil of self, in order to walk and live by the spirit of HIS LIFE. I am terribly at a loss for words to express the glory of God's book of life company, but I can assure you that once it is fully ready, prepared, and finished, it shall become the world's "best seller" throughout the ages to come! As the pen is mightier than the sword, so this book, above any that has ever been written by the finger of man, shall alter the course of history, and the dark covering that has been cast over the minds and hearts of the people for ages and dispensations will be completely destroyed by the flood of transforming light and wisdom and knowledge and glory and power shining forth from the living pages of God's eternal and incorruptible BOOK OF LIFE!

When John sees a book written within and without and sealed with seven seals, he is not talking about the Bible. He is not even talking about the book of Revelation. Nor is he seeing what many teachers describe as the "title deed" to the earth. He is talking about the book *within* that has been sealed, like the little Shulamite maiden who was a fountain sealed (Song of Solomon 4:12). It is the book within, the book of Christ in us, the book of the law of the spirit of life that has been sealed! John saw the *new covenant* that God would make with the house of Israel whereof He says, "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts" (Heb. 8:10). That's what John saw! He perceived in spirit that which is being written within. He saw where you find the performance of the new covenant — not in your own strength, not in your self-effort, not in your fleshly ability, not in your religious conformity, but by the Life within. He discovered that God's elect is becoming *living epistles*, not of the letter, the outward, but of the spirit, the inward, because there is Life!

The reason the "word" of God has bound and killed more people spiritually than it has helped is because it has been legislated outwardly. To these the "word of God" is a book full of laws and commandments to be imposed on those who would live godly. Religion makes godliness a **law** rather than a **life**! "God said!" they thunder from their pulpits high upon the craggy pinnacle of mount Sinai, and then lay an outward rule and observance upon the people extracted from an *outward book*. To people who have been through the trauma of divorce they advise, "You can never be remarried; God says, I hate adultery, and you can only please God by remaining single the rest of your life." They kill people with the letter of the Word, not seeing the spirit, the compassion of God, the love of God, the heart of God. People have been forced to go to the world to find some judgment because they couldn't find it in the church. They have been compelled to go to the counselors of the world to find some understanding because the preachers had no grace, no mercy, no wisdom from the Lord. Christian ministers of the **grace** of God LEGISLATING THE LAW! What an enigma! What a travesty! "But the Bible says!" you contend. You hypocrites! You don't even *know* what the Bible says! You know the **letter that**

kills! You have never perused the pages of the blessed Book of the Life of the Lamb — the spirit that gives life! The New Testament is not that black, leather-bound book we call the Bible. The New Testament, the true Bible, the Living Epistle of Christ is the law of His life written upon the fleshy tables of the heart.

You, precious child of God, are the epistle of Christ, you are the book of the life of the Lamb, and every day **God is writing in your book!** He's not writing for nothing — for your book is to be opened! And there is only One who is worthy to take the book and loose the seals thereof, and that is the Lamb in the midst of the throne. The Lamb! Oh, the wonder of it! The book is the book of the life of the Lamb. The opening of the book is the unveiling of the life of the Lamb, the revelation of His life written and engraven in the minds and hearts of those who share His nature. He is the One who is worthy to take each one of us and open us up! And it is only through Jesus Christ our Lord that we can be opened up as the Book of the Life of the Lamb!

Multitudes of God's people would rather remain a closed book. We wish to stay closed because of our unique personality, we are shy, reticent, humble, immature, inexperienced, or burdened down with sin-consciousness and condemnation. But I declare unto you, my beloved, that when God has finished writing in you, when He completes within you that living epistle which He knows is capable of being read and known of all men, then **He will open you up!** As God breaks and removes the seals from off of us, not only will great and mighty things take place in our own experience, but things will begin to happen in the outer world. Why is there such darkness over the earth, and gross darkness over the people? Because the very light of God is **concealed** within us. Although we are the light of the world, the light is shut up. Although we have within us the mighty River of Life, we are a fountain sealed. God must work mightily in us to release the light of our lives that His glory may arise upon His people and be seen upon them. And when that hour arrives nothing can stop God's judgments from coming into the earth. And when His judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Aren't you glad!

The seven-sealed book is not a record of past or future events in the outer world. It has nothing to do with wars between nations or judgments poured out upon the nations of earth. A book of world events would not be *the revelation of Jesus Christ!* A book of human events would not be of such a nature that no one in heaven nor on earth nor under the earth would be able to open the book or even to *look thereon*. Nor is it a book of "last things" in the destiny of the world, as all futurists proclaim. The vision of John shows that the seven-sealed book has its own contents. The revelation we are given indicates that the seven-sealed book symbolizes something that only Christ can handle. Therefore it must be a book of *spiritual reality!*

The main purpose of the vision in chapter five of the Revelation is to focus attention on the seven-sealed book. In this book we have the beginning of the revelation of Jesus Christ! It is the revelation of Himself released through His mighty spiritual work of transformation in His called and chosen elect. The breaking of the seals is the solemn and judicial way in which the Lamb nature establishes His rule and reign in those who have been purchased by His blood. It is the processing of God whereby the life of the Lamb is uncovered and

unfolded within us. This is a book within a book. Literally, in the book of Revelation, the seven-sealed book is a symbolic book within the book John wrote of his visions. However, *spiritually* this means that John was brought to the place where he could see the intention of God written in the nature of a people.

There are seven seals upon this book. The number seven denotes that contained within this book is the totality of God's character and the complete revelation of His will and purpose. As these seals are loosed in God's people they begin to experience the fullness of all that God is. There has never been an expression of God at this level in the earth at any time except in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, for it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell. But now there is a people, His body, the completion of Him, that has been sealed unto the day of redemption, and when God has loosed in them all the seals there will be brought forth in the earth a many-membered expression of God at the same level of *God's fullness*. You will know Him no longer by measure, you will see Him no more through a glass darkly, or as a reality beyond or outside of yourself. He will no longer be a mental image, a good feeling, an ideal, a philosophy or doctrine. You will know Him even as you are known by Him and will see Him face to face.

A remarkable prophecy was given by a saint of God in the year 1619. A portion of this prophecy confirms the truth I now share. It says, "There shall be a full redemption of Christ. This is a hidden mystery not to be revealed or understood without the revelation of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is at hand to reveal the same unto all holy seekers and loving inquirers. The completion of such redemption is withheld and abstracted by the *seals* of Revelation. Wherefore; as the Spirit of God shall open *seal* after *seal*, so shall this redemption come to be revealed, both particularly and universally. In the *gradual opening* of the mystery of redemption in Christ, does consist the unsearchable wisdom of God, which will continually reveal new and fresh things to the worthy seeker. The *unsealing* of the *living testimony* (perfected remnant of believers, the manchild, the literal *sons* of God's people), along with the *ark* of God (Jesus Christ), must begin the promulgation of the everlasting Gospel of the Kingdom." What a word!

Chapter 78

THE SEVEN-SEALED BOOK

continued

“And I saw *in the right hand* of Him that sat on the throne *a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals*” (Rev. 5:1).

The book is “written within” — that is, the nature, wisdom, and power of Christ, which is the law of His life, is inscribed in our minds and written in our hearts, known only to God and to us. It is also “written on the backside” or outside — bespeaking the reflection of that inner life expressed outwardly through our words and actions, open to the gaze of others. Yet the full revelation of Christ in us has been sealed! Every son and daughter of God is aware that the Christ who dwells in us is a whole Christ, all that He is and all that He has is resident in the life we have received. Have we not yearned and desired above all things to *manifest His fullness*? And still, the full and complete manifestation of His indwelling life has not been shown. The breaking of the seals, the unrolling of the scroll, shall set all things in God’s order! This book has been sealed away from the influences of men. It has not been tampered with by man, for it has been held secure in the right hand of the Father, the hand of omnipotence. Our almighty Father has been in control of every experience of our lives as He has moved to bring us to the full stature of Christ! When every seal has been broken, and the book is fully opened, it will confound all the wisdom of men and the pride of religion.

In the past we have by inspiration and revelation spoken the message of God, but now we are destined to be the open book of God, the very *being* of the message of God, written not in words of earth’s languages, but lived out of the essence of the Christ-life within. The book is not in some far-off heaven somewhere, neither is it something outside of us. Nothing written by the hand of man can contain the totality of God. Ah, my beloved, the sons of God are within themselves the *embodiment of this wonderful book* upon the hand of Him who sits upon the throne! The book that has been sealed within us is even now being unsealed and opened. What is it that is being unveiled? The totality of the Father in His sons is now ready to be made manifest! The Lord Himself is arising in the totality of all that He is within the nature, personality, and expression of His called and chosen elect upon this earth! All mankind shall see and behold the salvation of God!

One of the most beautiful books of the Old Testament is the Song of Solomon, which describes the relationship between two people who are deeply in love. While this is its imagery, spiritual-minded saints throughout church history have seen in the story a thrilling picture of Christ, the Bridegroom, and His bride, the church. Individually, it portrays Christ the Bridegroom in our spirit, and the bride of our soul. How fitting, therefore, are

the words in which the Shulamite bride declares that her Beloved is “altogether lovely” (Song of Solomon 5:16). A great preacher of another day penned the following thought-provoking sentence about our Lord Jesus Christ: “Not one feature of His glorious person attracts attention at the expense of others; but He is perfectly and *altogether lovely*.” Continuing, he exclaimed, “Oh, Jesus! Thy power, Thy grace, Thy justice, Thy tenderness, Thy truth, Thy majesty, and Thine immutability make up such a man, or rather such a God-man, as neither heaven nor earth hath seen elsewhere... Thou art music without discord; Thou art many, and yet not divided; Thou art all things, and yet not diverse. As all the colors blend in one resplendent rainbow, so all the glories of heaven and earth meet in Thee and unite so wondrously, that there is none like Thee in all things; nay, if all the virtues of the most excellent were bound in one bundle, they could not rival Thee!” Can we not confess it? The truth is that the *manifest sons of God* are the **body** of the Bridegroom. In making that statement, I am fully aware that such a thought runs contrary to long-established views of “theology”; but as George Hawtin once poignantly said, we are *not concerned* with the views of theology, for theology is not really the views of God but the *ideas of men*. We are concerned only with the *truth of God* as it is revealed in His word in the light of inspiration and revelation. Every son of God will gladly and joyfully confess that CHRIST IN US IS — **ALTOGETHER LOVELY!** *This* is the beauty, holiness, grace, love, wisdom, glory, and power that is unveiled as the seals are loosed from that book which *we are!*

Oh yes, the book is Christ Himself, for Christ is the revelation of the One who sits upon the throne! Christ is the Word of God. The book is a Word-Book! The book is a message, and Christ is the message of God. “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us *by His Son...*” (Heb. 1:1-2). Yet — it is not merely Christ in heaven, but Christ **in you and me!** The *sealed book* is the very nature, wisdom, glory, and power of Christ held back and obscured by the outer man of flesh, by our natural identity and human consciousness, ***until the seals are broken!***

The book is sealed with *seven seals*. Seven is the number of completeness — the seven seals bespeak of the total depravity of the natural man. Paul said it so well, “I know that in me, that is in my flesh, there dwelleth *no good thing*” (Rom. 7:18). “For I delight in the law of God after the *inward man*: but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the *law of sin which is in my members*” (Rom. 7:22-23). “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it *is not subject* to the law of God, *neither indeed can be*” (Rom. 8:7). The Adamic nature is a hellish nature and shut tightly against the spirit of God. It ***must*** be broken, loosed! It always seemed a little strange to me that such an act as loosing the seals brought so much woe, calamity, judgment, and distress on earth, yet it evoked such rejoicing, jubilation, worship, and all-out adoration in heaven! To the natural mind this appears rather offensive, malevolent, and sadistic. Indeed, heaven rejoicing over the pain, anguish, and torment of men on earth!

The truth, however, is far too telling, glorious, and overwhelming for us to miss it. The truth is just this — the seven seals are the bondage of the flesh and it is this complete imprisonment of the Christ within by the dominance of the consciousness of the outer man

of flesh that is suffering all the dealing, judgment, and fire of God! **These are the seals that are being broken!** Rejoice, oh man of spirit, rejoice ye heavens and they that dwell therein! How my glad heart leaps for joy in the light of a truth so significant and glorious! I cannot weep for the natural man, even *my* natural man, the carnal mind, or the sin which wars in my members. At long last I understand and rejoice in the heavens of God's Spirit for the mighty revelation of Jesus Christ that emanates with scintillating beauty as the seals of my very own corruption are stripped away! What a word that is!

WHO IS WORTHY TO OPEN THE BOOK?

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, *Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*" (Rev. 5:2).

The Greek word translated "proclaiming" is related to the task of a herald who thunders forth a royal declaration in thunderous tones. "Loud voice" is in keeping with the strong angel's role as a herald. In fact, the Greek words for "loud" and "voice" are joined together to form our English word "megaphone." Mega means "loud" and phone means "sound." It represents a ***mighty message!*** The powerful angel is portrayed as speaking in tones that are so overwhelming that his words reach the ends of heaven, throughout the earth, and even into the underworld. In spite of his deafening appeal there is no answer, as we shall see, from any celestial, terrestrial, or subterranean creature. None is worthy, for none can qualify!

With these thoughts as a background, let us consider the scene in the heavens of God's spirit as it is revealed in chapter five of the Revelation. The eternal Father, seated upon the rainbow-encircled throne, is presiding over the mighty assembly. The majesty of that scene is beyond words! In the midst of the great throne are the four living creatures, representing the kingship of the sons of God; and around them are the twenty-four elders, portraying the priesthood of the sons of God. In the right hand of the Father is a book. It is written on the inside and also on the outside. A mighty angel, a strong messenger, a mighty message steps forward and challenges the entire universe. "Who is worthy to open the book," he cries, "and to loose the seals thereof?" His voice shook the earth and penetrated all space and galaxies; it resounded through heaven.

Mark you, "*who is worthy,*" not who is skillful enough or wise enough or strong enough, but who is worthy, who has character enough, who has drunk deep enough at the fountain of the eternal Spirit, who is enough like God, to unlock the secrets of divine life? Will one reach forth to take the book? Will thousands of men and spirits and creatures rush madly to the throne to grasp the book? Who can take the book? All heaven is searched. Might seraphim, cherubim, or angels open those seals? Or perchance might Enoch, Noah, Abraham, David, or Elijah present themselves as worthy to fulfill this need? Might one among the saints who "*by faith*" are among "*the spirits of just men made perfect*" step forward? Might some advanced and powerful alien entity from some far distant galaxy respond to this challenge? Earth is searched. Might some president, king, or great statesman or religious leader perform this great deed? The search is dropped to the regions "under the earth." Might Caesar, Napoleon, or Nero or other of earth's mighty dead

presume to offer themselves? But every mouth is stopped! “*No man* in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.” The suspense is awful. John’s tender heart is moved to tears.

NO MAN CAN OPEN THE BOOK!

“And *no man* in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And *I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open the book, neither to look thereon*” (Rev. 5:3-4).

Although the sound of the heavenly messenger’s voice resounds throughout all of heaven, the high and holy realm of the spirit; throughout all the earth, the dwelling place of the natural or soulical man; and the underworld, bespeaking of the body realm, the gross wickedness of the flesh and the bondage of the devil, there is no one who is able to qualify as “worthy” to open and to look upon the contents of the scroll. The word translated “able” is the Greek word which means “to possess power or authority.” Nowhere in all of God’s vast universes was there found a creature who was authorized or empowered of God to open the book and bring forth the revelation of life that it contains! No man can open the book! No **man!** No carnality. No one by intellect or human reasoning or fleshly ability. No person moving in a religious spirit, or proclaiming a creed or doctrine, or observing outward laws, ceremonies, rituals, or man-made programs, promotions, and efforts could open the book. Not one!

It is a good thing that this book was not opened here in Texas because we have a whole passel of preachers who say they can tell you what is on the inside of this book, on the outside, and all around it. They have all the answers. If John had just been in Texas, instead of being on the isle of Patmos, they could have given him the answers! Well, John didn’t have the answer, but there is one who can open the book, as we shall see.

I can understand that no man *on earth* was found able. Some of us who are living way below our privileges in the realm of the earthlies are not worthy, nor capable. I can also understand that no man *under the earth*, those living in the underworld of the sensual, fleshly, and devilish realm, was found able. But then it goes on to say, “*no man in heaven.*” No man even living in the heavenlies of God’s Spirit, that place of exaltation, triumph, and power, was found able, not only to open the book, but even to look thereon. In these days of transition from the church to the kingdom the full expression of Christ’s redemption must be made manifest and it begins with the opening of the seven-sealed book — not single-sealed, not double-sealed, but a book with seven seals, written within and on the backside, which means written all over — and HE ALONE CAN OPEN IT!

Perhaps we have felt that, if God could find a man who would be totally committed to Him, or one that has attained to a high place in God as an apostle, or prophet, His purposes in the earth could be fulfilled. But no matter how dedicated, committed, gifted, and heavenly minded a man may be, no matter what spiritual progress or position or attainment a man may have, when it comes to the unveiling of Jesus Christ in the breaking of the seals which

release the forces that will eventually bring about the full expression of God's glory and purpose, no man was found worthy. This is a word that needs to be heard by all who seek after manifest sonship in this day! As we move into this wonderful new day of the kingdom, and nothing much seems to happen, perhaps we start blaming ourselves, or our teachers, or the prophets, and we ask, "Where is this greater manifestation of the Spirit, this full expression of the power of the kingdom of God? I am not speaking here about healing some sick and casting out some devils and seeing a few things change around us and having some miracles, which in time past we have called "revival." These things have been taking place throughout the ages, and happen all the time, but by and large the world does not even know they are happening!

We gather in our little meetings and conventions and declare our sonship, that we have entered beyond the veil, that we have arrived in the day of the Lord, that we have come out of religious Babylon and left all the lower orders behind, that we have been set in the new order of the kingdom, that we have even now begun to put on life and immortality, and a number of other wonderful declarations, and yet no one up and down the street where we are gathered even knows that we are in town! The world goes on day after day, month after month, year after year, decade after decade wallowing in shame, bound by sin, sorrow, pain, and death, with wars and starvation and troubles of every kind affecting billions of people. That is not what the day of the Lord is to bring forth: a little moving over here and a little stirring over there, **BUT A RELEASE OF THE FULLNESS OF THE POWER AND THE GLORY AND THE LIFE OF GOD OVER ALL THE EARTH.** This is the unveiling of the triumphant One, who by His death, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of the Father *has prevailed!* And yet we cannot escape the awful truth — **NO MAN CAN PRODUCE IT!** Not even a man in *heaven!*

Soon after John saw and heard this scene there was a mighty weeping going on concerning who was worthy to open the book. J. A. Seiss commented on this scene, "Some speak of these tears as mere tears of disappointed curiosity. This, indeed, is the common explanation. We are told that the book had unknown revelations in it, which John was very impatient to understand; and that his much weeping was caused by the prospect of having his personal desire to obtain a knowledge of the future, ungratified. Poor John! What a silly mortal, to be troubling himself about unrevealed prophecy, and to keep up this crying in heaven because there was no one to open the book for him! The thing is absurd. It is beneath criticism. What a sad picture of inspiration, that it should strip a venerable and disciplined servant of God of all manly dignity, and make him a silly and peevish child! No, no; John knew by that Spirit in which he was, what that sealed book meant. He knew that if no one was found worthy and able to take it from the hand of God, and to break its seals, that all the promises of the prophets, and all the hopes of the saints, and all the preintimations of a redeemed world, must fail." End quote

The Seer waits in the oppressive silence until he can bear it no longer. Then he breaks down into bitter weeping. The word translated "wept" does not refer to quiet tears streaming down the face, but to audible wailing and uncontrollable sobbing. John is terribly upset because there is no response to the heavenly messenger's thunderous appeal for someone to open the book, loosing the contents hidden within. His soul is shaken to its

foundations as he recognizes that the outcome of all things on behalf of all creation hangs upon the contents of this sealed book! John's tears, therefore, express his sensitivity in things spiritual, for he realizes that there must come a time when God must *mightily intervene* in the affairs of men and the whole world or the kingdom of God will never be realized on earth. His longing for that great Day is joined with his longing for the release of the fullness of the power and the glory of God over all the earth. Hence the awful sense of frustration expressed in weeping when no creature responded to the messenger's call.

The mystery is just this. ***John represents you and me!*** Have we not wept, groaned, and travailed in pain within ourselves for Christ in us to be unsealed, fully revealed? Oh, yes! But the weeping, groaning, and travailing of itself cannot bring forth the Christ. "Weep not!" one of the elders commanded. The elder here referred to is undoubtedly one of the twenty-four who have been identified as representative of the priesthood of God. Notice, the elders do not weep! Only John wept. The elders do not weep for they are in the secret of God, and as the redemptive agents of God the priests of the kingdom understand the process taking place. What was dark to John is light to them! It means that when the reality of priesthood breaks in our spirit, and we are given a priestly heart, and a priestly understanding, our tears are dried. Once the revelation comes, and we know God is in control, and we are certain of the Father's purpose and our calling in it, and the final outcome is sure, then we truly rest in His love, and weeping ceases. It is indeed wonderful!

John says that there was no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth who was able to open the book. What this means in the understanding of the Spirit is just this: Who is able to reveal, to show forth the Christ? Who is able! And he says, "No **man**" — matters not what heaven he dwells in, nor what occult realm he works from — no man is able to open up, expose, disclose, release, unveil, reveal, or exhibit *the fullness of Christ!* Then there came the voice, "*Stop weeping!*" See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has won and overcome and conquered! He can open the scroll and break its seven seals! And there between the throne and the four living creatures I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God who have been sent far and wide into all the earth. He then went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the throne" (Rev. 5:5-7, Amplified).

Oh, to be anointed to understand these words of deepest mystery and highest glory! It was the strength of the *Lion of the tribe of Judah* that prevailed. But it was the humility, meekness, and unselfish sacrifice of the *Lamb* that *accomplished the work!* We can roar like a lion, but we will never open the book by that roar. The book cannot be opened, the Christ within can never be revealed, except *by the spirit of the Lamb!* Nor can weeping open the book. We can weep all day long and it isn't going to make the book open. In Pentecostal and Evangelical circles they tell you, "Repent! Weep your way through at the altar, come between the porch and the altar and cry out mightily to God." There is a time for weeping, but you can cry till you turn blue and you will die crying. In the revelation of Jesus Christ God has come to wipe away tears! "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor *crying*, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

WHAT WILL OPEN THE BOOK? Can you open the book? Will lamenting and weeping about the situation open the book? Do you know what John realized? ***No man can open this book. Weeping won't open the book. Roaring like a lion won't open the book. Positive thinking won't open the book. Confessing won't open the book. Being heavenly minded won't open the book.*** No man in heaven was able to open the book. Are you a heaven dweller? You still can't open the book! If John could have opened the book he would have. He was standing "in the spirit" on the Lord's day and "in heaven" when he saw the book! If you could open the book you would. If I could open the book I would. If I could call forth the revelation of Christ, if I could generate and produce the manifestation of the sons of God I would. Oh, yes! But John felt as I have felt many times. "*And I wept...*" "Boo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo! I'm not perfect...I'm still just human...I can't overcome...I am weak and hopeless...Lord help me...Lord change me...boo-hoo-hoo-hoo!" But that will never open the book!

THE ONE WORTHY TO OPEN THE BOOK

The messenger said, "Stop crying! Weep not! Stop feeling sorry for yourself! Stop bemoaning the world! Stop feeling hopeless! ***There is somebody that can open the book!***" Ah, beloved, dry your tears and hush your cries — The mighty Lamb of God is standing up within each of God's elect in this hour, and He is able to open the book!

This book *must* be opened. This is necessary and imperative for the salvation of humanity and the restoration of all things back into God! The following words by J. T. Dean bear eloquent testimony to the work of Christ within us in opening the seals. "Now, what is the Lamb said to do? He opens the seals of a sealed book. He reads what is already written therein. He brings to actuality a purpose already formed and fixed. He does not introduce something new into the purpose of God. He does not alter God's will. He unfolds it, realizes it, brings to actuality what God intended from the beginning with regard to man. He does not open a door for man to enter into a new and different life than that for which God made him at first. He carries out God's eternal purpose respecting man. God set the human race on a journey. He gave it a goal to strive after and reach, even the image and glory of God. But instead of taking the direct road to his destination, man left the path. He began to wander round and round in ways that made no progress, but that led him even farther from the goal than he was when he started. And Christ comes to him while he is thus wandering. He does not give him a new destination. He does not set another goal before him. But He guides him back to the path which he has left, and sets him to walk anew towards his former goal. Or, to take another illustration, God brought man into the world a little child spiritually, but a child that He meant to grow up into a strong spiritual manhood in the likeness of Christ. But instead of growing up to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, with never a day's illness to set back his growth, man was afflicted with sickness of soul, with sin. He advances towards manhood through a sickly youth. And Christ, the Great Physician, helps to keep the disease under, reinforces the powers of health, and brings the sickly child through the weakness unto the perfect man. Christ does not help man to become something other than God's design for him. He helps him to become all that God meant him to be! He opens the seals, and brings God's

purpose to fulfillment” — end quote. To which I would add — the Lamb is the One who opens for all creation the mystery of *sonship to God!*

Joyce Morris has shared an excellent word concerning the worthiness of our Lord Jesus Christ and His ability to open the seven seals of the book. The following is a quote from her anointed message.

“As you know, many books have been written in the world. There have been awards (like the Pulitzer Prize) given for some of these books. Many have been made into plays and movies. As we know, some of these books are true stories about people’s lives. It’s very interesting that a movie based on a true story, has a greater impact on people’s lives than a fictional story. Every kind of book that you could possibly think of has been written. But the book that we want to get into today is — the Book of Life. We want to enter into the extraordinary understanding of what the Book of Life is — and that *you are becoming* the Book of Life!

“God has His own book. The book that God has is not the Bible. The Bible has been written from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, which God has given to man. But this book is to point you to THE BOOK — which is THE BOOK OF LIFE! God wrote the book in the beginning, and in the Book of Life is God’s plan. In the Book of Life there are certain names written. God has written His book and no one can contaminate it. Nobody can put their doctrines into it. Nobody can put their beliefs, ideas, concepts, or anything else into it. Man will never be able to contaminate the book that God has written!

“God is the author of His book. In His book He wrote His plan with many scripts. God’s book is the Book of Life, which is Christ Himself. ‘And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.’ God wrote His plan, and nobody can change His plan. However, you *can* change the script — and I will get into this later on. I want to talk about the first individual that had the understanding that God had written His book. He also understood that *his script* had been written, and that God had written every one of his days in His book. All the days of his life had been written in the Book of Life! When Jesus came into this earth, every one of His days had been written in God’s book. ***He is the book.*** The Book of Life came, the bread from heaven came, THE **WORD** (BOOK) WAS MADE FLESH! He had to walk out the script and the plan of God on earth. He only tried to change it one time. He learned obedience through the things that He suffered. I know that He struggled with the script for a while! I know that He was tempted in every area, just like you and me. But He passed all the tests, and overcame all the temptations. He said, ‘It is written...’ — it is written in my Father’s script — it is written in my Father’s plan — I cannot do that — I cannot yield to my self-will — I will not change the script — I must follow the plan of God, because *I came to do the will of my Father!*

“So here He is — The Book. Each day of His life was unfolding. Everything that God had written in the very beginning was unfolding. His days were unfolding. His experiences were unfolding. Each day and each experience took Him from one place to another, all the way to the cross. He followed the script; He looked at it; He understood it; and He yielded to the Father to walk out that script. He walked out the plan of

God. Hebrews 12:2 says, ‘...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.’ He endured the cross because of the *joy that was set before Him* — because He had the understanding that as He fulfilled the script and walked out God’s plan each day of His life, He wasn’t going to be just one book, He would go on to be many books!

“When the people killed Him, they thought they were getting rid of The Book. But they couldn’t get rid of the script that God had written! No man can stop it! Jesus could have stopped it in the garden of Gethsemane, but He yielded to the Father, and said, ‘Not my will, but thine, be done.’ He did not yield to His self-will, but He yielded to the will of God, to bring a fulfillment to the plan of God, the script that had been written for Him. No one could change Jesus’ destiny except Jesus. But He didn’t change it — He fulfilled it by walking it out. Even after all this, His life still wasn’t over. The book wasn’t finished yet! He wasn’t the flesh man Jesus anymore, but if you can understand — here He is, the Book of Life, walking in the earth and everybody was looking at it, and *reading the Book of Life!* They were looking at and reading the Book of Life every day, and they saw what was in it. What they saw was God! This upset and angered many people. They hated the book, because it went against *their book*. It was against their lives, what they believed in; it was against their governments, their religions, and everything that they stood for, because they loved death more than they loved life!

“Jesus said, ‘This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil’ (Jn. 3:19). Again, ‘The people which sat in darkness saw a great light’ (Mat. 4:16). They saw the book coming and it had light and life in it. The very life of God was walking and moving in Christ! And God was enjoying every bit of it! He said, ***‘I finally have an individual that is yielding to my will, my plan, my script. He is studying my script every day. He is waiting upon the Holy Spirit to direct His path, so that He can walk out what I wrote from the foundation of the world.’***

“When Jesus looked within in the garden of Gethsemane, He saw that God had written before the foundation of the world that the Lamb would be slain. It had already been written — but until that time Jesus didn’t have the full picture or understanding of what was going to happen on the cross. He had known it, He had understood it, and He saw it take place — *before the foundation of the world*, because the Father had shown it to Him. But the man Jesus had lost the full understanding of this event when He came into His flesh body on earth.. In Gethsemane He came into the full realization of what was going to happen to Him on the cross. He saw what He would suffer; the hatred and rejection that would come against Him; but He did not want to miss the script that God had written — He had to walk it out and fulfill even this part.

“The Father showed Him in Gethsemane that through the cross He was coming into a higher place, realm, or state of being. He showed Him that He was going to bring the entire creation BACK INTO THE BOOK! This is the reason He knew He had to fulfill the script. He also knew that this wasn’t the end of The Book. He knew that His life would continue throughout eternity *in the hearts and lives of many people!* They thought they had gotten rid of Him. But He came back on the day of Pentecost, and the Book of Life began

to enter into many men — a many-membered corporate body — THE BOOK OF LIFE IN MEN!

“In chapter five of the Revelation we see a book in the right hand of the Father. The book had seven seals, and no man was found worthy to open the book. But I want to tell you — there was One that could open it, and He was *the Lamb that was slain!* The book with the seven seals is the sons of God that God had written before the foundation of the world. The seven seals are the perfection and completeness we are to come into, in God. God wrote this script; and He wrote your script *in the very beginning!* **Jesus was the only one worthy** to loose the seven seals and open up The Book **because He had walked out and fulfilled all that God had written of His sons.** After He had opened the seven seals, why do you think that immediately it talks about those that have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, and that He has made them kings and priests to rule in the earth? Because He is talking about the OVERCOMERS. And the overcomers are THE SONS OF GOD! (Rev. 21:7). The overcomers are those who will be perfected in every area of their life. This is why it is presented as “seven seals” — seven means completeness and perfection!

“So in the book that Jesus opens up are the scripts that God wrote for the sons of God. **He wrote it in the very beginning. He wrote all the days of your life in the Book of Life in the very beginning — before the foundation of the world.** He wrote everything that you would experience in your life to bring you to the point where you now are IN CHRIST! And all of these experiences that the Father wrote for you to walk out were to work the Book of Life into you, so that you would **become the Book of Life!** This is why Jesus said, ‘Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day...he that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him’ (Jn. 6:54,56). Jesus knew that to eat of His flesh is to *eat of the Book of Life*; and that the Book of Life is *within*, where man cannot contaminate it, cannot touch it; and the script is God Himself in man! He has written it! Every time you go *within* and seek God for His divine counsel, instruction, and understanding, you are reading and coming into an understanding of what the Father wrote before the foundation of the world. He is enlightening it to you from within so that you can walk it out!

“Christ is the only One that can open this Book of Life because He walked it out. He walked out God’s script and God’s plan. In the natural, when an individual writes a play, he spends a long time thinking it through. I don’t know how long God spent thinking about His plan. I have no idea what it entailed — His plan is so awesome! When you start walking in God’s script the life within will swallow up all death. It will swallow up any darkness. It will swallow up everything in you that is not like God. God will swallow you up into Him — in the Book of Life! We need to understand that we are here to be the fulfillment of God’s plan! We are not here for our own purpose, we are here *called according to His purpose!* God’s purpose is for His plan to be fulfilled in this day, and in this hour, in each and every son of God!” — end quote.

In chapter four of the Revelation, every description of Christ is of Christ in His deity, Christ as God, sitting on the throne, the eternal Lord, God Almighty. But when we look at chapter five we find that every description of Jesus is Jesus in His humanity — the

crucified One, the Lamb slain, the Lion of the tribe of Judah. It was the humanity of Christ that was of the tribe of Judah. It was the humanity of Christ that was crucified. It was the humanity of Christ that died — the Lamb of God. The things seen by John are *symbols, pictures, terms of accommodation* to help us understand the mystery. You see, my beloved, the true and full revelation of God could not come to man until it came *in the man Jesus*. Through His sinless life, through His sonship walk, through His death, burial, and resurrection *God in man* overcame sin, limitation, death, hell, and the grave. Through this wonderful work God took everything that was in deity and *raised it up in humanity!* Therefore the Lamb is *worthy!* He is worthy to take the book! He is worthy to open the seals! He is worthy to raise up in mankind the full revelation of God in man! Jesus the Lamb, Jesus the Man, taking the book out of the hand of the Father, is just a picture of this transferal of divine, incorruptible life and glory from the realm of pure spirit into the world of humanity! It is in and through Jesus the Lamb that this has been accomplished! Isn't it wonderful!

Who is worthy? In the natural there is none worthy. But when we begin to look into the spirit we see that there is One that is worthy. The One who has prevailed to open the book is the Lion of the tribe of Judah — that signifies Jesus Christ in strength and victory. This Lion is a slain Lamb — for He conquers not by brute force but by the power of His poured out life! The wonder of it is that THIS LION-LAMB IS WITHIN US! The worthy One is *within!* When we begin laying hold upon the One within us, the One within us begins unsealing the book within. Out of that unsealing comes the triumph of the Christ in every dimension of our lives. He makes war against every false and fleshly thing that there might be the revelation of Jesus Christ in us. There will be the expression of what is true in us coming forth into manifestation in our outer realm. It is not a nature that ignores the corruption of our outer man of flesh — it is a nature that is fully capable of dealing with the corruption of the outer man that the spirit be revealed. Oh, that our eyes be opened to behold HIM! HE is worthy to open the book, now to fulfill *in us* all the reality of our redemption! It is the Christ within who opens the seals, and it is the Christ within who is the book revealed. In absolute power He shall reign until the Christ is fully and forever formed in us, formed from the inner to the outer — the image of God!

There was a day when a man could arise and be used of God, but in the book of Revelation it is the Lamb who is used. He must be the central One, releasing the fullness of the Spirit of God in all His majesty and power *from within*. Even though we are kings and priests and have authority to reign on the earth, we are not worthy to open the book, neither to look thereon. Recently I felt a deep cry in my spirit and I said to God, “There is nothing more that can be done. I know of no prayer that can be prayed, no faith that can be exercised, no knowledge that can be revealed, no action that can be taken to bring forth the manifestation of this sonship, this is as far as we can go.” There comes a time when our pressing into the kingdom does no good. There is no one in heaven, nor on earth, nor in the underworld that has the ability to even look upon the book, much less to open it. Here is a realm that is shut up to God Himself! *It is the spirit that quickeneth*, the flesh profiteth nothing. The fullness, the life, the immortality, the manifestation of power and wisdom and glory will never come until we first see the One who is triumphant, even the slain Lamb, the One who is central to the purposes of God and the One who has the seven horns of power, the seven

eyes of omniscient vision, and the seven spirits of God. Many “sonship” preachers and teachers apply every scripture and revelation to themselves, to the many-membered body, ignoring completely the Head of the body. But our Lord Jesus Christ is the rightful One to look upon, the One who is worthy to look upon, to loose the seals, to open the book, to bring forth the manifestation of God’s nature, glory, and power out of our lives, and then to receive all the honor and glory and praise. ***“Thou art worthy!”***

It is God who has highly exalted Jesus, and given Him the name that is above every name in heaven and in earth! If you live in heaven today, my brother, my sister, Jesus bears the name that is above *your name!* At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess. And what shall they confess? That JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of God the Father! If Jesus has been given THE NAME that is above EVERY OTHER NAME, would it not be proper to say that this puts Jesus in a prominent position, to say the least? No other man who ever lived or does live has occupied such prominence as this! There is absolutely no other person who has been exalted so high! And notice, my beloved, it is not at the name of “Christ” that every knee shall bow and tongue confess. It is not even at the name “Lord” that they shall bow. It is not at my name, or your name, or the great apostle Peter’s name, or the mighty Paul’s name, nor yet at the name of the “cosmic Christ” or the “Christ consciousness” or someone’s “higher Self.” Oh, no! It is at the name of **JESUS** that every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess! (Phil. 2:6-11).

Jesus was placed so low in the estimation of His own creation that they cried out saying that they would rather have Barabbas, a robber and a seditionist turned loose, than to see Jesus free. Because of that, God has highly exalted Him above all others! (Phil. 2:6-9). He is the real, true, and perfect revelation of God, the true God-man. He was the very man that God set forth in our midst to be the perfect revelation of the man that He has purposed for each of us to be, and we are predestinated to be conformed to the image of God’s dear Son. He is the Forerunner, the Captain of our salvation, and the Apostle and High Priest of our profession. Never forget it! ***Worthy is the Lamb that was slain!*** He is worthy to open that book which *you are*, and He is worthy to open that book which *I am*. And no one else can do it!

Truly the Lamb was slain *for* us two thousand years ago. Yet, is it not true that the Lamb *in* us is likewise being slain, for we are partakers of Christ’s suffering as the apostle said, “Even now I rejoice in the midst of my sufferings on your behalf. And in my own person I am making up what is still lacking and remains to be completed of Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the church” (Col. 1:24). The slaying of Jesus as the Lamb on Calvary is historical fact, and by that slaying He purchased us with His blood and has made us kings and priests unto God. That’s the historical fact. Yet, I do not hesitate to tell you that the thing that will be worthy in our own experience is for us to experience the slaying of the Lamb within ourselves! The Lamb must not be merely historical, for the Lamb is in the midst of the throne where we are seated in Christ! The Lamb in the throne is a *slain Lamb!* He is slain, and yet He is *standing!* Oh, the mystery of it! You see, the Lamb must become a present experiential reality. As we experience the slain Lamb within

ourselves, we will discern the One standing in us who is worthy and has power to open the book of *His life within us!*

With the above thought in mind, I will close this message by sharing a testimony from our dear brother Bennie Skinner which so beautifully expresses the truth of which I now speak.

“Forty years ago a minister got me into his car. This was a minister I had labored with in the gospel. I won’t mention his name, because I don’t want to embarrass him, and I’m sure that what he did God ordained, but it was not very nice and I didn’t appreciate it, but I took it. He got me in his car and he ‘read my title clear.’ He told me things about myself that I didn’t even know! In fact, he told me things that I still don’t believe he saw, but he thinks he did. He told me my faults, failures, weaknesses, mistakes, errors, and shortcomings — I mean he laid it on! I sat there as a sheep before his shearers is dumb, I opened not my mouth. When he finished, he said, ‘Now that I’ve gotten this off of my chest, maybe you have some things you would like to get off of your chest, too.’ I responded, ‘I have nothing to say.’ No defense, no accusation, no denial, no retaliation — nothing. I just got out of the car and dragged myself up the driveway and up the stairs into our apartment.

“When I walked in the door my wife took one look at me and said, ‘What has happened?’ I told her. But I didn’t defend myself. I went to bed and went to sleep. I wasn’t angry — but I was hurt. I was *killed*. Yet I fell asleep. In my sleep I had a dream. I saw a lamb hanging by its feet upside down. It had been skinned, its head cut off, and all the insides had been cleaned out. I saw the process of it done. Then out of that, after the process was completed, came the most beautiful music I have ever heard! When I awoke I was filled with the Holy Spirit and I knew that God had showed me something. The Lamb in me, in that sense, had been slain! Through that experience that I had the Lamb had been slain. And as a result of that, in retrospect I now understand that even then one of the seals was ripped off of this book that I am!

“I’ve had a few other experiences since then that I think may have torn off a seal or two! And no doubt I will have some more experiences that will finish tearing off the seals so that what is written within may be clearly read and known of all men. Can we not see that when the Lamb is slain within us, it brings the release of the nature of the Lamb within us! I’m telling you something that is profitable for you today. I’m telling you something of the deep working of God in *your life*. It is the slaying of the Lamb! And let me tell you this — ‘Worthy is the Lamb that *is* slain — not just *was* slain, but *is* slain — to take the book and to loose the seals thereof.’ We are coming to the place even now where we are experiencing daily in our bodies the *dying of the Lord Jesus* that the *life also of Jesus* might be made manifest in our flesh (II Cor. 4:10).

“I am stirred today at the depth of what I am talking about. I don’t think that I even know myself the depth of what I’m speaking of, I think I am speaking by the Spirit that is beyond my understanding, beyond my experience even, beyond my ability to comprehend, but God is going to make it real to all of us. And we will come to the place where we embrace that cross and we will bless that cross upon which we daily die, upon which the Lamb is slain within us, for out of that experience

shall come forth resurrection life! So don't try to run from anything, because the thing God is after will be there when you get there anyway. God will be able to set up just the right circumstances to get all that thing He is after — to reveal His Son *in* you and *as* you. Amen!" — end quote.

Chapter 79

THE SEVEN-SEALED BOOK

continued

“And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold, the *Lion of the tribe of Judah*, the root of David, *hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof*. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a *Lamb as it had been slain*” (Rev. 5:5-6).

The elder came to the weeping John and said, “Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah... hath prevailed to open the book.” What did John have every right to expect to see? There is only one answer. He had the right to expect to see a *lion*! If I am driving with my grandchildren and say to them, “Look at the mountain,” they would expect to see a mountain and not a river. Were I to point them to a mountain which they could not see, they would ask me to explain what I mean! If I were to reply, “I mean that river,” they would have every right to say, “But Grandpa, why are you calling a river a mountain?” In the book of Revelation, this book of symbolic language, such a change in symbols is of supreme importance! John was told to behold a Lion, but when he looked he saw a Lamb. What is the explanation?

John understood, as we also must understand by the Spirit! The lion is a noble, majestic and kingly creature, strong and courageous, fearing nothing, and so fierce and powerful that no other animal can stand before him. Mankind from the dawn of history was impressed by what he saw and knew of this awesome and terrible beast and so awarded it the title, “king of beasts.” And this is the image we are called to contemplate in John’s vision describing the character and majesty of our Lord Jesus Christ in connection with the loosing of the seals of the scroll and the clearing of our earth from all enemies and usurpers. It is the king of beasts in the jungle who typically represents the *King of kings* in His triumph over all things!

The One who is able to accomplish so mighty a work within us is the LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH. And the Lion of the tribe of Judah is CHRIST THE KING! When the dying Jacob blessed his sons, he prophesied to his son Judah that he would be a *lion*, whom his brothers should praise, whose hand should be in the neck of his enemies, and before whom his brethren should bow (Gen. 49:8-9). What he spoke to Judah indicated Judah’s warlike and victorious energy which was afterward demonstrated in that tribe. In Judah’s illustrious descendant, David, the lion-nature was strikingly exhibited, and his boast in the Lord was, “I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again until they were consumed. I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet. For Thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: Thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me. Thou hast also given me the necks

of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me. I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them as the dirt in the streets” (Ps. 18:37-42).

While David penned these inspired words out of his own experience as a warrior, they are also a messianic prophecy looking forward to a still mightier King who “sprang out of Judah” as David’s lineal descendant and heir, who at once is David’s Lord and David’s son, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, who is also the *Root* (ancestor, father) and the *offspring* (descendant, son) of David. Why David? Why not Moses, or Abraham? David is the representative of *Royalty*. Moses is the representative of the *Law*. Abraham is the steward of the *Promise*. Here we are viewing the authority, dominion, and majesty of the *Throne*. Christ is both the Root and the offspring of David — of the Royalty of God raised up in His kings and priests who are the sons of God! He is the might and majesty of the tribe of Judah and the honor and glory of the house of David!

The elder, who knew the awesome power of God’s Christ, took the strongest objects in the vegetable and animal kingdoms to represent His power — the root and the lion. Massive rocks are torn asunder by the noiseless power of the root. Hidden beneath the soil its power is mighty. This is the One from whom king David derived his great power of warfare! In like manner, the power of the Root of David, hidden in the heart and spirit of man, can break the strongest bands of carnality, flesh, corruption, sin, and death. The Lord Jesus spoke of those who had “no root in themselves” as not being able to endure tribulation. The Root of David bears the tree of righteousness. None can be trees of righteousness who have not this pure and holy root hidden in the soil of the heart! The Root of David produces the character of David within every son of God, the might and overcoming power of Christ in His kingship!

Yet — the Lion is a Lamb — for He conquers not by brute force but by the power of His poured out life! John saw by the spirit of revelation that the only way to power was the way of sacrificial love — that is ultimately the only power in the universe. We would have thought that in calling our Lord “the Lamb” this name would have been used only in respect to His humiliation and death in His earthly walk. However in scripture it is most often used in reference to His eternal glory in the heavenlies! Peter saw Him as the Lamb foreordained before the foundation of the world. John saw Him as a Lamb that had been slain from the foundation of the world, highly exalted, standing in the midst of the throne. This *slain Lamb* is ***in the midst of everything***: in the midst of the throne, and of the four living creatures, and of the elders. This Lamb is peculiarly the One who is ***in the midst***, just as the tree of life was ***in the midst*** of the Garden of God. As the Lamb stands ***in the midst*** of each one of God’s called and chosen elect we are enabled to express and manifest, out of our innermost being, the life, nature, and power of the God of the throne!

The term “Lamb” is used of Christ no less than twenty-eight times in the Revelation, and has two vital characteristics. Christ is the *sacrificial* Lamb and the *conquering* Lamb. He is seen as *slain* yet standing in the midst of the *throne*. And throughout the book of Revelation it is the Lamb who overcomes and conquers all! It is the Lamb who gets the victory over the beast, and the false prophet, and the whore, and the dragon, and the kings of the earth; over the flesh, the world, the devil, death, hell, and the grave! So glory to God

and to the Lamb forevermore! The Lamb shall have the victory! Christ is Lord over them all, for He was slain before they were, and will be reigning when they are gone!

The Lamb has conquered and shall conquer all who rise up against Him. For seventy years the ruthless, atheistic communist regime in Russia blasphemed the Lamb and jailed, tormented, and killed all who proclaimed His name. They planned and purposed to eradicate His kingdom from the earth! Today the communist government no longer exists in Russia and it is ironic that the Russian government, through its ministry of education, invited a consortium of sixty American evangelical groups and Christian colleges to train educators in 120,000 Russian public schools on how to teach Christian and spiritual principles. In commenting on the invitation, Evgeniy Kurkin, the Russian deputy education minister told *U. S. A. Today* on November 1, 1992: “Seventy years ago, we closed God out of our country and it has caused so many problems in our society we cannot count them. We must put God back into our country and we must begin with our children.” Oh, yes! The word of the Lord is sure: “These shall make war with the Lamb, and THE LAMB SHALL OVERCOME THEM: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Rev. 17:14). This is the great and beautiful message of the book of Revelation, and this is why the Spirit witnesseth, “Blessed (happy!) is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein” (Rev. 1:3).

The wonder of it is that THIS LION-LAMB IS WITHIN US! The worthy One is *within!* When we begin laying hold upon the worthy One within us, the One within us begins unsealing the book within. Out of that unsealing comes the triumph of the Christ in every dimension of our lives! He makes war against every false and fleshly thing that there might be the revelation of Jesus Christ in us. There will be the expression of what is true in us (the Christ within) coming forth into manifestation in our outer realms. It is not a nature that ignores the corruption and the faulty understanding and perception of the carnal mind and human consciousness — rather, it is a nature that is capable of dealing with the falsity and weakness of the outer man that the spirit of the Lamb *in the midst of us* be revealed. Oh, that our eyes might be opened to behold HIM! HE is the most powerful, terrible, courageous, bold, daring, self-confident, composed, majestic, and yet kind, gentle, gracious, loving, and life-giving Lion-Lamb of all! HE is worthy to open the book, to fulfill in Himself all the requirements, and now to fulfill IN US all the reality of our redemption. In absolute power and strength He shall reign with love, mercy, grace, and goodness until every enemy in us is destroyed and the Christ is fully and forever formed in us, formed from the inner to the outer — the image and glory of God in human flesh!

Thus, the tremendous unveiling in the form of symbols and signs that came to the prophet on that far-away Isle, is today **fulfilled spiritually** within the people in whom the Christ dwells. Let all who read these lines know for a certainty that it is the glorious **Christ within** who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the slain Lamb that lives in the throne! You will never understand the mystery of the Lion and the Lamb until you understand that Christ is in heaven, and heaven is within us, for the Christ of glory eternally and gloriously lives out His life in His body, His people. It is within His elect that He must come forth as both the Lion and the Lamb in the midst of the throne, in the power of the

kingdom of God within! The Lion is the omnipotent power and the sovereign authority of God in manifestation, whereas the Lamb is the inward quickening and sustaining life of God by the spirit.

There is therefore a two-fold working of God in the lives of the Father's apprehended ones. First, **Self** must be dethroned, and in the accomplishment of this Christ is a Lion, clothed with power and majesty and terribleness. As the Lion He will crush every bone in the body of your *Adamic nature* and *human consciousness* and tear away and consume every morsel of your carnal *flesh*. The Lion of Judah is king over all the beasts of human nature! He springs to unscanned heights and to unfathomed depths, to exercise His majesty in all realms. But as the Lamb He wondrously imparts the quickening of **His life** that you may live by the spirit. The Lion is Christ warring, devouring, conquering all that pertains to the old mind and nature of Adam. The Lamb is Christ **as our Life**, that we may appear with Him in glory!

But further — these same qualities and characteristics are being fulfilled in the elect as we are conformed into His image, made **one in Him**. The company of the sons of God shall bear both the image of the Lion and the Lamb! The kingly strength and regal authority of the Lion nature shall function through the sons in perfect unity with the gentle and ministerial character of the Lamb. These two streams of the divine nature, working together as one, in both judgment and mercy, shall flow mightily and great, and will cause the very earth to shake, will move heaven and stir hell, and bring the triumph of God's kingdom among men. When the effective dealings of God through the Lion are *balanced* by the merciful, gracious, quickening, transforming administrations of the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb then lie down together in the kingdom of God where there is peace, joy, and righteousness for evermore. Thank God! He is preparing His LION AND LAMB COMPANY, those blessed ones made one with the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb upon mount Zion. This glorious ministry shall prevail in the earth and restore all back into God again. Aren't you glad!

Stripped of symbolic language, this means that power alone, wisdom alone, righteousness alone, could not make man all that he was to be. Only a God who is love, who gives Himself to the uttermost, who spared not His only begotten Son, but delivered Him up for us all, who pours out His own life into man, only such a One, and by such means, is able to make man all that is in him to become. That is the teaching of the fifth chapter of the Revelation! And in this manifestation of redemptive love there was released in history the greatest power that humanity can know. The Lamb is, therefore, the symbol of power — vast spiritual power — power that no earthly power can overcome. The Lamb in His weakness — the weakness of self-sacrifice — is the source of the creative, healing, restoring, redeeming power of love in the world: love that delivers men out of the power of darkness into the light of Life, love moving redeemed men ever higher in their pilgrimage toward the City of God.

The message is just this. Not power, crushing and compelling, even were it the power of God Himself, can bring to pass the purpose of God. But the slain Lamb, and all that the Lamb stands for, and all who possess the spirit of the Lamb, are lifting up man from the

depths, and bringing to reality all God's gracious purpose concerning him. The slain Lamb, by His poured-out life, melts the stubborn hearts of men, and takes them willing captives. The highest power of the Godhead is manifested in the Lamb that was slain!

THE LAMBKIN

Called upon to behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah the Seer turns and sees none other than the slain Lamb in the midst of the throne. It had been slain — the marks are there on its throat to show how decisively the knife had done its work — but now it was standing erect. It had seven horns of power and seven eyes of omniscient vision. In the light of the truth we are now studying many things take on new meaning. I would draw your reverent attention to the fact that in the Greek text the *diminutive form* for “lamb” is used, indicating that it is a “little lamb.” Truly this is *Mary's Little Lamb!* The use of the Greek diminutive *Arnion*, the “little lamb” or the “lambkin” is the only word used in the Revelation for the Lamb. It is the contrast between the first little lamb and all the other lambs who follow with Him. It is a reminder that Jesus is the “firstborn” among many brethren, the “forerunner” of all who enter in to that which is within the veil, and the “first begotten” from the dead. Jesus Christ is the HEAD of the body, “*for in all He shall have the pre-eminence*” (Col. 1:18).

Yet — the Head also must have a *body* — so unto Him is added the rest of the firstfruits company. Even now as Christ sits at the right hand of the Father, He reigns in virtue of the fact that He is a Lambkin. He reigns as a Lambkin-King, because God is raising up lambkins in the earth, and it is the work of the Holy Spirit to establish in each member of the body of the Lamb in the earth the nature, and the character, as well as the authority of the Lambkin in the throne. “*He shall glorify me: for He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you*” (Jn. 16:14). It is the work of the Holy Spirit to inwork in each son of God all that pertains to the exalted Lambkin, that He might be here in the earth to be to you and me, yea, to be *through* you and me ***everything that Jesus is upon the throne!***

The “lambkin” as a figure of Christ is indeed complete and perfect; yet it is a type of Christ in a limited measure and at the same time in the greatest measure. That is the mystery. How strange that sounds to our ears, how curious to our minds! In relation to the Lord Jesus Himself, He is not limited at all, but as far as our experience of Him is concerned, there is such a limitation. When we come to the Lord and receive Him as our Life, the Christ we receive is whole, complete, and perfect; but in our appropriation of Him our experience of Him is only a small measure — at first just as the little lamb of salvation. From the time we first experienced Christ as the Lamb, as our Life, we have steadily been growing, increasing, progressing, and advancing; we have continually grown and increased in our experience of Christ and received of Him more and more. This does not mean that Christ has become greater and greater. Oh, no! Christ is the same, He changes not! But as we grow in our appropriation of Him, the increase of His life, the maturity of His nature, the development of His mind, and the strengthening of His power, He becomes greater and greater ***to us and in us.*** Day by day our experience of Christ is becoming greater and greater! At the stage of our experience in which the total triumph of the Lamb is achieved within, Christ is unlimited to us, He becomes ALL IN ALL. It is His

almighty strength in the heavens revealed through our humanity on earth — the TRIUMPHANT LAMBKIN! That is the revelation of Jesus Christ! And that is the manifestation of the sons of God!

Thus we see Him in chapter fourteen, “*A Lambkin stood on the mount Zion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand.*” It does not say, “And with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand *men.*” Oh, no! There stands a Lambkin on mount Zion and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand — what? The Greek construction indicates that it is in very fact a hundred and forty-four thousand *lambs!* The Little Lamb has become many lambs! We see a similar type, only in the negative realm, in the *little serpent* in Eden which grows through Adam, and increases within men over the millennia to become in the book of Revelation a *great red dragon*. As the subtle serpent came with stealth into the garden of Eden defiling with *selfhood* the hearts of the parents of the human race, making a murderer of Adam’s first son, so has he developed in mankind from that small and unimposing beginning to become a monster of gigantic dimensions filling the whole world with religious delusion and fleshly corruption. In Genesis Satan entered Eden as a cunning little serpent, but in the Revelation he has grown into a monstrous fire-belching dragon in the earth and in the sea. In Genesis Satan is an enchanting serpent indwelling a mere handful of people, whereas in the Revelation he is a “great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns,” a composite of peoples, nations, institutions, and governmental authorities.

In like manner, my beloved, the first Little Lamb was none other than our Lord Jesus, the Christ. The spirit of the Lambkin was poured out upon a little company of people on the day of Pentecost, the first of a new spiritual race of men destined to fill the earth and conquer the dragon. The Lambkin has developed in the saints of God from that small and unimposing beginning to become a vast company of lambs upon the pinnacle of mount Zion! To see such a company that shares and ministers His life to all creation does not magnify man, nor does it detract from Christ; for they are all totally conformed to HIS IMAGE and are partakers of HIS DIVINE NATURE. HE is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and joined to Him is a lambkin company! Truly these are the kings and priests of God, a kingdom of priests to reign on the earth and restore all things into God again!

It is my deep conviction that within the Lambkin, as we see Him again and again in the Revelation, is converged the reality of the four living creatures (kingship) and the twenty-four elders (priesthood). He brings kingship and priesthood together within Himself. He is the spirit of the Lamb (priesthood) in the midst of the throne (kingship). He is the Lambkin (priesthood) standing upon mount Zion (kingship). Can you not see the mystery? The four living creatures, the twenty-four elders, and the seven spirits of God are all rolled into *One* and represented now as *the Lambkin!* He is the embodiment and personification of them all! It is appropriate to refer at this point to the words of another ready writer who said, “Freely, gladly, joyfully Jesus Christ faced the hour of sacrifice, pouring out His life, that it might be diffused and spread over the whole earth. Now God’s elect are being brought to the same consecration, so that they give everything, for the joy of beholding His life quicken those around them. Willing to spend and be spent, until HIS LOVE THROUGH THEM has conquered all, and creation is restored into perfect harmony with its

Creator. There is a work that is totally of The Christ, finished at Calvary, which does not have to be re-enacted or duplicated. He gave His life for the world! Now, this lambkin company, can freely share it with creation” — Ray Prinzing.

SEVEN SPIRITS SENT FORTH INTO ALL THE EARTH

“And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having *seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth*” (Rev. 5:6).

In the book of Revelation are revealed a *new name* (nature), a *new song* (revelation, message), a *new Jerusalem* (people), a *new heaven* (government), a *new earth* (order), and finally it is proclaimed, “Behold, I make **A-L-L T-H-I-N-G-S NEW!**” Hallelujah! The whole purpose of God in this book is to declare the eternal passing of all that is of the old, and the establishment of ALL THAT IS NEW.

Then what is here? The seven spirits! There is a Lamb with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God. The Lamb has seven horns, which are the seven spirits of God. Before the throne are seven lamps of fire, which are the seven spirits of God. Around the throne is a rainbow of seven colors, which are the seven spirits of God. We only see the Lamb upon the throne with the seven-fold intensified spirit! That is all. All the utterances of this book are made by the seven-fold spirit and all reveal that which is entirely new and fresh. There is nothing old, nothing dead, for the first has *passed away*; the stars from heaven have fallen, the moon turned to blood, the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, every mountain and island were moved out of their places, the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together, great Babylon was burned with fire, and the beast, the false prophet, and the dragon were cast into the lake of fire. Now everything is spoken by the living spirit in a *new and living way!* There is only the *new creation!*

Furthermore, every utterance to the body of Christ in this book is the utterance of the seven-fold spirit. It is always the seven-fold spirit who is speaking! “Yea, *saith the spirit*” (Rev. 14:13). “He that hath an ear, let him hear *what the spirit saith* unto the churches” (Rev. 2:7). Seven times in chapters two and three we read that it is the spirit who is speaking to the churches. How different from the prophecies of the prophets who prophesied, “Yea, *thus saith the Lord...*” How different from the utterances of the apostles who wrote, “*This I (Paul) say...*” or “*I (Peter) exhort...*” Here in the book of Revelation it never says, “*Thus saith the Lord*” or “*This I say,*” etc. This is not men speaking for God out of an in-part realm. Oh, no! This is God speaking directly out of the fullness of Himself. So it says, “*The spirit saith, the spirit saith, the spirit sayeth!*” This very same sentence with the very same wording is repeated **seven times**: “*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit sayeth unto the churches.*” Why is this repeated seven times? Because of the seven-fold spirit! HE WHO HEARS THE SEVEN-FOLD SPIRIT WILL BE AN OVERCOMER! HE WHO OVERCOMES WILL BE A SON! HE WHO IS A SON

SHALL INHERIT ALL THINGS! HE WHO INHERITS ALL THINGS RECEIVES THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD! Isn't it wonderful!

Because the seven-fold spirit is bestowed upon the overcomers, eventually the entire book is concluded this way: "And the spirit *and* the bride say..." (Rev. 22:17). Oh, the mystery of it! We read in the beginning of the Revelation that the *spirit* is speaking to the churches. But by the end of the book the spirit and the bride have *become one* — they speak together. The spirit and the bride in this verse is a compound subject. The two have been compounded — the two have become *one*. The overcomers are one with the seven spirits, and the seven spirits have been fully inworked into the overcomers. This is the ultimate consummation of the work of God in His called and chosen elect! In the maturity of sonship one no longer prophesies in the third person, "Thus saith the Lord" or "Yea, the Lord would say unto thee." A mature son, filled with the seven spirits of God, speaks as Jesus spoke, "Verily, verily **I say unto you.**" Never once did Jesus say, "Thus saith the Lord" or "Yea, the Lord would say unto thee." He spoke **as the Lord, out of the spirit without measure.**

Let us consider now another aspect of this beautiful truth. "And I saw the seven angels which *stood before God*, and to them were given seven trumpets" (Rev. 8:2). Now notice, there are seven horns and seven eyes *in the throne*, which are the seven spirits of God. These are horns of divine power and authority. They are the horns of the Lamb! These are seven eyes of vision and perception. They are the eyes of the Lamb! There are seven lamps of fire burning *before the throne*, and these are the seven spirits of God. These are the seven lamps of illumination and revelation. Now there are seven angels with seven trumpets, and they are standing exactly where the seven lamps of fire were standing *before the throne*, and the trumpets are sounding forth a message. Can you not see that the seven angels are also the seven spirits? The seven spirits are *sent forth into all the earth* and here the seven angels are blowing the seven trumpets and their sound is going forth into the earth! So the seven trumpets are also the seven spirits! They are the voice of the Lamb, the word of the Lamb sent forth to change and quicken all things. When you follow these seven angels all the way through the book, you find that they are related to everything that happens on earth. They sound the trumpets that affect the earth-realm. They pour out the vials that affect the earth-realm. Those seven angels are identified with everything that affects the earth-realm! We are living in the day when the seven spirits of God in the fullness of divine wisdom and revelation, power and authority, judgment and wisdom will be manifested.

So you see, *in the throne* the seven spirits are the seven horns and the seven eyes. *Before the throne* the seven spirits are the seven lamps of fire. But when they are sent forth *into all the earth* the seven spirits are the seven angels and the seven trumpets. It is all the seven spirits of God! There is movement from one to the other. The movement is always outward. First of all there is emanation from the throne to the realm before the throne. Then there follows movement from before the throne outward into all the earth. This is the activity of God by His spirit towards mankind! All things flow from the throne, poured out upon the earth, until the knowledge of the glory of the Lord covers the earth as the waters cover the sea. The reality of God is sent forth into all the earth. This

means that God purposes for His elect to move in the fullness of the revelation and power and wisdom and judgment of the triumphant LAMB OF GOD! All praise to the Lamb who has the seven spirits!

You will never in a million years find the seven spirits outside of the Lamb! If you would have the seven spirits of God your identity must be lost in the Lamb. You must live in the nature of the Lamb. He must be your hiding place. He must be your sphere of existence. You must be filled with the spirit of the Lamb. Not just the spirit of God, but the spirit of the *Lamb*, the spirit of love, humility, mercy, compassion, self-sacrifice, and a poured-out life. It is from the Lamb upon the throne that the seven spirits are sent forth into all the earth. The seven spirits are associated not only with the Lamb, but with the throne. All who have received the call to sonship are called to be associated with the throne of the Lamb! We are moved to be often and long before the throne. That necessitates consciously abiding in the holy presence of the Lamb. It means that we open our heart and life to the judgment of Him who sits upon the throne. It means submitting our mind, heart, and will to the transforming power of the Lamb. It means repentance and humbling, waiting and worship, prayer and praise before the throne!

Let all men know that the seven spirits of God do not come from the Christ of Bethlehem, nor from Jesus of Nazareth, nor from the Christ of the mighty signs, wonders, and miracles by the sea, nor yet from the cross of Calvary. All these manifestations and works of Christ are but vanity except the sacrificed Lamb arose as the triumphant Lion, victorious over all enemies, including the last enemy, to ascend up *far above all heavens* that He might FILL ALL THINGS! How positively true are the words of Paul, "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (I Cor. 15:17). And the words of John, "For the Holy Ghost was not yet given; *because that Jesus was not yet glorified*" (Jn. 7:39). The spirit comes from the throne, from the risen, ascended, glorified Christ, pouring forth the victory, glory, and triumph of the Lamb! Now God is bringing *many sons* to this glory where they shall totally express the ministry of Jesus Christ in every aspect, where the fullness of the seven spirits of God shall find expression. When all the holy sons of God are manifest and the whole body of Christ moves in the fullness of the seven spirits, we will fulfill the promise of Jesus. He was only one man in one place, living and moving and ministering out of the spirit without measure; but when you have ten thousand over here and twenty thousand over there, and thousands more everywhere across the earth, every member of the Christ body functioning in the fullness of the seven spirits, it will bring to pass the Lord's words, "The works that I do shall ye do also, and greater works than these shall ye do, *because I go to the Father*" (Jn. 14:12).

As the firstborn son of God has the seven spirits of God as seven eyes and sees and knows all things, so the sons of God are experiencing the "eyes of enlightened understanding" to "know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward them that believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand" (Eph. 1:18-19). As the firstborn son of God has the seven spirits of God as seven horns and has all power and authority in

heaven and in earth, so the sons of God shall likewise have the fullness of power and shall do the “greater works.”

As the anointed body of Christ enters into the fullness of the seven spirits of God in this new kingdom day, great and glorious blessing shall surely pour forth upon the earth-realm. The hour is nigh at hand when the sons of God shall minister as none has ever ministered! What will make their ministry so unique and transcendent? The operation of the seven spirits in and through them! It matters not whether the sons simply speak the word or whether they appear before men in the power of resurrection, from them shall flow forth the mighty, deluging, irresistible floodtides of divine life, power, and glory upon all the ends of the earth. Little wonder that this day is described by the apostle Peter as “the times of the restitution of all things.” We have seen the gifts of the spirit in operation, and how we bless and magnify God for them, limited as they have been; but soon you will see the seven spirits of God begin to operate in the manifest sons of God! We have not yet seen this, despite the claims of some who presume that they have already entered into the fullness. I have heard all the claims of those who proclaim that they have arrived in the highest heaven and all their lower heavens have now passed away; those who declare that they have fully come out of Babylon and now stand on the heights of mount Zion, and all lesser realms and days are forever over; those who say they have experientially entered the fullness of the Day of the Lord, and they now dwell in the brightness of a full revelation and word; those who say they have already put on life and immortality and will never go by way of the grave; but I do not hesitate to tell you that I have not seen either in their lives or in their gatherings *even one thing* I have not seen in Pentecost for seventy years, nor have I heard one word of teaching or revelation that I have not heard a hundred times before in various “sonship” groups since the days of the Latter Rain outpouring in 1948. The rhetoric is powerful, but the manifestation is weak and beggarly! Yet, for those who meet the conditions and qualify for that mighty company of overcomers there awaits the spirit, given without measure to them, and the unimagined and yet incomprehensible ministry of the seven spirits of God!

The seven spirits of God are the seven spirits of *sonship*! They are the seven-fold intensified spirit of the Lord that rested upon the firstborn son of God. The seven spirits of sonship are enumerated by the prophet Isaiah who prophesied of God’s Christ, Head and body, “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*...and He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears: but with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth...the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den...for THE WHOLE EARTH SHALL BE FULL OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Isa. 11:2-9).

As the seven-fold intensified spirit of the Lord flows over the earth from the many-membered body of Christ, what peace, what joy, what blessedness this will result in for the earth-realm! What changes shall be wrought, what altering of attitudes, what changing of personalities, what transforming of lives! Imagine the human personalities and characteristics that are here symbolically likened to the wolf, the leopard, the lion, the bear, the asp, the cockatrice! And while God could certainly alter the whole constitution of the animal kingdom should He so choose, our present application of the type must be to the peace and life of the kingdom of God on a higher level where men of the most corrupt, wicked, and fierce dispositions have their natures so entirely transformed by the matchless grace and redeeming power of Christ that they live in love and righteousness with the meekest of men and those who formerly were an easy prey. Christ, who *is our peace*, came to establish PEACE IN THE HEARTS OF MEN! Thus the *asp* and the *cockatrice* (poisonous serpents) cease to be venomous, so that parents let their little children play with them. In other words, a “generation of vipers” shall be so converted and made a “seed of saints” that the “little ones” of the kingdom shall be trustingly committed into their care! Matchless grace! Glorious triumph! Wonderful peace! Mighty victory! “The seven spirits of God SENT FORTH INTO ALL THE EARTH.” Who would not desire it?

The following words by Paul Mueller bear eloquent testimony to this beautiful truth. “The coming of the kingdom of God to the earth is also the coming of the seven spirits of God to the earth. The coming of His seven spirits to the earth is also the coming of the presence of the Lord to the earth. And when the Lord’s presence comes to the earth, all the many millions of unbelievers and hardhearted Christ-rejecters in this world will simply melt in His presence. The hard, stony hearts of the unbelievers, skeptics, agnostics, and atheists will be melted by the presence of the Lord to become hearts of flesh (Eze. 11:19-20). Then they shall bow before the Lord, because of the greater power of the presence of the Lord, which has come ‘down’ to earth from the heavens of His Spirit. He who reigns over the multitudes of this world shall then be their Savior and their Lord, in truth and in reality. They shall then be transformed to become spirit, by the omnipotent Spirit of our God. This is not an impossible task, for we know His power! We know He is well able to do all this and more, for the seven spirits, which is all that He is, are greater than any other power!

“Here is a cause and a purpose in God that is greater than the church, greater far than any of the gifts of the Spirit, or a combination of them; it is greater than any of man’s ministries, and much greater than any personal call of God given to any individual. Here is a Purpose that demands everything from us, but which promises to return much more to us when it is fulfilled! Every apprehended and chosen son of God, within whose heart dwells the spirit of sonship, has been seeking for something greater than anything they have ever seen or witnessed in the past. I will never be proven wrong when I declare to you that THIS IS IT! The ultimate purpose and intention of our Father for the total control and dominion of this earth, and of the entire universe, is worth the absolute and complete surrender of our lives. And all who have received the glorious vision of the ever-increasing kingdom of our Father in the earth are making this positive commitment!

“I hereby renew my dedication to my Father in heaven! And I have purposed, by His grace, that I shall continue to walk this walk, and will talk this talk, writing the vision clearly, as the Spirit reveals it, so that all who read it may run with me to the appointed goal in Christ (Hab. 2:1-2). The vision He has given us promises absolute victory and involves no failure and no defeat. The reign of Christ on His Father’s throne in the kingdom of God shall triumph over all, to the glory of God! I want to be a part of that kingdom that shall overwhelm and overrule all the kingdoms of this world, and I know you do too!” — end quote.

In the day when the fullness of these seven spirits of God is realized in the body of Christ it shall also come to pass that “the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun (the glory of Christ) SHALL BE SEVENFOLD, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of His people, and healeth the stroke of their wound (removes the curse)” (Isa. 30:26). What a promise! The glory of Christ, who is the “*sun* of righteousness,” will be seven times brighter and more glorious than any revival or moving of the Spirit God the church has experienced since Jesus ascended to heaven. God’s promise is the sending forth of the glory of Christ, not in the single light of the man Christ Jesus, nor in the double portion of the Spirit, nor yet in the former and latter rain in the first month, but AS THE LIGHT OF SEVEN DAYS CONCENTRATED IN ONE!

All of us are thankful to God for what we have known of His power, we rejoice with joy unspeakable for every evidence of His manifest glory today, and we honor everyone who is demonstrating any measure of the life of God and accomplishing anything to His glory; but to break the dominion of sin and satan and ignorance and death over the nations in this hour of overshadowing gloom and darkness will require a SEVENFOLD REVELATION OF THE LOVE AND POWER OF GOD! Nothing God is doing in the lesser realms today can get the job done. God intends to send forth this sevenfold brightness of His life, light, love, grace, glory, righteousness, peace, joy, and power. For this, my beloved, God is shaping the nations and preparing His elect in this great hour!

When the sons of God are manifested more people will come to Christ and salvation than have from Pentecost until now. As the new age dawns every village, town, and city in every nation will have been visited by the manifestation of the glory of God through His sons. Every living person will encounter the power of God! The knowledge of the Lord will fill the earth, and many entire nations will be converted to Him. As strange and impossible as it may seem today, the state of Israel and the country of Russia will be among the first to be transformed by the power of God’s Christ! That is the clear word that God has spoken in my spirit. The magnitude of this sonship ministry cannot be measured by anything that has been before. Even nature itself will be infused with life and transformation as creation begins to be released from the bondage of corruption. These results will be obtained without church meetings, revival crusades, healing campaigns, deliverance services, television programs, outreaches, missionary projects, literature distribution, or any of the methods, teachings, and programs of the church systems. This ministry will not stand in the wisdom of men’s words, but in supernatural power and unparalleled demonstrations of the Holy Spirit.

The sons will walk in unlimited power and authority. Men will no longer look back wistfully at the early church and historic moves of God because of the exploits of those days, beseeching God to “do it again.” All will recognize that He certainly has saved the best wine for last! The most glorious times in the world’s history lie just before us. The magnitude of this unveiling of the glory of God’s Christ will astonish even the most optimistic believers. Miracles which exceed even the greatest Biblical marvels will cause whole nations to bow before the authority of God’s sons! The sons of God will speak a word to men, or lay their hand upon them, and the power of God will come upon even the most ignorant, rebellious, or vile of men; they will tremble and shake and break and weep and magnify and glorify God as the revelation of the Christ of God is revealed in their minds and hearts. Habits and thought patterns and fleshly lusts and demonic bondages will be broken instantly as they are washed clean and made pure by the blood of the Lamb. The visible glory of the Lord will appear upon multitudes of people, and power will flow out from them to convict, deliver, and transform all who come into their presence. The cloud and pillar of fire that hovered over Israel in the wilderness will not even compare to the intense presence of the Lord in these days! Never has the Lord Himself been as personal and intimate with His people as He will be at this time. The whole world will stand on tiptoe continually, wondering each day what great wonders they will behold.

Wondrous things await the people of God, things that it is not possible for a man to utter. We do not know, we may not know all that awaits us. But enough is known, enough is revealed, to wean us from the things of earth, from the priorities of religion, from the concerns of time, and fill our souls with rapture on account of the extraordinary vision. For He hath “made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him...that we should be to the praise of His glory...and...that in the ages to come He might show (display through us) the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Jesus Christ” (Eph. 1:9-12; 2:7). We are now come to the dispensation of the fullness of times! This dispensation was yet future in Paul’s day, he pointed to it and to the comprehensive work of restoration God would do in it; and we also know it was yet future in Paul’s day because *it has never yet come to pass*. But it is now upon us with its power and glory! The world has never yet seen anything like that which shall take place when God’s sons are manifest in this dispensation of the fullness of times! The transformation of the saints is the next event in the commencement of this Day.

I will close this message by quoting from a vision given to Pastor John Hinkle some years ago.

“On October 18, early in the morning, God gave me the most powerful vision I’ve ever had. Suddenly, I was in this gigantic football stadium with the game going on. I do not know where it was or who was playing. I only heard the announcer say that over 80,000 people were in the stadium. As I watched, in the next split second of time, the Holy Spirit came as Light (I believe this was the manifest sons of God — Preston) and seemed to stand beside everyone in that stadium. The Holy Spirit was not *in them*, but was beside them. Instantly, everything stopped. The game ceased, for in that moment God had shown

everyone individually just where he stood on the pathway of life and eternity in relationship to the glory of God, or to evil and eternal darkness. It was so awesome. It is impossible to describe. The players, the officials, and everybody in the stadium were on their faces weeping and crying out to God, either for His mercy or for the joy of seeing the glory of heaven revealed, according to whether they believed or did not believe.

“Again, let me say, the Holy Spirit was *beside each one*, and He showed them exactly where they were on the pathway of their present life, moving either toward darkness or Light. It was as if God had caused time to stand still for a few moments and everyone looked into eternity. Everyone knew it was God, and they knew that they knew it! There was no doubt left anywhere. It was as if God stripped away every deception that man had let come into his life, and there he stood before the *reality of life* as revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. *There was no condemnation from the Lord and there was no judgment, but it was God reaching out to everyone in His love* to let them see just where they stood on the true pathway of life, and whether they were going toward evil or God, and there was no doubt in anyone’s mind that *it was God*. I also knew at this moment that it was happening *worldwide*. No one looked to his right or his left. He was not concerned about anyone else, but only his personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. He knew in that moment beyond all shadow of doubt that Jesus Christ was King of kings and Lord of lords.

“The scene changed and I was looking at the stock exchange, and everyone in it was on their face before God, crying out either for mercy or for more of His righteousness and glory to rule in their life. Everything in the whole world paused for that moment! How long the pause was, I do not know. Just a few moments, I assume, but it was enough. The people on the streets of every city in the world were on their faces and everyone was shown that if they believed in less than Jesus Christ, *they had been deceived*. All shortcomings were exposed in the light of His love, and mercy and forgiveness awaited those who truly repented and wanted eternal glory in Him.

“Tens of thousands of people began to head for the churches, and the churches were filled to overflowing, *but there were no services as we know them*, because every minister, priest, and rabbi was on his face before the Lord, for he, too, had had his very soul exposed totally to the glory of God and he realized his own shortcomings and wanted more and more of the Lord Himself. Every person in the world knew in that moment that he had a choice to make. God did not force, and again, let me emphasize that there was *no condemnation and there was no judgment*. There was just the darkness of man exposed to the glory and the love of God for him.

“Immediately following this, the Lord gave me Isaiah 40:5 as a confirmation of all that was going on. It says, *‘And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed **and all flesh shall see it together.**’* All flesh was seeing it! Every believer’s heart was so lifted up because he had seen the glory of God that went beyond anything that he could even imagine or conceive, and he knew that it was the power of the Holy Spirit that was revealing it to him and calling him into a new righteous relationship with God. He knew that this was *in spite of his mistakes* and that the blood of the cross had set him free and would set him free to continue on.

“It is my personal belief that this is going to happen soon for the whole world. God did not mention a date, but scripture speaks of it and I believe it will be happening soon, for I see clearly now that only the Spirit of the Living God can change the world. Jesus Christ is still King of kings and Lord of lords, and no matter how dark it looks in the world, the power of God can change it, and will change it in one great burst of His glory if He so chooses to do it that way. Praise God that we are all in the palm of His hand and the reality of Jesus Christ as our new life in Him is being revealed momentarily to every believer!” — end quote.

Should any reader of these lines doubt that our God can or would manifest Himself in such a measure, let us remember Saul of Tarsus, on the road to Damascus, suddenly experiencing the brightness of the glory of the Lord! He was blinded by the dazzling glory and fell from his horse. He cried out, “Who art Thou, Lord?” And the voice came from the Light, saying, “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest!” In a moment of time Saul was wonderfully and completely transformed to become perhaps the greatest apostle of Jesus Christ during the church age! Brother Hinkle said later that in the moment that this great power of the Spirit came upon every person in the whole world, it was like *each individual had an experience with the Lord*. Oh, yes! If the Lord Jesus can change and transform *one man* through the revelation of His glory, is it an unthinkable thing that He could convert *six billion* people in the same way? Just as our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saul of Tarsus in the manifestation of glory, it is my deep conviction that this greater, worldwide manifestation of glory will come at the ***manifestation of the sons of God***.

Isaiah looked forward to this Day with intense anticipation and described the glory of its dawning in this way, “Then shall THY LIGHT BREAK FORTH AS THE MORNING, and thy health (full salvation) shall spring forth *speedily*: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward” (Isa. 58:8).

Chapter 80

THE UNIVERSAL SONG

“And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and four and twenty elders *fell down before the Lamb*” (Rev. 5:8).

God’s kings and priests fall down in adoration and worship of the Lamb, but beyond this they bow on behalf of all creation! “Break the seals, open the book, release the Christ within us, bring forth the manifestation of the Son, loose that sonship ministry unto which we have been called and destined” is the unutterable cry of their hearts. This longing of God’s elect is graphically expressed in the words of the chorus given by the Spirit:

Thou mighty Christ, come forth in me;
My will, my way, I yield to Thee
The barren sings a travailing song,
O praise His name, it won’t be long!

THE HARPS

“And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, *having every one of them harps*” (Rev. 5:8).

The Greek word translated “harps” is *kitharan*, a word which is etymologically related to our English word “guitar.” It refers to an instrument which was triangular in shape, having from seven to twelve strings. “At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee” (Ps. 119:62). “I will also praise Thee with the psaltery, even Thy truth, O Lord my God: unto Thee will I sing *with the harp*, O Thou Holy One of Israel” (Ps. 71:22). Arising at midnight while the earth was silent and still, king David would place his small wooden harp over his heart and gently put his ear to the wood. As he began to pluck the strings with his fingers, the vibrations echoed through the harp and into his heart, shaking loose the perception of distance between himself and God. Closing his eyes, he would begin to play whatever music came to him, thoughts and words moving through his mind in harmony with the melodies. This music came in waves from within his spirit and overflowed onto the strings of the harp, and from there out into the universe. He became one with the music, and one with God.

As a shepherd long before he became Israel’s king, David had been known as “the sweet singer of Israel.” His psalms were personal songs of faith and love in the darkest times of his life as well as the grandest. They were composed from the depths of his heart, and fortunately their words were written into the Bible, where we can read them every day. But what about the music? Can you imagine what it would be like to hear a recording of king David himself playing his harp and singing the psalms? The music, too, survived — for a while. King David’s special melodies and words went on to be taught to the Levites who played in the orchestra of the temple in Jerusalem. They were played and sung faithfully,

at least twice every day, for hundreds of years until the temple was destroyed and Jerusalem razed to the ground.

As sometimes happens after long periods of time, the instruments changed form. The kinnor (lyre) gradually changed into a violin, and the harp evolved into the large orchestra harp we have today, complete with gold leaf overlay and pedals. These are both very beautiful instruments with amazing sounds, but they are connected no longer to the intention and purpose of the original harps of Israel, which were tools for prayer, prophecy, and transformation.

We must remember, of course, that the vision John saw was given in symbols. This means that just as the seven horns on the Lamb declare that Jesus Christ has all power, and not that He has suddenly turned into a four-legged monstrosity with seven horns, so, here, there is a message in the fact that the four living creatures (kings) and the twenty-four elders (priests) have every one of them harps. First of all this melodious instrument reveals the great truth that we, as God's elect, are called and chosen to be instruments of praise in which there will be found only perfect tuning. There will be no more of the carnal discord of egocentricity, professional form, and fleshly zeal which has marred our praise. Our spirits, perfectly tuned to the will and way of our Father, will sound a perfect unison with all of creation. As we ascend into the throne zone in our high calling in Christ, there is no dissonance in that glorious rendition, for every fiber of our being vibrates with the praise of the Lamb who has redeemed us and made us kings and priests unto God!

Secondly, the idea is not that every one will one day go to heaven and learn to play a harp, but that there is a realm in God where our entire nature and being throbs with heavenly harmonies, for the strings of our inner son are perfectly in tune with the mind and heart of our Father, because of the mighty transformation wrought by the life of the indwelling Lamb. As this is accomplished in us we all begin to fulfill the injunction of the psalm which says, "Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. Praise the Lord with harp: sing unto Him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. Sing unto Him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise. For the word of the Lord is right; and all His works are done in truth" (Psalm 33:1-4). You say, "But I can't sing and I don't know how to play the harp or any of those other instruments." That's *not the message!* The "harp" is a symbol of perfect praise pouring forth from all of God's elect. And not merely the *act of praising*, but the very *becoming a praise* and the *being of praise*, as it is written, "Ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give Him no rest, till He establish, and till He *make Jerusalem a praise* in the earth" (Isa. 62:6-7). Again, "So have I caused to cleave unto me the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah (praise), saith the Lord; that they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and *for a praise*, and for a glory..." (Jer. 13:11). Yet again, "Having predestinated us unto placement as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself...*to the praise of the glory* of His grace...in whom also we have obtained an inheritance...that *we should be to the praise of His glory*" (Eph. 1:5,6,11,12).

Harps were used in Israel with singing and dancing to express joy in the presence of the Lord. One example of this is in the second book of Samuel where we read, "And David

and all the house of Israel played before the Lord on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps...and David danced before the Lord with all his might...so David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet” (II Sam. 6:5,14,15).

The harp in scripture is also symbolic of the prophetic ministry. As the incense connects with the priest’s ministry, so the harp connects with the prophet’s! We read that the prophet Samuel informed king Saul, “Thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place, with a psaltery, and a tabret, *and a harp before them*, and they shall prophesy” (I Sam. 10:5). We read that king David set apart the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, “*who prophesied with a harp*” (I Chron. 25:1-3). And in Psalms 49:4 we read, “*I will open my dark sayings upon the harp.*” The harp, therefore, is symbolic of the prophetic ministry in the highest sense of the word! Thus, the holding up of these incense prayers and the prophetic harps together before the Lamb as He takes the book out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne is both the prayer and the prophecy contained in the *new song* which they sing, declaring their kingship and priesthood and the great truth that they shall reign over the earth (Rev. 5:10). It is also the prayer and the prophecy pointing to the *universal song of all creation* proclaiming blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever! (Rev. 5:13). It is the prayer and the prophecy proclaiming the great truth that God’s company of king-priests shall bring the triumph of God’s kingdom to pass in all realms of the heavens, the earth, and the underworld! It is truly wonderful!

It is interesting to note that when Israel was in the Babylonian captivity, their harps were silent (Ps. 137:2). That the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders, God’s king-priests, are seen bowing before the Lamb while playing the harps of God indicates the fullness of the joy of the Lord in their hearts, as well as their prophetic and creative word unto creation. By the victory of the Lamb they have joyfully and authoritatively entered into their ministry from the throne of God to deliver and restore *all things*. These victorious overcomers are seen celebrating the true joy and power of the kingdom of God! They are experiencing within themselves the reality of the kingdom which is righteousness, peace, and *joy in the holy Ghost!* With kingdom joy, vision, and power they are ready to reign!

The harp is mentioned several times in the book of Revelation and in chapter 14:1-2 we read, “And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father’s name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of *harpers harping with their harps.*” In this passage we find this great company standing with their Redeemer upon mount Zion. Zion, of course, represents the very highest position attainable in the kingdom of God! Such are the ruling class in the capital city, the New Jerusalem, prefigured by king David who dwelt on the natural mount Zion of old. And this company standing with their Lord can represent nothing other than they who have followed the Lamb experientially all the way from the death of mount Calvary to the power and glory of mount Zion, and will now reign with Him upon His throne for evermore (II Tim. 2:12; Rom. 8:17).

The hundred and forty-four thousand on mount Zion are said to have “His Father’s name written in their foreheads” in distinction to those who, in Revelation 13:16, take the mark of the beast in their foreheads. The mark of the beast denotes that those who bear it have subscribed to the mind — the doctrines, ways, methods, spirit, blasphemy, idolatry, and nature of the bestial system of this world, including the carnal, man-made, religious systems. Therefore the mark which these hundred and forty-four thousand bear denotes that they are not defiled with the antichrist doctrines, philosophies, methods, and shame, but are in every respect perfected in the divine nature and the will of their heavenly Father.

Accompanying this company of the manifest sons of God is heard the *voice of harpers harping with their harps*. Just as in chapter five of the Revelation, these sons of God are filled to overflowing with the fullness of the joy of the Lord and the song of praise unto God and the Lamb! In all these symbols we see that joy, rejoicing, prayer, praise, and worship are all a vital part of *reigning!* We will understand the deep significance of this more and more as we look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith “who for the *joy* that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is *set down at the right hand of the throne of God*” (Heb. 12:2).

Some time ago the following prophecy came forth, declaring, “For surely men fill balloons with helium, and the balloons rise, and bear men up into the air to great heights. And as they ascend, and cast out their ballast, they ascend even higher. What they have done, and the heights to which they ascend, is not because men have lost the pull of gravity, but because they have hitched themselves to a heaven-bound substance, and have cast aside the weights that hold them to the earth. So, my people, I would say unto thee, cast aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset, and hitch thyself to the heaven-bound substance that will bring thee into my presence. For I would say unto thee that *praise* is heaven-bound! It is directed toward the throne! It has a power and a force that will carry it to the throne! And in the midst of thy praise, thou shalt find thyself being lifted into the heavenlies, casting aside every weight, every condemnation and guilt. In the midst of thy praise thou art lifted into the heavenlies. I would bring thee up, and *have* brought thee into heavenly places where thou hast known in thy spirit newness of life, where thou hast found a new dimension of the Spirit. The hour is at hand when I have a people that through their praises shall rise into the heavenlies. And as they cast aside every weight, they shall rise even higher *into the throne!* And as their praises become heated up, ascending up into the heavenlies, SO SHALL THEY ASCEND HIGHER INTO THEIR GOD!”

Before we speak further about reigning with Christ, let us open our hearts that God may speak to us and show us the ways of His throneship. Many years ago the Lord spoke suddenly and powerfully to me, saying, “I have N-O-T COMMANDED YOU TO PRAISE ME!” I was astonished, incredulous, speechless at His word! In my understanding I was absolutely certain that God *had repeatedly commanded* us to praise Him! I rushed home, got my Strong’s Concordance, and began a search of all the scriptures on praise. How clearly then the truth dawned on me! Yes — we are commanded to praise — but, with the exception of the first commandment (and we are not under the law of the ministration of death written and engraven in stones) the command

was not issued by GOD! Instead, *men of God*, caught up in the Spirit of God, beholding in spirit the splendor, beauty, glory, and majesty of God, cried out in spirit, “*Praise ye the Lord!*” I quickly discerned the pattern. It is never God speaking in the first person, declaring, “I command you — worship Me!” There is no such command anywhere in the word of God! God speaks of worship and praise, not in terms of an imperative. It is always the man of God, with the veil drawn back from his vision, getting a glimpse of the Lord of Glory, as the prophet Isaiah said, “In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord...high and lifted up.” He *saw* the Lord, high and lifted up! We can only ascend into the heights of God by first *seeing* our great and mighty God high and lifted up! As we see Him high and lifted up in the heavens of God’s Spirit, worship and praise are the natural response from every obedient heart. That, my beloved, is the *beginning* of all true worship and praise!

This is what is happening in the lives of God’s called and chosen elect in this significant hour! Have not the heavens been opened to us? Have we not beheld the beauty of the Lord, and have we not inquired of Him in His temple? Oh, yes! We have *seen* the Lord in and by the Spirit, high and lifted up, with His train filling the temple. We have beheld the beauty of the Christ within, and now we worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Notice especially the three ingredients in the new song sung by the hundred and forty-four thousand. “And I heard a voice from heaven *as the voice of many waters*, and as the voice of a *great thunder*: and I heard the voice of *harpers harping with their harps*” (Rev. 14:2). Many waters, great thunder, and the harping of harps! The many waters speak of volume, a great company of sons; great thunder speaks of mighty power, and harps speak of the prophetic flow in worship and praise. The message is clear — there is power in the prophetic praise of God’s elect!

In fact, the passage where those beautiful words are found, “*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,*” is taken from the Psalm which describes a *great thunderstorm* that sweeps off of the Mediterranean and crashes over the hills of Lebanon and down into Judea, wrecking havoc on every side. David, the psalmist, tells us that here the majesty and the power and might of God was revealed in the crashing lightning and the clap of thunder. Here we see the power of God’s arm which is stretched forth through the prophetic worship and praise of His people! The many waters, the clapping thunder, and the harping of harps are all symbols of the power of prophetic praise! And it is this mighty power of prophetic praise that devastates the carnality of the earth realm in preparation for the revelation of the glory of God.

Let us consider again for a moment the fact that God does not generally command us to worship or praise Him. We could easily understand how God who made us could order us to do what He wants us to do. After all, He is our Creator! We could even understand how He could command us to say what we should say or even to think what He would have us to think. And He does, indeed, do that. The spirit of inspiration has taught us that every thought should be brought into captivity to the obedience of Jesus Christ. But, to go into that innermost closet, that deepest recess of the human heart of our love and affection and to say that we *must love*, and to say that we *must praise*, to command us *to worship*, seems to be a contradiction in terms.

Yea, it is more than that! Were God to force us to worship and praise Him He would thereby display the most proud, egotistical, conceited, self-centered, and vainglorious personality in the universe! Have you never met an egoistic, self-seeking person reeking with the odor of their own self-importance? I have known men who were obsessed with their importance and power who manipulated others to constantly fawn before them and heap flattery upon them. There is something in me that has always detested such and found them among the most despicable specimens of manhood. Shall we now attribute such contemptible characteristics to the great and glorious God? Can you imagine a man saying to his wife, “Thou shalt bow before me, thou must pay homage to me, thou shalt love me, thou must adore me, thou must obey me, and thou must rehearse in my ears continually how great and handsome and wonderful I am!” What kind of love and affection would a woman give to a man like that? Yet, we have heard the notion taught that God is good and He knows He is good; that God is holy and knows He is holy; that God is great and knows He is great; that God is omnipotent and knows He is omnipotent; therefore He is justified in commanding our respect, love, and praise. But what is worship? It is simply man’s **response** to the REVELATION OF GOD! When we truly *see God as He is* we will worship Him and our worship will be in direct proportion to the clarity of our vision of Him. God has no need to command us to worship — He reveals Himself for what He is! That is why the law covenant has been done away, it is weak through the flesh, and man *cannot perform* in obedience to an outward commandment. It doesn’t work! But the response of all who behold the King in His beauty is ever the same — the revelation redounds in blessing and honor and glory unto God because He is the ***all-glorious and altogether lovely One!*** He is ***worthy!*** Worship is man’s response, not God’s command. And the response of the man to whom the Lord has truly unveiled Himself is as natural and spontaneous as breathing!

Contrary to what the great masses of Christians believe, praise is not an instrument by which we can “get” things from God — it is our response to His reality within ourselves. The Psalms are inspired songs of praise. Praise, not pity. That is the repeated message found in the Psalms! Praise for the goodness and greatness of God and for the constant care He gives His creation runs deep throughout the book. It carries, also, the spirit of a deep devotion to God, and a willingness to trust Him in any circumstance. It overflows with testimony of God’s love, His faithfulness, His righteousness. The truths found in the Psalms reveal God’s undying love and unfailing care for man. But they do it in a special way — through praise! As it says in Psalm 107, “*O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!*”

Praise, of course, is not something we plug into so that things will work out for us. The very thought, “*Praise God!*” recognizes the presence and power of God right where we are. As someone has written, “God is not moved by the breath of praise to do more than He has already done, nor can the Infinite do less than bestow all good, since He is unchanging wisdom and love.” Praising God, then, isn’t meant to *persuade Him* to help us. That is how little children think, and conspiring, manipulative women who through flirtations and flattery obtain favors from men. We do not approach God in that false, fleshly, devious manner! Praise, rather, lifts our burdens by opening our eyes to God’s

presence within us, and we gain a fresh perspective by discerning the true character of our heavenly Father.

Can praise actually help us in practical ways? Not if we're trying to *use praise as a technique*. But if our praise is the spontaneous outpouring of joy and gladness as we become more and more conscious of God's Life, Light, and Love, then praise does have a practical impact on our life, for God inhabits the praise of His people and there is the revelation of HIMSELF! Praise does its work *in us*, not in God! As we ascend into the heights of God on the wings of prayer and praise we begin to "*Praise the Lord from the heavens and praise Him from the heights*" (Ps. 148:1). It is in our ascension to the **throne zone**, where we join in the voice as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder, and as the voice of harpers harping with their harps, that we begin to rule and reign as heavenly kings upon mount Zion, declaring that creative word of the Lord through prophetic worship and praise which has the power to break every yoke, delivering and transforming all creation. Oh, the wonder of it!

The inspired Evelyn Isaacs wrote, "The land of the miraculous is our native land. If people would continue praising Him they would enter into the unceasing *praise of the spirit*. It is then, all the powers of gravity would lose their hold and men would ascend from plane to plane. There is no space in heaven, on earth, or underneath the earth where spirit is not! It has no dimension, and goes beyond the extremest point of the imagination. There can be no greater fullness than that of spirit, nor can there be any greater height or depth. No mortal mind or eye can scan immortal heights, neither can depths be plumbed. No substance can bring greater expression than that of spirit for its immensity and density are unscanned. No space is devoid of that which is substance, so we may cease reasoning with the finite mind and rise to the infinite. Those who are flooded with the spirit, are not ordinary men, and unless God's people are moved into the place to which they are called, they too will die" — end quote.

In another place in the Revelation (8:3-4) the voice of many waters, the voice of great thunder, and the harpers harping with their harps is presented under another figure, that of incense offered upon the golden altar, and the smoke of the incense ascending up before God. All the sacrifices of the heavenly realm into which God's elect are now translated are *spiritual sacrifices*. The altar upon which the spiritual sacrifices are offered is Christ Himself, as it is written, "BY HIM therefore let us offer the *sacrifice of praise* continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with *such sacrifices* God is well pleased" (Heb. 13:15-16). The "sacrifice of praise" in no way infers that we must consistently and persistently mouth words of praise and thanksgiving unto God when we in no way *feel* like doing so. That is the idea many people have! They feel they must "wring" some praises out of their soulish senses in order to offer a "sacrifice" of praise to God. To the contrary, the sacrifice of praise must be the very BEST of our powers, like the lamb without blemish, painstakingly selected and carefully and reverently brought to the Tabernacle door. In the awesomeness of His presence and glory we launch joyfully down our little rivulet, until we are borne out into the great ocean of praise, which is ever breaking in music around the person of Jesus.

Praise is one of the greatest acts of which we are capable; and it is the transcendent service of heaven and the throne. In that blessed realm of spirit God's kings and priests ask for naught, for they have all and abound; but throughout the cycles of glory the inhabitants of those bright worlds fill them with praise. We are the priests of creation; it becomes us to gather up and express the sentiments of the Father's will for all men and to speak them by the creative power of prophetic worship and praise. Mighty things begin to happen on earth when we speak out of the heavens of God's Spirit! "And the angel took the censer, and filled it with *fire of the altar*, and cast it into the earth: and there were *voices* (the *prophetic word* of the Lord), and *thunderings* (the *power* of the word), and *lightnings* (the *illumination* of the word), and an *earthquake* (mighty shaking and change in the earth realm)" (Rev. 8:5). The worship and praise of the order of sons is not essentially that which is offered in the assembling of the saints, in which much is often soulish instead of spiritual, but it is the constant outraying of the nature, love, grace, mercy, and power of God in all and unto all. This is the greatest of all spiritual sacrifices! And by the power of these spiritual sacrifices everything in our earth, and in that earth outside of us, shall be wondrously changed and restored back into God again!

THE SYMPHONY OF LIFE

A brother related the following experience. "When I first went to Nashville, Tennessee, some friends, thinking they were doing me a favor, called me and said, 'We have tickets for the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra that's coming to town, and we want to take you as our guest.' Well, I love music, but I know nothing about it, and I can't sing it — I always help congregational singing by keeping quiet. Frankly, I couldn't think of anything more boring than a whole evening of symphony! But I had to go because they were so kind and I wanted to be polite, so I accepted graciously and went along.

"I had never been to a thing like that before, and I was impressed by what I saw. We went in, took our seats, and in a few minutes there began to drift out from the sides the musicians. They were in shirt sleeves for the most part, and each man went up to his instrument and started tuning it. The fellows with the fiddles too big to put under their chins sawed back and forth — oh, it sounded terrible. The fellows with the little ones they put under their chins squeaked up and down with those. The ones with the horns — oh my, nothing was in harmony. It was a medley of discordant, confused noise. Then after they got through with that kind of a disturbance, they all disappeared again, went out through the wings.

"Another five minutes went by when all of a sudden the lights in the auditorium went off, the lights on the platform came on, and the musicians walked out. This time they had on their coats. My, they looked so nice. Each one came out and stood or sat at his instrument. Then there was a hush in the auditorium, a spotlight was focused on the wings, and the conductor stepped out. When he did there was thunderous applause for him. He bowed. Then he came to the podium and picked up a thin little stick. He turned around again to the audience and bowed, then turned his back to the audience, lifted that little stick — total silence came over the auditorium, you could have heard a pin drop — then he brought that little stick down. And, my friend, there were goose pimples all over me. I

never heard such music in all my life. Oh, what harmony, what wonderful harmony there was!” — end quote.

I tell you today God is preparing His sons for the greatest symphony the world has ever heard, a symphony of divine wisdom, omnipotent power, and unconditional, unbounded love. The sons themselves will be the symphony! All the chords of God’s nature, wisdom, and power will be struck in them. At this present time, as God is fine-tuning our lives, it seems as if every man is tooting his own horn, everyone is playing his own little fiddle; it sounds like everything is out of tune, a medley of discord. But as God deals in our lives, teaching us His ways, writing His laws in our hearts, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, establishing His will and transforming our beings, He is creating within each of us a chord of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus. Our minds and our souls are now being renewed, through repentance, by the Spirit of God. Through the crucible of daily experience by the dealings of our Father we are learning to perceive and fully understand by the wisdom of the mind of Christ instead of thinking with old Adam’s carnal mind. As God by His refining fire purges out of us the trusting in our own strength, our confidence in the flesh, the inbred mentality of Babylonish religion, and the spirit of the world, what a raucous screeching is emitted from our lives!

We all seem so different, and Father’s purposes in us appear disparate. What a motley crew the sons of God appear to be today! But you, precious friend of mine, are an instrument designed to be a channel of Life, Light, and Love. And Jesus Christ is the Master Conductor, and wants to play the strings of emotions and thoughts and desires and nature within you until you become a son indeed, the Song of the Lord in the midst of the earth. Your life, when it is hid with Christ in God, becomes a beautiful thing; your thoughts and actions all in unison with God are running along the lines that lead to God, for they diverge not. When the hour strikes for the unveiling of God’s sons, Jesus Christ the Lord is going to lift His Scepter — oh, the harmony that will sound forth from all His many brethren! Then the world shall see the fullness of Christ, which includes Christ the Head, and Christ the body, in all the life and glorious harmony of the kingdom of God!

Every knee on this globe, and in the heavens above, and in the underworld, shall bow before the majesty of the glory of the Lord as they awaken to hear the pure melodies of the harmony of God in His sons. Never again will they be satisfied with the discordant notes of this world’s pleasures and programs, nor the off-beat of the religious systems of man. As they hear the pure song that flows from the heart of God in His sons, all men shall hunger and thirst to be filled with the same, the harmonious chord of the righteousness, peace, and joy of the kingdom of God. We have not yet witnessed the glory of God’s manifestation in the way it is going to be expressed! We have not seen the hand of God move in the way it is going to move! The Lord spoke through prophecy years ago, at the time of a mighty move of His Spirit, and said that He was moving by His *little finger*, and I tell you when He moved that little finger there were tremendous things that happened, glorious things took place. But now — just think of the glory that shall come when He moves by His *hand* and makes bare His holy *arm*!

I read the story of a young man who happened to visit a church one Sunday. He listened to the church service and heard an organ offertory played — a Bach toccata. When the service was finished, the young man inquired as to whether he could play the organ. “Oh no! Only our church organist is permitted to play that instrument.” But the young man persisted. Finally, they agreed to let him play one piece of music. He looked over the stops, carefully set them, and then he played the same number that was played for the offertory, a Bach toccata. There were still people lingering around. They listened — enthralled, and when he finished, everybody applauded. The organist asked the young visitor, “What is your name?” He said, “My name is Johann Sebastian Bach. I wrote that music!” And the organist exclaimed, “Oh, to think that we almost would not let the master himself play the instrument! Only now have we heard the real music come out.” YOU, dear one, are the very *harp of God* to be played from the theater of the throne of God! The Master Musician is now arising within all of God’s sons. He offers us the harmonies that He alone can create. He, the firstborn Son, is leading us to mount Zion where the divine symphony appears to fill the earth with the strains of the celestial song, and to fill all creation with the universal song. As we allow Christ His place within, every drop of blood is singing the praise of God; every pulsation of heart is a joyful harmony keeping steady time. The Conductor of this Symphony knows every part and every player and is able to execute all phases to its grand conclusion. Discord only enters when we take our eyes off the Conductor or mistake another player’s notes for our own.

GOLDEN VIALS FULL OF ODORS

“And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and *golden vials full of odors*, which are the prayers of the saints” (Rev. 5:8).

The word translated “vial” is better rendered “bowl.” The present day use of the word vial usually relates to a small, slender bottle. The word in the Greek text is *phialas* and refers to a flatish, and rather broad vessel, used for both drinking and priestly services. In the Septuagint the Greek word *phialas* is used to translate the Hebrew word for the flat bowls used in the tabernacle of Moses and the temple in Jerusalem. The throne room where this vision takes place is none other than the most holy place of the heavenly, spiritual temple of God by the Spirit! Therefore we may understand that these golden bowls which are described as being “full of odors” are the antitype of the utensils used by the priesthood to contain incense for worship. This is in keeping with the definition of the “odors” spoken of in our text, for it is stated plainly that they are symbolic of the prayers of the saints. The “odors,” therefore, are the pleasant scents of the incense rising from the golden receptacle in the hand of the priest. Since the elect, represented figuratively in this vision as the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders, are a “royal priesthood” or a company of “king-priests,” this is in keeping with their possessing golden bowls that exude sweet incense. It is significant to note that in Luke 1:9-10 the incense was burned at the time of prayer, for incense is a type of the prayers of the saints!

In this connection the words of brother Paul Mueller are so filled with depth and inspiration: “We are told that our prayers are kept and preserved as odors, or as incense, in

‘golden vials’ in the realm of the Spirit. Every prayer we have ever prayed by the Spirit and in the will of God, is preserved as incense in golden vials in the heavenlies. Some of us have come to the place, spiritually, where we have no words of our own to pray. We do not know what to pray for as we ought, so we allow the holy Spirit to pray for us. And when the Spirit makes intercession for us, we can only lament *‘with groanings which cannot be uttered’* (Rom. 8:26). The Spirit is then making *‘intercession for the saints according to the will of God’* (Rom. 8:27). And this Spirit-begotten intercession is being kept as incense in those ‘golden vials’ in the heavenly realm of the Spirit, to be answered in Father’s time.

“Perhaps the most urgent, spiritual prayer expressed by the intercession of the saints is this prayer from the words of Jesus: *‘Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven’* (Mat. 6:10). In this brief and simple prayer, every need of mankind and of the whole creation is presented before the Father. When the kingdom fully comes to earth, and God’s will is done everywhere and in every situation, there will be no need, no lack, anywhere. But all mankind and the whole creation shall then know the salvation of the Lord, and the peace, joy, righteousness, and love of God. Every need we have is met in the kingdom of God! This truth will be borne out and fully manifested when the will of God is done in all the earth. When we fully comprehend this great truth, we will cease our vain, religious babblings, and will then seek His kingdom, and for His will to be done in our earth, as well as in the earth all around us” — end quote.

When by the grace of God the truth of this holy vision bursts upon you, you will know assuredly that every prayer you have ever prayed by the Spirit and in the will of God, is preserved as incense in those “golden bowls” in the heavenly realm of the Spirit. They are not merely “preserved,” but are reserved unto the day when **THEY WILL BE ANSWERED!** Every one will be answered! God has a time for everything under the sun, and I can assure you, my beloved, matters not what thing, small or great, that you have interceded for in and by the Spirit — it shall be done! No matter whether it is done today, tomorrow, a year from now, twenty years from now, or in some distant time and age, every prayer is reserved in the golden bowl in the heavenlies, the incense arises continuously as a sweet savor in the nostrils of the Lord, and that word shall accomplish all that has been spoken. Some have prayed for the salvation of loved ones, for the move of God in some life or people or nation, or any one of a thousand other things, and the loved ones have died, and other situations look hopeless, yet our Father has every one of those prayers reserved unto *His time* for their fulfillment, and not one of them shall fail. Aren’t you glad!

THE NEW SONG

“And they sung a *new song...*” (Rev. 5:9).

There is a very real relationship between the golden bowls of incense which represent the prayers and praise of the saints, and the “new song.” In the temple worship at Jerusalem, in the days of Christ, there was a distinct relationship between the offering up of incense within the holy place and the worshipper outside. A word of command was given when the time of incense arrived and the worshippers fell in absolute silence before the Lord,

spreading their hands in supplication and adoration. Then, as the priest offered the holy incense upon the golden altar, the priests and people in the outer court chanted the traditional prayer, "It is true that Thou art Yahweh, our God and the God of our fathers: our King and the King of our fathers; our Saviour and the Rock of our salvation; our Help and our Deliverer. Thy name is from everlasting, and beside Thee there is no God. A NEW SONG did those who were delivered sing unto Thy name by the shore of the sea. Together did all praise and confess Thee as King, and say, Yahweh who saveth Israel shall reign."

"They sung" in the text should be rendered "they sing," present tense, denoting continuous adoration and praise on the part of the redeemed. Every inner desire and outward act and expression rise like sweet incense in the presence of God and the Lamb. "A new song" designates a special song composed for some great occasion. The Spirit spoke through the prophet Isaiah, saying, "*Behold, the former things are come to pass, and **new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. Sing unto the Lord a **new song**, and His praise from the end of the earth***" (Isa. 42:9-10). In this beautiful passage it was the passing of the former things and the declaring of **new things** that evoked the **new song** of praise unto the Lord! It bespeaks of a new order to begin with the unfolding of a new purpose in God.

Every time the Spirit of God unfolds new dimensions of truth to our hearts, effecting further transformations into His image, bringing us into a new place in God and a further appropriating of our inheritance in Christ, a new song is born! The old song was good and true for its time, but we can sing the old song no more, for a new day has dawned, a new word has gone forth, a new glory has arisen, a new reality has been birthed within, praise His name! While this is not all it means, yet it is true that many songs we sang in church when I was a boy growing up I cannot sing today because they no longer express what God is speaking and doing in my life. Some of them are so far from the truth as I now know it, that I cannot bear even to *listen* to them, much less sing them!

A song in scripture represents both *praise* and a *message*. It is praise that bears a message, or beyond that, praise which is birthed out of revelation and experience with God. You can tell the spiritual level of a person by the songs he sings! A person's "song" will always express his depth of understanding and relationship with God. When we receive new revelation from the Lord, experientially inworked into our lives, a new song is created. I look back over old sermons, and sometimes I have to say to myself, "I could not preach that again." Thank God, He has been teaching me through the years of my walk in Him, leading into a fuller knowledge of truth and a deeper walk in the Spirit. Oh, yes! There is continuously a **new song** — a new revelation, a new message, a fresh word, a higher experience in God for this day, and for all the days to come! Those who sing the new song have outgrown the old ones. They no longer express our experience or satisfy our needs.

God is even now preparing a people, a royal priesthood, sons of the most High; and while the church world continues on with its time-honored traditions and childish delusions, singing about flying away to cabins in the corner of gloryland, or to mansions over the hill-top, a people is arising in the earth with a new and wonderful vision — to become kings and priests unto God — their hearts vibrating with the melodious strains of a **new song**, the

song of a people with a purpose, a company gathered out of the generations, grown up into the fullness of Christ, conquering every enemy within and without, which in due time shall be led forth to be the manifest expression of His image, character, and nature, the revelation of His glory, power, and dominion, with an outflow of life and light and love sent to change the course of history, transform the nations, and restore all men and all things back into God. What a song!

Ah, those who receive *this call*, those who hold *this vision*, those who cherish *this hope*, indeed sing a ***new song*** which can be learned by none but those apprehended, the firstfruits of His redemption. This is the ineffable, preeminent Song; ineffable because it strikes a chord, the vibration of which cannot be discerned by the carnal man; preeminent because it is the Song of the Lamb who stands in the midst of the throne, the King of kings and the High Priest of *our profession*, who in all things has preeminence!

This “new song” is undoubtedly the truth of the divine purpose of the ages, or “present truth,” as we often call it. David, the sweet singer of Israel, wrote, “O sing unto the Lord a new song...” (Ps. 96). It is the song that God gave David at the time of the dedication of the ark of God on mount Zion...and it concerned the “new thing” that God was doing then. But it was really prophetic of the “new thing” that God is doing now! In that day David had brought the ark to its place on the natural mount Zion, but today the Lord is bringing His vast company of sons to the heavenly mount Zion in the Spirit! Our new song is the song of His glory, of His authority, of His dominion, of His throne, the song of His righteous judgments in the earth that bring His kingdom to pass in every tongue and tribe and people and nation.

Many of those who now read these lines sense the establishment of a new order by the glorious appearing of Christ within. Within my innermost being there is an understanding and a hope that refuses to be quieted or stilled. It is the hope of overcoming all things, awaking in His likeness, with a greater glory and power than anything we have known in the past. My spirit sings the glad Hosannas of a new morning of joy, because of the vision of the greater glory and life of Christ now being raised up in His body on earth. And that song within persists until it purges out all the negative influences of the past, and cleanses me throughout. Ah, my beloved, does your spirit within you sing the glad Hosannas of this new day? Does this new song, this new word, this new working of life and resurrection power purge out all the error, carnality, sin, and death, making you pure even as He is pure?

This indeed is the glory of this new day to which we have come! The glory of Christ is now arising upon His elect sons. He is among us now in a new and greater degree of His presence, and His greater presence within is imparting a new song of joy and victory. Our long battle for the land of our inheritance is coming to an end. We are approaching the heights of mount Zion where reigns the King! There is a new song within. There is a new hope within. There is the dawn of a new day within. It is Christ, the Captain of our salvation, who abides within. He is the voice within, the thunder within, the lightning within, the melody of the harp within! He is the High Priest of our profession within us,

the firstborn among many brethren within us, the Forerunner within us, giving a fresh word of promise and fulfillment!

If we have learned this “song,” there is surely much cause for “abounding with thanksgiving,” for it means that our great and heavenly Father has taken us into His confidence and revealed to us the hidden things of His eternal purpose. Thereby He has dispelled the darkness with which we were surrounded, and brought us out of our Babylon of confusion. The many unanswered questions which raised only doubts and fears within, have been clarified by the clear revelation of the Spirit. Now we see His glory as it is made up of His infinite wisdom, almighty power, divine righteousness, and unconditional and abounding love. Truly the Lord has put a new song in our mouths! It is a song which grows more melodious as we continue to sing it unto the Lord and to one another, and ultimately to all creation! And what joy and peace that song will bring!

Chapter 81

THE UNIVERSAL SONG

continued

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast *redeemed us to God by Thy blood...*” (Rev. 5:9).

Redeemed — what a glorious word! How deep, how high, how broad! Oh yes, it is true that we have been redeemed, but, like salvation, redemption is no single act or experience; as one has stated, it is “a crisis *leading to a process*” as we are progressively “loosed away” from one realm to another, from one mind to another, from one nature to another, from one state of being to another. Truly we are being freed from the dominion of the carnal mind, from a world of flesh-centered, self-assertive religious activities, and from the power of sin and death, first in spirit, working outward into the mind, will, emotions, and desires of the soul life, and finally in body by the mighty working of His power whereby He is able to change even our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His body of glory (Phil. 3:21).

The prefix “re” in “re-deem” means “again” (as in re-copy, re-wash, re-write). The main part of the word is from a root that means “to purchase, to buy.” So an article that is left in a pawn shop can be redeemed by paying the money that was borrowed, plus the interest charges. The item is thus re-bought or bought back. The word is also used when a company finds it possible to call some of its indebtedness, pay the borrower, and cancel the obligation: this is the *redemption* of bond issues. Spiritually, it means a **return** to that place, wisdom, knowledge, life, glory, and dominion which we once had in God before the ages were framed, ere this present cosmos or world-arrangement began.

The English word “redeem” translates three Greek words, each of which has a rich meaning in connection with our salvation and transformation. One Greek word, *apolutro*, means “to loose, untie, deliver.” Another Greek word used in the scriptures and translated by our word “redemption” is *agorazo*, the common Greek word for marketing. The noun *agora* means the market place, and the verb *agorazo* means to buy. In the New Testament the word is applied to souls. This would be readily understood in the ancient world, since there was a slave market that operated almost every day, and the traffic in slaves was very great. That Christ should have walked into the slave market and purchased, or redeemed, men who were slaves to the realm of carnality, sin, and death, would have been easily comprehended!

A missionary was working on a Bible translation for the Bambara people. Realizing that the idea of “being redeemed” might not mean much to them, he asked his Bambara translation helper, “How do you say ‘God redeemed us’ so that your people can understand?” “Why, we would say ‘God took our necks out,’” the helper replied. “But

how would your people understand that?” “Oh, we remember that, long ago, raiders would come and take our people into slavery. They would put heavy iron collars on our people and chain one captive to the next in long lines to be taken to the coast. Sometimes a chief or friend would see a friend being led away and would want to free him, or redeem him. He could do this by paying the slave traders gold, silver, brass, or ivory. In redeeming his friend, he would ‘take his neck out of the iron collar!’” What a beautiful way to say that we are no longer slaves, unable to free ourselves from slavery to self, sin, and death! Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, has redeemed us by His own precious blood! He has taken our neck out of the collar!

There is another Greek word which gives additional light on the thought of redemption. The word is *exagorazo* (*agorazo* with the prefix *ex*), and carries the idea of buying something **out** of the market. There is a difference between a purchase that is for resale and a purchase that is made in order to take an article out of commerce. For example, a dealer in rare books and works of art might purchase an item at a London or New York sale, and hold it for resale to a customer. Some pictures, books, manuscripts, and other art objects are bought and sold again and again. But finally, when a great work of art is bought by a museum, it is thus **TAKEN OUT OF CIRCULATION PERMANENTLY**.

In consideration of these facts which I have briefly stated there is another truth to which I would draw your reverent attention. The song of God’s kings and priests proclaims, “Thou hast redeemed us *to God*...” Redeemed — ***unto God!*** We have been bought back to God as His own peculiar possession for a special and wonderful purpose. “Thou hast redeemed us unto God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast ***made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.***”

You have read what the scripture says of Moses: “This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? The same did God send to be a ruler and A DELIVERER by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush” (Acts 7:35). We find that this word “deliverer” is the same Greek word which in its various forms is translated ransom, redemption, redeem, and redeemed. The question follows, How was Moses a deliverer, a redeemer, or a redemption-price for Israel in Egypt? Did Moses pay a price to Pharaoh for Israel’s redemption? Did he promise Egypt anything in return for allowing Israel to leave? Absolutely not! Moses paid Egypt exactly ***nothing***. And yet, he was a redeemer and redemption for Israel! How can this be? *It was his own life which he poured out for Israel*, it was the freely giving of his life to Israel which led them up out of the house of bondage.

This is the most beautiful type of Christ’s redemption! When Jesus Christ became our redemption He didn’t have to pay redemption money to God. He didn’t take His blood and say, “Here, God, is a price for the people.” Nor did He go to Satan and say, “Here, Satan, is a redemption-price, now you let God’s people go.” NEVER! He, like Moses, poured His life out and freely gave it to the people! “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is

my flesh, which I WILL GIVE FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me” (Jn. 6:51,53-57). We are the ones who are receiving the redemption money, and receiving of His life we are able to get up and leave the filth of self, sin, and the world behind, and walk in the higher realms with Him.

an you not see the mystery? In the natural the redemption price was paid to the slave owner or creditor; and it will clearly be seen that God operates by the same principle once we understand that that which had us bound was in very fact ***something inherent within ourselves***. Paul goes into a penetrating discussion of this in chapter seven of the book of Romans. He talks about each of our experiences in which the good thing we want to do, we don’t do, and the evil that we don’t want to do, we do. He says that in me, that is, in my flesh, there dwelleth no good thing. He goes on to say, “For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see another law *in my members*, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me *into captivity to the law of sin and death which is in my members*. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? *I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Rom. 7:13-25).

Ah, the law of sin and death works *within*, the carnal mind operates *within*, and the devil himself is but a figure for the bestial spirit of this world which sits enthroned *within* the very nature and heart of man. People have painted Satan as a huge, ugly, impish personage with horns, bedecked with a red suit, having a long pointed tail and carrying a pitchfork. In our minds he belongs in dark pagan jungles where frenzied worshippers hysterically practice devil worship. He belongs in ancient voodoo ceremonies where primitive peoples offer human sacrifices to appease his anger. He belongs to the garden of Eden, spoiling life for Adam and Eve; to the Judean wilderness, tempting Jesus; to Berlin during the 1930’s and 1940’s , possessing and using Adolph Hitler, masterminding history’s great atrocities. Certainly Satan is present in the above listed activities. But may I hastily add that he is not present there one whit more than he has been in your life and mine! The pen of inspiration truthfully records the fact that “*You* hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the ***spirit that now worketh in*** the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:1-2).

That ancient serpent slithers about in the lowest realms of man’s earthiness, in the crooked thoughts, perverted desires, and unbridled emotions of the carnal nature, in all the corrupt motions of the flesh. *Within man* lies the *seat of satan*. We have been the captives of a power within us, slaves to our own bestial nature. So Christ did not pay a ransom to God in heaven, nor to the devil in hell, in order to redeem us and gain our release. Rather, He gave His life and poured it into us that the transcendent power of His Spirit within might break asunder the bands that bind us! Victory over the carnal mind is gained only by putting on the precious mind that was in Christ Jesus. Victory over the flesh is wrought alone by the mighty power of the Christ-life within. HE GIVES HIS LIFE TO US WHO ARE IN

BONDAGE, AND THEN WE HAVE THE VITALITY AND STRENGTH TO ARISE AND RETURN TO FATHER'S HOUSE TO CLAIM OUR INHERITANCE. We cannot do it on our own, by any self-effort of our weak and helpless flesh, fettered by the shackles of our human consciousness and the power of sin and shame, but when He gives His life, and fills us with His strength, then *through Him* we are able to rise up out of our slave house and return to Father's house. Praise God, His life is given *as redemption TO US*, so that, as the apostle says, "Of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is *made unto us...REDEMPTION*" (I Cor. 1:30). Hallelujah!

REDEEMED BY BLOOD

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God *by Thy blood...*" (Rev. 5:9).

I am indebted to the writings of the saintly Andrew Murray for some of the thoughts shared in this portion.

What is this stream of life from the Lamb upon the throne with the power to redeem us? The wonderful answer comes, "Thou art worthy...for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us unto God *by Thy blood.*" It is the *blood* of the Lamb that bestows this worth upon Him. The blood of Jesus is the greatest mystery of the ages, the deepest mystery of divine wisdom. Let us not imagine that we can easily grasp its meaning! God thought four thousand years necessary to prepare men for it, and we must take time in His presence, if we are to gain a knowledge of the awesome and marvelous power of the blood. I know of no word in the Bible or in human speech that contains such glories! This great and eternal truth shines with ever increasing brilliance from Eden's fragrant garden of long ago to the jasper walls of the New Jerusalem descending from God out of heaven; from Adam's covering of skins and Abel's humble sacrifice of the firstfruits of his flock to the very throne of God Himself where, glorious in power and might, the Lamb reigns and the seven spirits of His divine life are sent forth into all the earth.

The blood of Jesus is of such vast importance to God the Father that He has decreed that there shall be (1) no remission (2) no salvation (3) no atonement (4) no redemption (5) no propitiation (6) no cleansing (7) no justification (8) no peace (9) no new covenant (10) no sanctification (11) no reconciliation (12) no entrance into the Holiest of all (13) no sonship, without the blood of Jesus Christ whose blood is called by Paul THE BLOOD OF GOD (Acts 20:28; Heb. 10:19-20).

Never forget, my beloved, that Jesus came as THE PRICE WHICH COVERS, the substance in the scale that replenishes all deficiency. He shed His blood — His divine life — pouring it out for us. Life and blood are synonymous. Spirit and blood are synonymous. Spirit, blood, and life are all different names for the same element. Jesus performed His mighty works by the shores of Galilee, but then He died, resurrected, ascended, was glorified, and then returned in mighty *spirit power* to indwell His body and to be the *miracle worker within*. Nothing less must become ours, than *His Life* — the

divine life He lived in human flesh. “As I live by the Father, so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me,” Jesus said. The truth is so simple — He poured out His blood-life to us to quicken us again to the glory of God that belongs to man. When our spirit is quickened by His spirit we are brought to union with God! Christ gave Himself *for us* and *to us*. Our spirit must be quickened by His Spirit. THAT IS THE POWER OF HIS REDEEMING BLOOD, OF HIS LIFE THAT RESTORES US TO OUR TRUE IDENTITY AS SONS OF GOD. Oh, the mystery of it! That He might liberally pour His dear-bought treasures into benighted human storehouses, was the inspiration of Jesus’ intense human sacrifice.

Some hold not to this truth, choosing rather to believe that they are a self-sufficient god within themselves, needing no Redeemer beyond the development of their own inherent divinity. Thus they bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that *bought them* (II Pet. 2:1). Do away with this wonderful stream of the precious blood of Christ as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, and every room within the towering temple of *spiritual reality* comes crashing down to earth! The love of God became a man, the love of God became human flesh, the love of God in Jesus Christ has flowed into our spirits and souls and bodies as the precious blood of Christ to wash away the veil of carnal consciousness and quicken us again to our true heritage in God. “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed by such corruptible things as silver and gold from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers; but with the *precious blood of Christ*, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” Hallelujah for the blood!

Multiplied millions of believers in all lands hold the blood of Christ to be precious. The word *precious* means of great price or value, costly, of great desirability, honored, esteemed, or beloved. But there must be a reason why the blood is precious! Through many years of my Christian walk I never learned of *any reason* why it is esteemed except that God counts it to be the most valuable and precious of all blood to Him. I was never told whether it was intrinsically valuable or if it was valuable because of what it could and did accomplish. To be intrinsically valuable or precious means that it is of itself precious and does not necessarily need to accomplish any work to get its value. For example, the value of precious gems is determined not so much from their usefulness but from what they are within themselves — their intrinsic value — and that is why people desire to own them even though they can really *do* nothing. On the other hand, there are certain medicines, extracted from plants, which cost a thousand or thousands of dollars for one pill or injection. These actually have little intrinsic value, but their value is derived entirely from what they can do! My sincere prayer is that the spirit of wisdom and revelation may enlighten the eyes of our understanding so that we clearly see that the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was and is precious both in respect to its *intrinsic value* (for it is the life of God!) *and* because of *what it could and did and does now do!*

n the blood of Jesus the power of the divine life dwelt and worked — hence its intrinsic value. He was a specially prepared body to contain a *specially prepared blood* that was to be *the life* of all humanity. This blood was precious from the fact that it was a unique blood which would do something for all humanity that no other blood could ever do. It was the Word that became flesh, who was made man. It was the life of God that dwelt in Him *in a measure* that no other man had known! God gave not the Spirit by measure unto Him! If

the spirit in Jesus, which is the life and the blood of Jesus, was in no way different from the spirit or life of every other human being, then why is it that He was able to walk through this realm of sin and death and both remain sinless and manifest the very fullness of divine life on the human plane, while each and every other son of Adam has sinned and come short of the glory of God *including you, my precious brother, sister, and including me!* The fullness of divine life gave His blood, every drop of it, an intrinsic value. The blood of a man is of more worth than that of a sheep. The blood of a king is counted of more value than hundreds of common men. The blood of the firstborn son of God! It is in vain the mind seeks for some expression of its value; all we can say is, it is His own blood, the blood of the Son of God!

Oh, the wonder of it! Jesus Christ was ***the Word made flesh***; He was not old Adam's flesh imbued with God's life. He was the second Man, the Man from heaven, the God-man, head of a new species of Men, a new creation of God in the earth, each member of which is a SON OR DAUGHTER OF THE MOST HIGH! The life is in the blood. As the value of this life, so the value of the blood. In Christ there was the life of God; infinite as God is the worth and the power of that blood! In Christ there was the life of man in its perfection; in His humility, and obedience to the Father, and self-sacrifice, that which made Him unspeakably well-pleasing to the Father. The blood of Jesus, God and man, poured out in death, was the perfect fulfillment of God's will, and a perfect victory over self and sin and death. Therefore it was, that in the blood of the everlasting covenant Jesus was raised from the dead; that in the power of that blood He entered the highest heaven; and ***that precious blood is now and forever available to us with all its incorruptible power.*** His blood is His divine spirit of life which has come into us, and he that is joined to the Lord *is one spirit.* The precious blood of Christ is just Christ Himself, Christ in us — our hope of glory!

THOU HAST MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us unto God...and hast *made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth*” (Rev. 5:9-10).

Many translations use the word “*them*,” as this is the song of the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders. A number of Bible scholars disagree with that and confirm that “*us*” is the better and correct translation. Dr. Seiss in his “Lectures on the Apocalypse” gives the following explanation: “Some of the best manuscripts read ‘*them*’ in place of ‘*us*’; but the sense is not altered by it...for the subject is settled by the preceding declaration to be the persons singing the song, namely, by the phrase ‘*redeemed US*’; the genuineness of which must be considered established since the discovery of the Codex Sinaiticus.” It is therefore the four living creatures (kingship) and the twenty-four elders (priesthood) who are both redeemed *unto God* and *made kings and priests unto God!*

Never under the Old Testament Aaronic order of priesthood, apart from one example, do we find where a king exercised the office or ministry of a priest. In the Levitical order the offices of king and priest were separated, there were those who reigned as kings, and there

were those who were the Lord's priests. Kings could not intrude into the priest's office, and priests could not sit on the throne. Judah produced the kings, and Levi produced the priests. On one occasion Uzziah, king of Judah, tried to assume the role of priest and "went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense" and was smitten with leprosy in his forehead (II Chron. 27:16-20). God had separated the two offices for that time, and the one was not to intrude into the other.

Melchizedek is the sign, the symbol, the first example of a priest designated in the word of God. He was called a priest of God long centuries before the Old Covenant order was established for the Levites to be the priests of Israel. Thus, the first or beginning example represents the pattern or true design of God for what He considers a priesthood. Melchizedek had royal blood in his veins, he claimed the title of kingship. The very meaning of the name Melchizedek is "KING of righteousness" and this righteous King was also the Priest of the Most High God. What was always kept asunder under the Law Covenant, by divine wisdom and purpose was united in Him who was "made like unto the Son of God." Melchizedek was "made like" the Son of God, and we find in the book of Hebrews that the Son of God is made a high priest "after the *Order of Melchizedek*." It is the glory of Christ and His many brethren as KING-PRIESTS that Melchizedek so wondrously prefigures! A new order has arisen in Jesus Christ. He is a King-Priest! And He has made us to be Kings and Priests, a Kingdom of Priests, a Royal Priesthood unto God! "They shall be *priests* of God and of Christ, and shall *reign* with Him..." (Rev. 20:6).

The principle idea attached to the title "king" is that of authority and rule; to the title "priest" that of mediation, mercy, ministry, and reconciliation, drawing men nigh unto God, and God nigh unto men. Why is Jesus seated as a priest upon the throne of the heavens? It is that man may be blessed, and that God may be glorified in man! As priest He lives only for others, to bring them near to God. He lives as king only that He might reveal the kingdom — the power, authority, dominion, and glory — of God in and through us!

Deep down in the heart of men there is a strong and instinctive demand for a priest, to be a mediator, to lay one hand on man, and the other on God, and going between both to bring the two together into unification. This instinctive consciousness of the need for someone to help us to enter into oneness with God is the reason why all the ancient pagan religions had a priesthood. A priest or priesthood infers that there is a reason why such has been called into play. It denotes that there is an *estrangement* between God and His creatures and the priest ministers to bridge that gulf and bring about peace or at-one-ment. Many today proclaim that there is no estrangement, no separation between God and man, that it is only a false sense of duality in man's *mind*, that he has only to see that he himself *is God*, and as soon as his true identity is recognized, he can proceed to manifest out of his divine self. If that is the truth then man did not truly fall, there was no sin in Eden, and no penalty for that sin; God did not Himself *drive* man out of paradise, Adam just sort of stumbled out while sleep-walking, there was no need for Jesus to come to ransom us with His precious blood, and there certainly would be no need for the Melchizedek Priesthood! Nor would there be any purpose in any scriptural teaching of forgiveness by God, atonement, justification, regeneration, new birth, or the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jesus should have just come and

told us who we really are, and explained to us that none of these things can add anything whatsoever to our inherent divinity, and gone back to heaven.

Webster's dictionary defines priest as: a mediatory agent between God and man. In the Old Testament the word priest is translated from the Hebrew word *Cohen*, the root meaning of which is "one who stands up and draws nigh for another." The Greek word, in its root, means "to minister." Thus, a priest is one who "draws near and ministers on behalf of another." And the priest always draws nigh and ministers in **two directions** — drawing nigh to God on behalf of the people and drawing nigh to the people on behalf of God. The priest stands and ministers to the Lord on behalf of the people while, on the other hand, he ministers unto the people on behalf of the Lord. The ministry of the priest is an intermediary or go-between ministry. He reaches out with one hand and takes hold of God; he reaches out with the other hand and takes hold of humanity; and he brings the two together by virtue of his priestly administration.

"Thou hast *made us* kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." "Made us" are words pregnant with meaning. Let me give you an illustration. The name of the Son of God is Jesus. That is His correct name. That is His full name. The name of the eternal Word of God who stepped across the stars to the planet earth to be born in a stable in the village of Bethlehem, is Jesus. That is His complete, proper, full name. His name is Jesus! The angelic messenger appeared to the virgin girl Mary and announced, "Thou shalt call His name JESUS, for He shall save His people from their sins" (Mat. 1:21). Someone says, "But the angel didn't say His name was to be Jesus because that's English — His name was given as Yahshua." Incorrect. The common people of Galilee did not speak Hebrew in the time of Jesus. They spoke Aramaic. Undoubtedly the name was given to Mary in the language she understood. We know it in English as Jesus. And whatever language it is spoken in it still means the same thing, "the salvation of Yahweh." So when the mighty Gabriel appeared, he said, "Call the child that which will be descriptive or characteristic of what He is going to be and do. Call His name that which will describe His accomplishment." The messenger said, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, or thou shalt call His name Saviour, FOR He shall save His people...call Him God's Salvation because He is the Son of God MIGHTY TO SAVE."

Since He would be the salvation of Yahweh unto His people, call Him Saviour. Some who read these lines are now saying, "Hold the fort, Eby; isn't His first name Lord and His last name Christ?" NO! Neither Lord nor Christ is a name. It is important that we understand that. Christ is not a name. Christ is a position. Christ is an office. Christ is a title, as also is Lord. Christ is a description of an individual who holds a particular office. If I were to say to you, "What is the name of the first man to hold the highest office in the United States of America," you would say, "His name was George Washington." And if I said to you, "What was his office?" you would say, "President." He was called "President George Washington." You understand immediately that his name is distinct from the title which designates his office. Now we might call him "Mr. President," but that's not his name, we're calling him by his office. His name is George Washington; his office is President. When I speak to you about King, that is an office. When I speak to you about Prime Minister, that's an office. Christ is an office — it's not a name. Christ comes from

the Greek *Christos* and means “anointed,” or better, “The anointed One.” When we’re talking about the Son of God, we’re saying that His name is Jesus — Saviour. His office is Christ — the Anointed One. Jesus *is* the Christ, the anointed One of God. And God has *made* this same Jesus to be both LORD and CHRIST. **Made!** Jesus was *made* Lord, and Jesus was *made* Christ. It is something He *became* after He was named Jesus. And now the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders proclaim, “For Thou hast *made us* unto our God *kings and priests*: and we shall reign on the earth!”

This passage is one of rare beauty. It is like a precious diamond, the effulgence of whose radiance dazzles the mind. It is a drop of pure distilled essence, whose fragrance fills the rooms of the heart of every man and woman who has been apprehended of the Father for His high and holy purpose. It is a joy forevermore and a challenge to all who comprehend its message. It must be engraved deeply upon every heart of God’s Royal Priesthood. It exalts and glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. “THOU HAST MADE US!” THOU! There is so much depth to that word that I am afraid we often do not perceive it. It is like a beautiful star-studded sky on a bright clear night and one cannot even begin to grasp the vast depth that lies above us. So it is with these marvelous words: “Thou hast MADE US TO BE KINGS AND PRIESTS!”

Hear now the testimony of the prophet Isaiah. “But ye shall be *named* the priests of the Lord: men shall call you the ministers of our God...for as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord will cause righteousness to spring forth before all nations” (Isa. 61:6,11). The inspired prophet summed up in one bold statement what it means to be a priest of God. “Ye shall be *named* the priests of the Lord: men shall call you the ministers of our God.” There is a marvelous significance in that word “named.” Named! You shall be **NAMED** the priests of the Lord. This passage forcefully reveals the great truth that all who would be priests of God must be re-named, they **MUST UNDERGO A CHANGE OF NATURE**, to become priests by name, that is, by nature, so that priesthood is not merely a title given to them but a nature lived out through them. Oh, yes! If our spiritual minds can grasp the fact, to be *named* the priests of the Lord means to be *natured* the priests of the Lord, to be so imbued with the priestly nature until we *become a priest* in our very state of being. We think like a priest. We speak like a priest. We act like a priest. We love like a priest. We minister like a priest. We reconcile like a priest. We represent men to God, and God to men as a priest. This is what the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders are declaring, “Thou hast *made us* unto our God *kings and priests!*”

Kings and Priests! Can you see the parallel between those two? It is the king who reigns and the priest who serves. All the holy sons of God shall *reign* as kings, and they shall *serve* as priests! These kings and priests “reign over the earth.” It is evident that our reigning as kings and priests *over the earth* is directly related to the fact that the seven spirits of God are from the throne of God *sent forth into all the earth*. These two statements are made in the same chapter, only four verses apart. Can we not see by this that the seven spirits of God are sent forth into all the earth through the agency of those kings and priests who are given authority over the earth and are made ministers of God unto the earth realm.

He makes us kings and priests! That is the present work of God in the life of each member of God's elect who has received the call to sonship. Though in our natural constitution we may have had a very different disposition, God is breaking, purging, changing, and transforming us, working into us the character of a king and the heart of a priest! We may once have been vain, but God is making us solid, serviceable and useful! We may have been proud, but God is making us humble! We may have felt empty and useless, but God is filling us up and making us valuable! Some of us have been very weak, but the Spirit is now making us exceedingly strong in the Lord and in the power of His might! We may have once been ignorant and unlearned among men, but today the Lord is filling our minds and spirits with divine wisdom and spiritual understanding! Our nature may previously have been shy, cold, distant, and indifferent, but the fire of the Holy Spirit is making us bold, warm, concerned, caring, and out-going! Perhaps we were once critical, angry, hateful, or spiteful, but our Father is transforming us to be loving, kind, gentle, sweet, long-suffering, merciful, forgiving, and reconciling! It is indeed wonderful! Our mighty God is in this hour dealing with all His sons and truly He is ***making us to BE KINGS AND PRIESTS!***

Jesus, the High Priest of our profession, and the King over all the kings, does His wonderful work *within us*. He imparts His own life, power, and ministry. We cannot have the kingship and the priesthood in full power except as the power of *His Life* is fully inworked in us. As we truly come to understand this, we then see what is meant by the fact that we are called to be kings and priests, because we have the very life of the King and the High Priest in us — not merely imputed, but the King of glory and the High Priest of the heavens Himself dwelling powerfully within us and working effectually through us, praise His wonderful name! This is something far greater and higher than my own "Higher Self." This is His Spirit joined to my spirit — one spirit in the union of life.

Why is Jesus seated as a *priest* upon the *throne* of the heavens? He reigns as King to bring the dominion of His kingdom into our lives, and as Priest He lives only for others, to bless and lift us with His life, to bring us near to God. He makes us kings to give power and efficacy to the priesthood. He reigns as a priest! It is because of this that the idea of authority stands out so prominently. Jesus fills us with a kingly disposition; He enables us to rule over sin, over the flesh, over the devil, over the world, over MEN. In the midst of all circumstances and difficulties, of all opposition or cruelty, of all powers of the flesh, the world, and the devil, the son who yields himself to be made king by Christ lives in the joyous certainty that he is one with Him who has won the victory, and that He that is *in him* is more than conqueror!

He makes us priests that we might serve; that we might bring men near unto Him; that we might be filled with the fullness of the seven-fold intensified spirit of the Lord so as to be a channel for the outflowing of His glorious life unto creation. How else shall the creation be delivered from its bondage to corruption and find its identity in the glorious liberty that belongs to the sons of God? As priests through the blood of Jesus we live for others, to pray for them; to work among them; to love and bless them; to reconcile and redeem them; to bring them to God! To be a king is marvelous beyond words, but to be a priest is no idle

self-seeking blessedness. It is a compelling power to enter into God's presence on behalf of mankind; the power to receive from the Lamb all the blessings, benefits, and provisions of His wonderful life, and to receive and carry and distribute them! "And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne... stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns (power, kingship) and seven eyes (vision, discernment, communication, priesthood), which *are* the seven spirits of God *sent forth into all the earth...*and hast *made us... kings and priests:* and we shall *reign over the earth.*"

However clearly we see by the eye of revelation and faith the truth of this realm of kingship and priesthood, however earnestly we desire it, however firmly we think we grasp it by faith, all will not avail — GOD HIMSELF MUST DO IT! God Himself must admit us into His presence, and make His face to shine upon us. And as the path to kingship and priesthood, God Himself must write His law in our hearts, unfold in us the new divine nature in such power of the Holy Spirit, that it is HE that works within us both to will and to do. God Himself must by the Holy Ghost so shed abroad His love in our hearts, that to love becomes as natural to us as it is for a dove to be gentle. God Himself must by the Holy Ghost so fill us with the nature of righteousness that to be righteous becomes as natural to us as breathing. God Himself must by the Holy Ghost so clothe us with the mind of Christ, that to think the thoughts of God becomes as natural to us as are the self-serving thoughts and desires of the unregenerated man. God Himself must by the Holy Ghost so make us vessels of mercy that to be merciful becomes as natural to us as the emotions of anger and retaliation are to the carnal nature. And God Himself must through the Holy Ghost give us His *power!*

Consider, dear brother, sister, is it not God Himself who has faithfully directed all your steps, who has initiated each circumstance of your life, who has given sight to your poor blind eyes and caused you to behold the majesty of *His purpose?* Is it not God Himself who has led you out of the blinding traditions and enslaving bondage of Babylonian religion, and nurtured you and brought you to the place in which you stand in Christ today? I do not hesitate to say that no more than you can *save yourself* can you *make yourself* an overcomer, *bring yourself* to perfection and maturity, or *of yourself* apprehend the beautiful ministry of kingship and priesthood to God! Those who apprehend in this hour are those who rest in His love, trust in His power, embrace His promise, and have no confidence in the flesh.

THE SHAPE-SHIFTERS

There is a teaching about "shape-shifters" that is prominent among certain occult, new age, and UFO cult movements. The belief is that there are certain "aliens" or "space creatures," namely those specified as *reptilians*, who possess the ability to shape-shift or change their forms to appear as humans or other entities. One writer (David Icke) who is deep into this explains, "Shape-shifting is the ability to change physical form, in this case between a human and reptilian appearance. The ancient Danaan brotherhood of initiates and magicians called Telchines on the island of Rhodes could shape-shift into any form, according to the Greek historian, Diodorus. Shape-shifting is a common theme in tales of esoteric 'magicians' and high initiates. I have been told by hundreds of people all over the

world, from every walk of life you can imagine, about their experiences of seeing well known and less well known people transform into a reptilian form before their eyes and then go back again. There have been reports of shape-shifting reptilians for thousands of years. In the Indus Valley and Hindu culture their serpent gods called the Nagas were one example. The serpent ‘sea’ or ‘fish’ gods of Sumer and Babylon were said to be able to change shape and look human whenever they chose. Another version of shape-shifting are the so-called ‘Men in Black’ who appear and disappear according to witnesses. The story of Jekyll and Hyde is also symbolic of shape-shifting” — end quote.

Personally, I take such theories and claims with a *very big* grain of salt! Yet — there *is* a true realm and reality of shape-shifting! We see it in the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus during the forty days prior to His ascension. Most of those who saw Jesus did not immediately recognize Him — only after some subtle familiar action were their eyes opened and it dawned upon them who this person was! In the garden of the tomb Mary had seen a “gardener.” Two of the disciples had seen and conversed with a “stranger.” The eleven in the upper room saw the Master as He formerly appeared. Later, a group of them saw Him on the lakeshore, and thought it was a “fisherman.” He was with them forty days after His resurrection, but they saw Him only on a few brief occasions.

The entire time that He was manifest to them, had it all been crowded into one day instead of being at intervals during the forty days, would probably have been less than twelve hours, or one-eightieth of that entire time. This being true, it is evident that He was present with them *unseen* about seventy-nine eightieths of that period of forty days. And even when they did have *manifestations*, they were not (except once, on behalf of the doubting Thomas) in a form exactly like the one they had known so intimately for three and a half years, and had seen but a few days before. It is not once intimated that they knew Him by the familiar features of His face, nor even that He was recognized by the same appearance as in other manifestations. Yes, He was different, so different that they were puzzled to understand Him, and to know just how they could still be His disciples.

“After that He appeared in *another form* unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country” (Mk. 16:12). He appeared unto them in another form — not another Person. It was the same Christ and Lord! But there was some difference of manifestation. That is the plain truth coming to meet us out of the region of mystery where for us the final truth of things dwells. After His resurrection Jesus was still to His disciples Jesus — but with a difference. He was the same, yet not the same. There was something about Him which differentiated Him from the Christ of the garden, and the hillside, and the country road, and the seashore. The disciples never doubted that He was the same Jesus with whom they had passed through the corn-fields, and walked the highways, and sailed on the blue water of Galilee. But the human form which was soon to pass from their midst already seemed to be becoming less recognizable to their view. In a little while they would see Him no more — that is, as we see one another in the flesh. Soon the vision of the living and ever-present Christ was to be internalized, reserved wholly for the inward eye of every quickened and transformed spirit. But it seemed that already, in anticipation of this new order of things, the old order was changing, and the outward form of the Master was

speedily becoming less and less the essential medium for the revelation and recognition of His unchanging personality.

The record of the appearances of Christ during those forty days before the ascension tells us that the spiritual senses were now predominating over the physical, and the spirit played an ever larger part in the realm of perception. It is abundantly clear that the Christ they saw and recognized was no mere apparition or illusion, but it is equally clear that those who sought to recognize the Lord in the same way they recognized one another now needed their physical senses to give way to the spiritual faculties of the spirit of wisdom and revelation from God, the eyes of their understanding being enlightened that they might truly KNOW HIM!

Form plays an important part in our physical and material reckonings, outward appearance is so necessarily the basis of our judgments in this gross material realm. But all who have been called to sonship to God are now learning the important lesson that, even as the same Christ came to Mary Magdalene, to the disciples by the sea, and to the two who journeyed to Emmaus in forms which they did not immediately recognize as Him, so that spiritual life which Jesus revealed in His resurrection, and which He revealed in even greater measure by His ascension and return as the power of the Holy Spirit, may express itself in more than one form of manifestation as it is raised up in the hearts and lives of God's elect. "He appeared in another form." He is always doing that! Would that we were always able to see and recognize Him! Would that our faith were deep enough, would that our love were broad enough, would that our insight were keen enough, to recognize Him in all the forms and fashions of His coming unto the children of men!

Some find Christ as Mary Magdalene found Him in an instant when He called her name. Some find Him as they are led in the paths of His will, like the disciples who cast their net in the sea of Galilee, and found it was their Master and Lord they were obeying. Some take the journey to Emmaus — they meditate upon Him, converse with Him, and their hearts burn within them — then they discover Him in the breaking of bread by His hand. At the center of all spiritual experience there lies the same eternal truth, for it is the same Christ who meets us all; but many are the forms we encounter as we each experience Him in a different way! Some may find Him in blessings and experiences, while others find Him with Job in the severity of testings and trials, being brought very low upon the ash-heap of stripping and desolation, tested to the uttermost until at last they break through the gloom and shout with the voice of triumph, "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye *seeth Thee!*" (Job 42:5). Therefore let not the man who has met the Christ in the form of a gardener doubt that He was ever seen by the waters of Galilee; and let not him who has encountered Him on that dawn-lit beach think it improbable that He ever walked and talked with the travelers to Emmaus.

"HE APPEARED IN ANOTHER FORM." That is Christ the great shape-shifter! It is the same Christ revealing Himself to men in another form. So, my beloved, as we ponder the mysterious manifestations of the risen Christ among the faithful and devout disciples, let us remind ourselves that this same Jesus is in our midst, and we must be ready to recognize Him as He becomes manifested to us from day to day, from realm to realm, from glory to

glory, by the power of the Spirit. The Lord Jesus comes to us in different ways. There are many modes and forms of the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ! To those who suppose that they have attained to all God has for them, whether in the precincts of Babylon, in the deliverance of the feast of Passover, in the glory of Pentecost, or some who think they have already ascended into the highest heaven of their high calling in the feast of Tabernacles, to each I now say by the word of the Lord — we are going to have another manifestation! It is dawning. It has begun even now. It is the same Lord Jesus, yet even now His many brethren are beginning to behold Him in the glory of His Kingship and Priesthood, the Lamb in the midst of the throne, sending forth the seven-fold intensified spirit of God into all the earth, to be manifested in a further unfoldment of Himself, in the glory and power of manifest sonship!

All of us have this treasure in earthen vessels, and we are continually being *changed* from glory to glory! For years the Lord had put me on His potter's wheel and made me a certain shape. For years I was an evangelist and, whenever the Lord wanted to move in the soul-saving, evangelistic realm, I was right there. No problem at all! I was in the evangelistic shape. My whole mind and desire was conformed to that ministry, my whole heart, everything. All about me was conformed to that. But if God wanted to move in any other way through me, He could not. That was my shape! If He came in that shape I said, "Come, Lord Jesus." If He came in another shape I couldn't handle that, so I said, "Go, Lord Jesus." I had not yet learned about shape-shifting!

Most of us have had a certain shape and we have been hardened to that. The only way the Lord could appear to us and appear in us and appear through us, would be in that form. It has been the Baptist form, the Pentecostal form, or the Charismatic form. It has been the evangelistic form, the apostolic form, the prophetic form, the divine order form, the healing form, the deliverance form, the miracles form, the tongues-speaking form, the prophesying form, the worship form, the word of faith form, or a hundred other forms. But the highest glory of the ministry of Christ is embodied in those two wonderful offices: KING and PRIEST. He is indeed "the King eternal" and "a Priest forever" after the order of Melchizedek! And while we truly praise God for all the manifestations and ministries of this present "in part" realm, so graciously bestowed, yet our hearts cry out mightily for a *greater reality* and a *higher ministry* that proceeds from the throne of God and of the Lamb for the deliverance and transformation of the entire creation. Our deepest desire is that He may so thoroughly transform us into HIS IMAGE, so completely CHANGE OUR SHAPE until we fully *become* all that Kingship and Priesthood mean.

There is a wonderful contrast drawn in Revelation 4:11 and 5:10, wherein it is stated, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast CREATED ALL THINGS, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created...and Thou hast MADE US unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." Oh child of God, consider how great and full of meaning these words are! "Thou hast CREATED *all things*...Thou hast MADE *us*." There is a world of difference between the terms "create" and "make." Away back yonder in the dim and distant ages that are gone it was written, "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God CREATED AND MADE" (Gen. 2:3). The phrase "created *and* made" is

a faulty translation, and it is so indicated in the margin of some Bibles. It should read, “which God created *to* make.” Young’s Literal Translation renders this verse, “And God blesseth the seventh day, and sanctifieth it, for in it He hath ceased from all His work which God had PREPARED FOR MAKING.” Another translation says, “And God proceeded to bless the seventh day and make it sacred, because on it He has been resting from all His work that God has CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING.” In other words, God created the whole vast universe for the purpose of forming or making it into something He still had in mind!

And now comes the word — “Thou hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood...and hast MADE US unto our God kings and priests.” Ah, “things” are created, but “kings” and “priests” are MADE! If you are a king-priest, there is something about you that is not ordinary; you have distinct and distinguishing characteristics. You are no longer a part of the problem — you have been so thoroughly transformed from the spirit of self and of this world system until you have become in your very state of being *the solution to the problem*. What is a king? What is a priest? Who are the king-priests today? They are those who are indwelt by the Christ and are living in the Christ and by the Christ to manifest Christ! None of us are the finished product, but, praise God, as this reality is raised up in us more and more God is *MAKING US to be kings and priests unto Him!*

“Make” means to *alter the form or change thoroughly*. There can be no kingship or priesthood without first a thorough change! Sin, self, greed, hatred, criticism, retaliation, ego, unconcern, immaturity, pettiness, unrighteousness, condemnation, all must be dealt with by the cross. Thus, we are not seeking just a salvation experience, the forgiveness of our sins, covering over the past, and hoping for the best in the future, but we desire that the Spirit of God, working mightily within, shall bring a thorough change in us, until every word, will, attitude, action, and reaction shall flow from *His heart* unto all about us. You can be a believer and die and go to heaven without such a thorough change, but you can **NEVER BE A KING OR PRIEST WITHOUT IT!**

“It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13). “GOD working in you.” What a marvelous expression! We know how combustion works mightily in the cylinder, forcing up and down the piston, giving power to the engine. We know how sap works mightily in the branches, forcing itself out in leaf, blossom, and bud. We know of incidents where men were so possessed of devils that they spoke and acted as the inward promptings compelled them. These express but weakly the idea of the “inward working” of God, which towers infinitely beyond. Have we not all been conscious of some of these workings? We have known them when the breath of holy resolution has swept through our natures: every sigh for the will of God; every strong and earnest desire to be like Him; every appetite for spiritual things; every impulse to live and sacrifice and give for others; every aspiration to love and lift and restore the groaning creation; every prayer lifted heavenward in intercession for weak, needy, suffering and sinful humanity; every cry of the heart for the kingdom of God to come and His will to be done in earth as it is in heaven — all these are the result of His inworking and the promise of the Kingly and Priestly Ministry!

Chapter 82

THE UNIVERSAL SONG

continued

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many *angels* round about the throne and the living creatures and the elders: and the number of them was *ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands...*” (Rev. 5:11).

What a vision greeted the enraptured apostle! Have you ever tried to figure out how many messengers were around the throne? Here is your answer: ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands — myriads of myriads! The number of those who join in the praise is beyond count! It might well be translated, “And the number of them was armies multiplied by armies, and armies of armies.” These are all *messengers* of God, for that is the meaning of the word in Greek. They are not necessarily angels as we usually think of angels, but they are messengers of God, whether of men or any other order.

WORTHY TO RECEIVE...

“...saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to *receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing*” (Rev 5:12).

The Lamb is here declared to be worthy to *receive power* — as well as wisdom, riches, strength, honor, glory, and blessing. Remember, the things John beholds in the visions of the book of Revelation are things that were yet future at the time he was shown them, the “things which must be *hereafter*” (Rev. 1:19; 4:1). How can Christ, who had already been given all power in heaven and in earth, *receive power*? We know that all power originates with God. “God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that *power belongeth unto God*” (Ps. 62:11). Fifty-six times the scriptures proclaim God to be THE ALMIGHTY. Almighty means “all-ruling, all powerful, absolute sovereign, omnipotent.” The omnipotent God gave our Lord Jesus Christ all power in heaven and in earth! The question follows — How can Christ who has already been given all power now *receive power*?

The truth is, of course, that although God is the supreme authority and power of the universe He does not hold or exercise that power either arbitrarily or unilaterally. While man is not truly a “free moral agent,” yet God does cede to His creatures the power of *choice, decision making*, and spheres of *authority and dominion*. From the very beginning God ordained that man should *choose* to eat or not eat of the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God did not interfere with man when he made an unwise choice for He had a great *purpose* in mind. The one question possibly asked more than any other is: Why did God permit the present reign of sin, sorrow, and death? Why did He permit the serpent to present the temptation to our first parents, after having created them

sinless and upright in the image of God? Or why did He place the forbidden tree in the midst of all the others? Despite all the attempts to turn it aside, the question remains — Could not God have prevented all possibility of man's fall?

The difficulty arises from a failure to comprehend the plan of God! God *could* have prevented the entrance of sin, sorrow, and death, but the fact that He did not should be sufficient proof to us that its present permission is designed ultimately to work out some greater good. The problem lies not with God's wisdom or ability, but with man's denseness and dullness of understanding! The natural man lives in a fantasy world. There are many species of insanity. All sin is insanity, in different degrees. The carnal mind is an insane mind given wholly to destructive delusions. The natural man is mentally ill beyond comprehension. The carnal mind is spared from this classification in our world, only because the vast majority of the inmates in this vast asylum called "society" is equally mad and in harmony with the delusion. There is a universal insanity of the so-called "wisdom" of this world, inherited from the deranged serpent in Eden. The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God! This mortal, this deranged mind of old Adam, must be put off, and the new man or real man, the sane man in the precious mind of Christ must be put on. The carnal mind is exceedingly stupid. Carnal reasoning is dull-witted, lame-brained, simple-minded, silly, and absurd! God's plans, seen in their *completeness*, will always prove the wisdom of the course He pursues. Some inquire, Could not God, with whom all things are possible, have intervened in time to prevent the full accomplishment of Satan's designs? Of course He could have! But such interference would have thwarted the accomplishment of His own wise purposes! His purpose was to make clearly and eternally manifest the *absolute perfection of His own nature and the integrity and correctness of all His ways*, and to prove to all men, angels, and creatures in all worlds and realms the unavoidable disastrous consequences of departure from them.

Sin, sorrow, and death are God's great cosmic object lesson! God could have made all of us like robots, programmed to be holy and to act righteously at all times and under all circumstances. But should He have done so, the one thing we all would lack is *character*. We would be holy, but without the knowledge of why we are holy, or the understanding of the consequences of not being holy. We would not be holy because we *desired* holiness, or because, with knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, we *chose* to be holy. God didn't want robots! He wanted sons and daughters! God, in His omniscient wisdom and knowledge, understood fully the difference between good, evil, holiness, and life. He planned for us also to understand! Not by being told, counseled, or trained like animals, but *by experience*. Oh yes, experience *is* the best teacher! Our heavenly Father purposed to take us a route through which we would learn experientially the true nature of all things, that through the interchange of good and evil, and the deep dealings of the Holy Spirit, every man and every creature ultimately would be brought to the place where they would knowingly, willingly, and eternally *choose* and *cling to* the way of life, light, and love! Aren't you glad!

God deliberately gave to man an area of autonomy — self government — POWER. God not only foresaw that, having given man freedom of choice, he would, through lack of *full* appreciation of sin and its results, accept it, but He also saw that, becoming acquainted

with it, he would still chose it, because that acquaintance would so impair his moral nature that the sense-consciousness of the flesh realm, with its ensuing evil, would become more agreeable and more desirable to him than the narrow way of life. Still, God subjected man to sin and death, while at the same time preparing the remedy of the sacrifice of Christ for man's deliverance from its awful consequences — the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world!

God in His infinite wisdom knew that to subject the creation to vanity would be to lead mankind, through experience, through creation, the fall, redemption, and the restitution of all things, to a **full appreciation** of “the exceeding sinfulness of sin” and of the matchless brilliancy and glory of *God's divine nature* in contrast with it — thus teaching him the more to love and honor his Creator, who is the source and fountain of all goodness, and forever to shun that which brought so much woe and misery upon the human family. So the final result will be undying love and overwhelming appreciation for our glorious Father, and eternal abhorrence and avoidance of all that is contrary to His nature and will; and consequently the firm and unalterable establishment of everlasting righteousness and spirit life throughout all God's vast domains. Every creature in heaven, earth, and throughout the furthest reaches of the universe shall eternally profit from the demonstration God is now giving His creation through the permission of sin and all its attending evils and woes. What a plan!

God intended from the beginning for man to rule. “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and LET THEM HAVE DOMINION” (Gen. 1:26). The writer to the Hebrews wrote: “What is man that Thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that Thou visiteth him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; Thou **crownest him** with glory and honour, and didst **set him over the works of Thy hands**” (Heb. 2:6-7). The expression, “Thou **crownest him,**” denotes clearly that God gave man KINGLY RULE and authority in the earth. The eighth Psalm reveals that man's dominion is to eventually encompass the whole vast universe of galaxies, stars, suns, planets, moons, and all that dwells in them! God's plan is to give man dominion over *all* the works of His hands, indeed, over ALL THINGS! But — God's purpose is for man to exercise that ruling authority and dominion **in union with Him**. And this is what man departed from in the fall! Man chose to rule *independently* of God; to “do his own thing” apart from the life of the spirit. He rejected God's authority and rule over him. The carnal mind ever pursues an identity apart from God, proclaiming the ancient error, “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds: I will be like the most High!” (Isa. 14:13-14). “**I will...I will...I will!**” So man, in his distorted consciousness, rules his own life and destiny apart from God, yea, in opposition to God! And the inevitable result of this course is confusion, chaos, sorrow, and death. How uncontrovertibly certain are the words of inspiration: “There is a way which **seemeth right** unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12). Yet — God has ordained this to be for an appointed time!

This brings us back to our question — If the Lord *HAS all power*, how is it that He *receives power*? The answer is to be found in that great sonship prayer which is commonly referred to as the Lord's Prayer. Setting forth the great principles of sonship prayer Jesus taught,

“When you pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy **kingdom come**. Thy **will be done in earth**, as it is in heaven” (Mat. 6:9-10). What does it mean for God’s kingdom to come? What does it mean for God’s will do be done in earth, even in this earth *which we are*, as it is done in heaven? Ah, **I** am the king of my life; **I** am seated upon the throne; **I** make the decisions; **I** do according to my own will. But when Jesus the Lord comes I must **abdicate my throne** and let Him sit upon the throne! The testimony of every son in the kingdom of God is: “Till Christ was raised up in my life I was the **Commander in Chief**. Since I have been introduced to the Christ within **He commands!**”

Oh, yes! **THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH** is something for now, not tomorrow, nor during the millennium, nor in the ages to come. You see, my beloved, when **I** (that is, my human consciousness, my Adamic identity, my carnal mind) resign from the dominion I have exercised in my life and *abdicate the throne*, in that same blessed moment the whole realm of dominion which I have usurped and reserved unto myself **IS GIVEN TO THE LORD, THE SPIRIT!** The power I once held in my own hands is yielded up to Him so that He now exercises the power and authority that I previously exercised. Thus, **HE RECEIVES POWER!** He receives the right to *rule* my life. He never took that right by force — but He receives the right when I yield it up to Him. All things shall be “subdued unto” the Son of God! That is the testimony of scripture. And that is how He receives the power, the riches, the wisdom, the strength, the honor, the glory, and the blessing! It is all the wealth and strength and glory of the kingdoms of this world yielded up to Christ the Lord. “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, *The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever*” (Rev. 11:15). Oh, the wonder of it!

We are to crown the Lord, the Spirit, as King in every place of our being, outer and inner. It was the humiliation of France, in the fifteenth century, that her king Charles VII, was not crowned in the proper city, where former kings were crowned. Joan of Arc, burning with the high resolve to resolve this dishonor, and have the king crowned in Rheims, emerged from obscurity, gathered an army, drove the enemy back from one point to another, until she dislodged him from Rheims. The king came then. The crown was placed upon his brow in the right place; and the fair maiden bowed at the foot of the throne, with tears of joy streaming down her beautiful cheeks. *Where are we to crown our King?* We are to crown Him in the most sacred and authoritative chamber of our nature, from whence proceed the impulses and propensities of spiritual life. The authority and dominion of life is in the *spirit*, in your spirit and my spirit. **AND FROM THENCE HE WOULD BE CROWNED AND RULE IN LIFE OVER THE KINGDOM OF OUR BEING.**

So, precious friend of mine, when you conduct the King to the place of crowning in your nature, you may have to escort Him down a winding passageway, intricate with illusions, imaginations, fears, errors, and distortions of the carnal mind, dismal with sin, sickness and weakness, bare and jagged with earthly consciousness and evil tendencies, on through the gloom and grind of carnality, corruption, and death, to the most sacred altar of your heart. There implore Him to arise and cleanse and purify all your entire nature every

whit. Submit — trust all the powers of your being into His mighty hands that HE MAY RECEIVE THE POWER OF RULERSHIP in you and through you in the kingdom of God!

THE UNIVERSAL SONG

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands...and *every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever*” (Rev. 5:11,13).

As John goes on with his songs we might have expected him to say, “I heard,” but he first says, “*I beheld.*” This is a book of visions, and there are continuing references to what is “seen.” But he did also hear! Though there are many singers he speaks of *the voice*, which is the one voice heard through the many — the voice of the spirit, the voice of the truth and the revelation in the Spirit of the Lord. There is only one voice! Hearing the voice goes beyond the sound, beyond even the words. Jesus said, “My sheep know my *voice*, and a stranger they will not follow.” It’s not just that the sheep understand the words the shepherd speaks, but they *know* — recognize, discern, and perceive the *voice*.

There are various Greek words for “know,” each bearing its own shade and depth of meaning, in this case it is *oida*, denoting **absolute knowledge**. Praise God, there is a realm where you can have absolute knowledge of His voice — without doubt or questionings. I do not hesitate to say that such absolute knowledge comes as a result of prolonged and intimate association, communion, and relationship with HIM. I “know” my wife’s voice, not merely its sound, but also its meaning and intent. By each inflection of her voice I discern her attitude, determination, state of being, etc. Such knowledge has developed as a result of more than fifty years of being her HUSBAND! His sheep — His mature ones — shall come to the place where they unmistakably know His voice, not just hear it, but **know** it. It is precious as we tune out the voices of this world, and of our own carnal minds, and listen only to the voice of the spirit within; the more we do so day by day the stronger and more resonant and meaningful becomes His voice unto us.

There are many pitiful words and pathetic messages pawned off on God’s precious people under the guise of “the word of God.” But the Lord is bringing forth a people in this day who have gotten beyond dead doctrines and religious traditions. God is causing us to hear with our spirit the Voice of the Living Christ, for He is the Word of God, the Truth of God, and the Reality of God. I cannot emphasize too strongly that it takes more than sermons on sonship, and exhortations on perfection, and claims about our high attainments in God, and boasts about immortality to make truly manifest sons of God. We must HEAR HIS VOICE, for it is only those that hear His voice who shall live!

It takes more than having meetings, singing choruses, clapping hands, shouting Amens and Hallelujahs, prophesying, and preaching to one another about the deep mysteries of God to

bring us to the knowledge of God and transformation into His likeness. We shall have to see Him and touch Him and hear Him and walk with Him as did John on the Isle of Patmos. We must hear His voice speaking to us in the deepest recesses of our being. We must commune with Him in the glory that radiates from the face of Jesus Christ. Sonship comes only by personal association with the living Christ! And think not, precious friend of mine, if you cannot now discern His voice amidst the confused babble of voices that fill the earth, that you will hear HIS SHOUT when He comes in that glorious Word by which He shall finally deliver us from the last vestiges of sin and death and present us faultless before His Father as holy sons of God *with power and great glory*.

In the heavenly mists of that long ago Eden Adam “heard the *voice* of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool (Heb. — *spirit*) of the day.” Every “day” has a *voice*! Every “day” of the Lord bespeaks of a season of a particular dealing and purpose of God in our life. The voice of the Lord is speaking in the *spirit* — anointing and purpose — of that particular day. All who have truly been called to sonship to God are now hearing the “voice” of the Lord God walking in the *spirit* — in the anointing and purpose — of ***this new kingdom day*** to which we have now come! We hear not just the message, for multitudes hear the message but never truly hear the *voice*. Because they do not recognize the voice they do not discern the importance and significance of the word they hear. It bears no fruit of righteousness and power in their lives. They continue on in their carnal ways, and often in the old-order religious systems of man, professing to embrace the revelation of this new kingdom day, but void of its transforming power. Those apprehended for this day are now hearing the voice of the Son of God and they that hear shall live! The voice is a tone, a note, a chord, a knowing, an inner hearing and quickening *beyond the message of the words*.

In our text above great pain is taken to declare another glorious day — a day when not a single creature of God, whether in heaven or upon the earth, whether in the sea or even the lowest realms of degradation “under the earth,” shall fail to bow the knee and joyfully proclaim the worthiness of the Lamb! This includes all men and all creatures of all worlds throughout the universe! This includes all angels, holy and fallen, and includes the devil as well! “And *every creature*...heard I saying...” It means that absolutely everything that has life or breath will, in that great day, rejoice and exult and jubilantly cry, “Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever!” Praise shall be universal for the Lamb, for He is worthy indeed!

John beheld in spirit the wonder of a day when the universe shall be free from sin and sinners, and a universal song of adoration goes up to God and the Lamb. It is futile to attempt to apply this to the church in its present state, or to any time in the past since Adam fled from the garden of God. At the time of which John speaks, ***every creature*** in heaven and on earth and under the earth without any exception sends up its anthem of blessings to God and the Lamb! While we praise God for every moving of His Spirit and every step of His all-wise plan, the fact remains that none of the revivals of history has ever once-for-all defeated Satan, sin, and death. No revival at any time in any land has ever turned the whole world to God! No dealing of God with humanity has ever brought to pass the ***total triumph*** of His kingdom in all realms! Sin and death still stalk across the earth, the vast

masses of humanity held tight in their terrible clutches, with sorrows beyond description. Is there no deliverance for these?

How truly the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now! And creation waits — not for another Luther, nor another Paul, nor another Finney, nor another Peter, nor another Moody; waiting not for another Pentecost, nor for another evangelistic crusade or healing campaign, nor for another prophet. “For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD” (Rom. 8:19). And why does all creation stand in the wings waiting with bated breath, crowding the door and standing on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of God’s sons coming into their own? “For the creation itself ALSO shall be delivered *from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God!*” (Rom. 8:21). Think about it!

Thank God, Daniel 7:27 is really true! “And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom, under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and **ALL DOMINIONS SHALL SERVE HIM!**” Thank God, Ephesians 1:10 is actually the fully inspired word of God! “And this is in harmony with God’s merciful purpose for the *government of the world* when the times are ripe for it — the purpose which He has cherished in His own mind of *restoring the whole creation* to find its one Head in Christ; yes, things in heaven and things on earth, to find their one Head *in Him.*” (Weymouth translation).

What love! What wondrous love! What victory! What an unspeakably glorious consummation! The might of God’s strength which operated in Christ, raising Him from the dead, was sufficient to exalt Him to the highest pinnacle of the universe, thus ensuring that all His enemies would be reconciled to Him, that every opposing power would be made subordinate to Him, that all sin and death in every realm and in every man and in every creature throughout all the unbounded heavens would be so swallowed up of HIS LIFE until God would be ALL IN ALL, bless His glorious name! The gospel of the grace of God! Truly it is not just for this age, but extends to all ages and realms, for every creature cries blessing and honor and glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb “*for the ages of the ages.*” That’s how it reads in the Greek! May it flood our hearts that they may, indeed, be illuminated with the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!

The redemption of God’s elect, men *out of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation*, is far from being the whole story of Christ’s reconciliation and redemption. John hears the choirs of heaven joined by the voice of *the whole creation* in a universal outburst of praise to God and the Lamb! Hear it! “And *every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever!*” (Rev. 5:13). Such is the universality of Christ’s achievement that His victory cannot stop short of universal response. No wonder that the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders sing a new song proclaiming the worthiness of the Lamb to take the book and open its seals! No wonder an innumerable company of angels round about the throne take up the refrain: “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain!” No

wonder that every created thing in heaven and in earth and throughout the underworld unites in the great chorus of blessing, glory, honor, and power unto the Lamb!

This is the very music of heaven! As we look at the praises rising up out of chapter four and chapter five of the Revelation, it can be seen that they comprise in substance two great oratorios — the Oratorio of Creation in chapter four, and the Oratorio of Redemption in chapter five. It is interesting to note that an oratorio is a musical composition in which solos and choruses combine to the accompaniment of instruments. Here the voices of angels and the living creatures and the elders with their harps form an immortal choir, chanting celestial praise. As one writer has pointed out, the arrangement of these musical numbers is most artistic. The worship begins with a quartet as the four living creatures sing the seraph's song, "*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, which is, and was, and is to come!*" This is followed by the choir, consisting of the twenty-four elders, which continues the praise of God, "*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou has created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.*"

Then are heard the solo voices: "*Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*" Then comes the response: "*The Lion of the tribe of*

Judah hath prevailed to open the book and to loose the seals thereof!" Then as the Lamb takes the book out of the hand of Him that sits upon the throne, there is heard the unison of the quartet and the choir of elders singing the new song concerning the worthiness of the Lamb, "*For Thou hast redeemed us unto God by Thy blood...and hast made us unto our God kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth!*" Scarcely had the quartet and the choir finished this ascription of praise, than with thrilling crescendo the climax and grand finale are reached. The limitless expanse of God's universe became vocal, and, led by the unnumbered angelic host, the infinite reaches of creation, filled with its myriads of worlds and suns and these all peopled with the creatures of the mind of God, joined the sublimest anthem of praise to the Lamb that divine ears will ever hear. The strains of this mighty coronation song swell until their echoes fill all the ceaseless ages of eternity with unspeakable melody! Then, as the tumult of universal praise dies away, there is heard the sound of a grand "*Amen!*" It is from the lips of the four living creatures. A breathless silence follows, and the elders fall down and worship. Such is the Universal Song — the Celestial Song of Creation and Redemption!

The following is a beautiful writing which appeared some years ago in *The Sharon Star*. No name of an author was attached to it, so whoever the author is, deeper than the human heart can fathom is the meaning and mystery of the words he shares. I quote:

"Many centuries ago there was a Greek musicologist named Boethius. Boethius theorized that there were three main levels of music, and he gave each level a name. The lowest form of music was what he called **musica instrumentalis**. This referred to audible music, either sung or played, performed mainly for entertainment purposes. This is the kind that all people are most familiar with. As we all know, there have been countless works of music written and played over the years which have been and still are incredibly beautiful but which still belong to this category.

“The second highest level of music, according to Boethius, was what he called **musica humana**, which was an audible music, but referred only to that which existed between God and man. It was not intended to be entertaining, but the music was spiritual in nature. The song being sung could be a prayer, an exhortation to people, or it could even be a prophetic song. We, of course, are familiar with and thankful for the gift of spiritual singing, that of singing a higher song in the Spirit that has never been sung before.

“But Boethius recognized that there existed music of yet a far higher nature. He recognized that there are symphonies that have always been playing in a realm that far transcends our natural ears. He recognized that the earth, nature, the atmosphere, and all of Creation are lost in melodies far, far more beautiful than any human ear can hear, but which can be heard only by those who have spiritual ‘ears to hear,’ those who listen to the voice of the Spirit. He called this level of music **musica mundana**, also given the names ‘Music of the Cosmos,’ ‘Harmony of the Spheres,’ or the ‘Symphony of the Universe,’ which referred to this very vibration of all celestial and terrestrial bodies and all of Creation. The scriptures declare that even the very elements give glory to the King of kings! (Isa. 55:12; Job 38:7; Isa. 44:23). Yes, there is indeed such music saturating even the air all around us. But only the sons and daughters of the living God can tune in to that higher frequency and sing its melody, for these are they WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD!

“This music is more than just sound. There are not necessarily any words with it. It is not learned in words, nor does it depend upon words. But it is a living, throbbing vibration of all that God is, which is felt and released from the very center of the spirit! This music is the beauty and glory of the Resurrected Christ! It is the unbroken communion between Christ and His Church, between the Bridegroom and the Bride, and between the Creator and His Creation!

“The source of power behind this Song of Songs is not musical overtones but SPIRITUAL VIBRATIONS of Perfect Love, Life Everlasting, Joy Unspeakable, and unending expressions of Praise and Thanksgiving, springing up from deep within a heart that is filled with all the fullness of Him who reigneth forever and ever! It is a song BORN OF LOVE! It doesn’t just tickle our natural ears, but it pierces the heart and spirit of men! The Song actually operates on a Love so great that men’s hearts shall be opened and melted as they hear! The Day shall come when they shall respond to the quickening power of that Song and join their voices with all the angelical host and sing and sing with such a lyricity of heart, mind, soul, body, and spirit until they become enraptured into the beauty of *infinite harmony*! Creation shall then be truly lifted! Chains shall be broken! Captives shall be liberated as the Resurrected Christ is made alive!

“We, as members of this glorious body of Christ, are called not only to sing that Song, but to BECOME that Living Song of Songs! ‘And give Him no rest, till He establish, and till He *make Jerusalem a praise* in the earth’ (Isa. 62:7). It is when we BECOME this precious melody of love that its power is made manifest. We then BECOME this rhythm of glorified life, yea, earth’s heartbeat of Joy. I pray that we all put on ‘ears to hear’ and join our voices with all the myriads of angels and become that Song. For each individual who develops the power to hear it with spiritual ears can send it on and lift the burdened

hearts of a weary world! Hallelujah! For, “Blessed are the people that *know the joyful sound...!*” (Ps. 89:15).

“As the never-ending fire of God which cannot go out, this Song has always been ringing throughout Creation and it cannot die. Its melody of Life, Love, and Praise DEMANDS expression! Some men may slam their doors, and try to drown it out, but all their noise cannot smother the living crescendo of Love! Its power and impact are too great; it cometh from above” — end quote.

Some time ago a word from brother Carl Schwing crossed my desk and I was especially impressed by the following testimony: “Some nights ago, upon my bed, as my thoughts were upon the Father, my spirit was carried away to the KINGDOM OF THE ELEMENTS...I felt the strong wind blowing against my face, I reached out to touch the rain and snow, I could hear the heaving of the oceans, and the song of the four seasons; I heard the clapping of the trees, I heard the mountains shout for joy and the valleys sing, and the song was always the same: ‘Christ is Lord! Christ is Lord! Christ is Lord!’ I remained in that realm for an hour or so, as my body was in a state of perfect peace. Tonight I understand more deeply what I experienced: The Kingdom of God had visited the kingdoms of the earth (not of the world), for as He had created these kingdoms before creating man, so now they are first to receive the ‘Knowledge of the Lord’ (the awareness of His presence). My brethren, can you not see how close the Hour is? The Father is walking amid His creation and all creation is being *shaken* by His presence...and we, O sons of God, are being *changed* in a ‘moment, in the twinkling of an eye’ by His presence!” — end quote.

Some years ago brother Paul Mueller shared the following illuminating experience in one of his papers. “To help us understand this truth, I would like to share with you a wonderful experience I had while in Nigeria, West Africa thirty years ago. One afternoon the Lord appeared in my room, and said to me, ‘The Kingdom of God is at hand!’ As soon as He said that, He immediately turned away and left the room. Needless to say, I was surprised and amazed by that visitation. As I thought about it later, I began to doubt that it was of the Lord. Since I saw no other manifestation of the Kingdom, I thought the whole experience should be questioned. A few days later, as I was walking down a path from our house to the Bible School where I taught Bible classes, the Lord again got my attention. This time, as I was walking through the lush Nigerian bush, *I heard the leaves, the shrubs, and the plants singing a combined song of praise to the Lord, and of travail for the*

Kingdom of God. I stopped to listen! The sound of it all was so arresting that my attention was fixed for a few minutes on the awesome, majestic wonder of that scene. The sound was so awe-inspiring, I thought it to be a most heavenly sound. The whole creation around me came alive with that combined song of praise and travail. In fact, the creation is always singing and travailling (Rom. 8:22), but for those few minutes I was given ears to hear it! As I stood there transfixed by the wonder of it, the Lord spoke again and said, ‘Now do you doubt me when I tell you *the Kingdom of God is at hand?*’ I replied, ‘No Lord, help me never to doubt your word again!’” — end quote.

A distant relative of mine, Dr. Richard Eby, was accidentally killed a number of years ago when he fell to the street from a three-story building. Instantly he was conscious in the realm of the spirit. One moment he was conscious with a flesh-restricted mind, the next moment with a spirit-released mind whose speed of function was that of light. He was instinctively aware that the Lord of lords was everywhere about him, though he did not at that time see Him. Hours later he was raised from the dead, and of one of the wonderful experiences encountered in that heavenly sphere, he says, "*Music surrounded me*. It came from all directions. Its harmonic beauty, unlike earthly vocal or instrumental sounds, was totally undistorted. It flowed unobtrusively like a glassy river, quietful, worshipful, exceedingly edifying, and totally comforting. It provided a reassuring type of comfort much like a protective blanket that whispered peace and love. I had never sensed anything like it! This music was *sounding* within my head, not from an eardrum. Obviously it was not airborne. Most unusual to me was the absence of any *beat*. Then I realized that without *time* this heavenly music could have *no beat* which is a measure of time! I was hearing harmonic perfection, undistorted by any interposed medium between me and its source, as heard mind-to-mind."

Richard Eby explains that since God is the Creator of the universe He is the Composer of the Song of Creation. This universal Song is the prime communication of worship, praise, and thanksgiving. Music became the resulting harmony from all creation, both of matter and energy. All resonated in unison with the Spirit. It is like a triad of sub-electronic particles with and around which God constructed everything in the universe. The wave-forms we call Light; whereas the material forms we call earth and water and air. The original creation mirrored the composition and perfection of Person-God. All things vibrated in unison with Him! There was total accord and harmony everywhere as the whole cosmos was *resonating with* and *in* God. Each separate thing or being thus carried out an appointed task in His scheme for the universe. A celestial-form of music resulted as the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy! Dr. Eby adds: "The music around me suddenly seemed louder. I rushed to a nearby tree and grasped its trunk to my ear; it was *singing!* I lifted my right elbow to my head; it too emitted the same joyous, beatless melody. Excitedly I stopped to pick some flowers, and found them already in my hand. They too were 'playing' the tune!"

There is a story of the *Lost Chord* that has been told in exquisite verse, and in rapturous music. Perhaps you have heard of the lady who in the autumn twilight laid her fingers on the open keys of a great organ. She knew not what she was playing, or what she was dreaming then; but she struck one chord of music, like the sound of a great Amen. Something called her away, and when she returned to the organ, she had lost that chord divine. Though she longed for it and sought it earnestly in unnumbered hours of practice, it was all in vain. It was a *lost chord*.

And so in our world today a voice of longing cries out of every human soul in surges of incomprehensible yearning. It is a voice that is felt, not heard. None has ever walked the pathways of this planet who has not felt the haunting refrain of that "Lost Chord" moaning out its unutterable lamentation. And one and all try to silence that plaintive cry as it sobs forth its heartbreaking sorrow beneath the burden of a faint glimmer from some long

forgotten memory...or world...or lost existence. Whenever I hear the story of that Lost Chord it reminds me of the lost memory, the lost understanding, the lost knowledge, the lost joy, the lost peace, the lost power, the lost glory, the *lost life* that has fled from mankind. That whining refrain of sadness, darkness, and death, echoing weirdly out of each man's soul, is but the fragmented, scrambled notes of the great Lost Chord, as they are released with *harmonic dissonance and discord*. It is like the exquisite notes of a masterpiece sounded forth indiscriminately without harmony at the hands of an unlearned child. The notes may all be there but there is no lovely melody, only a raucous racket.

There is recorded in the book of Job the statement of a glorious former time when “the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy” (Job 38:7). That exquisite harmony was muted when man was lowered out of the realm of pure spirit into this gross material realm, and then muted further by sin and the subjection of creation to the bondage of corruption, as mankind became overwhelmed with the consciousness of this dense realm of the earthly, material, and temporal. But through the quickening of the Spirit of the resurrected and ascended Christ A NEW SONG IS ARISING — the Universal Song, indeed, the Lost Chord begins to vibrate and sing within our hearts again!

Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore,
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,
Chords that are broken will vibrate once more!

There is a glorious company that stands upon mount Zion with the Lamb, they are of the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north (Isa. 14:13; Ps. 48:2), brought there by the transforming grace of God, and they sing as it were A NEW SONG before the throne, which no man (earthly realm, carnal mind) can learn. It is called “as it were” a new song because though it seems new, it is not new at all! It is the same song Creation sang in that long ago beginning when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy! It is heard through the celestial realms again as the **new morning stars** take up that lost chord and express the Life and Glory and Reality of God in spirit and in truth. Well did Ray Prinzing write, “Thrilling to note that the word ‘song’ is the Greek word for an *ode*. An ode isn't the same as a hymn which is a song composed and sung, whereas an ode is a spontaneous outflow of melody and praise that finds its expression in song by the Spirit's inner prompting. Now a *morning* star means the first, early, or foremost one. And it is given as the herald or messenger to announce the day which is coming forth. The night might seem dark, but the morning star shines out to announce that the GREATER LIGHT OF GOD shall soon be seen over all the earth. Truly *‘the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea.’* Ah, this gives new hope for coming days, ***His lighted stars betoken the victory***” — end quote.

I cannot tell how all lands will worship
When, at His bidding, every storm is stilled;
Or who can say how great the jubilation
When all the hearts of men with love are filled.

But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture
And myriad, myriad human voices sing;
And earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer,
At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!

Thirty centuries ago the Psalmist cried out in spirit, "Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being." All the way through the book of Psalms, even in its most sorrow-laden passages, you feel that you are walking in a smoldering volcano of praise, liable to burst out at any moment into a great flame of thanksgiving to God. And as the book draws to its close, the flame leaps high from the crater: here you have praise, and nothing but praise! You have perhaps watched a great conductor bringing every member of his orchestra into action towards the close of some majestic symphony; have seen him, as the music climbed higher and higher, signaling to one player after another, and always at the signal another instrument responding to the summons and adding its voice to the music, until at the last crashing chords not one was left dumb, but all were uniting in a thrilling and triumphant climax.

So these final Psalms summon everything in creation to swell the glorious unison of God's praise. They summon symbolically to the sun riding in the heavens, "You come in now, and praise Him!" And then to the myriad stars of night, "You now, praise Him!" Then to the mountains, piercing the clouds with their summits, "Praise Him!" Then to the kings and judges of the earth, "Praise Him!" Then to manhood in its strength and maidenhood in its grace and beauty, "Praise Him!" Then to the multitude of the redeemed in earth and heaven, "Praise Him!" The crescendo continues until the whole wide universe is shouting with every voice the praise of God alone. The Psalms in their sequence show forth the redemptive progression that can only end when every heart beats in unison with the heart of God; when every mind shall harmonize with divine wisdom and purpose; when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father!

The loving, praising, worshipping attitude of the whole universe is to be complete and perfect. Thus all the ends of the earth shall offer up their praise and thanksgiving to Him for His great love, salvation, and inflow of life. What a THANKSGIVING DAY that will be! Every knee on this globe, and in the heavens above, and in the underworld shall confess the Lordship of God and His sons. What a TESTIMONY MEETING! There has never been one like it. The summing up of the universe is the revelation of harmony. It is not that the harmony comes at the end, but that the harmony is *revealed* at the end. The universe is all music, but it is not all music to our ear. We only hear a few chords, and they are most often minor chords. The minor chords seem discords when we hear them in their fragmented position; they lack the full symphony to bring out their symmetry. Often our hearts cry out that we are living in a world filled with discords. The Father must teach us that we are living in a world of perfect music, but we only hear a small portion of the music. Sorrow, pain, disappointment, heartaches, frustration, and travail, not to mention sin and death, seem to our ear sad and discordant notes. Often we feel that the coming melody shall atone for the grating chords. Nay, my brother, my sister; say rather that the grating chords themselves shall be revealed as parts of the completed harmony. Then shall

we fathom the depths of the wisdom and knowledge of God! Then shall we understand His ways that are past finding out! Then shall we see just how it is that *all things work together for good!* The melody is not to come, it has come already; it has only to be completed to be revealed, and then the harpers shall stand upon the glassy sea.