

The Bride Worth Waiting For

The Covenant Design from Creation to Eternity

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The Spirit and the bride say, Come.

All Scripture references are from the KJV unless otherwise noted.

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Introduction and Mission Statement

The Scriptures reveal something extraordinary about the character of God. He does not rush His purposes, nor does He abandon them when humanity falters. Instead, through patience and covenant faithfulness, He continues His work until the day when the people He has redeemed stand before Him as **the Bride worth waiting for**.

This character of God has proven itself to me over and over because I tend to think of myself as an anomaly. For as long as I can remember being just a little bit different has been both the very worst attribute of my life and at times the best attribute. The anomaly is that in spite of being a square peg in a round world, my life has been held in His hand and He has never rushed nor abandoned me. My personal history and journey in life has demonstrated that when I try to be normal I fall into my worst seasons of life. When I accept my not so normalness I realize It's Him and His hand molding my understanding and perspective.

He - our God - is so good in the most wonderful ways and my life in His hands have proven His patience - because this book is 45 years in the making all the while me struggling with me and my inward conflicts - which in effect put God on the back burner. Yet true to His nature He has been there drawing me forward day by day very patiently. That patience works both ways because resolving my personal notions of what I was expecting God to do versus how He actually operates - well let's just say personal notions lose and God wins. And if you can manage to not be a sore loser and call it quits on God then someday may be 45 years later you come to realize the accumulated losses are actually a big win. There is very much to say for the benefits of humility - mainly because being humbled is the only honest position from which we can learn to communicate with God.

Now 45 five years later this book is not about me and I am blessed to say that. This book is all about Him - our God - not because I say so but because He has said so in His Word. This book is about what He has opened up of His Word for the benefit of the people He desires to invite into His eternity. There are times when a ship must put down its anchor to make it unmovable against the storm. These days we are now living in - have a great many forces pushing in a great many directions. As sad as it is to even think about this is just an honest assessment about the current conditions of the world we live in - and that assessment is that there are just too many people who are willing to be violent for their personal causes and in too many cases they are willing to kill indiscriminately. Isn't this is the very saddest commentary? I just can't bury my

head in the sand and say it's not so. I can't insulate myself and say these tragedies don't effect me.

Fortunately regardless of the visible conditions of a violent world - our invisible God keeps His children filled with hope and in anticipation of better things soon to come. That is the entire mission statement of why this book is being written and offered. To fill people up to the utmost in hope, faith and anticipation of the blessing of being called up into eternity. Jesus did say "Look up for your redemption draweth nigh". We have to look up because looking elsewhere only creates despair. And there are good reasons to hold our heads high - not in pride - but in knowing all our hopes are going to be finally realized. That is if your hope is in His glorious appearing. And that is THE anchor that fastens our souls to His promises.

This is no short work and my tendency is to be exhaustive. This is necessary because the anchor needs to be extremely strong to be more than enough to match and hold up against the winds of this age. Fortunately and blessedly the Rock that our anchor grabs a hold of is God Himself.

Right off I know the first few chapters are the most basic foundational truths - but I'm wanting to lay out a clear "This is God" pattern that builds up confidence and faith. There is no greater foundation than the foundation created by God Himself so while I am starting off with simple foundational truths - these truths provide the fasteners that keep everything built upon the foundation in place and unmovable against any coming storm - so here we go...

From the beginning God was not merely governing creation; He was preparing something far greater. The story of Scripture reveals a God who patiently works through covenant, redemption, and time itself to bring forth a people who will live in His presence. What begins in Genesis as the creation of humanity ultimately culminates in Revelation as the presentation of a Bride prepared for her husband.

In many ways the entire biblical story can be understood as the long unfolding of a single purpose: the revealing of **a Bride worth waiting for.**

As Jesus prayed His High Priestly prayer in Gethsemane as recorded by the Apostle John in chapter 17 - Jesus prayed for future generations by saying: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word" That prayer extends to you and me many years and many generations later. Jesus prayed for people presently unknown and unseen and yet the power and effect of that prayer has endured. If I now may follow in that pattern of faith by praying for all readers of this book. That these words on these

pages be used to fill the reader with faith unmovable and provide a knowledge of Him that aids in bringing the reader into the eternal union also prayed for by Jesus:

"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**: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be **made perfect in one**; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." John 17:21-23

Just in case you never noticed before but being 'made one' is marriage language. So someone has someone on His mind. As we delve into these pages this story is going to unfold - so enjoy the journey. In Jesus Name. Amen - Let it be so.

Chapter 1

God Owns It ALL

"Everything begins with this truth: God owns it all — the land, the nations, every soul, and every breath. Nothing exists outside His rightful authority."

The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. — Psalm 24:1

I'm not wanting to bore anyone by starting with foundational truths - but the structure of what God is building - His Church - starts with the foundation then the pillars and walls run upward to hold up the roof. The foundation holds fast against the floods. The walls hold back the winds and the roof that holds out the rain that falls from above. The stability of each structural element - foundation, pillars and walls, and roof all work together to create the stable non movable temple that is the Church. So this work is being put together to demonstrate the integrity of all the element to go into building a "great house."

Not only I, but every created thing owes its existence to Jesus. "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made". Joh 1:3 This includes this current cosmos and everything in it. This current earth and everything and everyone in it. All angels both good and bad - and all seen and unseen powers and forces. Nothing is excluded or exempt from His rightful ownership. Nor does anything or any being escape His rightful authority. Just being very clear with no ambiguity - I only say these things because the Word says these things.

Jesus created all things

Scripture repeatedly states that creation was not merely spoken into existence by God in general, but specifically through the Son.

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or

principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
Colossians 1:16 KJV

Hebrews 1:2 KJV Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom
he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

Jesus sustains all things

Colossians 1:17 KJV And he is before all things, and by him all things
consist.

Hebrews 1:3 KJV Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express
image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power...

By The Word of His Power Jesus has authority over wind and sea

Matthew 8:26-27 KJV And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of
little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there
was a great calm. (27) But the men marveled, saying, What manner of
man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

Jesus Has Authority over natural elements

John 2:7-9 KJV Jesus saith unto them, Fill the water pots with water. And
they filled them up to the brim. (8) And he saith unto them, Draw out
now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. (9) When
the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine...

Matthew 14:24-25 KJV But the ship was now in the midst of the sea,
tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. (25) And in the fourth
watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

These were not displays of power for the sake of spectacle, but demonstrations
that creation still responds to its Creator. He can speak into nothing and His Word
will produce whatever purpose He desires. He can also speak into an existing
situation and get the results He wants. So seen or unseen - already here or even
non - existent - everything obeys His commands. These things are possibilities
because He is the source. And being the source He has all control over all
outcomes.

Jesus Has Authority over Life and death

Then He walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," He said, "I tell you, get up." (15) Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother. Luke 7:14-15 NLT

As Jesus was saying this, the leader of a synagogue came and knelt before Him. "My daughter has just died," he said, "but You can bring her back to life again if You just come and lay Your hand on her." (25) After the crowd was put outside, however, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up! Matthew 9:18,25 NLT

So He told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead". (43) Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" (44) And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in grave clothes, his face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!" John 11:14,43-44 NLT

For just as the Father gives life to those He raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone He wants. John 5:21 NLT

Jesus has Authority over devils

The unseen realm always recognizes authority long before humans or human institutions ever do.

And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him. Mark 1:27 KJV

That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and He healed all the sick. Matthew 8:16 NLT

Demons recognize Jesus and His Authority of their eternal fate

Suddenly, a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit

began shouting, (24) "Why are You interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!" Mark 1:23-24 NLT

When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met Him. They lived in a cemetery and were so violent that no one could go through that area. (29) They began screaming at Him, "Why are You interfering with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torture us before God's appointed time?" Matthew 8:28-29 NLT

Jesus Has Authority and ownership over You

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine... Ezekiel 18:4 KJV

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. Psalms 100:3 KJV

In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind. Job 12:10 KJV

Jesus Has Authority to Determine Where You Spend Eternity

John 5:22 KJV For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

John 5:27-29 KJV And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. (28) Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, (29) And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Matthew 10:28 KJV And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

This authority is not given to terrify and subjugate humanity, but to establish that justice ultimately rests in righteous hands. We can gain confidence and trust in

knowing "all authority" is in the hands of a God that loves you - versus a despot that wants to kill you. We can breath a sigh of relief that Jesus is the One on the throne ruling with grace and mercy.

Jesus has Authority over ALL

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, (20) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, (21) Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: (22) And hath put all things under his feet... Ephesians 1:19-22 KJV

Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. 1 Peter 3:22 KJV
KJV That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:10-11

No body has to convince me. No one has to tell me twice. Scripture clearly presents Jesus Christ as Creator of all things, Sustainer of all life, rightful Owner of every soul, and Lord over every spirit - human and angelic. Nothing living or unseen exists outside His authority. AND even the long time dead will obey His voice and come forth when called.

Jesus Christ is not merely part of God's plan for creation - He is its origin, sustainer, ruler, and final restorer. Jesus exercises unquestioned authority over demons: they recognize Him, obey His commands, fear His judgment, and are subject to His Name. His authority over devils confirms His lordship over the entire unseen realm.

If the idea of Jesus as *Lord* feels intimidating, it is important to understand what Scripture actually means by Lord. His Lordship is not harsh control, distant authority, or domination. His Lordship doesn't make you a bottom of the barrel slave. Rather as we dig deeper it will be shown that Jesus' Lordship actually means He wants what's best for you. Scripturally being Lord means He is the source. His nature is as a giver - willing to supply and willing to bring you into His eternity. He owns eternity too by the way - that is His abode and He wants us there with Him. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with

me where I am; that they may behold my glory... John 17:24

Our personal understanding of authority is based on our personal experiences in life. When men exercise authority that can mean anything from a good loving parent all the way to the most brutal horrific tyrant. It is that broad spectrum of possibilities that shapes our perceptions of authority as either being good up to a point and then intrusive, all the way up to evil. This experience is forged by broken humans who use authority to threaten and dominate. Now when it comes to Jesus he does not rule the way broken human systems rule. He rules as **Creator who knows His creation**, as **Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep**, and as the **Redeemer who gives Himself before asking anything in return**. He loves us first and then draws us into that love making us appreciate and love Him in return.

To belong to Jesus is not to live in fear - it is to finally be **known deeply, protected, and to be held** by the One who made you. His authority is not exercised against you, but **for you**. "If God be for us, who can be against us" and this is the heart of understanding and appreciating Jesus' authority - because He uses His authority entirely to protect you and for your benefit.

God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things **for the benefit of the church**. (23) And the church is His body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with Himself. Ephesians 1:22-23 NLT

The same hands that hold the universe were pierced to demonstrate His love for you. His Lordship is meant to be embraced, not resisted, because it flows from love, not threat. Perfect peace enters the heart that accepts His love.

For those who already trust and walk with Him, remember this: you were never meant to carry the weight of the world, or defend the kingdom by your own strength, or force outcomes that only God can bring to pass. Christ's authority does not depend on your energy, your clarity, or your endurance. It rests fully in **who He is**.

Your calling is not to strive, but to **abide**.

Not to control, but to **trust**.

Not to stand in your own strength, but to remain anchored in His strength.

When you grow weary, His Lordship remains steady.

When the world shakes, His authority does not falter.

When you feel small, remember - the One who holds all things also holds you.

That is not a burden.

That is rest.

Reader Reflection — “Who Holds You?”

Take a moment to consider how often the word *authority* has been misused in your life.

Human authority often demands, controls, disappoints, or fails. It can wound instead of protect. Because of this, it is easy to quietly resist the idea that anyone should be “Lord” over us - even God.

But Jesus does not rule like men rule.

Before He ever asked for allegiance, He gave Himself.

Before He exercised judgment, He extended mercy.

Before He claimed authority, He bore suffering.

Ask yourself honestly:

If the One who governs all things also knows your name, your fears, your wounds, and everything else about you - and still chose to die for you - is His Lordship something to fear, or something that can create peace and rest within?

What if surrender is not loss, but safety?
What if trust is not weakness, but wisdom?

The question is not whether someone rules your life - because like it or not in this world there are many that rule over you for better or for worse. The real question is - given the choice, it is **who do you want to rule over you**, and **with what motives and heart**. And yes only HE gives us a true choice.

If Jesus truly owns all things - and Scripture leaves no doubt that He does - then an important question naturally follows - How does He exercise that authority in the world we see today? This is an especially important question because to the untrained eye God's sovereignty is invisible and therefore ignorable with the universal question being - "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice?" As we move forward we know Pharaoh - the one who asked that question - found out the hard way. We want to avoid that mistake and learn for our own good.

The next chapter will help us learn that ownership does not always mean immediate intervention, and sovereignty does not require constant force. Throughout Scripture, God chooses to govern creation through delegated authority, appointed times, and measured restraint.

To understand history, nations, judgment, and redemption, we must now explore not just *who* owns the earth—but *how* God rules in the affairs of men.

Reflection: True authority does not crush - it carries.

Closing Thought:

Lordship does not begin with obedience. It begins with **trust**.

And trust grows best where love has already been proven.

Chapter 2

Ownership Requires Order

God's sovereignty is not unregulated power. It is measured and restrained and administered morally. Although God owns all things, He governs the world through delegated authority, appointed boundaries, and allotted times, never surrendering sovereignty, yet often restraining His direct intervention. He did not impose order after creation - order is built into creation.

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace ... 1 Corinthians 14:33

And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation. Acts 17:26

Ownership does not require constant intervention

For too many un-saved persons evil is a stumbling block in having faith in God because their logic is - how can a loving God allow evil. To answer that question satisfactorily a good foundation needs to be laid. The problem of evil is not evidence of God's non existence, indifference or absence. But as we go along building the foundation what becomes apparent is the current chaos is greater evidence of His patience regardless of chaos. And in His patience is where we will start building. We should have a great gratitude for God's patience because Biblical record clearly show that when God shows up directly to administer justice - someone is going to get beat down severely. Honestly that is not what God wants and neither should we want instant justice. Because what's good for "them" might also be good for you. We should all be cautious for what we ask for.

Ask yourself: Are infants evil because they weren't born mature and complete? Of course not because an infant has never done neither good nor bad. Those things become choices as the infant grows and matures. From the parents perspective infants are born - and we project our hopes in anticipation and patience that the

child will grow just fine. So a "time" of hope and anticipation is automatically built into further development and maturity. From God's perspective creation is in this "time" of development and maturity. So He is correctly waiting patiently for creation to mature and make the right choices regardless of the interim bad choices.

Ownership Without Micromanagement

Think about being a parent. Do we live physically attached and ever present and connected to our children? As children grow and reach an age where they can be left alone - independence should be the goal of good parenting. Hopefully. As our children get older and they become independent - we can only hope they behave and only hope they don't get into too much mischief - or burn down the house or brutalize their siblings. Raising children can be a source of joy one moment and a source of terror the next - yet we manage and we do our best to keep them alive and scoot them off into their own destinies.

Our Heavenly Father is a good parent and although He owns all things, Scripture shows that He does not rule the world through constant visible intervention and a heavy hand. Instead, He governs humanity through delegated authorities or governments, appointed national boundaries, and allotted times. This does not mean God has withdrawn from the world, nor does it suggest that evil operates outside His control. Rather, it reveals a deliberate pattern - God remains sovereign while allowing nations, rulers, and peoples to operate within set limits.

These limits that He Himself has set gives us a solid footing to know this chaos is not forever. Evil will not persist forever, order will eventually be established and harmony and tranquility will become the norm. And that day will come - OH happy day! This chapter is the beginning - leading us in the direction of understanding the "until" seasons of human history. These are the built in "times of grace" giving humanity the space to reach maturity in either righteousness or evil. Then at the end of the day God is going to do the final separation based on what we did with our "time."

Our confidence will grow when we realize God does not react to history - He owns history. Scripture assures us that His restraint does not mean retreat nor abandonment. This is a sticking point for people because the human mind interprets "restraint" - as a time of apparent inactivity - as God is doing nothing. And this is just not the case. Restraint means God is keeping us alive and moving forward towards our own destinies.

The heavens belong to the LORD, but He has given the earth to all humanity. Psalms 115:16 NLT

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 1 Corinthians 15:25 KJV

Creation's Groaning

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. Romans 8:22 KJV

Creation is in labor. Labor is indeed painful - but it is the end product that all creation is waiting for. Until the end product arrives God is managing our labor pains in the delivery room - this earth.

Managing until the birth

Understanding the distinction between **ownership** and **administration** is essential. God owns all things but He administers through delegation. This is how He keeps things orderly. Without order, history appears chaotic, injustice seems unchecked, and judgment feels arbitrary. But once this framework is established, the movement of nations, the rise and fall of empires, and even prolonged periods of moral decline begin to make sense. God is not absent. He is patient, purposeful, and precise. Us having to deal with "Life" and the stuff that happens certainly tests our patience and endurance. We want our children to be mature and obedient NOW. We want our circle of friends, family and associates to be forever peaceful, and we want a world free from strife. Yeah right! Like that's going to happen. Your frustrations now - have been the frustrations of many for a long time - you are not alone.

How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But You do not listen! "Violence is everywhere!" I cry, but You do not come to save. (3) Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence. I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight. (4) The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted. Habakkuk 1:2-4 NLT

Habakkuk's cry resonates as the universal cry we all struggle with. Does God care about what's going on in this world? Did an orderly God really design life this way? Well the shortest possible answer is - a world filled with people exercising their free will in the wrong way has created the current existence we all have to experience and endure. Yes, chaos and evil are a thing but they are only the results of people exercising their God given free will in all the wrong ways. Should God do away with free will? Do you want your free will micromanaged by a strong hand? That would certainly end many issues and a harmonious society will be established - that is IF God wanted a society of mindless robots.

Satan would like that kind of society because he - not having a true authority - he must subjugate in order to maintain his false authority. God on the other hand is true and His true authority can never be taken away so He never operates based on feeling threatened like men do. He is secure and passes that security down. God is love and does not force obedience - because a forced obedience is not love. The freedom to choose the course of your life is a gift from God. Our gift to God is to use our free will to say thank you and love Him back. This is the mature use of our free will.

God's Love Creates the Order He Wants - Disorder creates Chaos

When a crime is not punished quickly, people feel it is safe to do wrong.
Ecclesiastes 8:11 NLT

This is a problem with human thinking. Essentially - If everybody is doing wrong - then it's right to do wrong. So our minds interpret God's restraint as either absence, non-existence, or weakness. God's restraint is not weakness. It is mercy

making room for repentance. God does not stand around waiting to zap a wrong doer into oblivion.

Free will is a gift from God not only for us to live the lives we choose - but also to Himself. Free will allows God to know that you love Him freely. That you choose to exercise your free will in a responsible manner in choosing to do the right things. God wants a people for Him to love freely and who return that love freely. Isn't this a nicer, wiser God? One that is easy to fall in love with and want to live for and serve joyfully.

So while I am in complete agreement that we should want evil eliminated, want justice prevailing, fairness for all and love abounding. It's the means to get to that point that we will be talking about. Just keep in mind the right ways are God's ways and us aligning our free will with His will are the best means to create that world. And God's way for now is for us to trust and be patient - along with us individually making better choices. God allows time not because He has lost control, but because He is still calling people to choose rightly within the time we have.

The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. (15) And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved... 2 Peter 3:9,15 NLT

God delegates authority

If God did not delegate - If He did everything by Himself - there would be no reason for our existence. He certainly has all the capabilities to do everything by Himself. But God is a giver and in giving He shares the joy of accomplishment with His creation. And if I can put it this way - that's what makes God happy.

So to whom does God delegate authority to? Should they be skilled? Or unskilled? Are we made happy when we hire unskilled persons? No - we want the job done right. Skilled workers makes life easier for everyone - but God is in the training business and offers on the job training. As would be expected - better trainees

get promoted and lesser skilled trainees get placed into positions appropriate for their skill set.

On the Job Training

Training requires a trainer. Adam started out with a one on one with God Himself. Adam later chose - using his free will - a different trainer. Oh boy! That was a mistake but did God kick him out of the program? No - humanity is still in the program - BUT - this precedent was now created. If we don't want God directly one on one - then God will provide other school masters.

This precedent follows throughout Scripture. The Israelites didn't want to see nor hear from God directly so God gave them Moses and the law. Later they didn't want the judges - asked for a king - so God gave them a king. Later when the kings became ungodly God turned them over to the nations. You see someone has to do the training it's just a matter of our willingness or unwillingness that determines who does the training.

Our own actions are the direct cause of requiring the need for "school masters" to guide us into maturity. I'm not a physiologist that I can understand why we tend to act independently from God and thereby push God to the sidelines. But that's what we do. Adam sinned and sin caused them to hide. Our independent actions cause a separation from God. Fortunately, God nature is to not abandon - so He holds on by providing intermediary authority figures for the time being. Those intermediary figures that God delegates authority to are parents, elders, leaders, and governments. They represent His authority and provide the training until the day we can be mature enough to have a "Face to face" restored one on one relationship - void of independent, autonomous bad choices.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 1 Corinthians 13:10-12 KJV

This is Corinthians 13 - The Love chapter. The love of God is perfect and until the time we learn to live our lives loving in the same way God loves - then this current time of "in part" or partial relationship is filled with mediators - or other authority figures - until God gets what He wants - the one on one - Face to face - perfect relationship of mature believers. Because love overrides - it takes away the "in part" - unclear mindset and gives us the clarity to understand and act exactly the same as God understands and acts. We then at that time can stand face to face - eyeball to eyeball and just know what is in God's mind and heart - without needing to be told by instructor or mediator.

...I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me...Jeremiah 31:33-34

Until that day.... Time equals Mercy - not Weakness

God exercises patience for our sake giving people time to be saved. And herein lies a key - time is a tool that allows believers to get saved and grow in maturity - and time is also a restrainer that limits how long evil has to persist. Again as a parent how many times do we say "I'm going to count to five - or else". We give our children time to think and choose or else face the consequences for their actions. God gives us time for our benefit and He gives the world time for the same reasons. So trust God and be patient.

In the mean time - in this "until" season - God delegates authority to human governing entities - BECAUSE humanity as a whole is not yet ready to enter eternity and stand before a perfect and holy God. Current human existence now is in an intermediary stage where intermediaries have authority to govern in the place of God. Parents, elders, teachers, bosses, administrators, police and military forces, and governments all exist now by God's authority. Just exactly as the Bible says the "law was given because of transgressions" So also authority is delegated and given with the ideal of maintaining a lawful and peaceful society.

Just because authority is delegated does not mean God's authority can be canceled or ignored. The universal cry uttered by Habakkuk is evidence that individuals are ignoring God rather than seeking God.

The ideal is that all persons in positions of authority are all submitted to God's rule. The Ideal hardly exists because most individuals are not believers in God. So there is that and here we are. Again none of that escapes God and God can and has intervened when necessary. As mentioned earlier - direct and immediate intervention has never been pleasant. Yet in our limited wisdom we wish God would intervene more often but we humans do not operate with God's wisdom and understanding. So again - trust and patience. God owns history and God owns the individuals operating in God's history.

...He has all wisdom and power. (21) He controls the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. Daniel 2:20-21 NLT

Just a note. We don't start out wise to get more wisdom. We start out as ignorant and choose wisdom. He is willing to share His wisdom with those willing to ask. We only need to be smart enough to ask.

The Delegated Authority

NLT Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. (2) So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. Romans 13:1-2

I want to be clear. Submission to authority does not mean moral approval of the either the individual or the government in authority. Submission to authority is the simple recognition that God uses order - even imperfect order - to restrain greater evil. I know this is a bit heavy. Taking geometry and algebra was heavy but I needed to get my diploma so I dealt with it.

Please let me offer some insight. God's plan is to establish order - eternal and

divine order. The eternal and divine order originates with the understanding that God governs Himself. God is not unruly and arbitrary nor does He operate on whims - like humans do. God governs Himself based on His own moral attributes. He is love, it is impossible for Him to lie, He keeps ALL promises.

These just scratch the surface but they demonstrate that an all powerful God who is not accountable to anyone other than Himself - restrains Himself and keeps Himself within the boundaries of a moral nature. This is refreshing and comforting. We humans are the whimsical ones that do everything out of order. Yet God is willing to invest in and teach - until we can understand the nature of divine order.

The Origin of Order on Earth is Heaven

This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. Daniel 4:17 KJV

Throughout history, God has governed Israel by covenant, the nations by conscience and authority, and the Church by the Spirit - all moving toward the same final order. That's a colossal God sized undertaking I'd say. Us being able to recognize God's hand in the big picture settles our soul by giving us the absolute confidence that God knows where He is taking us.

Within that plan of God in establishing an eternal and divine order - God is working with people and angels that possess free will. The whimsical ones who tend to do things that are not smart - even though in the moment - bad decisions seem to make perfect sense. Bringing that human nature to submit to divine order is the story of the whole Bible.

At one point God had a holy people - the Israelites - their history showed that they progressively disobeyed God's divine order to the point that they required a very severe punishment. Because they rejected God's divine order - God then created a new order that would subjugate them. If they wouldn't learn to be obedient to God directly - then God had little choice but to break that disobedient

spirit by placing them under the control of cruel masters.

Note - God does not abandon nor destroy. His will is to keep and promote. But sometimes love has to be very tough. At this point in history it is not circumstantial that God begins a new chapter in world history by raising the first of the empires that dominate the region to this day. This is not by chance - this is by God's will and design. When God's patience reaches its appointed limit, restraint gives way to correction.

God's tough love

Habakkuk 1:5-6 NLT The LORD replied, "Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it. (6) I am raising up the Babylonians, a cruel and violent people. They will march across the world and conquer other lands.

Authority as God's Temporary Tool

It is mind boggling that as an act of God - God would raise up a cruel and violent people - but that's what He did. Hope and clarity comes from understanding why He did.

God did not raise Babylon because He loved cruelty, but because the unchecked sin in Judah was destroying more lives than the Babylonians would. The Israelites were behaving particularly bad and God counted to five. Now they had to face the consequences. God's promises of discipline are not empty. Humans are generally bad at following through when we tell our children behave or else.

God does what He says He is going to do in both giving us good things and in giving us the rod. In this case the level of discipline matched the level of disobedience. At every level authority should be respected. Parents can discipline their children. Bosses can discipline their workers. Police and Judges are used to discipline the lawless. And God uses nations to discipline nations. The "discipline" is not to destroy but rather to train and lead to repentance and repentance leads to life. And living eternally is where God wants all of us.

Submission Keeps Us Alive

Then I repeated this same message to King Zedekiah of Judah. "If you want to live, submit to the yoke of the king of Babylon and his people. (13) Why do you insist on dying--you and your people? Why should you choose war, famine, and disease, which the LORD will bring against every nation that refuses to submit to Babylon's king? Jeremiah 27:12-13 NLT

Can you see and understand what Jeremiah is saying and the council he offered? If you want to live - submit to the authority of - who? Wait - what? Babylon? Human eyes see rivals and enemies. The human wisdom of Israel said God would never allow Babylon to conquer them. Giving no regard to the fact that sin had already conquered them. God's eyes see the devil and sin as the greatest enemy, and if He has to use even Babylonians to deliver from sin then so be it.

Submit to live and refusal to submit brings what? War, famine, and disease ending in death. Not just for Judah but for any nation that refuses to submit to Babylon. To make this clear - submission to order is God's goal. Submission to order equals submission to God. God is the true Authority but if we won't submit to Him directly - God creates substitutes. In this case Babylon.

God wants the ideal - submission to Him. God wants the "face to face" relationship. He wants us to live and move forward into our greater destiny. But we dig in our heels so God pulls out His strong arm - The big and ugly human governments. Burger King did not invent the slogan "Have it your way" - God has been saying that for thousands of years. So here we are with imperfect humans all having it our own way. Our own ways invite war, famine, disease and death - and then we question where is God??? If we can choose to follow God's ways then and only then will we see God. In the mean time...

God wants us to prosper – where ever we are

This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives He has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: (5) "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. (6) Marry and

have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! (7) And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare." Jeremiah 29:4-7 NLT

Pray to the LORD for the welfare of Babylon. This now typifies a God strategy for His people held captive in a foreign land. Jesus said pray for your enemies - and Paul later expands:

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. (2) Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. (3) This is good and pleases God our Savior, 1 Timothy 2:1-3 NLT

So we can live peaceful and quiet lives and please our God. We are in the world but we are not of it. We are pilgrims just passing through. As Priests our role is defined as praying for all people and all who are in authority. The Church does not govern over people or governments. This world is not our home but we are ambassadors who should represent heaven with godliness and dignity. So between the Old Testament and New this is the God strategy for keeping His people alive so we can prosper long enough to achieve our greater destinies. This does not mean worldly governments are approved and condoned. It just means for the time being they act as a buffer - until humanity is ready for divine rule - imperfect human authority is God's continuing mercy - not His failure.

Let me elaborate. These are the choices that exist.

- 1) Total Chaos
- 2) Human governments - some better - some worse
- 3) Satan as the sole sovereign
- 4) God alone as total sovereign King

Total Chaos is just completely out of line with God's purposes and nature. Genesis portrays the earth as a place of chaos. God intervened and brought that chaos into a divine order and that is the ultimate goal - to bring all that exists into a divine order. God is using government authority as a representation of Himself in order to maintain a basic morality until we can come to a knowledge and understanding of Him.

Can we make human governments better? What does 6000 years of human history say? That is a long road and a high hill - mainly because the word "better" is subject to interpretation. Better for who? History says better for the ones at the top. This being true - yet still the ones at the bottom still get to live as best as we can.

Satan has only one goal - to kill every last human - top, middle and bottom. So the buffer and lesser of two evils is human government.

What about God as sole sovereign? That's what we had in Eden - that's what Israel had during the Judges period. That's what we had and lost. Short answer - humanity is not ready - our whimsical hearts and minds are not ready - we are the problem. Our own nature and a lack of spiritual understanding is the problem. Humanity has a propensity to push God away with our disobedience - none the less God saves us from annihilation with human government. The lesser of the evils and buffer against total satanic domination and annihilation.

So an intermediary human government it is. Not perfect but it still demonstrates authority and God's care for us. Until humanity is ready for divine rule, God permits imperfect rule to prevent total destruction. So we pray for our governments to be benevolent so we can continue to live and prosper in peace. Amen.

The Allotted Times - God's Historical Clock

So what do we need to know? God counts to five - or in the case of human history He counts in the hundreds or thousands of years. He gives humanity an allotted time very specifically - time to repent.

From one man He created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and He determined their boundaries. (27) "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him--though He is not far from any one of us. Acts 17:26-27 NLT

This is actually a very amazing thing to think about. God's level of control in guiding the destinies of nations. In choosing the Jews there was never an abandonment of the Gentiles. He has a purpose for the Jews and He has a purpose for all people. And to both these groups God has ordained an allotted time so they can think - so they can "find Him". To the gentiles there is allotted a "times of the gentiles". To the Jews there has been allotted the "seventy weeks" as told by the angel to Daniel. These allotted times are specific count down clocks that tell us when time runs out before the consequences start. God is more than fair in giving humanity time to think and "find Him". Rather than instantaneous punishment as the consequence of our wrong actions.

But the LORD reigns forever, executing judgment from His throne. (8) He will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness. (9) The LORD is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. (10) Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for You. Psalms 9:7-10 NLT

This was the whole point of Paul's preaching to the Athenians - "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him - though He is not far from any one of us."

Being invisible does not mean not being present. By allowing individuals the absolute right of free will and "doing it their way" does not mean they are not accountable for doing it their way. All that means is the clock is still ticking and we should be thinking. The ones that "find Him" will gain an eternity and the ones that ignore Him will face the day of consequences.

"Watch out! Don't let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness,

and by the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware, like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Luke 21:34-35 NLT

Final thought:

God's use of time, authority, and restraint is not random, nor is it cruel. It is purposeful love at work within a broken world. Human governments, imperfect as they are, function as temporary instruments to restrain satanic dominance while God continues His greater work of calling hearts to Himself. History is not spiraling out of control - it is moving toward order. The clock is not broken - it is counting. Every generation is given space to choose, every nation given an opportunity to seek, and every individual has a moment to align their will with God's. The same God who allows time also sets its limits, and when those limits are reached, justice will no longer be delayed. Until then, faith is learned in patience, obedience is practiced under imperfect authority, and hope is anchored in the certainty that God owns history - and He will finish what He began.

Moving forward - we take a step back to see a bigger picture in which this current earth was not God's first ordered society. There was a time before man, before nations and before history - where God was already ruling a moral universe... until the originator of rebellion stepped in...

Reflection: - Time Is Mercy, Not Delay

Every day without judgment is a day extended for repentance - mine and others.

Ask yourself:

- Am I using this time to grow, or merely endure?
- Do I pray for leaders so that peace allows the gospel to advance?

Time is God's mercy in motion

Closing Thought:

God owns history, but He also **walks patiently through it**. Until divine order is fully restored, He calls His people to live faithfully under authority, wisely within time, and confidently under His sovereignty.

Chapter 3

Before Chaos, Before Man: The First Moral Order

Before God hovered over the deep He already lived in a populated Heaven. Earth is not the beginning of a moral society - Earth became the stage upon which God would reveal His wisdom to the Heavenly host.

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?... When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Job 38:4,7 KJV

Well at that point in time all the sons of God were joyful. I would think that chorus included Lucifer but I've been corrected before.

Now we have somewhat of an advantage over Job because we now have a Bible by which we can look not only forward into our destiny but also backwards into our origins and history. Both directions fill me with awe - it's the middle part that causes ire. This current middle part is a result of one angel gone bad - one angel losing his joy. That one angel was a perfect angel living in a perfect Heaven. And yet still that free will in Lucifer took a wrong turn - and according to Rev. 12:4 that same free will in one third of the other angels caused them to follow in the same wrong path and lo here we are.

Lucifer - son of the morning

This is not new information but just to complete a full record indulge me and allow me to present the passages attributed to Lucifer. First off we have this account in Ezekiel that starts off by referencing the king of Tyrus but quickly transitions into a being that has been in Eden - who was an anointed cherub. So we are no longer talking about a human entity and most agree this is talking about Lucifer.

Ezekiel 28:12-19 KJV

(12) Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

(13) **Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God**; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

(14) **Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth**; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

(15) **Thou wast perfect in thy ways** from the day that thou wast created, **till iniquity was found in thee**.

(16) By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

(17) **Thine heart was lifted** up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

(18) Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

(19) All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

I included the bulk of the passage just to be complete. I could do a commentary that will fill several pages but will restrict myself. I highlighted the important points to consider. Lucifer was created perfect in wisdom and beauty. He was adorned very differently than any other record of angelic adornment. Covered with precious stones - bling would be an understatement. He was anointed by God and appointed to be a special class of angel called cherubs. They were protectors of whatever need protecting. All this had an effect on his heart which as we read was lifted up - or filled with pride. Then that pride went further to corrupt his wisdom. His heart changed and then his mind changed. These changes then caused sin and iniquity to become his choices. The specific choices inspired by pride and arrogance are told to us by Isaiah who names Lucifer specifically. Isaiah 14:12-15 KJV

(12) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

(13) For **thou hast said** in thine heart, **I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

(14) **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** be like the most High.

(15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Putting these two passages together paints a picture of Lucifer that really could be any high level official of power and influence. He becomes the type for any prideful, vain and arrogant individual. What makes these passages sad is that God created him perfect and full of wisdom. God gave him an anointing and exalted position. God said "I have set thee so." When you are already perfect and on top of your game - you are at the apex of success. From the apex or pinnacle - every other direction is down, and down he went.

James told us something about sin that apparently is the same for both humans and angels.

From the heart comes the desire - from the desire comes the actions

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away **of his own lust**, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. James 1:14-15 KJV

The downward trajectory begins in the heart with lust or simply a strong desire. There is nothing wrong with having desires except when you're desiring wrong things. Both above passages mention Lucifer's heart - but Isaiah mentions the things in his heart that he desired. Namely to be exalted more than he already was to a point of becoming "like the most high God."

The questions now becomes - How can he possibly become like God? Can he create and sustain all that exists? Can he become the rightful owner of all that exists? Can he rightfully have authority over all that exists? The answer to all those questions is a resounding and emphatic no. Plain and simple. At very best - and only if God so allowed - all he could possibly attain is perhaps a miniscule piece of the pie - to manage. Never to own simple because he is not the creator and owning could never be his right. But over and over again we see when the proud get denied - the proud become foolish.

Now here is the kicker and greatest irony of all time - this is what makes me shake my head in dismay. A path does exist that when followed does ultimately make us "like God." What I can't say and don't know is if that path was available to angels. But we know with all certainty that path is available to mankind. Lucifer purposefully chose a path of rebellion.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2 KJV

I can't help myself, I want to share that dance in my step and song in my heart and get just a little ahead of myself by saying that is the trajectory of this book. By sharing truths that go beyond foundational because the balance of this book is geared towards "seeing Him as He is." Seeing as He is - is the path. Through seeing Him in Jesus we find "The way, the truth and the life." Hold this thought.

God knows all things which includes the secrets in every heart - including angel heart's. God knows the end from the beginning - and reveals it when it serves His purpose. And from the beginning God revealed the path towards eternal exaltation. This is what the sons of God sang and shouted for joy over at the foundation of the world. Which at one point Lucifer was in that choir. But regardless of the words coming from Lucifer's mouth - there were other intentions hiding in his heart. This God knew. God knew the accusations that would be levied against Him and God knew the evil actions to follow. What do you think? - Could God do nothing to prevent this? I'm seeing a parallel here with Jesus and Judas. Again Judas was a free will agent and was acting on what he believed was a good idea in his mind very similar to Lucifer's ideas for moving forward. Could Jesus prevent the events that were unfolding? Was prevention in His mind or was something greater on His mind? We know the answer to the Jesus - Judas dilemma. Our salvation was on His mind. So what could have been on God's mind when He encountered a traitor in the camp?

Answering the spectacle of a traitor with manifold Wisdom

And **to make all men see** what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church **the manifold wisdom of God**, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: Ephesians 3:9-11 KJV

Only God is eternal and the eternal God has an eternal purpose. Which means before any creation in heaven or earth ever began. Before any angel or man rebelled - God had a purpose for even the rebellion. Not that God condones bad behavior - God did not author rebellion, that originated in Lucifer's heart and his actions became infectious to others. The manifold wisdom is how God unfolds a response so complete that even rebellion could not escape His purpose.

That purpose was hidden from the principalities and powers in heaven - that would include Lucifer. Part of the purpose of first hiding and then revealing the

eternal purpose was to provide a means to teach the angels a lesson. Remember they have free will too and some made mistakes. So angels actually have to make the same choices we do as far as determining who the real God is.

Remember Lucifer stepped in offering an alternative "God like" option. So this option had to be responded to and God did respond. The angels now know God hides aces up His sleeves. The fallen angels now know they have no right and cannot keep any real estate in heaven - the Landlord kicked them out. Heaven's angels now know Satan is a liar. All angels now know - Jesus is LORD.

Moving forward now let's focus on the eternal plan. The same plan that established order in Heaven is still working on earth. The "war" was won in heaven because in heaven there is no dispute to who rightfully sits on the throne. But on earth? - That battle continues to rage.

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:7-9

"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth"

Against the backdrop of pride and rebellion - God does something radically different than what we would expect. God moves forward and creates something very different from anything ever seen before. Not according to the grand splendor of heavenly beings but patterned after humility and imaged after God. What God creates next will not look like Heaven - and that difference will matter. What God creates next is His answer to dealing with the influence of devils on earth.

The First Moral Order and the Wisdom of God

Core Idea: Before there was human history, there was moral history. Before sin entered the earth, it had already entered heaven. Creation unfolds not in ignorance of rebellion, but in response to it.

Heaven was the first moral arena, Lucifer's fall reveals that moral choice existed before mankind. Angels were not mechanical beings; they were moral agents capable of obedience or rebellion. Heaven was orderly, glorious, and joyful - but it was not immune to pride.

Rebellion Begins in the Heart

"For thou hast said in thine heart..." Isaiah 14:13

"Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust..." James 1:14

Lucifer's rebellion did not begin with action, but with desire. The same pattern later seen in humanity was first seen in heaven. Desire that is un-submitted to God eventually demands expression.

Earth Becomes the Classroom of Heaven

"...to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known... the manifold wisdom of God." — Ephesians 3:10

Earth was not created because heaven failed. Earth was created to **reveal** God's wisdom in the face of Lucifer's failure. What angels questioned, God answered - not with force, but with a plan so profound it could only come from Him.

Against the backdrop of angelic pride and splendor, God prepares to create something different - beings formed from dust, not light. Clothed in humility, not glory. Dependent, not self-sufficient.

Closing Thought:

The rebellion of angels did not halt God's purpose - it clarified it. Heaven's first moral failure set the stage for revelation to continue on earth. What follows is not a repeat of angelic glory, but a new creation patterned after humility, trust, and ultimately, redemption.

What God creates next will not look like heaven - but it will reveal God more clearly than heaven ever could.

Chapter 4

Adam: The Humble Image

Man was not created rivaling the splendor of angels in their glory and power. Rather man was created as a different kind of being - a new creature - made from the dust. Much humbler and dependent - a different kind of son.

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? Psalms 8:4

Against the backdrop of the heavenly host being created complete, immortal and full of powers. Against the backdrop of one Lucifer whose heart was lifted up and filled with self worth and a bent towards self determination. As part of the eternal plan hidden in God's wisdom - He chose to create something polar opposite. A man created "Lower than the angels" - created from dust - and very imperfect.

What is Man?

At this point I'm putting this thing into high gear. "What is man?" is indeed the question. The short answer is twofold - man was created to reveal the heart of God and man was created to humiliate the proud - both of angels and other principalities. Continuing with Psalm 8:

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, **that thou mightest still the enemy** and the avenger. Psalms 8:2 KJV

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty... 1 Corinthians 1:27 KJV

What God Has Chosen

Through man - God's grace is revealed. Through man - God's mercy is revealed. Through man - God's forgiveness is revealed. Through man - God's fathomless patience and endurance in longsuffering is revealed. Through the frailty of this dust creature - God's mighty power is revealed. I could go on but will only say that now through man - the heavenly host get to see a side of God that none of them ever experienced before. Because for beings created perfect and powerful none of those attributes were ever needed. So what is man? The means by which God chose to demonstrated - to the heavenly host - and to the proud - what it truly means to be "like God." God is much more than just power. God has attributes of His heart mentioned above - and it is those attributes the eventually see Satan destroyed.

Dominion in Heaven is Established - Dominion on Earth is in Progress

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion Genesis 1:26

In this verse God purposefully paired the word "image" and the word "likeness" together. The word image and the word shadow are derived from the same root which means to be a representative. Man was created to be a representative - not of personal authority but of God's authority as demonstrated by the continuing edict - "let them have dominion." So we were given with an emphasis on given - not by our own means but by His means - the image of God to represent His authority in a current sense. Beyond that we were created in His likeness to represent what God is like. Not in authority but in moral and relational attributes - reflecting the inner heart of God. This word indicates a process over time rather than the instant perfection of the angels.

So pairing these words together tells us that man was created with a role already assigned (image), but with a destiny still unfolding (likeness). Image equals our position and likeness equals our trajectory. We were created to walk with God towards a destination. Meaning - God was not finished with us. This "not finished" status confuses us but it explains why we could be created lower than the angels and yet attain a glory higher. It explains why obedience matters - obedience is the walking part that takes us to the destination. Being created "not finished" also explains why the capacity to fall is not necessarily our end. We can get up and continue towards our destination regardless of falling.

Created Naked

Trying to understand why God does what He does becomes clearer when we take into account that God knew what was hidden in Lucifer's heart but Lucifer had no clue of what is in God's heart. Our current experience in this world is God's answer to what Lucifer didn't even do yet. God is copious, over the top, and extravagant, and how that manifests is He does the opposite of what we or even angels would expect - creating man naked and unfinished so that the glory would be unmistakably His. Creating us naked and unfinished was a masterstroke of God sized brilliance. And to God be the glory!

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.
Genesis 2:25

The word incomplete becomes an understatement compared to being naked. There are lots of things we can't do. Some can play instruments - some can't. Some can fix the car - others can't. Some can do brain surgery - most can't. Do those that "can" - have something more - making those that can't incomplete? No that just means each of us is different in varying ways. The fact remains that nobody is perfect in every way. But when we combine talents - cars get fixed and symphonies get played and life moves forward. Moving forward is God's strategy. The means of moving forward is uniquely God's alone.

Keep in mind always that God operates with intentionality. In Genesis God did not begin with perfection - a perfect cosmos nor a perfect earth. He began with chaos and brought order into it through purposeful separation, demonstrating that He alone can bring lasting order from what appears impossibly broken. Our human sensibilities are challenged by this truth, because we expect a perfect God to create finished beauty instantly. Yet from the opening lines of Scripture, we are shown something different - a world without form, empty, dark, and unfinished. This is not a failure, but a beginning. Genesis does not present chaos as an accident God must repair. It presents chaos as the raw material from which only God can bring lasting order and lasting order begins here:

The Lamb Slain from the Foundation of the World

When God was speaking of "our image and likeness" He had a very specific image in mind. Much more specific than just looking like a man. It was a specific man at a specific time in history. Lucifer had images of personal grandeur brewing in his mind. In God's own unmistakable way He made a display of what true grandeur is - and that is **the Lamb slain**. That image on that cross is the most perfect representation of everything God is in His heart.

Yes, God is Holy and just but that holiness would demand instant justice for wrong doing. That holiness would make it impossible for anything imperfect to enter His presence. And what was imperfect? Earth itself and the man He placed in it. The earth being empty and void with darkness covering the deep. And man being lower than the angels, mortal and naked.

Again, God's strategy is to move forward and moving forward with an imperfect earth and humanity required a covering between our imperfections and a Holy God. So before moving forward we have the universal covering that without which neither earth nor man could possibly come into existence. The Lamb slain is that covering that allows perfect Holiness to move forward and work with a most imperfect creation. This is really big deal - and that's why I say the angels sang and shouted for joy at the foundation of the world as indicated in Job 38:7. They expressed joy because God was moving forward and doing all these new things. So yes it is a big deal and you know where else "The Lamb slain" shows up?

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne... stood a Lamb as it had been slain.... Revelation 5:6

In heaven's throne room - on heaven's throne surrounded by the heavenly host all giving Him the adoration, praise and the glory He deserves. That's a big deal!

So the image and likeness we were created to represent in authority and character is our Lord Jesus Christ. Drum roll please... Full attention to the center stage please... When Jesus was slain on that cross - He was -----

And they crucified him, **and parted his garments**, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my

garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. Matthew 27:35 KJV

They took possession of His clothes - leaving Him naked on the cross. And this is the very image and likeness God had in mind when He took man out of the dust of the earth and created him naked.

Yet not naked in purpose and destiny - no we were fully clothed to be fashioned "like Him." We were unfinished and naked not so we should be humiliated but rather as the means for the arrogant and proud to become humiliated.

What Jesus did on the cross by shedding His blood - He covered us. He suffered the shame of nakedness on the cross so we could be unashamed. The full power of His finished works is so completed that even in a state of nakedness we are totally complete.

Then at the creation of humanity - and now as we bend our knees to Him - and forever when we all join that heavenly choir in adoring The Lamb Slain.

Joining the Heavenly Host in the Throne Room

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 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. 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; 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. 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. And the four beasts said, Amen. And

the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever. Revelation 5:9-14

When these truths begin to settle - not just in the mind but in the soul - they leave us with very little to say and very much to bow our heads over. If Christ truly was slain from the foundation of the world, then grace is not God's reaction to failure -it is His original intention. Redemption is not Plan B. Mercy did not enter history because something went wrong. Mercy entered history because God wanted it there front and center as the means to reveal the essence of His heart.

That realization has a way of undoing pride. It quiets accusation. It silences the voice that says God is indifferent, unavailable, or done with humanity. If the Cross was already in view before the dust of Adam was formed, then every step God has taken since creation has been purposeful, patient, and perfectly aligned with love. Nothing has surprised Him - not Lucifer's rebellion, not Adam's fall, not even our own whimsical wandering hearts.

This is Where our Failures Turn and Becomes Worship

We are not standing before a God who was forced into rescue, but before a God who chose to give Himself. A God who did not wait for humanity to prove its worth, but He determined our worth by what He was willing to pay. The Lamb was not slain because man fell - man was created because it was chosen man that became the Lamb who would be slain.

That truth leaves us with only one fitting response - surrender. Not fear-based obedience, not religious performance, but a bending of the knee that flows naturally from seeing the God that sees me, knows me, and loves me anyway. If God has been this intentional from the beginning - this generous, this patient, this committed to His purpose - then He can be trusted with everything that remains unfinished whether in this world or in our own hearts.

And so we bow our heads and raise our hands, not as those unsure of God's heart and intentions, but as those finally convinced of it. That God is for us - to use us no matter how broken because it is our brokenness that humiliates the proud.

What God purposed before the foundation of the world is still unfolding in time. And if the Cross stands at the center of that purpose, then what comes next will not diminish grace - it will continue to reveal it in fuller measure.

The Lamb slain is a big deal and I'm in no hurry to get past the most momentous event in history. I'm going to settle in right at the foot of the cross because I love what I feel here and my prayer is that you do too.

Grace Before Need

"...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:8

Before there was dust, before there was temptation, before there was sin, the Cross was already in view. This tells us something profound: God did not wait to see what humanity would do before deciding how He would respond. Redemption was not drafted under pressure. It was prepared in peace.

Grace was not given *after* the fall—it was given *before the world began*. This reframes how we understand God's dealings with humanity. God is not managing disasters; He is unfolding purpose and destinies.

Creation was not an experiment. It was Christ-centered from the beginning. Everything - heaven, earth, man and time was created with Him in view. The Cross does not interrupt history; it explains it.

God does not discover outcomes - He declares them. This means our trust is not placed in what we can see, but in what God already knows. Faith grows when we realize nothing in our lives has caught Him off guard.

When we realize that grace came before need and mercy before failure, explanation gives way to awe. Theology bows into worship. The right response is not striving, but surrender.

Closing Thought:

The God who planned redemption before creation can be trusted with what remains unfinished. What He began in grace, He will complete in glory.

Chapter 5

The Lamb First and for All

The Cross was not God's response to failure or a second thought. It was from the beginning central to His eternal purpose. Mercy and Grace were not invented after sin - but were revealed through our need for it.

...The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8

If God be For Us...

If every creature that ever existed could park themselves at the foot of the cross, ponder the sight and absorb the depths of all that transpired and confess this is the wisdom of God - then all creation will have come to peace.

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 1 Peter 1:19-20

Foreordained because you need a Saviour. God knew you needed a savior before you existed so He put a plan in motion at the beginning of time - the eternal plan - that would intersect and meet that need whenever and wherever you decided to admit you need a savior.

Today's NASA physicist are able to calculate the trajectories of moving objects that are millions if not billions of miles away. Then they can launch a vehicle today and have it meet that moving target at a specific location and at a specific time. That's pretty impressive. Baseball pitchers are paid big money for the ability to put a little ball into the glove of a catcher at sixty feet away and we get excited.

Now consider God has had His eye on you from the beginning of eternity. He knows the trajectory of all things. And He knows the exact time and place to meet up with you and He created the vehicle to deliver what you need when you need it. AND He can do the same for every living creature regardless of

generation or place. That's a NASA scientist times a hundred billion times better. Forget the pitcher - he is not even on the charts.

That is God's eternal wisdom in action. I know it's a lot to wrap our minds around to think God knew you before you knew you before you even existed.

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee... Jeremiah 1:5

You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in Your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. Psalms 139:16 NLT

It is precisely because God is in complete control of all things that you being out of control is irrelevant. Regardless and in spite of many things appearing to be out of control - nothing really is - and His eternal purposes move forward undaunted.

That premise is incomprehensible to persons who have precious little control of their lives. Yet that is how it is for all of us. The best of us may control what we control but out of control is experienced far too frequently. So either Amen or Oh me - here we all are. Just know total control is in the hands of a God who is for you.

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: **Having predestinated us** unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will. Ephesians 1:4-5

Choose Your Plan

God put His eternal plan into motion way back when. What God predestined is for the plan to accomplish everything according to His purposes. The plan moves forward undaunted. So really it is a predestination of the plan and not individuals as some suppose. God never takes away free will to choose any course of action either good or bad. Rather within that plan it includes the individuals who choose willingly of their own volition to submit to the plan thereby securing the eternal benefits foreordained by God. God did not predestine love without our consent - love requires willing consent and participation. He predestined a plan in which

love would always be freely chosen. By choosing love they then become a part of what God has predestined. We have 100% security in the plan - we have no security in individual choices. Predestination does not cancel free will nor individual choices. We always have a choice. Choosing to submit your will to God will 100% guarantee a desirable outcome. Choosing otherwise.... you will get what you can create.

"I have set before you life and death... therefore choose life" Deuteronomy 30:19

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve" Joshua 24:15

At the Cross - At the Cross

Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

Taking A Break - A Praise Break

God's works were finished at the foundation of the world. All He had to do was memorialize them by instituting the Sabbath rest. Not only did the angels shout for joy at what God was unfolding but God Himself was pleased. It's nice to be able to have confidence in yourself and the work you do. Now amp this up to the God size confidence of a pleased Lord and we have a party!

When God declared His works finished He was echoing Jesus' words "It is finished." When God pronounced all that He had made "very good," this was not a moment of exhaustion but a time to enter into celebration. The Sabbath was not instituted because God was weary, but because His work was complete, whole, and worthy of joy. The rest was an expression of His confidence. That confidence was why Jesus was able have joy when facing the cross.

...Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross... Heb. 12:2

This is The Rest by Which He causes the Weary to Rest

Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus, *"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."* That verse quietly ties the Cross to **rest** - looking past the agony of suffering, Jesus could look forward to the completion of a work joyfully finished. Very much the same as when God rested in Genesis. Rest can be understood and defined as an absolute confidence.

The joy set before Jesus was not the pain of the Cross, but what the Cross would **accomplish** - which is reconciliation, restoration, and a people brought back into a one on one fellowship with God. The cross enabled the calling of the children God only foreknew in ages past to come out from wherever they are and come into the fellowship of the Saints now as real saved individuals. What was once a shadow - is NOW a reality through Jesus. This is the essence of predestination.

When Christ cried, *"It is finished,"* He was doing more than ending His suffering - He was declaring the work complete in the same way God once declared creation "very good." The resurrection and ascension then marked His entrance into rest - being *seated* at the right hand of God -signifying that nothing remains to be added to His redemptive work. Because He is - Because He is - Because He is seated exactly as He said He would be we can have the confidence that we are seated with Him.

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: Ephesians 2:6

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. Revelation 3:21

Because He rests- meaning He labored to establish order - He now rests because everything is in place to keep that order. Rest is now made available to us and is connected to the level of confidence we have in Him. Hebrews later explains that

"we who have believed do enter that rest" (Hebrews 4:3). The rest offered through the Cross is not inactivity, or taking a nap. It is freedom from striving to earn what has already been secured. Just as Jesus endured the Cross with joy because the outcome was certain, believers now are refreshed by the absolute certainty and confidence that God is for us. He did it all so we don't have to. All we have to do is follow Him.

So Hebrews 12:2 "Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross" shows us this: **the Cross was the path to rest**, and the rest Christ entered into is the same rest He now shares. His finished work becomes our resting place, and His seated position guarantees the throne will always flow with grace and mercy - not fear and not effort. "How much more are we saved by His life." Rom. 5:10

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

Rest is not a day of the week. Rest is a Person. Laboring to enter His rest is whatever we have to do to gain absolute confidence in a confident God.

But Wait! There is More!

What's behind the curtain Johnny. Not only did the Cross settle our debts and reconcile us back to God. Not only did the Cross anchor our position in His hands here on earth. Not only did the Cross save a place and a seat with Him in the heavenlies. Not only did the Cross fill us with all confidence and refreshing. Not only did the Cross free us from all fear... The Cross also settled another issue -

The Cross did not merely reconcile man to God - it settled heaven's questions about God's integrity, character and abilities once and for all.

...Which things the angels desire to look into. 1 Peter 1:12

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, Ephesians 3:10

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom,

which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 1 Corinthians 2:7-8

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:15

You as a person really do not need to fret over any mistake you have ever made because at least you can repent and change for the better. If you want to compare mistakes - the devils that bet against God - now that's a mistake. The Cross is insurance for our mistakes - we can repent and move on with our lives knowing the blood covers our mistakes - no deductibles.

We are going from earth to heaven - that's a big step up. The devils went from heaven down to the lake of fire. That's a bigger drop down. It is the power of the Cross that raises us up and drops them down. Take some advice - Don't bet against God.

So at the end of the day - take your rest. Rest is not the end of the journey - it is the posture of having absolute confidence in God from which everything else now flows. The labors of this life can exude with joy because we are resting with Him. Because we are seated with Him - forever.

The Cross Was Always the Center

Before sin entered history, the Cross stood in God's purpose. Scripture does not present redemption as an emergency response, but as an eternal intention. Christ was "foreordained before the foundation of the world," meaning God planned salvation before humanity ever needed saving. This reveals a God who leads with mercy, not reluctance, and whose plans are secure long before trouble appears.

Predestination Secures the Plan, Not the Person

The Bible presents predestination as God guaranteeing the success of His purpose - **not removing human choice**. God predestined adoption, holiness, and

restoration *in Christ*, but He still calls people to choose life. The plan is unshakable; participation in it is personal. This preserves both God's sovereignty and human responsibility without conflict.

Rest Is Confidence, Not Inactivity

God rested because His work was complete, not because He was tired. In the same way, Jesus endured the Cross "for the joy set before Him," knowing the outcome was certain. Biblical rest is settled confidence - freedom from striving to earn what has already been finished. Because Christ is seated, believers can live with full assurance rather than anxiety.

The Cross Answered Heaven as Well as Earth

The Cross did more than forgive sin - it publicly displayed God's wisdom to principalities and powers. What rebellion questioned, the Cross answered. What accusation raised, the Cross silenced. Angels saw that God's mercy does not compromise His justice, and His humility does not weaken His authority. The Cross stands as God's final word to every realm.

Closing Thought:

Rest is not the end of faith - it is the beginning of clarity. When the work is finished, trust becomes possible. And from that place of rest, God continues to unfold His purpose with confidence, joy, and unshakable love.

Chapter 6

Beginning with Chaos

God does not begin with chaos because He lacks power - rather because only He can establish order in spite of it.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Genesis 1:1-2

From the Cross now I am taking a step backward and now placing the Cross as the backdrop and foundation that gives purpose and clarity to His creation.

These verses got me wrestling with many questions. What troubled me about these verses eventually taught me something essential about how God works. For years I wanted these verses to say that something caused the darkness because God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all. My mind sees the effect and then wants to determine the cause of that effect. However no matter how I dissected - took it apart - and studied - my desired conclusion just wasn't the conclusion of the Word. The original language does not support a "cause" outside of God that messed up what He was doing. While the Hebrew word for "was" (*hayah*) in the narrative can sometimes be translated "became" - according to scholars - the grammar and flow of Genesis 1 do not require using the word 'became'. The text presents chaos not as the result of judgment and nothing in the passage suggests God was judging anything. Rather God was creating with the raw material of creation.

So then my mind began wrestling as to why God would create something brand new that is broken to begin with? The words "without form and void" carry the sense of desolation and emptiness, not completion. Well... in my mind things are created new and then something makes it desolate or ruins it. A perfect and all powerful God should create a perfect earth - Right? Well... throughout the Bible God's pattern shows He begins His work not with perfection, but with purpose - and that pattern runs consistently throughout Scripture.

For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. Isaiah 45:18 KJV

Isaiah shows us a process in creation - God creates - then God forms - then God establishes. Nothing suggests an interruption in the process. Then it goes on to suggest purpose - to be inhabited. And that purpose cannot be interrupted - He created it not in vain.

In the same way, when God said 'Let there be light,' that marked the beginning of the earth's transformation - God gave me a light in my perceptions that was for me to perceive a different reality than what my mind was trying to create. When the Bible is taken as a whole and not chopped up - the Bible brings out the whole reality. That reality is - Nothing can ruin what God is doing.

The way God begins creation is the same way He works in nations, and it is the same way He works in us. Starting from place of incompleteness is where we can meet the One who makes us complete. Our minds might begin in chaos and darkness but His enlightenment makes all the difference - He still opens blinded eyes.

God will not give His glory to another and when He does things He wants His works to be unmistakably known to be His doing. He makes the end known from the beginning and He alone can accomplish all his desires.

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Isaiah 46:9-10 KJV

When we build anything we have to start with a raw material to begin with and then proceed to form whatever we are building. In the case of Genesis - God created out of nothing the raw materials first. The raw materials He created was a desolate and undistinguishable earth that was covered in darkness. This right here is the beginning of a pattern that distinguishes this event to God and God alone. Whether it was the earth or individuals or nations - God begins with the

broken - not the perfect. Not morally broken, but unfinished - raw, unformed and yet awaiting His ordering Word. Then from that state God begins to bring about order and fix things. This is an unmistakable pattern - His signature if you will. This verse is important enough to repeat again because it adds to the Genesis account adding specific clarity.

For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that **formed the earth** and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, **he formed it to be inhabited**: I am the LORD; and there is none else. Isaiah 45:18 KJV

He formed it - step one. He formed it - to be inhabited later on. And true to His plans He later began ordering - placing everything in order - to establish an inhabitable realm for His created creatures to live and prosper.

We as humans can only take something and turn it into something else and from the time we make it - decay sets in and takes it's toll. Nothing man can do can ever be permanent. What all this says about God is that He alone has the ability to take nothing and put it on the path towards a completion that can never be undone. This teaches us that right now is a time of temporary existence - this is not our final state. All creation is in this same temporary state and subject to corruption and all waits for God to finish the creative process.

For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature 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. Romans 8:20-22 KJV

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Romans 8:24-25 KJV

In hope of what?

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my

pleasure: Isaiah 46:10 KJV

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Jeremiah 29:11

Only God knows what He has planned - we can only see through a glass darkly. But what we see should give us hope for whatever that expected end is. And what we do see is a God that is absolutely true to His Word and absolutely able to keep all promises. Allowing us to have absolute trust and hope.

Understanding how God begins creation prepares us to understand how He deals with corruption, delay, and judgment in history. Think about this - we as humans perceive setbacks as failures sometimes. Even if our failures end in disaster you can still put that disaster into His hands and have confidence He can fix it. Why? because even disaster is more than the nothing God started with.

So creation begins in an unfinished and chaotic state and God rolls up His sleeves and gets to work by separating light from darkness. Separating the heavens above from the heavens below. Separating dry land to be above the waters. Those three separate places then become the habitats for the birds in the air - the fish in the sea - and cattle and creatures for the dry land. Then afterwards He again separated Man from the dust of the ground. Then forward we went into the continuing and yet still unfinished story of God working toward a promised completion.

So reflecting on this we see God starting with chaos and ending up with a "very good" paradise. Creation did not begin finished because it was never meant to remain unfinished. The same applies to us - He picks us up from wherever we are - and regardless of our condition - He rolls up His sleeves and gets to work. His promise is that what He starts - He finishes.

From the first separation of light and darkness to the final restoration of all things, God has been moving forward through history or - His story - toward an expected end of finished glory.

The chaos we see—whether in the world, in nations, or in ourselves—is not evidence that God has lost control. It is evidence that the work is still in progress. And the same God who began by separating light from darkness will finish by bringing all things into perfect order. The story that began in Genesis is still unfolding. What God began in chaos will be made complete in glory.

Opening Covenant / Land Theology

Just the same as God brought order into creation - within that creation there is a place - the land - where obedience will be tested.

Beginning with Chaos: God's Pattern of Order and Hope

Genesis does not describe a ruined creation, but an unformed one. Scripture gives no indication that something went wrong before verse 2. The Hebrew terms *tohu* (without form) and *bohu* (void) describe emptiness and lack of structure - not moral evil or catastrophe.

God does not immediately remove darkness - He separates it. Creation advances not by instant completion, but by measured distinction:

- Light from darkness
- Waters above from waters below
- Land from sea

Order emerges through separation, not erasure. This is a very huge difference between God's ways and man's ways. Man wants to erase everything wrong. God waits and then separates. Even in the very end - evil is not erased - it is separated into its own place.

God Works from Raw Material No One Else Can Use

God creates the raw material *first*, then forms it *with purpose*. What appears empty is actually **destined**. This distinguishes God from man:

- Man reshapes what already exists.
- God calls something out of nothing - and then patiently brings it toward fulfillment.

Creation Is Still Waiting for Completion

"For the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."
Romans 8:22 (KJV)

Creation is not stuck - it is **in labor**. Groaning implies expectation, not defeat. The same God who began the work has promised its completion. God's intentional beginnings guarantee meaningful endings. Chaos is never the final word. What God starts unfinished, He finishes unmistakably.

Closing Meditation

God does not begin with chaos because He lacks power.
He begins with chaos so His power cannot be mistaken.

The darkness at the beginning of Genesis was not the absence of God—it was the stage upon which God chose to work. And the same God who spoke light into darkness is still speaking today.

What He begins in chaos,
He completes in glory.

Chapter 7

Land: The Sacred Space Under Lease

Land in Scripture is never neutral unclaimed territory up for grabs. Land - all land is God's property. It is temporarily entrusted to peoples to inhabit. BUT the privilege to inhabit is morally conditioned.

...For the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.
Leviticus 25:23

This is now where we are discovering "new things." At least for me - If anyone has ever made these connections - they never told me about it. You may be questioning - Why is land a topic? Well... as we sojourn into discovery together my hope would be that your eyes be opened with the same impact as it did me. Like the heavenly flash that knocked Paul off his horse type of impact. I'm going to lay the groundwork here and later on tie it into a very profound topic that I guarantee will have you sit up and take notice. Be patient - we are going somewhere. I know this chapter is scripture heavy but I want those scriptures to speak for themselves as they should.

Eden - the Sacred Space

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Genesis 2:7-8

God had the entire universe. Within the universe God had all of the possible planets that may exist. Out of those planets God chose the earth. When God chose the earth He signified - this earth is mine. How did God signify that? Well.. take a step back and look. He took land that **was under water** and under darkness - He **raised it above the waters** up to begin the transformation process. Well low and behold we have a baptism - a setting apart for God's

purposes. The rule of first mention creates the type that follows throughout the rest of scripture. So the earth itself became holy ground.

Then God continued the transformation process to complete His purpose of making it "inhabited" as Isaiah explained. The bulk of the earth was given to the other living creatures. Then out of all the earth God chose a plot of land to plant a garden called Eden. He chose Eden - He chose that plot of land and then onto that land He chose to place man. Eden was a place of covenant and commands.

The First Covenant

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. Genesis 1:28-29

The First Command

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. Genesis 2:16-17

These verses create a precedent - Eden is called "the garden of God" not the garden of Adam. Eden is God's possession and He placed man there because Eden was a protected covenant space. If you will, we can say God placed man into the garden under lease. A covenant is a binding contract - a lease is a type of contract specific to land space. The specific stipulation of the lease was don't eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge...

Now hear me out the covenant is mentioned before the lease. The covenant says you are mine, I have a destiny for you. There are no "shalt not" commands in Gen 1:28-29. There is a be fruitful and multiply statement and that one - no one

has problems with. The lease gave man a place to live until the destiny is fulfilled, but it is conditioned on keeping the commandment. If you break a lease what does the Landlord do? He kicks you out. Isn't this exactly what happened? They got kicked out of Eden as a place to live but the covenant was not annulled as to their destiny.

Eden belonged to God, and Adam lived there by permission on the condition he kept the command. When the command was broken, Adam lost the place - but not the destiny. Adam lost the garden, not the covenant.

The covenant still protects man's ultimate destiny. God still says you are mine. When an adult child breaks house rules the parents have the right to kick the kid out BUT the relationship is not destroyed. Good parents with reasonable kids can work things out in time. God is the ultimate best - let's be reasonable.

So Where Do We Go?

Not far - in a metaphorical sense we got kicked out of the house to go live in the barn with the animals. The rest of the world was the ordained habitat for the beasts and crawling things. The house had one rule and the barn has a very different rule. Animals have no mercy nor grace - it is either eat or be eaten. The animal realm is also the place of time and chance where nothing is guaranteed.

I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; **but time and chance happeneth to them all.** For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them. Ecclesiastes 9:11-12

I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts. For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

Ecclesiastes 3:18-20

The Righteous Used Animals for Sacrifice

A very condensed version is - make the best of it because you are on your own. This is except for the covenant promise. God as we know does not abandon nor forsake. Yes, they got kicked out but God gave them another promise of a Redeemer. Not as an afterthought but as the continuing unfolding of the eternal preordained plan. Along with the introduction to this Redeemer came stipulations that would keep God's blessing and benefits alive. That is altars and animal sacrifice. The token or sign of this renewed covenant is the wearing of clothing. Representing the One who covers or takes my shame away.

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. Leviticus 17:11

The word atonement literally means to cover. We are covered when we practice the new stipulations of the covenant. The blood covering while effectual is invisible - that is God's part. Clothing is visible and that is our part. Together our shame is covered both naturally and spiritually.

Yes, they had to live with the animals under animal realm conditions but that is the result of obeying an animal.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? Romans 6:16

The unrighteous Lucifer uses Beasts to deceive

They obeyed the voice of a beast of the field - so off into the field they were banished. Paul asked the question - Know ye not? My inclination is that Adam and Eve didn't know. My inclination is that the serpent did know and deceived to his advantage. That was the moment when the hidden secrets of Lucifer's heart

took action. That moment when the woman obeyed is when Lucifer's lust conceived and brought forth death. That moment is when Death aka Satan was born - the adversary or enemy of God. So now we see more typology. We see a continuing pattern of Satan using subtle beasts as his way forward to accomplish his schemes of grandeur and exaltation. More on that latter.

At this point we see two distinct paths. The one ordained by God from eternity past - moving forward through man created in His image and likeness. This path preordained to glory. The other conceived in the heart of Lucifer moving forward and administered through beasts. Beasts being a metaphor for the ungodly and Satan's works being Preordained to end in death. My chips would be on the One doing all the preordaining - not a gamble at all.

Satan bet his chips based on what Adam and Eve didn't know. By the same rule then God planned a victory based on what Lucifer didn't know. Hey - what's fair is fair. From this point onward what was only a plan based on "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" - now becomes the active strategy with all the begetting until the fullness of time and the arrival of the Promise - The Redeemer. The question here would be will you kill the animal or will you obey the animal?

For Those Who Obeyed the Animal Judgment Forewarned

For a while the voice of the beast did a job at leading many deeper into sin. The voice of the beast persuaded many to craft idols imaged after beasts to worship - instead of worshiping the True and Living God.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Romans 1:22-23

Watch out for those who be professing to be wise - they be up to no good.

And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. Genesis 6:7

For Those Who Kill the Animal Preservation was Assured

Only a few held onto faith in the Redeemer. One of those - Enoch - was taken up into Heaven alive as a pre figure to what we call the rapture.

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death ...Hebrews 11:5

That event happening before God was set to judge the excessive evil of that day. Then another man of faith - Noah - being warned by God prepared ahead of time for that judgment by preparing an ark by which eight souls were saved.

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house... Hebrews 11:7

Then as God promised the rain began to fall - water again covered the earth and again the earth was baptized - the symbol of burial. Then when the waters dried off - and God continued.

...In the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us... 1 Peter 3:20-21

Now at this point God gets back to land management. Noah and his family get off the ark and Noah continues within the same covenant framework as before by building an altar and sacrificing.

And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. Genesis 8:20

Back To Land Management

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. Genesis 9:1

These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood. Gen 10:32

The Covenant Moves Forward

And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Genesis 8:20-22

The Commandment / Lease Agreement

Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man. Genesis 9:3-6

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. Genesis 9:12-13

The Covenant remains the same as established with Adam and the tokens remain the same. Altars, animal sacrifice and clothing. This would continue to bring the blessings of God upon the obedient. However specific stipulations were added that established accountability - 'I require'. Being don't drink blood and don't murder. This is my opinion as why these two specific stipulations. God just finished judging a very evil idolatrous world. Tied into idol worship are rituals that include drinking blood and human sacrifice. My two cents - but I would not think it unreasonable that God was specifically addressing the issues that caused the destruction of earth the first time and warning - Don't go there again.

So specifically - idolatry and excessive blood shed are warned against - those things if re-adopted will bring a judgment. Three times in one passage God says if the lease is broken "I will require" justice.

God Requires Obedience

God counted to five but humanity did not heed and the promised consequences came to pass. That whole generation and all that was on God's land perished.

And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: Genesis 7:21

God exercised His rightful authority as owner of the land to purge the land of the disobedience and defilement. This principle is not implied theology alone - it is stated explicitly in the Law. Scripture declares that bloodshed does not merely condemn the sinner - it *pollutes the land itself*, and the land cannot be cleansed apart from judgment.

...For murder pollutes the land. And no sacrifice except the execution of the murderer can purify the land from murder. You must not defile the land where you live, for I live there Myself. I am the LORD, who lives among the people of Israel." Numbers 35:33-34 NLT

This concept is obscure and not explored - yet it is central to understanding the whys. Why God establishes nations and then later chooses to evict nations? What is judgment really about? There is a player in this story we overlook completely. This earth itself. Remember God ordained that the earth be inhabited. God spoke to the earth and the earth itself has the capacity to respond and obey. The earth itself brought forth what was asked of it. And the earth also groans in waiting for the final redemption. So the earth is more than just dirt and rock. There is a vital - life giving ministry built into it's role as the place of our habitation. Perhaps better people than me can explore and articulate exactly what that vital power is - but for now bear with me.

The Earth's Right to Rest

When Judah was being warned of judgment They were told explicitly that the earth itself requires a right "to enjoy her sabbaths."

To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years. 2 Chronicles 36:21

So far we see that the earth obeys the voice of God and brings forth, that the earth groans, enjoys rest, and keeps sabbath, and that God even refers to the earth as 'her' and 'she' - revealing creation not as inert matter, but as a responsive, ordered participant in God's covenantal purposes, "subjected to vanity not by its own will", but by the will of its Creator.

This completes Jesus' statement that if God willed - He could raise up children to Abraham with stones. It's not the stones nor the earth that is alive - but it is the living will of the Creator operating through inanimate matter that give it "life like" attributes. Just as a quick reminder isn't it the will of God residing in a dust ball that makes us "living souls"? The only difference in the inanimate matter is that the dust ball has a promise to abide in the will of God forever as its preordained destiny.

Back to earth. Amongst these "life like" attributes we see "possession" in the phrase "her sabbaths." Intrinsic or built into "possession" comes rights. Namely the earth keeps sabbath rest. What is rest? We already spoke that the Sabbath rest is a celebration of completion. The earth celebrates a hope for completion. What happens when humanity sins? It moves backwards into incompleteness. There is a conflict here. Humanity moves backwards while the earth demands moving forwards - and bingo - the earth has a right to require a cleansing - purging it from the sinful inhabitants and then being able to enjoy rest and keep Sabbath. The prophets do not treat this as metaphor alone. Jeremiah records the land itself crying out under the weight of human corruption.

How long shall the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein? the beasts are consumed, and the birds; because they said, He shall not see our last end. Jeremiah 12:4 KJV

So judgment on an individual, or a nation, or the whole world is not just God acting against sin - It includes the earth's right to want to enjoy completion.

From where I stand I am now seeing eye to eye with Paul as he penned Romans chapter eight. I see what he saw with clarity that flows from creation through to a completed eternity. I just want to solidify and clarify the ground I am walking on.

Inanimate Creation can Hear and Testify

And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, **this stone shall be a witness** unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God. Joshua 24:27

And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. Luke 19:40

We can find multiple passages in which God is calling out to the heavens and earth to hear and be a witness. So what did Paul see and articulate in Romans eight?

All Creation Waits for the Same Thing - Completion

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 creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature 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. Romans 8:18-23

God called everything that exists out of nothing and has required that it all participate in the foreordained eternal plan. God called into nothingness and nothingness had ears to hear and respond. He spoke to the earth and assigned it as a place of habitation and provision for our needs - the inhabitants. The universe was created in innocence and is not itself complicit in the actions of sinful man. It remains faithful to its role as our place and provider for our needs.

How often in life do we come to hard times and question - Why was I born? - Did I ask to be born? We come into this world involuntarily and we protest the vanities we must endure. Is this truth? Paul says creation came into existence - not willingly - and has the same problem with vanity as humanity. But we all - both creation and humanity - are here by God's power and will - In Hope.

All creation shares a common hope. To be delivered from the bondage of corruption. All creation has to deal with vanity and corruption now - but there is a promise that includes all. The promise is for a New Heaven and a New earth and a New Creature all void of vanity and corruption. That is the earnest expectation that we all are waiting for.

When you are expecting anything - at Christmas or your birthday - any time - waiting is not fun. And here we are. Now - all creation is waiting patiently - but some do things that slow down the delivery - if not stop and reverse the progress. How do you feel when something you want badly isn't showing up at the time you expected it? What if you found out one person deliberately somehow stopped delivery.

So if all creation is waiting for delivery on a Promise but sinners slow down the progress. The rest of creation is going to have something to say about the sinners. And boom there it is. The rest of creation has a right to protest. And God has a right to step in with judgment.

This all now ties in to the birth pangs as a sign of impending judgment. When the earth complains - you better watch out.

From Eden to the flood, from covenant to judgment, we see a consistent truth emerge: God governs history through land, boundaries, and appointed order.

When land is entrusted, accountability follows. When corruption persists, removal is inevitable.

But God does not deal only with individuals - He deals with peoples, territories, and times. The same God who placed Adam in a garden, and Noah upon renewed ground, later divided the earth among nations and set limits on their rule. And this is why judgment in Scripture is never random: when the land, the heavens, and the nations all reach their appointed limit, God acts - not late, not early, but on time.

Moving forward to better understand judgment, restoration, and prophecy, we must now widen the lens - from sacred land to **appointed nations**, and from covenant space to **God's measured times**. If land, creation, and history all move toward completion, what happens when nations resist that movement?

(Answer: Chapter 8.)

Chapter 8

Nations and Their Appointed Times

Nations rise and fall not by chance and not by their own power - but by moral measurement.

From one man He created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and He determined their boundaries. Acts 17:26 NLT

Rather than rushing ahead into this chapter I want to take a moment to ponder what was just presented in the last. Arrogance runs deep. We humans with our arrogance imagine ourselves as presently exalted and much higher than inanimate rocks and dirt. All the while God in His sovereign power is able to look at rocks, dirt and man and He sees the same raw material - all having originated out of nothingness. Except for the fact that His will is not nothingness. Add His will to nothingness and His will creates all we see and experience. To which He alone is able to assign "life like attributes" to whatever He chooses.

What needs to subdue our arrogance is a healthy dose of reality. That reality being that it is only by His divine will and providence that any raw material - whether nothingness, rocks and dirt or man can be transformed or changed from it's original form into whatever He desires. Apart from His will man returns to dust and creation will return to silence.

All creation exists by the same motto - Except for the Grace of God - there go I. Whether creation goes backwards into nothingness - or man goes backwards into dust is a choice. So up to this point - nothingness, rocks and dirt have expressed only one choice - to only move forward in obedience to the Voice that commanded creation to be. With that expressed desire coming from earth and rocks - Who are the ones with ears to hear and obey? Rebellious man or rocks?

"If these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.
Luke 19:40

Again I say moving forward is the winning strategy and for man - humility is in order.

The Rise of Nations

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. Genesis 9:1

These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood. Genesis 10:32

As mentioned before - this is just one of the things that humanity has no problem managing to comply with. From the original eight that walked off the ark we now stand at about eight billion - so multiply they did. And after a minor glitch at Babel - spreading out to replenish the earth they did. They were not sent out of the ark as independent, self-determinate people - they had a covenant with God that included provision and protection. As a covenant people they were to become moral stewards of themselves as well as moral stewards of the land they were to possess.

Along with the spreading out physically - one other detail that should be factored in is that along with man spreading out - sections of mankind also carry with them either a "blessing", a "curse", or an "enlargement."

Genesis 9:25-27 KJV

(25) And he said, **Cursed be Canaan**; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.

(26) And he said, **Blessed be the LORD God of Shem**; and Canaan shall be his servant.

(27) **God shall enlarge Japheth**, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

Just as a matter of completing the picture and rounding out our understanding what I want to bring out that along with just the physical presence of man

spreading out and forming nations. They carried with them a spiritual dimension into those nations.

Blessed, Cursed, and Enlarged in Biblical Terms

In Scripture - **blessing** is God's active empowerment toward life, fruitfulness, order, and increase - it is not merely favor - but divine enablement to move creation forward according to His purposes. What God blessed originally in the Garden is the purpose He continues to bless again after the flood.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it... Genesis 1:28

A **curse** is not arbitrary punishment, but the withdrawal or reversal of that life-ordering power, resulting in frustration, decay, and limitation. A curse is creation moving backwards toward disorder.

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. Jeremiah 17:5

To be **enlarged** is the outward expression of blessing: expanded boundaries, increased influence, or extended time, all granted by God and always accountable to Him.

When the LORD thy God shall enlarge thy border, as he hath promised thee... Deuteronomy 12:20

Throughout the Bible, God blesses and enlarges nations, families, and individuals for stewardship, while curses mark the collapse of that trust. This pattern reinforces the central theme of this book - God remains sovereign over land, peoples, and time itself, allotting boundaries and seasons not at random, but according to covenant, purpose, and moral accountability. God alone blesses, restrains, and enlarges - always within His sovereign governance of land, people, and time.

The specifics are in the details. If we want to explore sentence structure and the details that emerge we should then note - "Blessed be the LORD God of Shem." The blessing is not directly on Shem himself. The blessing arises out of Shem's attachment to God and the covenant status afforded by Him. So what needs to be said is blessings are not the result of personal accomplishments - blessings are a direct result of being attached to God.

Shem's descendants later becoming Israel - we see that when Israel was attached to God they were blessed as promised. And when Israel chose to detach from God that detachment caused a curse. This is why we see this up and down roller coaster ride in their history. Up when attached and down when detached. This explains why Israel can be in a forsaken mode or blindness mode while still yet always being in covenant status. All modes still manage to move their destiny forward according to the purposes of God. Covenant status is important - keep this in mind.

Now when it comes to understanding Japeth's enlargement. - which is also a blessing. But the blessing fulfills different roles. Seth's blessing was to be in a covenant status which preserves their purpose of obtaining the oracles of God and bringing forth the Messiah.

Japeth's blessing was expansion - to fill the earth physically. That was the role assigned to them by God to fulfill His purposes. Now this is the beautiful thing. Within that role is another blessing "to dwell in the tents of Shem." What that means in a very real and beautiful way - is that while covenant status is ordained through Shem - God does not exclude nor deny covenant status to Japeth and his descendants. They enter the protections afforded to Shem by dwelling within his tents. They can become part of the household if they so choose. This we see with Rahab and Ruth. This we see with "I will bless those that bless thee" But if they chose not to come under Shem's tents - "I will curse those who curse thee."

So to Japeth's descendants - most of the world- you and me most likely - they have an - either - or - type of status. Blessings come via blessing Israel or curses come via cursing Israel. While this principle governs nations and historical trajectories, let be clear to say the eternal salvation of individuals, is always a matter of faith towards God and repentance.

If you are paying attention to global politics today - what do we see today in a very real way, true to God's word?

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD... Psalms 33:12

The curse was upon Canaan and his descendants which later became the Canaanites who had an appointment with eviction - and the Egyptians who were first to be judged under the "I will curse those that curse you" clause. They are now examples of what happens to nations who choose to remain completely outside the stipulations set forth by God. Egypt at that time became the epicenter of idol worship and Canaan became the biblical epicenter of ritualized human -especially child -sacrifice, so severe that the land itself was said to be defiled and to vomit out its inhabitants. Molech was the specific god of the Canaanites that ritualized the burning of infants.

I Do Visit Iniquity - Done on the Land

And thou shalt not let any of thy seed (children) pass through the fire to Molech... Leviticus 18:21

Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: (25) And **the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.** (26) Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you: (27) (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;) (28) That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you. Leviticus 18:24-28

This all ties in directly to the premise that judgment is a direct answer to the land's desire for rest. The earth was created not in vain and was assigned the roles - of a place to live and as provider of sustenance. Within that role the land moves man forwards into our common destiny. Also within that role the land bears witness against the atrocities done upon it because the atrocities reverse progress. The earth groans because it is the land that "opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood"; and from the soil, the blood cries out, demanding divine justice.

While Scripture reserves 'thrones, dominions, rulers, and authorities' for governing agencies - either the rulers in dark place - or human governing bodies; - the land itself is presented as a covenantal witness - created, ordered, and sustained by God to respond morally to human obedience or rebellion, bearing testimony within the entire authority structures He ordained

The Blood Cries Out

It is with the utmost sensitivity I bring this up now because we are here seeing how Scripture consistently treats the shedding of innocent blood as a land -defiling act that carries national consequence. I am in no way wanting to condemn. Our current society offers choices that are normal and accepted. I myself can sympathize having at one time been involved in all the normal and accepted trends. At the time we were only doing what we thought best - we utilized options. I want to bring pain to no one - yet am only saying what scripture says. If you feel pain - I am sorry but can only point you towards the One who forgives and one day will "dry all tears." The theme of this book is designed to gage the moral status of a society and unfortunately shedding innocent blood falls squarely and central to this theme. I'm just going to put out a some basic facts and move on. The reason at this point I feel compelled to speak is simply - If God recognizes and acknowledges the voice of rocks and land that cry out for justice - can I as a living moral agent stay silent?

Just a fact and I'll move on: What does our medical industry and government regulations do with the millions of unborn?

Medical waste disposal

- Fetal remains are placed in regulated biohazard containers.
- They are then **incinerated** or **chemically treated** according to state and federal medical-waste laws, the same systems used for other human tissues removed in hospitals (organs, amputations, placentas).

"They pass through the fires to Molech"....

The "Until" Periods

The Bible marks off three distinct time periods or appointed times. Two of which I'll deal with here - the third will be identified and then dealt with later on. An appointed time is a divinely measured season in which authority is granted, tolerated, and ultimately reclaimed by God according to covenant and moral accountability.

The "Times of the Gentiles"

Deuteronomy 32:8 When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

The word 'gentile' first appears in Gen 10:5 "By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands" - at the time when God began separating the sons of Adam. The meaning of the word *gentile* means to mass as a group to form distinct nations. It is the root of the word *gentile* that offers insight. The English word '*gentile*' is the Hebrew word '*goyim*'. The word *goyim*, while meaning nations, carries the theological sense in Scripture of peoples moving collectively away from covenant orientation. Adding to the insight we add that the word *goyim* is derived from the word '*gewah*' which means '**the back**' of your body.

As mentioned the first appearance of the word 'gentile' was in Gen. 10:5 which is in the chapter that lists the descendants of Japheth the enlarged one. The one with the - either - or - type of status. What follows next in chapter 11 is the tower of Babel narrative. So what we see developing is a group of people already choosing to turn their 'back' on God and go in a direction away from the will of God. From that perspective of a people walking away - God sees the 'back'.

Within our right of using our free will - God says - have it your way - and the designation of 'Gentile' is established as a people walking in the wrong direction. I must always remind us though that God never abandons nor forsakes. Walking in the wrong direction only means we must turn around and go back - and depending how far you have wandered only adds to the time to get back to the

place God wants you. Within this framework - God has assigned a time called the 'times of the gentiles'.

It was Jesus who made first mention of this time period in Luke 21:24 "... and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." To this Paul adds:

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. Romans 11:25

Follow the Bouncing 'Untils'

A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, **until** I make thine enemies thy footstool. Psalms 110:1 KJV

I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; (22) **Until** the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Daniel 7:21-22 KJV

I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. (6) And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. (7) And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, **until** the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him. Jeremiah 27:5-7 KJV

And This is the Interpretation Thereof

For as much as you have set your heart to seek after knowledge - I am here now to offer my insight. First off all these passages demonstrate God's sovereignty.

Psalms gives us the biggest picture concerning Jesus' mission - to bring all under submission. What is He bringing into submission?

Daniel brings the camera closer and adds detail to the picture. Daniel talks about the horn making war with the saints. The horn is part of the 'beast system' which in the very shortest possible definition is - the satanic control over the governing bodies of this world. This began with the beast of the field entering our domain, deceiving and gaining control of us - humanity became his slaves - because we obeyed his voice. This was covered - but that control persists and prevails up to the last governing body headed by the 'little horn' is dealt with by God - "Until the Ancient of days" comes and restores the saints not a slaves but as sovereigns. So what He is bringing under submission is everything that Satan controls now. So now we have the full scope of Jesus' mission.

Daniel gave no names - only symbolism. Jeremiah is now naming names and he names Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon. Without going into much detail we all should know. Old Neb was the first king of a continuing empire of "many kings". We tend see the brokenness of history and the "many kings" as independent and isolated. God sees the big picture as one continuous rule by the Prince of Persia or the one spiritual influencer dominating the region - Satan.

What we need to know that beginning with Old Neb and ending up with whom ever that "little horn" ends up being - they all serve the purposes of God - with God saying so. "Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, (is) my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him." And that empire will dominate "until the very time of his land come."

There is a time ordained that his land will be purged from the evils of all many kings. That until period is not measured by clocks and calendars but as mentioned by the moral barometers of idolatry and bloodshed - and the earth is the timekeeper.

Moral decline does not automatically topple nations; rather, it accumulates testimony that God answers at His appointed time. We can sum this up by saying this until period can also be called the 'Have it your way' period. During which we will exhaust all human resources and intellect and have no where else to run and hide. At that time the party will be over.

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? Rev 6:15-17

Hmm. It's obvious there is something this group of people don't know. What are they asking to hide them? Ha! I'm sure rocks and mountains will not hide - but rather witness against. They will not know - but we know.

The Second Allotted Time Period for Israel

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Daniel 9:24

This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Take off your jeweled crown, for the old order changes. Now the lowly will be exalted, and the mighty will be brought down. (27) Destruction! Destruction! I will surely destroy the kingdom. And it will not be restored until the One appears who has the right to judge it. Then I will hand it over to Him. Ezekiel 21:26-27 NLT

Unlike the Gentiles whose general disposition was stray away from the True God. Through Abraham God established Israel to be a Holy - set apart and distinct nation. To them God spoke the Oracles of God and established that salvation was to be through the Jews. This was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.

There is a lot that can be said but I only want to bring out what is necessary within the parameters of my theme. These verses are addressed specifically to the nation of Judah at that time. Ezekiel was prophesying about their captivity in Babylon and Daniel was one of the captives taken into Babylon.

Knowing the history of Judah we see again that idolatry and moral decline were the factors that led to them being taken into captivity after much warning. The

Northern Kingdom of Israel was already vanquished as previously warned. Yet Judah as a nation failed to heed all warnings. Daniel tells us that Judah's captivity to Babylon would only last 70 years until they would be allowed to return to their native land and rebuild. In spite of them coming back to their own land and rebuilding - they never regained the Kingdom they once enjoyed.

The continuation of the Babylon empire and the "many kings" that rose up according to prophecy all subjugated Judah as a vassal state all the way up to the final destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD resulting in the world wide Diaspora of the Jewish people. Ezekiel in the above verse told us specifically that the "Kingdom" would "not be restored until the One appears who has the right to judge it. Then I will hand it over to Him."

Restoring the Kingdom was the most desired and most anticipated event of all the Jewish people. With the coming of Jesus as Messiah it was this very event - the restoration of the Kingdom - everyone was expecting Him to do - including the disciples. At that time Jesus did not restore the Old Kingdom but rather established a New Kingdom. That Kingdom fulfills Daniel's prophecy - "to bring in everlasting righteousness." That Kingdom is what we commonly call the Church which is the third estate - separate and distinct from the Gentiles and the Jews. And to that Kingdom is assigned another third until season but that assignment is not for either judgment nor destruction.

The Third Until of the Third Estate

Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.
Dan 2:34

And in the days of these kings shall **the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed**: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Dan 2:44

What Jesus did in His days on earth was prepare the way for the birth of His Church. We are in the world but we are not of the world. So we were created as a

further separation - further set apart for a separate and distinct destiny. The Church is created as complete and resting in our completeness insures Glory.

This is separate and distinct from a Gentile world that turns its back on God and a rebellious Israel - 'whose house is left desolate - until.' The true covenant Church has been washed and is not complicit in their iniquities - therefore not tied into their judgment.

Scripture reveals that nations are neither self-created nor self-sustaining. They rise, expand, are restrained, and fall according to divinely appointed times governed by moral accountability. From Noah's sons forward, humanity spread across the earth carrying not only physical presence but spiritual consequence - blessing, enlargement, or curse.

God assigns authority over land and peoples temporarily, holding nations accountable for idolatry, bloodshed, and covenant rejection. The Church as priests owns no land - therefore the Church has no accountability to the land.

These "until" periods - whether for Israel, Babylon, or the Gentile nations, - are measured not by calendars, but by accumulated moral witness, with the land itself bearing testimony. Yet even within judgment, God preserves purpose, moving history forward toward the establishment of an Everlasting Kingdom that will never be handed to another people because land is not our inheritance - God Himself is our exceedingly great reward - if we are attached to Him.

If God governs nations openly - measuring land, judging kings, and appointing times - then one question remains: *Where does the Church fit within this framework?* Unlike Israel, the Church is not given land. Unlike the nations, the Church is not measured by borders or political power. It does not rule visibly, nor is it judged corporately in history like the Gentiles and Jews will be. Instead, the Church exists within the world yet outside its systems - protected, concealed, and preserved during the very "until" periods that govern nations. To understand the times of the Gentiles fully, we must now turn our attention to a people who operate under a different kind of covenant, a different kind of authority, and a different kind of timing: **the Church - a hidden people.**

Living Within an "Until"

History does not move at random, nor does it linger by accident. Scripture reveals a God who appoints boundaries, measures seasons, and governs time with purpose. Nations rise, nations fall, and generations pass all within limits known fully only to Him. To live within an “until” is to exist under divine patience, where restraint is mercy and delay is not absence.

The danger of such patience is forgetfulness. When judgment tarries, arrogance grows. When consequences are delayed, humanity assumes permanence. Yet the same God who grants time also weighs it. The earth remembers what humanity would rather forget, and heaven is never indifferent to blood, injustice, or pride. Every season moves toward completion, whether acknowledged or ignored.

Wisdom, then, is not found in mastering history, but in humbly discerning our place within it. We are neither the beginning nor the end of the story. We are stewards living between promise and fulfillment, responsible for how we walk while time remains. To number our days is not to fear their end, but to honor their purpose.

And yet - within all measured times, there is mercy. God does not merely rule over nations; He preserves people. Even as kingdoms are weighed and found wanting, He is quietly gathering a people whose identity is not bound to land, crown, or empire, but to faith. It is to this people - and this mystery - that we now turn.

Transition: *If God governs nations by land and time, how then does He preserve a people who possess neither?*

The answer unfolds next.

Chapter 9

The Church: A Hidden People

The Church is not a nation, it is not a kingdom of this world, it is not an instrument to judge others. It is as mentioned a separate Third Estate. The Church is a redeemed people separated from the world - who have judged themselves and remain hidden in Christ.

...Your life is hid with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3

What Jesus did on the Cross - The New Creation Reality

What did the angels do at the foundation of the world? *"They sang together and shouted for joy"* Job 38:7 They celebrated in the beginning at what God had only begun to do. What God did in the beginning was only a shadow - an outline that prefigured what was to come.

What was to come was Jesus. What God did in the beginning was not flawed or false - it was provisional, a shadow that anticipated something greater. And the Greater Jesus came as the real. The One True Living God entered clay and dwelt or tabernacle amongst us. Did not the One True living God choose clay in the beginning and entered into that clay when He breathed into it the breath of life? Did not the One True Living God walk amongst them in the Garden? And for all that - all that was a shadow of things to come. Then Jesus came - wrapped Himself in flesh and walked amongst us.

Did God create the original world and populated it with mankind? What did mankind do? Mankind walked away from God. From amongst mankind God chose one man and created a nation. What did that nation do? They asked for another king - so they could be like the other nations from which they were taken out. *"Would to God that we could have stayed in Egypt"* - they said. We want to be like the other nations - they said. So God let them have it their way.

Regardless God did not abandon nor reject the nations - nor Israel. Once again He put His hand to the clay and came to His own. What did His own do? "His own received Him not" - "BUT as many as received him, to them gave he power to

become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

At that time the waited for restoration anticipated by the Jews was not on His agenda. Creation was still on His agenda. He came for those who would receive Him - a separate people - different from all who have ever rejected Him. He came to enable - to empower - to inspire and fill - and create a new creature - to become the sons of God.

All who ever rejected Him - from dust they were taken, and to dust they return, in answer to their own choices. For those who receive Him from the dust of those who ever rejected Him they are taken and are become living souls - the sons of God. And for all that - that was only a beginning redemption. A beginning still waiting for an ending. Incompletion still waiting for completion. And for all that we all groan waiting for the final redemption.

The final redemption comes when all the 'until' seasons - the have it your way seasons exhaust themselves. Mankind must come to an end of itself. Satan must come to an end of himself. The "former things" must pass away - then...

...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

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. Rev 21:3

As it was in the beginning - God walking amongst them -so it shall be in the end. - 'He will dwell with them.' What came forth in the beginning as a shadow will find reality in the end - not as an ending - but again a new beginning for an eternity to follow. A New Heaven, a New Earth populated by a Husband and His Bride - and the nations that are saved.

All the until periods are now under His feet and dominion over all disorder finally established forevermore. And we ride off into the sunset to live happily ever after.

Living for God certainly gives us very much to look forward to. In the mean time here we are groaning. I'm not sure groaning is the most precise word because it depends on where your eyes settle. If your eyes focus on the conditions of this current world we live in - then groaning is woefully inadequate in describing the horrors that exist. If our eyes focus on the incredibly powerful hands of the most incredibly powerful God - then only rejoicing is in order. Perhaps Paul was groaning with his eyes only focused on the waiting. Not the current conditions - not the Promise - but only the waiting. There you see - I settled my own question. So groaning remains the word appropriate for having to wait.

The New Creation Waiting for the Final Redemption

I'm sitting here - I'm pondering - I'm musing with an incredible sense of awe and peace. The kind of peace only God can give. The peace that leads me to feel completely rested - void of turmoil, or any confusion. This rest goes beyond trust - to knowing. I know where He brought me from. I know He is keeping me. And I know where He is taking me - all without doubt.

Doubts lead to questions. The wrong questions lead to confusion. And confusion takes away from confidence. God's strategy is to always move forward at the right time and towards the right destination. Over the many years I've been living for God I have had innumerable doubts about everything. Everything came to be questioned with innumerable questions. If it were not for God - my question would have ceased with no answers. God using His wisdom of leading gave me 'here a little and there a little' - 'line upon line and precept upon precept'. Sure I would have liked a data dump and be filled with all knowledge all at once. But what would I do with that knowledge while lacking maturity? What an adult does with \$20 is very different than what an eight year old would do with \$20. So God only gives us what is appropriate for the right time. Daniel tells us "in the time of the end - knowledge will increase." Perhaps that adds to the barometer that tells us how close we are to "the time of the end". All I can say right now is that I am confident in the information being presented. I can promise you that confidence is not because of me. But rather because He gave me here a little, there a little. And then I was able to pieced them together to create the portrait that shows us the big picture of where we all - Israel, the nations and the Church - fit into His grand scheme.

The Church

The Church is made up of individuals - but not just any individuals. Within the theme of this book all along we have been talking about God's covenants with mankind. Within mankind there are the covenant keepers who stay faithful to the stipulations and remain faithful to God. And then there are those who have no regard for God at all - along with everything in between. For our purposes let's just stick with those in covenant with God and are in good standing.

The Church is now a global entity which is made up of covenant keepers commonly referred to as Saints. There is explicit language that also tells us our specific role in the Kingdom of God which is as priests and kings. Understanding our role is imperative to how we operate within the order of God. Granted we as humans are learning about operating in roles God assigns us. The point being as we have seen the earth itself stays within its assigned role as habitat and provider of sustenance. It was Lucifer who abandoned his assigned role and caused all this mess. So again it becomes imperative to understand and operate within our assigned role as priests in covenant with God.

Within the Church - We are Priests - To offer Spiritual Sacrifices

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, **to offer up spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; **that ye should shew forth the praises of Him** who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Rev 1:5-6... Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Heb 13:15 By him therefore let us offer **the sacrifice of praise to God continually**, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Why is it that we can't see the forest for the trees? The redundancy of scripture should act to open our eyes - yet we gloss over them and become dull. Our role as being priests is the heart of our preordained covenant role that should establish a crystal clarity. We are priests that offer to God spiritual sacrifices. Boom there it is - one phrase that encapsulates our status and role in the Kingdom of God. Priests offer sacrifices.

The New Testament covenant ordains priests that offer the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving - the fruit of our lips. Moses covenant ordained priests to offer sacrifices coming from the land - grains, foods and drinks, and animals. Those sacrifices tie the Levitical priesthood to the land. What does the land do? It testifies against us.

Jesus became our High priest after the order of Melchisedec which predates Moses. Within that order we are ordained to offer up spiritual sacrifices. **Spiritual sacrifices do not come from the land - they come from the heart** that has been washed by His blood - and is in covenant with God. A heart that is in covenant with God will offer up the "the fruit of our lips" which is praise and thanks "continually". This is the only time it is permissible to look backwards at: *When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.* Job 38:7

This puts the picture together and helps us understand the full restorative power of the Blood of Jesus. Lucifer lost his joy. Lucifer lost his praise - willingly by his own choices. The original Hebrew word for Lucifer is 'heylel' which means bright one. When Lucifer lost his praise - of God - he lost his brightness as a reflector of God's light - and he plunged into darkness. The word heylel is where we derive the English word halleluiah which means Praise ye Yah! The Blood restores us back to where we as the 'Sons of God' can join the heavenly choir and offer heavenly praise unto our God. Praise Ye Our God!

God restores the praise - so our sacrifices are not land based - but originate from heaven - where we are now seated with Him. When you read Revelations - when we read about the Throne we are also reading about praise, worship and adoration. When He is seated on the throne of our hearts - out of the abundance of our heart the mouth will speak - with the same praise, worship and adoration.

It is the song He puts into our hearts that creates the final separation that delivers us out of the kingdom of darkness - that kingdom that breaks covenant - and restored into His marvelous Light

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light... 1Pe 2:9

The Thing About Priests

The priesthood has no land inheritance.

And the LORD spake unto Aaron, **Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land**, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel. Num 18:20

Wherefore **Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren**; the LORD is his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him. Deu 10:9

But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave **not any inheritance**: the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as he said unto them. Jos 13:33

What does all this mean? Let the redundancy of scripture open your eyes to see. The priests were not ordained to inherit any land. The Lord told them specifically the **He** was their inheritance. Which means: Priests were not ordained to be recipients of land-based covenant judgment **as priests**. For us today - as priests - our inheritance is also God - *'and so we shall forever be with the Lord.'* We are attached by covenant to God - that same covenant detaches us from this world. *Wrath is ordained for the world NOT the Church.*

For as long as I have been in Church I have been taught to verify everything within the boundaries of what scripture teaches. For years I have been looking for the scriptures that validate Paul's teaching on the mystery of our transformation - or the Rapture - and have found none. Yes, I can find the resurrection - but not the explicit teaching on the Rapture until I saw the stars align...

It is by the grace of God that He gave me 'here a little and there a little - line

upon line - precept upon precept'. While no one single verse can validate the Rapture - stitching together verses form precepts. Stitching together precepts reveal mysteries. Not mysteries based on what is not in our Bible. But a revealing of teachings that are in the Bible. Eyes being opened to see what has been there all along if you will.

I see what Paul saw. That because the Priesthood has no inheritance in a land that is destined to be judged - we are preordained not to receive the wrath to come upon that land. We as the Church - we as the Priests of God are preordained to inherit God - who is Life - *"we shall not all die, but we all will be changed"* - by us inheriting God.

I'm really praying that you are finding your song right now - your dance right now - your praise right now!

We base all our assurance on the infallibility of God's Word and promises because they were preordained before all this mess started. Remember I said I do all my betting on the One doing all the preordaining. Because that is not a gamble - it is an investment. Being preordained takes all our guessing out of our hands and wisdom and places all that into His hands and wisdom.

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.. 1Th. 5:9

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. (15) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. (16) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (17) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Th. 4:13-18

Judgment is Land Based - and Priest are Not its Agents

Just in case you were bored when I was talking about land let me just reinforce why the subject is tied in and connects to judgment. Priests are mediators between God and man. At no time are they assigned as agents executing judgment. Kings and nations execute judgment against the unrighteous. For priests the opposite is true, **priests are agents assigned to certify that people are clean.** We have been given the ministry of reconciliation. I just want to clarify and delineate carefully to reinforce all we have discovered so far.

All along we have been examining 'roles'. We see that God orders who, and what, does what - in order to keep things running smoothly and always forwards. Just think of any nation, there are multiple agencies and departments each assigned specific duties - all created for the welfare of the nation. One department does not have authority over the next - but each works in harmony for the benefit of all. Well if there is anybody who knows how to get the job done and administer order amongst the departments it is the Chief Executive God Himself.

The Assigned Roles

"God is not the author of confusion, but of peace." 1 Corinthians 14:33

God's role is as: **The Sovereign Source.** Within that role He is the originator of all things. The Highest Authority over all things. The Lawgiver Who creates the regulations governing all things. And at the end of the day He is the Judge of all things - determining if all things are indeed 'very good' - or not.

The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all Psa 103:19

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Isa 46:10

...Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? Gen 18:25

Under Him and established by Him - representing His authority - are Kings and Civil authorities - Administrators of civil justice. Their role is: **Enforcement of**

justice in the public sphere.

"You are about to enter the land the LORD your God is giving you. When you take it over and settle there, you may think, 'We should select a king to rule over us like the other nations around us.' (15) If this happens, be sure to select as king the man the LORD your God chooses. You must appoint a fellow Israelite; he may not be a foreigner. (16) "The king must not build up a large stable of horses for himself or send his people to Egypt to buy horses, for the LORD has told you, 'You must never return to Egypt.' (17) The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will turn his heart away from the LORD. And he must not accumulate large amounts of wealth in silver and gold for himself. (18) "When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. (19) He must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives. That way he will learn to fear the LORD his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions and decrees. (20) This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these commands in the smallest way. And it will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel. Deuteronomy 17:14-20 NLT

Just to unpack this passage. Verses 18-19 tells us any Governing authority is accountable to God's laws. Verses 16-17 say he may not accumulate personal acquisitions and wealth. Verse 20 says he should not be arrogant and proud and acting as if he is better than fellow citizens. Talk about a moral barometer.

Because of me, kings reign, and rulers make just decrees. Rulers lead with my help, and nobles make righteous judgments. Pro 8:15-16

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. (2) So **anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted**, and they will be punished. (3) For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. (4) The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. **They are God's**

servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. Romans 13:1-4 NLT

Yep....

From this point I will simply list each role and the agents assigned to work in that role. The role is the department or agency - the agents are the ones working in that department.

- **Prophets** - Covenant Prosecutors and Watchmen / **Role:** Spokesmen, warners, truth-bearers. Jeremiah 1:10; Ezekiel 3:17; Amos 3:7
- **Nations** - Moral Actors with Appointed Times / **Role:** Participants in God's historical purposes. Acts 17:26; Daniel 2:21; Luke 21:24
- **Angels** - Ministers and Executors (At God's Command) / **Role:** Messengers and executors of divine will. Psalm 103:20; Hebrews 1:14; Revelation 15-16
- **Humanity** - Stewards with Moral Agency / **Role:** Image-bearers, responders and recipients. By responder I mean we are called to respond to God's invitations. We respond to God's commands. And we respond to God's requirements. Our response determines what we receive. Genesis 1:26-28; Deuteronomy 30:19; Romans 2:15 Rev 22:12
- **The Land** - Witness, Receiver, Responder / **Role:** Moral witness and covenant participant. Genesis 4:10-12; Leviticus 18:25; Numbers 35:33; Romans 8:19-22
- **The Church** - A Hidden Priestly People / **Role:** Reconciliation, witness, intercession. 1 Peter 2:5,9; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:3
- **Priests** - Mediators and Certifiers of Cleanness / **Role:** Intercession, instruction, restoration. Leviticus 10:10-11; Ezekiel 44:23; Hebrews 5:1

I included all this to clearly point out that among the roles as executors of judgment are God - Governments - and Angels under order from God. Neither the Church as the corporate body nor priests as individuals within the body - participate in executing judgment. That is not our legitimate assigned role.

We are pilgrims and sojourners with no citizenship on earth - nor city on earth. No inheritance on earth. We are in the world but not of the world. As

ambassadors we are ministers to the needs of fellow saints - and a place of refuge for those seeking to escape the evils of this world. We are all sojourners in a foreign land - and we are all to respect the 'law of the land'. Before any war starts citizens, ambassadors and refugees are called home.

The Rights Afforded Only to Priests

Looking back upon history of Israel and how priests were preserved in spite of being captives in a foreign land - adds a layer of confirmation that God preserves priests.

NLT Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, took with him as prisoners Seraiah the high priest, Zephaniah the priest of the second rank, and the three chief gatekeepers. (19) And from among the people still hiding in the city, he took an officer who had been in charge of the Judean army; five of the king's personal advisers; the army commander's chief secretary, who was in charge of recruitment; and sixty other citizens. (20) Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, took them all to the king of Babylon at Riblah. 2 Kings 25:18-20

Yes priests can be captive in a foreign land - but -

On July 31 of my thirtieth year, while I was with the Judean exiles beside the Kebar River in Babylon, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. (2) This happened during the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity. (3) (The LORD gave this message to Ezekiel son of Buzi, a priest, beside the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians, and he felt the hand of the LORD take hold of him. Ezekiel 1:1-3 NLT

Ezekiel was both a priest and a prophet still receiving visions, still hearing from God and still acting as a watchman. Being a captive did not annul nor dissolve nor detract in any way from his role as a priest ordained of God. While it was the land of Israel that was purged of the wickedness in response to the land requiring rest. The priesthood was preserved and continued to be ministers of God regardless of where they were.

The Church Preserves the Priesthood Pattern

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. Hebrews 11:13-14

For **our conversation is in heaven**; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Philippians 3:20

Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world**: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. John 18:36

The Church, like the priesthood before it, possesses no land inheritance and therefore bears no mandate for land-based judgment, being appointed instead only to intercession, witness, and mediation until the times of restoration.

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, **supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks**, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 1 Timothy 2:1-3

Throughout Scripture, judgment is exercised according to assigned roles established by God. Land receives judgment because it bears covenant witness; nations experience judgment because they govern within appointed times; angels execute judgment at God's command; and civil authorities enforce justice within earthly jurisdiction. The priesthood, however, is deliberately removed from land inheritance and judicial authority, being appointed instead to mediation, intercession, instruction, and the certification of cleanness. The Church, constituted as a royal priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, inherits this same non-landed, non-judicial identity. Hidden in Christ and possessing no earthly inheritance, the Church is therefore not appointed as an agent of land-based judgment, but as a reconciled people whose role is witness, intercession, and preparation for the restoration of all things.

If the Church is a hidden priestly people - The Third Estate - without land

inheritance, without judicial mandate, and not appointed as agents of judgment—then a necessary question follows: *where, and upon whom, does judgment fall?* Scripture does not leave this unanswered. The Judge of the whole earth will do right and assure that judgment be rightly enforce on the guilty parties. Judgment is not random, nor is it indiscriminate; it is tethered to land, authority, and accountability within God’s ordered purposes. Having established who the Church is *not* appointed to be, we must now turn our attention to how God brings judgment to completion, through whom He administers it, and why the land itself remains central in the final reckoning. It is to that sobering and clarifying subject that we now turn.

Chapter 10

Judgment as Restoration

Biblical judgment is not random nor is it the end of all - it is God keeping His house in order and getting it ready for the next chapter of history.

With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Isa 26:9

What is judgment? It is the reward for not investing in God. It is the harvest from seed that was deliberately sown on the wayside. It is sowing to the wind - sowing to our vanities and reaping the whirlwind that takes everything away. It is the purging of this earth - whose only yearning is to bring forth life abundantly in obedience to the One who speaks from Heaven.

"The wages of sin is death" - wages are what you earn for the work you do. Jesus tells us 'I will give (the wages) according to the work each man has done.' So what each man has done according to his own choices - earns a reward. Now I will again repeat - I always put my chips on the One who does all the preordaining. In other words on the One who has all the inside information. And What does the One with all the inside information say:

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

Good Works Gain Good Rewards

When by our willing choice - we choose to walk in the good works - the works that identify us as being created in His Image and His Likeness - rewards follow.

I'm going to elaborate on something I said in Chapter 4 - Mankind is destined by to obtain dominion - with dominion in mind - we are created In His image - representing His authority. And we are created in His likeness to represent what

God is like relationally. We are a father - a husband - a friend - a son - because God represents Himself that way. In addition we are created to represent His nature and character in heart. What we do to come under His authority - what we do to be a good friend, husband or father - what we do to attain His nature and character - These all are the good works we were originally 'ordained to walk in.' Walking in these good works earns us the wages of attaining dominion.

Ungodly Works Gain Condemnation

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were **before of old ordained to this condemnation**, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Jud 1:4

Is this saying evil men have no choice and must be evil? Can we say because God created me evil it's God's fault? We have already identified God's original intentions as creating us to obtain dominion and walk in good works. But a devil crept in - and afterwards many certain men crept in. The devil has different intentions based on the lusts of his heart - all this being discussed before. The devil's actions and works give definition to being ungodly.

He has no authority to bestow dominion. He is not a loving father, friend, husband or son. So none of his attributes can possibly lead to life everlasting. His attributes are anti-God - ungodly. Only in his imagination did the delusion of grandeur come to be - but he can and does influence men to pattern themselves after his image and likeness. This is ungodliness.

He chose rebellion and some willingly choose freely to be like him. So all men everywhere and at all times in history have always had the choice to choose either the ordained good works leading to be "like God" or the works leading to be 'like Satan'. Choosing wrongly then leads to the ordained condemnation. God only created good because that's what He is. And because He is good the corrective action of judgment - removes the bad intentions - and then restores us to original intentions.

And for all that - once purged of all bad intentions - it's the start of restoration. The earth is purged by God from all those insisting to have to have it their way - leaving the earth only with those now willing to yield to God's ways - the meek.

Sobriety and humility take the highest seat. It is exceedingly sobering to think that the current population of the earth is now eight billion souls and rising. From where I stand today, and reading the repeated fractions of judgment presented in Revelation, it is clear that Scripture anticipates a drastic and humbling reduction of humanity. The precise numbers are not given to us - only the sobering truth that judgment is measured, progressive, and purposeful. My math may be off - and all things are still in God's merciful hands but after the judgments that number is going to be whittled down closer to two billion. My numbers are not precise but the point is for all of us to reach sobriety. And furthermore when Jesus returns He is said to go to work sorting through the remnant - those two billion left - with the sword of His mouth, slaying any still left who are defiant.

If you know how a knife or sword is sharpened - you start with a very course stone to remove the largest nicks and burs. Then as needed we use finer grade stones to create a smooth sharp edge. Finally the last stone is the finest - which will then produce the very sharpest edge.

In human terms it will be the most arrogant, anti-God and defiant that get knocked off first. Silence the leaders and hopefully the followers will wise up. Yet some followers are ingrained with hatred and malice so - they go next. Getting the final results requires diligent action in eliminating all those whose spirit rise up to oppose God. Until as promised - "the meek shall inherit the earth."

And that will be the starting point for the next thousand years. In one way it's nice to know there are at least two billion meek. That's quite a bit more than the eight that got off the ark the first time round. Yet still sobering to think a potential of six billion souls have lost their way - permanently - needlessly. Grace was there to save them but....

The Administers of Judgment

Without controversy anyone who has ever had a tooth gone bad will attest to the relief of having it repaired or yanked. Likewise any physical ailment that needs surgery or a cancer that needs removal - the purpose of yanking, or surgery is to continue living quality lives. Now do we let just anyone do the yanking or cutting into our bodies? Those corrective measures trusted into the wrong hands are going to end up in very doubtful, if not worse results. If we are to trust vital life preserving operations into the hand of any individual - the most wise person to trust is the one with the knowledge, skill and training to do the job and attain the best results. This is just common sense.

What judgment is - is the removal of anything that impedes or stands in the way of God accomplishing His preordained original intentions of seeing mankind obtain the prize of eternal life. Diseases and infections get in the way of us living out our full lives and we have no problem seeking qualified persons to remove the disease and infection. Satan introduced an infection called death into human society. Should we be reluctant to seek professional help in removing that?

Who are the professionals? There is One who has all the qualifications we need and that is God Himself. But God is not alone in the operating room - He has a staff of angels. As we have shown in the last chapter there are only these two - God and angels left that fill the role of administrators of judgment because at that time governments themselves will be facing judgment. Meaning only God and angels have the skill to know what stays and what goes.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Heb 4:12-13

Man hardly even knows what a soul or spirit is nevertheless have the surgical precision to separate them. When it comes to the Word of God - used as a scalpel - it is sharp steel instrument used to save life. That same Word of God can be used as a sword - also a sharp steel instrument - which can be used to vanquish. Only God knows how to use His Word to either save life or vanquish.

This is explicitly why 'vengeance is mine saith the Lord' - and we should be grateful. Man is a wrecking ball and only God is the qualified surgeon with the precision to execute judgment. His eyes sees all - even the things that are invisible to us. And the most invisible thing to the human mind - the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Both the heart of devils and the hearts of mankind will be laid bare and dealt with. And again this is why He reserves this right only to Himself and His angels.

The biggest point is that within all His power, He wants to preserve and save life to move us forward into our greater destiny. If that means even amputation - so be it.

The Thoughts and Intentions of the Heart

At this point I want to at least touch on something I see as very relevant when it comes to a time when the earth needs judgment. The earth needed judgment once before and at that time all flesh was destroyed with only eight being preserved to move forward into history. But something else - something invisible was hidden and survived the destruction and got off the ark within the eight.

Almost immediately - right off the boat - people began practicing something. Some people weren't looking forward into the vastness of a new world. They were looking backward at what was. The men of renown - the gods of the last world and in memorial to them the created gods - idols to worship instead of worshiping the God that saved them. Very quickly they forgot the God that preserved them. They looked backwards and the examples of scripture prove looking backwards to be a mistake over and over again.

So what were the things that were preserved and came off the ark into a brand new world. The thought and intentions of the heart were hidden only later to be revealed that some liked that old world better and became bent on recreating it.

And this is why God chose Abram. A man called to seek a new land and a new city - whose builder and maker is God. A man who was chosen to preserve a destiny that the rest were already bent on destroying through idolatry. God's strategy is to move forward through a man - through a family and through a

nation. Forward to preserve the original intentions of creating man in His image and likeness.

Do you know what the word male means? I'm glad you asked and be sure I'm determined to tell you. In the phrase 'male and female He made them' - the English word *male* is the Hebrew word 'zakar' which means **remembered**. This adds another layer to understanding our purpose. God wants to be remembered through us - and I'll be completing this picture latter on in the book so stay tuned.

The idolaters carried in their hearts a remembrance - not of God - but of a wicked world and looked backwards wanting to recreate that. God called Adam - God called Abram - and God calls us to remember Him always.

And even as **they did not like to retain God in their knowledge**, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Rom 1:28

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but **became vain in their imaginations**, and their foolish heart was darkened. (22) Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, (23) And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Rom 1:21-23

Thoughts and intentions matter - and are not going to escape this time around so my suggestion - put what was in your past - way out of your mind and be determined to retain God in your knowledge - *'remember all of His benefits'* - always. Moving forward....

Restoration of All Things Under One Shepard

Construction very often is preceded with destruction. Scripture is very ample in showing both aspects of destruction through judgment and construction through restoration.

See, I have set thee this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, **to build, and to plant.** Jer 1:10

Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for **he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind** us up. Hosea 6:1

Restoration is a promise to those returning to the Lord. He is the only qualified professional to administer the scalpel that removes infection, or organs, or limbs and still keep humanity alive to live another day and continuing to moving forward.

Those verses above are spoken to Israel specifically on their path to restoration - however humanity began as one family as God's original intention. The men who crept in leading with other intentions - they became other shepards to lead astray. Restoration is specifically aimed at restoring the original design of one family with One Shepard.

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and **there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.** Joh 10:16

And **I will make them one nation** in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and **one king shall be king to them all:** and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: (23) Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. (24) And **David my servant shall be king over them;** and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. Ezekiel 37:22-24 KJV

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; (12) That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants

of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: (13) But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (14) For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; (15) Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; (16) And **that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross**, having slain the enmity thereby: Ephesians 2:11-16 KJV

Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; (7) Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. (8) The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, **Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.** Isaiah 56:6-8 KJV

In that day will I raise up **the tabernacle of David** that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: Amo 9:11

I know you were just waiting for this scripture dump - so I felt obligated to oblige. In spite of the leadings of the other shepards - scripture speaks for itself and that's the way I prefer it. The last verse in Amos is what was quoted by the Apostles in Acts 15 in accepting the fact that Gentiles were being saved and added to the family. They referred to the 'Tabernacle of David' or the House of David which is a reference to Ezekiel - "David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd." This now verifies that the "One nation" mentioned by Ezekiel is the one family of God restored as originally intended to become One in Him all sharing the "commonwealth" of God and joining the covenant promises as "one body in Christ."

Israel is never forsaken nor abandoned - nor are Gentiles forsaken nor abandoned - we all are God's family - neither to be forsaken - but all to be restored under

One Shepard - Our Lord Jesus Christ - The Son of David - Rightful heir and King over all.

The End of the Other Shepards - Over Israel and Over the Gentiles

When Scripture speaks of "the times of the Gentiles" and Daniel's seventy weeks, it does not present two unrelated prophetic clocks but two interwoven allotments governed by the same sovereign God. Both are marked by "until" periods of delegated authority permitted to run their course before divine intervention resumes.

The close of the sixty-ninth week signals not the end of God's purposes for Israel, but a pause - an interval in which Gentile dominion continues while covenant fulfillment awaits completion. That pause after the sixty-ninth week begins with the birth of the Church - creating the ministers of reconciliation - the Holy Priesthood. When reconciliation through grace is exhausted and no longer possible - 'the one who letteth will be taken out of the way' and the Church goes with Him.

The seventieth week, therefore, does not unfold in isolation; it emerges at the convergence point where Gentile rule reaches its moral exhaustion and Israel's appointed time resumes for that last week. It is Israel's week not the Churches week. Because it is both Israel and the nations that exist under measured allotments, their judgments necessarily begin together, and their resolution culminates in the same event: the return of the rightful King, who brings all competing authorities to an end and restores unified rule under Himself.

Summary - Judgment in Service to Restoration

Judgment, then, is not God abandoning His creation, nor is it a reckless display of power. It is the necessary and measured work of a faithful Householder who refuses to surrender His children nor His purposes to the corruption of other shepards. What God judges, He judges with knowledge; what He removes, He removes with precision; and what He preserves, He preserves in order to move history forward. Judgment clears the ground of rebellion, exposes the thoughts

and intentions of the heart, silences false shepherds, and removes every competing authority that resists His original design. Only then can restoration proceed unhindered.

Throughout Scripture, judgment and restoration are never opposites but partners. Judgment uproots so that God may plant. It cuts away so that life may continue. It is severe only towards what refuses life, and merciful towards all that yields. The end of judgment is not emptiness, but order; not annihilation, but alignment; not chaos, but peace under one Shepherd. What remains after judgment is not merely survival, but a people willing to walk in God's ways, remembering Him, retaining Him in their knowledge, and living according to His original intentions. With the false shepherds removed, the infection excised, and the earth humbled, the stage is finally set for the rightful King to reign openly. Restoration does not end with survival - it moves toward governance, inheritance, and rule under Messiah. Judgment prepares the way for the Kingdom.

And it is to that Kingdom - its structure, its reign, and the public establishment of Christ's authority over Israel, the nations, and all creation - that we now turn.

In closing - Preparing for the Falling Away

Judgment does not arise in a vacuum. It is always preceded by fracture - by covenant being treated as disposable, loyalty replaced with convenience, and truth exchanged for what is agreeable. Before judgment falls upon the earth, something must first fall away within it. Scripture is clear that widespread restoration is not delayed by ignorance alone, but by rejection - by a deliberate severing of covenant bonds that once restrained lawlessness.

The rise of false shepherds, the endurance of Gentile dominion, and the eventual emergence of a counterfeit king do not occur suddenly. They are the fruit of a long process of walking away from God. What Scripture describes is not merely rebellion, but as unfaithfulness. Judgment becomes necessary only after covenant has been treated as optional, vows become expendable, and allegiance become the hidden card of negotiations.

Before the King returns to dwell openly with man, the ground must be cleared of every rival loyalty. Before Tabernacles can be established, divorce must be exposed. And before restoration can be embraced, the falling away must be understood for what it truly is.

It is to that falling away - the great covenant fracture that prepares the way for the man of lawlessness - that we now turn

Chapter 11

The Falling Away - Opening the Door for The Lawless One

Covenant marriage explains both mercy and judgment. The “falling away” is not casual rebellion - people and nations have been doing that for millennia. The Falling away is legal abandonment and grounds for divorce. Divorce dissolves protection, invites deception, and clears the way for the Lawless One.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 2Th 2:3

Connecting the Dots: Enlightenment in a Dark World

Back in the day when shepards lay in their fields at night - looking up into the heavens and gazing in great wonderment - someone, somewhere - realized that if you stare long enough - unrelated points of light in the sky somehow form an image. Not to suggest any credence in astrology - this is just metaphor. Barring any other way to explain this - this is the story I'm sticking with. Unrelated points of enlightenment paints a picture we all need to see.

This society we live in is not lacking for the Word of God. There are countless churches. Most everyone has access to a Bible - no thanks to certain ones who condemned and killed any who would possess a Bible. But thanks to the printing press and those who defiantly dared to make the Word of God available to all at the risk of death. Technology played a role in all that - that we should be grateful for.

Before we dive into the specifics of ‘*apostasias*’ and ‘*apostasion*’, it helps to recognize that much of what we think we know comes through the lens of human expertise, which often clouds the clarity of God’s law. In my own quiet study I find nowadays multitudes are experts at religious studies - very many say they have answers - and certain answers they do. Mainly because an honest study of scripture does provide many answers with precise clarity. Other questions leave

many only thinking they have an answer leading brothers to wield expert answer man - against expert answer man. Then brothers pick winners based on those who come across as being the most expert. Now betting my soul on a brother is one thing and betting my soul on God is a sure thing.

God speaks with precision and God answers with precision. That's the Rock I choose to stand on. What happens when city lights flood the skies? Heaven's lights grow faint and dim. Experts want to stand in the limelight. My Pastor will attest - front and center is not my style. I am a natural born loner who prefers solitude and privacy. That in and of itself is a dilemma for my small mind to wrestle with. Because being a member of a body obligates us to community. I yield to community because God is there. And in the pursuit of God I abandon what I was - and go where He leads me.

Being out of the limelight with little trust in experts has proven to be a good path for me. For in my solitude a Brother has come along side of me. A very quiet Brother - even more quiet than me - so listening has been my quest. Listening in a very loud world with very loud experts requires a different strategy. While common logic says upward mobility leads to success - success takes on many forms. For me downward mobility - down to private, quiet places of diligent study and listening for His voice, has led me to success and clarity. My definition of success is being able to find precision answers - given by the precise scriptures provided by a Precise God.

What thrill me most is the answers are all right where they belong - in the same Bible we all have access to. I'm not inventing anything. In case you haven't noticed I am scripture heavy - exactly because I have nothing to say - I let scripture speak for itself. Well these are an awful lot of words for someone who has nothing to say. Years of study have shut up a fire in my bones - and fire shut up - explodes. And lo here we are.

Besides - unbeknownst to me why - but God chooses to delegate through the least likely vessels. And without doubt I am the very least of the very least of vessels. I am not an expert in spite of all these words - I am a listener sharing what I hear. What I hear - is God loves you - and out of that love He has given me a treasure - not for myself - the treasure is for anyone else willing to listen.

And so I write - because these days require the precision answers that only come from God - and to Him be the Glory forever.

What countless seek and never find - because they all look in the wrong places. Straight up - Matthew 24, Revelations and Daniel are primarily delegated to the nation of Israel. They (secular Israel) and the Gentiles are tied at the hip and form a combined first and second estate and those passages and books are specifically aimed towards them.

It is the disconnected - unrelated points of enlightenment that create the picture of what the Churches destiny is:

"And I saw in the heavens a great wonder."

The experts look at holidays and moons and calendars and comets and asteroids and times and seasons and on and on and on. What they are all looking for is - When is Jesus coming back? What they are looking for is placing a date on the timing of the Rapture - that is they even believe in a Rapture, and many these days do deny a Rapture. Why? - because all the experts only create debate - not precision answers. I might seem to be wandering right now but I'm not. I know where I am going because He is there ahead of me. So now lets look at the disconnected points of enlightenment. First off...

The Falling Away

Forever - I have heard two things. The first is the end times will be a time of great revival and harvest. Then the others say the end time will be a time of falling away - or apostasy. First they are going to come in and then they are going to walk away. This does happen on an individual basis - but corporately? When my mind comes across things that don't quite add up - fuses begin to blow and I dislike the smoke. I'm sorry - I apologize but I can't see a mass revival and a mass walking away happening at the same time.

This forces me to look for the answer for clarities sake - if not to spare my fuses. So what are we looking at. There are two pictures that I break down this way to

explain how some can be coming in while some are walking away. This one picture is consistent throughout scripture from the beginning. After the expulsion from the Garden some chose to keep God - and some chose to walk away. After the flood we also see some chose to keep God - and some chose to walk away. During Israel's history we see that some chose to keep God - and some chose to walk away. And so it is today that simultaneously some choose to keep God and some choose to walk away, so now my fuses remain intact. BUT the hundred thousand dollar question is --- Who is God going to keep? and who is God going to let fall away?

Who is God Going to Let Fall Away / Covenants as Legal Obligation

Isn't it self evident that throughout human history that God obligates Himself to mankind through covenants? A covenant is a legally binding contract between willing parties. The most basic essence of covenant with God is: "I will be their God and they will be my people." This echoes all the way through to the last pages of Revelations.

Why do we go to work? Why do we subject ourselves to bosses and labor? Or even if you are self employed don't we still subject ourselves to the whims of customers or worse the IRS. Either way we subject ourselves because there is an expectation of a pay day. Simple as that - universal.

We want to earn cash at the end of our week. What is God getting at the end of His labors? Doesn't the last pages of the Bible say "Behold I show you the Bride - the Lambs wife."

That is God's pay day. This tells us why God has labored tirelessly from the beginning of time. That sure beats Jacob who labored 14 years for Rachel. At the same time this reveals that this Bride was worth seven thousand years of labor In God's eyes. Not a small thing.

Now - do we enter a marriage without legally binding obligations? Do we not say "I do solemnly swear"? Can we dissolve or abandon marriages just because? Legally that is.

We can only enter marriages legally and we can only dissolve marriages legally. Marriage is a binding legal obligation. And hence because marriage was always on God's mind - covenants have always been the legal way into marriage. If a marriage has problems that is '*aposasia*'. If the problems remain unresolved then the remedy is '*apostation*' and a bill of divorce was God's way of legally exiting any binding obligations.

Now we can come back to the term falling away as found in 2Thessalonians 2. Everybody looks at that word '*apostasia*' in the Greek - falling away in the English - and they simple say it means walking away or defecting from God. But if we look at the root '*apostasion*' this Greek word means something that causes a separation.

But now if we look at how this word is actually used in the New Testament - this specific word was used three times all by Jesus and every time it refers to a "writing of divorce" or "bill of divorce." Mat_5:31, Mat_19:7, Mar_10:4

So this falling away is much more than just backsliding. The falling away is a formal legal notice that God is separating Himself from His legal obligations as a Husband. Are any lights turning on? Who is God married to right now? Well - right now God is married to Israel and engaged to the Church. What are the legal reasons for divorce? Either abandonment, or failure to perform as a responsible partner, or infidelity. Of the two - either Israel or the Church corporately which presents reason to divorce? or reason to keep? Hmm. the plot thickens.

United Israel Presented as God's Wife

For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. Isa 54:5

...I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine. Eze 16:8

When two parties proclaim in front of witnesses "I do solemnly swear" they enter into a legally binding covenant - that under ideal conditions remains in full force -

"until death do we part." One thing that is most definitive about God is that He is a Promise Keeper - mankind? Well not so much. Promises are kept only while it is convenient. Inconvenience quickly changes the 'I'll love you forever' narrative into a sworn enemy status right quick.

As far as God is concerned Israel became a wife under covenant. Thereby establishing binding legal obligations that include protection, provision, fidelity, accountability and inheritance. All these things are the specific promises of a marriage. When any of these promises are broken - if left unresolved - then - separation becomes the legal remedy that may or may not fix the unresolved issues. As the last step divorce is the final dissolution of any legal obligations.

Dissolution means without solution. Pleading did not fix or provide a solution for unresolved issues. Separation did not fix or provide a solution to unresolved issues. So everything now still remaining in the unresolved column forces us to the next column that will provide solution - divorce.

Marriages are Entered into in the Sight of Witnesses

The most basic tenant of the law is that facts be established by two or three witnesses if men are the witnesses. If God is the witness then He alone is sufficient. The union of two - to become one - or married requires witness.

...Because the LORD hath been **witness** between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. Mal 2:14

And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, **Ye are witnesses** this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi. Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife... **Ye are witnesses** this day. And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, **We are witnesses...** Ruth 4:9-11

There is more in scripture that substantiates this premise - for now let this suffice. So if it takes witnesses to enter a marriage that involves possessions,

land and inheritances. So also a final disposition and dissolving of a covenant must have witnesses.

The first step allowed by the law towards reaching a final disposition is that the husband must present the wife with a formal bill of divorce. At every step the ideal is to find solution and reconciliation first and foremost. Barring that then only one choice remains.

When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. Deu 24:1

Because a divorce involves possessions, properties and inheritances that each had before entering covenant - divorce must include witnesses to settle and come to a final disposition for each party. Notice the marriage of Boaz and Ruth involved possessions and inheritances. Jeremiah adds to this premise:

And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances. So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open: Jeremiah 32:10-11

More than theory we have a historical precedent that fully shows these premises used in action. Israel was created as one nation under God. After the passing of Solomon the one people decided to split with the Southern Kingdom of Judah aligning with Solomon's son and heir Rehoboam. And the Northern Kingdom of Israel aligning with Jeroboam. God referring to this new configuration as two sisters. Talk about soap operas.

Jeroboam was not an heir so right from the get go illegitimacy becomes Israel's norm. This also highlights that God doesn't go against the will of the people - this is another case of have it your way. And their way they went.

Being the Northern Kingdom were still technically still God's people - God sent them prophets throughout their history always attempting to steer that ship in the right direction. The problem with the ship though was that it had no rudder in

that it was born in illegitimacy - because it was a Davidic Kingdom that was the ultimate goal that steers God's people forward into that destiny.

These prophets were specifically assigned to the Northern Kingdom of Israel / Ephraim: Ahijah the Shilonite, Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah son of Imlah, Hosea, Amos, and Jonah. Throughout both first and second kings this phrase repeats itself like a broken record. The recurring phrase "the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin" appears throughout Kings, notably in 1 Kings 12:28–33; 1 Kings 13:33–34; 1 Kings 14:15–16; 1 Kings 15:30, 34; 1 Kings 16:2, 19, 26; 1 Kings 22:52; 2 Kings 3:3; 2 Kings 10:29, 31; 2 Kings 13:2, 6, 11; 2 Kings 14:24; 2 Kings 15:9, 18, 24, 28; 2 Kings 17:21–23.

We can define that specific sin as Jeroboam cause the people to separate from the specific Davidic promises that left the nation rudderless. Regardless a merciful God sent them prophets to find solutions to unresolved disputes and offer reconciliation. History shows no movement to resolve so the next step became inevitable. The bill of divorce.

The Bill of Divorce

And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. Jeremiah 3:7-8 KJV

Ends all Covenant Protection

Hos 1:6 ...for I will **no more have mercy** upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.

Hos 1:9 ...for **ye are not my people**, and I will not be your God.

Hos 2:2 ...for **she is not my wife**, neither am I her husband...

Hos 1:4 ...and will **cause to cease the kingdom** of the house of Israel.

As I am sitting here writing I can hear the echoes of the prophets crying as they pleaded with this people for reconciliation with God. But they would not... And history has proven what happens when covenant protection is removed. That Northern kingdom of Israel no longer exists having been scattered and forgotten.

That is where '*apostasia*' - the falling away - takes us. Without mercy, without covenant protections we are scattered and forgotten.

Scattered but Not Forgotten: Judah

But the Southern Kingdom of Judah were not forsaken specifically because there is the Davidic Kingdom yet to manifest. Judah has a rudder that keeps that destiny on course. Not without consequences though - as a wife still protected - Judah's sins still needed to be dealt with. Hence - exile into Babylon - and yet not forgotten. Hence the diaspora into the nations - they were scattered - and yet not forgotten. For all their sins - because God is a Husband a temporary separation was in order.

I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early. Hosea 5:15 KJV

There goes that word till again. The allotted time comes into play. Judah was scattered into the world because they failed to recognize their day of visitation with Jesus' first advent when He offered reconciliation. Jesus then said:

Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Matthew 23:38-39

Scattered and desolate carry heavy penalties to the point that Ezekiel described Israel's existence as a "valley of dry bones" - good as dead. God asked the question - "can these bones live?" Looking at what he saw - dead bones - the answer did not exist in the realm of human understanding. So smart Ezekiel put the question back into God's hands by answering 'You Know.' That was the

perfect answer knowing God is the creator and fulfiller of our destinies regardless of what these eyes see. Then what does God do? God delegates a prophetic word to be uttered out of Ezekiel's mouth.

So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel... Ezekiel 37:10-14 KJV

Israel's statement "we are cut off for our parts" functions as an admission of covenant guilt, acknowledging that their being "cut off" was the just result of their own actions rather than an unjust fate. 1947 did see Israel experience a miraculous resurrection after being essentially dead for two thousand years. Honestly as of now - as a secular nation now standing on its feet it has yet to come to that admission to their responsibility of not recognizing Jesus and accepting reconciliation was the direct cause of the separation or scattering.

Where we are right now in history and in the allotted times is that Israel has been regathered and restored as a Nation still under covenant protection. But reconciliation only comes one way - through the Blood of Jesus. And until they as a nation can come to a place of recognizing what they did to their Messiah and accept His remedy then the separation will persist. If they continue to reject Jesus and remain separate then only one option remains. Divorce.

Israel's End-Time Role as a Public Covenant Proceeding

Israel's story does not unfold as a series of random historical events but as a **legal proceeding conducted in public view**. At the first advent of Jesus, Israel was formally *visited* by her Husband. That visitation was not condemnation but summons - *a call to repentance* (Luke 19:41-44). Their failure to recognize the time of that visitation triggered covenant consequences already outlined by the prophets: their house was left desolate and they were scattered among the

nations (Matt 23:38; Deut 28). Diaspora, therefore, was not abandonment but **legal separation under judgment**.

Yet separation is not the end of the case. The promised return from diaspora functions as a **summons to appear**. When Israel is regathered to the land in full view of the nations, the courtroom reopens. The world expects restoration, but what is placed on display is covenant reality. Is the resurrected Israel a nation of priests calling the world to reconcile with God? Instead of honoring her Husband, secular Israel once again manifests rebellion - this time on a global stage. Israel is more interested in being part of the family of nations than calling the nations into becoming the family of God. The separation of the diaspora hasn't changed their mindset. They still want to be like the nations. What was once argued in prophetic language becomes visible evidence.

The divorce is now not arbitrary; it is justified, witnessed, and legally executed (Jer 3:8). That divorce removes covenant protection and creates a vacuum.

Into that vacuum steps a new claimant. Israel enters a final alignment - *a covenant with many* (Dan 9:27) - not with The LORD, but with the **lawless one**, who is marked by allegiance to a god "not known before," a god of force and domination (Dan 11:38). This is not merely political alliance; it is covenantal replacement. Israel binds herself to a new god - replacing the God who protected her for thousands of years. This is no small insult to God.

At the same time, this legal dissolution frees The LORD to act decisively on behalf of His other covenant partner. The Church, identified as a Bride, who is not appointed to wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9). With Israel legally divorced and the nations willingly joined to rebellion, God removes His bride from harm's way. Judgment now proceeds lawfully - not as indiscriminate destruction, but as covenant enforcement upon those who have chosen another husband and another god. This is not chaos. It is order. It is not cruelty. It is due process.

Summation: The Falling Away as Covenant Breach, Legal Divorce, and Prophetic Trigger

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3, Paul isn't talking in fuzzy religious ideas - he's laying out

how God's covenant law is about to play out in real life. The term he uses - '*apostasia*' - is the same word employed in the Greek Scriptures to describe Israel's covenant rebellion (*Josh 22:22; 2 Chr 29:19; Jer 2:19*). In Israel's history, *apostasia* was never treated as a vague spiritual drift; it was a measurable, prosecutable breach of loyalty. Jeremiah makes this explicit when he records that persistent rebellion resulted in The LORD issuing Israel a '**certificate of divorce**' - '*apostasion*' (*Jer 3:8*), the same legal term found in the Law governing marital dissolution (*Deut 24:1, 3*) and echoed again in The LORD's courtroom appeal to Judah (*Isa 50:1*). Paul, trained in this covenantal and legal framework, intentionally stops at *apostasia* because the consequence was already understood: rebellion initiates divorce.

Daniel then supplies the prophetic timing. In *Daniel 9:27*, Israel enters a final, time-limited legal alignment - "a covenant with many"- which only becomes possible once covenant protection has been dissolved. The falling away is therefore not the Antichrist's rise, but the lawful condition that permits it. Once '*apostasia*' reaches its full measure, '*apostasion*' follows; once divorce is enacted, restraint is removed - and only then can the lawless one be revealed.

Paul is not predicting chaos - he is describing due process. History, law, and prophecy converge in a single sequence: rebellion, divorce, exposure, judgment.

These are the topics the experts need to scour over and I hope many smarter persons than myself do. So while all our experts have poured themselves over calendars and signs - ad nauseam - they never found answers because they all have been looking in the wrong directions. So far I have pointed to "land law" and "marriage law" - what comes next?

Chapter 12

The Judge of the Whole Earth.

....Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? Genesis 18:25

A judge doing what is right is not based on anything circumstantial nor unsubstantiated. Doing what is right is based on law and evidence. This is going to be a very short chapter purposefully because the last chapter was a mountain - big and bulky. This chapter will give us time to regain our breath and focus. Where we can take a step back and look at the history of the world through the eyes of the Judge. Where God weighs covenant faithfulness - not calendars. Where He weighs testimony - not speculation. And where He weighs loyalty - not signs.

These two important factors - covenant faithfulness - and actual testimony are what is important to the Judge. Covenant faithfulness factors in what laws have been violated if any. And reliable testimony either validates or invalidates any accusations. Those are the only two influencing factors upon which any judge proceeds to either an acquittal or moving forward to condemnation.

We know by scripture that this world has a date with the Judge sooner or later. The Judge is not rushed by calendars. He waits for the evidence to build and testimonies to conclude. Only then does he pass sentence and enforce justice.

It was Abraham who posed this question - Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? - Not because he didn't know the answer - but rather this question is posed because Abraham trusts the character of the Judge. Very much like the Lord asking Adam - 'Where are you?' - not because God didn't know where Adam was - but rather to get Adam to see where he was at that moment - hiding from God. Abraham's question was a nudge to remind the Judge - You always do right.

What we should notice that for a man who is called "the friend of God" - familiarity didn't diminish respect. Our buddies might like to fool around and play pranks exactly because we are friends. More than that If I had a friend who was a

judge and my son got in trouble I might be inclined to nudge him in a different way.

Abraham made no suggestion as to what God should do. Didn't mention Lot at all. Abraham simply appealed to God's good nature knowing He would do right. Abraham's appeal wasn't as a friend asking for a favor. It wasn't even as a servant seeking favor. Abraham's appeal was to the law itself. Abraham knew God as a Judge - for just a few generations back - the whole earth was judged by Him and understood to not mess with God.

So all Abraham did was ask questions - very humbly asking for clarification. If I may paraphrase. How will you handle this situation? Will you destroy the righteous along with the wicked? Abraham left the determination of who is righteous and who is wicked completely in God's hands. With not even a shred of coercion hinted at - at all.

What we should be noticing is that the law Abraham was seeking clarification for is the same law that applies to the Church when it comes time to executing judgment. For Abraham it was 'will God destroy the righteous along with the wicked'. For the Church it's worded differently but carries within the same principle. 'We are not appointed unto wrath'. So the law is: each man is judged based on his own works.

The Difference Between Watching Clocks and Weighing Evidence

Forever - way before my time - persons who study prophecies related to when will Jesus return or the timing of the Rapture - have all looked at the same sets of scripture. They look at the Jewish feasts. At the signs in the heavens - moons, comets and asteroids. They look at dates and times and seasons. And no two ever really agree completely. And those bold enough to set dates - have all been wrong so far.

So if God is the Judge of the whole earth - the trial is currently ongoing with evidence and testimonies being recorded. Then the second coming is not to preside over a trial but to actually execute judgment and give people what they deserve. Then the trial has already been had. Jesus said He did not come to judge

the world, because the verdict was already standing. So for all of us who are obsessed with timing - Ask yourself? Are judges concerned with clocks? Or - are judges concerned with law and any breach, facts concerning who is accountable, and proof of who is accountable. The only time - time comes into play is after the trial is done and either guilt or innocence has been established. So a pronounced judgment only comes after every last witness has completed their testimony.

But we are witnesses. Yes, and all the witnesses have not been called yet. We are still in a period of the calling forth of the witnesses. When a person repents and turns to God - in effect they bear witness that God is true and that this world stands in rebellion. As long as the window of repentance is open - execution of judgment is delayed.

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness... Acts 17:30-31

Yes the Judge of the whole world will do right - and that means every last witness must be heard.

The Evidence Under Consideration

In any trial the order of procedures is that first comes a determination if any law has been broke at all. In the US we have two responsible bodies assigned to this task. We have Grand Juries and we have the offices of state Attorney Generals. Their sole purpose is to determine if any law has been broken. Only after it has indeed been determined that a law was broken - then the trial proceeds to determine who broke the law. If a party has been determined to be guilty then the third phase is sentencing. At which time it will be determined what the law allows for penalty for the guilty. After sentencing - the final phase is the execution of the prescribed penalties. All of this from beginning to end is called 'Due process'. or we can say the process we are owed.

The Mosaic law allowed for very much the same 'lawful' due process. It called for charges to be brought. It called for witnesses to come forth. It had prescribed

penalties upon being found guilty. And finally it had the execution of those penalties.

At every level and phase - the judge - the prosecutors - the lawyers - the witnesses - the jury - each and all must operate within the boundaries and framework of established law. And God as Judge does not exempt Himself and act arbitrarily. He is faithful to His own laws and He will do what He promises.

The lawful framework includes a righteous judge committed to justice:

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. Deu 32:4

Reasoning between parties: Due process

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD...Isa 1:18

Disclosure before action:

Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. Amo 3:7

God is committed to disclosure before action. God spoke to Cain before Cain took his brother's life. God warned Noah and Noah preached before the flood. God warned Abraham and Abraham interceded before the cities were destroyed. God spoke to prophets and sent prophets to warn before destruction or exile came to pass. Jesus came to offer reconciliation before the diaspora and Judah's house was left desolate. And Hebrews tells us that God has spoken in these last days by Jesus - warning of the judgments to come. Our day in court insures that: each man gets according to his own works - did we heed warnings or did we ignore warnings - all administered by a Judge who will do right.

Witnesses Matter in Heaven's Courtroom

Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? **let them bring forth their witnesses**, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth. Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD...Isa 43:9-10

One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. Deu 19:15

...that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. Mat 18:16

Determining truth, guilt or innocence - does not occur behind closed doors. There is no back slapping nor hand shaking between participants. Only facts brought forth by the witnesses in the public setting of the assembly - determine what is true and just. When searching out for facts the Judge has power to issue subpoena and He can call forth Heaven and Earth to testify. Uh - oh, we already spoke of earth's role as a witness. When Heaven is called forth - there are invisible angels that roam amongst us that report - *"I am going down to see if their actions are as wicked as I have heard. If not, I want to know."* Gen 18:21

Besides angels we should note that in two cases - the dispersion of Babel and the destruction of Sodom both included God Himself to come and see. There are no secrets and there is nothing that can be hid from God. AND only God can see into every heart to determine the intentions and motives of us all. Nothing done in secret can remain hidden and all will come to light at the appropriate time.

I could go on but I promised to keep this chapter short. I highlighted the main ideas. When God is acting as a Judge He has all authority to reveal everything - and there is no such thing as an expectation of privacy. We are living in God's world and surrounded by God's creation - including angels and God Himself. Meaning that accountability is impossible to avoid. So overall a judge operates through disclosure to get to the facts and reach decisions.

Where can Disclosure be Limited?

Only in the case of a married couple. American law provides protection in that a spouse can not be forced to testify against a spouse. All the witnesses above are entities who observe from the outside - who must be objective and independent. A faithful spouse is none of these things.

From Judge to Husband

Up to this point, we have looked at history through the eyes of the Judge of the whole earth - a Judge who weighs law, evidence, witnesses, and accountability with perfect justice. We have seen that God delays execution until testimony is complete, repentance is no longer possible, and every witness has been heard.

But now a question must be asked.

What happens when the accused is also the Bride?

- Does the Judge proceed in the same way?
- Does exposure remain the goal?
- Does testimony function the same inside a marriage covenant as it does outside of it?

Scripture answers with a decisive *no*.

The same God who judges the world by law has bound Himself to His people by **marriage covenant**. And marriage covenant does not operate on exposure - it operates on **covering**. Not the denial of sin, but the lawful bearing of it. Not public accusation, but private intercession. Not courtroom testimony, but covenant faithfulness.

To understand why the Church is not appointed to wrath, we must first understand why the Church is not subjected to self-testimony.

We must move from Judge to Husband.

Chapter 13

The Faithful Husband and the Law of Covering

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." Ephesians 5:25

The covenant that governs the Church is not primarily a courtroom covenant - it is a **marriage covenant**.

This distinction explains what law alone cannot. Courts are designed to expose all facts leaving nothing hidden. Marriages are designed to cover. We are told to love our wives - mirroring Christ's love for the Church. In that demonstration of His love we find our sins covered - not exposed.

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 NLT

Courts call witnesses. A legal marriage silences accusers of fornication. Courts establish guilt. Jesus' covenant of marriage bore the full cost of our guilt. And the Church's relationship to Christ is explicitly framed not as a legal contract between equals. He is the eternal God and we are the weaker, mortal vessels. Our relationship to Christ is specifically as a **husband-and-bride union sealed by covenant faithfulness**. And that covenant defines Jesus' role as protector and one Who "nourisheth and cherisheth." Eph 5:29 If we live faithfully according to that covenant then Jesus is a faithful Husband. Two have been made one and Jesus cannot act against Himself.

This is why a faithful spouse does not testify against a faithful spouse. To do so would violate the very covenant that defines their unity. In the same way, Christ does not stand as a prosecuting witness against His Bride. He stands as her covering.

The Church's sins are not ignored. They are addressed - but they are addressed *within* the marriage, as two who love each other - not exposed *before* the world. What Jesus as Judge would lawfully reveal - Jesus as Husband lawfully bears. 'He

is faithful to forgive our sins.' Yes, dying daily is the prescribed solution that keeps us covered under the Blood. It is a must. This is not injustice. This is covenant. This is the benefit of vowing "I do solemnly swear."

Only once this marriage relationship is properly understood can we make sense of what comes next - including why a faithful Husband would remove His Bride **before** executing judgment on a condemned world.

A Time and a Season for Everything

Throughout scripture it is very evident that the metaphors God uses to describe Himself are specific descriptions of how He is relating to His people. King, Judge, Shepard, Father, Husband or Friend. Specific people, specific times and specific roles - not always simultaneously. Right now in this season on earth the King is in Heaven and the Judge is waiting in the wings. Right now on earth He is Shepard, Father, Husband to Judah and Groom to the Church.

...I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:2

Right now Judah has been prophetically gathered from the diaspora not yet having not reconciled with Jesus. They are still estranged as a nation - not yet accepting full responsibility for their rejection. They have not confessed Jesus is Lord nor have they bent the knee yet so barring reconciliation we already know what comes next. Judah and the world are the ones awaiting the appointment with the Judge.

Right now the Church is a Bride still waiting for her Groom. Right now the Bride is not situated as a waiting defendant. Right now the Church is Blood bought and Blood justified - so right now Jesus sees us as innocent. So as a body of believers having been acquitted and declared innocent - Paul declares:

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Rom 8:31

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or

wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
Eph 5:27

This is where some may stumble. There is a distinction between The Church corporately and individuals within the body. Universally the Church is glorious, holy and without blemish - period. She is already seated in the heavenlies - all that awaits is final redemption and manifestation.

Individuals are dealt with as individuals. As members of the Glorious Body that Body is predestined to glory. As individuals our expectation is not condemnation but personal rewards based on our own works within the Body. This Paul covers:

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 1 Corinthians 3:14-15

Being a covenant member of the Body of Christ in good standing insures salvation. What we do within the Body either earns or disqualifies from rewards. This is the legal protection we can have full expectation of if we remain as faithful covenant members. Right now we are only waiting upon our final redemption - period - not judgment. Right now we are only waiting for consummation not condemnation.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Rom 8:1

Being absolutely careful how we walk, how we build, and how we conduct ourselves is absolutely essential - no doubts. But being IN Christ Jesus is guaranteed protection and salvation. And by 'In' I mean a valid covenant status maintained by a faithful Bride-to-be.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Rev 3:10

This verse speaks of separation from the great tribulation. As a Groom - Jesus promised to go and prepare a place for us - when we are brought into that place -

those now waiting in betrothal are no longer waiting but finally attain consummation.

The Consummation

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

1 Corinthians 15:52-54

The hour of temptation is when Jesus takes off His Husband hat and proceeds to put on His judges garments. A Judge is searching for evidence against - Our God is not acting as a judge against us. He is now acting as a Husband-to-be and very much "for us."

Why a Faithful Spouse cannot Testify Against a Faithful Spouse

Amongst those who study scripture and seek a clear understanding of the mind of God it is common to use the principle that with two or three witnesses a thing may be established. This prevents us from picking a single verse and attempting to create a doctrine. So we scour through the Word and after finding a variety of scripture that all say the same thing - only then can we have confidence that any position we take is the mind of God.

That premise follows along the lines of using three separate witnesses - either verses or people - that independently corroborate - or all who agree to the same thing.

In order to get truthful, objective, and independent information it is undoubtedly necessary that the information be unbiased. If spouses love each other then a testimony can not be trusted to be objective and unbiased. If the spouses hate each other then all the sirens and red flags will most certainly indicate great bias

and no objectivity. All this - God's law and secular law take into account and therefore prudence dictates spouses are not trustworthy to be 100% accurate.

Marriage is by intent and design the institution that legalizes - what? 'The two shall be one flesh.' If we are one flesh - can an individual testify against themselves? Well that is called confession and that closes the case right there.

Testifying against runs counter to the reality that God as the Groom is for us.

Covering is not Denial of Sin: How does Covenant Handle Sin?

We can go way, way back to the idea of - How can a Perfect and Holy God step into a very imperfect world of chaos, emptiness and darkness - and in my own imperfect way of saying things - roll up His sleeves and get His hands dirty?

God did not pretend that the chaos nor the emptiness nor the darkness were not there. He tackled all that head on - not with - let me find a better place. Not with this place is a dump let me destroy this place and create better. No - He tackled everything that was wrong with this place by adding to and building up until He got to the place where He said 'it is very good'

Transfer that adding to and building up into a relationship and bingo - we have a marriage. Who officiated this marriage? Well, God Himself. Who witnessed this marriage? The angels. By what legal power did all this take place? By the power of the Cross - The Lamb slain from the foundation of the earth. The power to reconcile two into one.

The Church's Legal Status as a Betrothed Bride

And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: Eph 2:16

And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. Col 1:20

A moment of silent reverence would be in order.

Jesus did not just die like all men die. The Cross was more than an instrument of death. But the Lamb on the Cross enabled a power ordained before the creation of the world to atone and reconcile. Reconcile what? A very imperfect world inhabited by very imperfect people reconciled - brought into a balance where all parties are satisfied - This is the very definition of reconciliation. Imperfection is brought into balance with a Perfectly Most Holy God from the beginning of time - by the Blood!

Hell trembles and the heavens quake at the unfathomable power of the Cross to make the nothingness of nothing transform into the Glories of an eternal Bride - made one with the Creator.

The Power of the Cross is the Power of Love in Action

All that has value and a God that is for us - will not throw all that away as a first option. That is the very last option after diligent and repeated attempts to bring humanity back to the table of reason.

...But love covereth all sins. Pro 10:12

...for love shall cover the multitude of sins. 1Pe 4:8

'It is the blood that makes atonement for sins'. The meaning of the word atonement literally means a covering. When Adam sinned - God made sacrifice and took the skins and covered them. When Satan entered the picture - his argument became - humanity is not worthy to receive dominion nor worthy to be glorified. Admittedly we can hardly stand on our own two feet. Satan became the accuser of the brethren. He is the one making accusations of guilt wanting a permanent separation from God and the destiny He has planned for us. Yet from the very beginning we see that while the devil accuses - Jesus continually covered us. Protecting us as any husband would protect his wife.

Satan is the accuser of the brethren:

...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. Rev 12:

Jesus is our advocate:

...And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 1Jn 2:1

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb 7:25

This all plays out in Zechariah:

And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand **to resist him**. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now **Joshua was clothed with filthy garments**, and stood before the angel. And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, **I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment**. And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by. Zechariah 3:1-5

This passage is an encapsulation of not just Joshua but every individual chosen by God. God plucked us all out of the fire and chose us for His purposes. Satan resists those purposes but God rebukes. Joshua and all humanity is filthy - but the filthy garments are removed and our iniquities are removed. We are then covered with new garments. Above that we are given a crown of authority and God stands by us. Just as Joshua was chosen, cleansed and given a position of authority under covenant with God who stood by Joshua. So the Church today enters into a covenant status and God stands by us and for us. All that the devil can't change for all his trying.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Once the Church is no longer separated - we are in heaven and the devil has no shadow of ever being a resisting force again. God now has secured His Bride and earth awaits its judge.

Why Exposure Returns Only AFTER the Covenant Ends.

Daniel chapters seven and eight are an addendum to chapter two - all of which describe the rise and fall of the Gentile world powers. Beginning with Babylon followed with the continuous succession of one empire following right after the next - all the way to the very end of days when the Stone cut without hands - the Eternal Kingdom rises to utterly wipe away all previous human empires. Chapters nine, ten, eleven and twelve describe the visitation of angels that have come to give Daniel wisdom and understanding concerning the interpretations of what all the previous visions of 'beasts' means. Chapter nine begins with Daniel praying and making confession in which he is able to recognize and admit that all the evil to come upon Israel at the hand of all these empires was their own fault. Daniel as an individual was able admit guilt and he was given wisdom. Israel as a nation has yet to admit any guilt and have continuously dug their grave deeper.

Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him. Dan 9:11

Daniel was still praying when Gabriel interrupted with the second angelic visitation. Up to this point the dreams and visions all pointed out the problems to come. Now Gabriel began the angelic discourse with the solution to the problems and points to Jesus.

It is here that Gabriel introduces us to the allotted time of seventy weeks. This seventy weeks is divided into two parts: Part one counts sixty-nine weeks starting

at the commandment to restore Jerusalem and ending at Jesus' first advent. Part two is the last remaining one week that starts at the covenant with many and ends with the consummation - or the completion of his destruction. His meaning the one who created this covenant or as we know him to be the antichrist.

The word covenant here is the same exact word used everywhere else when God is making a covenant. I know God's covenants boil down to mean 'I will be their God and they will be my people'. Paul describes the 'man of sin' as showing up and declaring himself as God.

Can Israel actually be in covenant with two different Gods? One must be broken before the other can be confirmed.

At Jesus' first coming He accomplished the mission assigned '*to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness*' Dan 9:24 That reconciliation was offered to Israel as a nation but rejected and hence the diaspora. That same reconciliation was offered to '*all that would receive Him and to them He gave the power to become the sons of God*'. These becoming the Church.

So after Jesus came and made a covenant with many. The imposter comes later and does the same thing only with a very different outcome - '*the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate*' Dan 9:27

So we have these covenants being bantered around. Jesus' covenant is the covenant of a Husband promising to take His to where He is - Heaven. The antichrists covenant starts out with 'flatteries' but ends in desolation.

The point being one covenant can only begin after another covenant ends. The New Testament began after the Cross finished the Old Testament. This other covenant then can only come after Jesus' covenant with many concludes. At that point His are in Heaven. At that point the Groom's role is over on earth - the only task left is exposure to the Judge and judgment upon the covenant breakers.

Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with

righteousness. And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed.
Isaiah 1:27-28 KJV

The Church is redeemed with the Blood. Zion will be redeemed with judgment. So it is 100% solely covenant status and not calendars that times the beginning of judgment.

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Revelation 22:11-12

The Faithful Husband and the Law of Covering

This chapter establishes a critical covenant distinction: the Church does not presently stand before Christ as Defendant before Judge, but as Bride before Husband. The covenant governing the Church is marital before it is judicial. In marriage, sins are not denied but covered; guilt is not ignored but borne. Christ, as faithful Husband, does not testify against His Bride - He intercedes, nourishes, cherishes, and protects (Eph. 5:25-29; 1 Jn. 2:1; Heb. 7:25). The accuser may speak, but the Advocate answers (Rev. 12:10; Zech. 3:1-5).

This chapter carefully distinguished between the corporate standing of the Church as already glorious, justified, seated in heavenly places and the individual accountability of members, whose works are tested for reward but not for condemnation (1 Cor. 3:14-15; Rom. 8:1). As long as the covenant remains intact, the Bride stands covered under the Blood.

The Husband protects before the Judge exposes. The Bride awaits consummation, not condemnation. And only when this marital covering reaches its appointed fulfillment can the judicial phase of history begin.

But covenant roles are not eternal in their earthly function. A Husband protects His Bride during betrothal. A Judge executes justice after covenant boundaries

are settled. If Christ presently acts as Husband toward the Church, then a pivotal question must be faced: **When does that role conclude, and what follows?**

Scripture shows that the Bride is not perfected by wrath nor completed by tribulation. She is completed by covenant faithfulness and brought to consummation at the appointed trumpet (1 Cor. 15:52–54). Once the Bride is gathered and the marriage consummated, the covering function ceases - not because love fails, but because its purpose has been fulfilled.

Only after the marriage covenant reaches completion does exposure return to the earth. The role shifts. The garments change. The Groom who protected becomes the King who judges.

Thus Chapter 14 moves from covenant covering to covenant completion - from betrothal to consummation - from protection to public manifestation. The Bride is not appointed to the courtroom. She is appointed to the wedding chamber. Once the chamber door closes, the courtroom doors open.

Chapter 14

Covenant Fulfilled: The Bride Complete - the Kingdom Pending

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." Revelation 19:7

Covenant Completion for the Church

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1Co 15:52

The covenantal story of the Church on earth reaches its lawful and final conclusion at that 'last trump'.

Not at the end of history.

Not during nor after judgment.

Not after the restoration of Israel's kingdom.

But **before** all of it.

The Church is not waiting to be completed by judgment, purified by wrath, or perfected through tribulation as some may say. The Church is completed by covenant - sealed by blood, covered by love, justified by faith, and brought to readiness through sanctification. To say otherwise is not resting in Christ's completed works. If there were scriptures that said we are completed through judgment and wrath then that would settle it. What we do have are scriptures that tells us:

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:
Col 2:10

So this begs the question - What part of complete - needs improvement? When Paul is talking about us being complete in Him - the reference is to us having

joined together with Jesus into a perfect and complete covenant. This is without dispute.

The Covenant is complete because Jesus is complete and beyond that He is the Head of all principality and power. The Bride is complete because fullness resides in Her exactly as fullness resides in Jesus.

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. Col 2:9

...to the church, Which is his body,(which is) the fulness of him that filleth all in all. Ephesians 1:22-23

Eve was created fully enabled to be a "help meet for him." She was created complete to walk by his side - as one flesh - one body. So to imply the Church needs refinement and correction is to imply God needs refinement and correction. To suggest that the Church must be perfected through wrath is to imply that Christ's work is insufficient. If the Body (Bride) requires refinement through judgment, then the Head does as well. This is a conclusion Scripture does not permit.

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Eph 5:27

Distinction between the Body and the Members

Our personal misunderstanding arises from a failure to make the distinction between the Body which is complete and glorious - and members of the body which are everything but glorious or complete. The power of God is fully demonstrated in the covenant that places us as members - for better or for worse - into His Eternal Plan to be beneficiaries of the God's completeness and glory.

And **the glory which thou gavest me I have given them**; that they may be one, even as we are one: Joh 17:22

And he... shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of

heaven from God, **Having the glory of God...** Revelation 21:10-11

Admittedly, my tendency is to think Jesus got shorted in this exchange. Admittedly, we are a mess with plenty room for improvement. So the improvement is in the members. It is impossible to improve the covenant, the Blood, the promises or the finished works and as long as we are secure in these then we are secure. This all circles around and completes a picture. God purchased for Himself a glorious Church – the glory is given when the Blood is applied – the Church has the glory NOW and will always 'Have the glory of God'. So what part of Glory can any man improve upon?

Room for improvement exists only in the individual members and that has never - ever stopped God from performing any task He set out to do. A need for improvement is factored in and accounted for.

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. 2Co 12:9

Where we all need improvement is in growing in grace. If I was going to translate how my mind views 'growing in grace' - I would say it means growing in trust. Why? Look at Paul's next statement:

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake 2Co 12:10

When we are sick and not recovering - what keeps us faithful to God? Isn't it trust? When people ridicule or persecute our faith in God - what keeps us faithful to God? Isn't it believing God is True? Well, believing is trusting God is true. If our cupboards are bare and our lives are stressed - What keeps us faithful to God? The answer is always the same - the abiding confidence that God is for you in every possible situation - and that is trust. Then it is from the position of trust we progress into faithful obedience and faithful obedience develops maturity. The goal is maturity, yes, but that is another book.

In every possible situation of life - the gift of God is His grace to see you through them all and 'His strength is made perfect in weakness.' So rather than thinking we need to be refined during the great tribulation. Perhaps a better idea is to

perfect our weakness - the tendency to want to fix everything ourselves in the way we think they need to be fixed. Grace matures trust, not position. Position is settled by covenant. Trust is grown through enduring life.

Not sure this Brooklyn boy knows any other way to say this - but God likes being the only man of the house and He likes His gal to be a gal. Don't lynch me - let me qualify my statement. Our relationship with God works best when our dependence on God is rooted in trust. I know being told to be dependant ruffles our feathers. There is a difference between being dependent and being capable. When we think of being dependent it is because we have lost capabilities. Biblically - dependence on God is when we defer to His better nature and place all our capabilities into His hands. Knowing He knows best how to handle each and every situation. He is the fixer - we trust His capabilities. The best possible relationship can be improved upon only when mutual trust exists.

Getting back to Paul's dialog in this conversation with God. Paul had an unidentified issue that he though needed resolution. God you got to fix this. Paul was trying to be the one who decides outcome to his liking. Remember Abraham's intercession for Lot? Did he attempt to force an outcome? Or did he simply appeal to God's nature of 'doing right' - with a trust that God knew best and was going to do what's best. So we defer and become dependent as the best course. That takes trust.

Distinctions matter

The distinction is - there is a difference between how a Husband treats a Wife and how a Father treats his children. Go ahead and treat your wife like a child and let me know how that works out for you. The Bride is perfect and complete in the eyes of the Groom and the best marriage is maintained if that viewpoint never changes.

As members of the Body we are yet children. Children that need a Father - a loving Father that administers correction and guidance as needed. As needed - the Bride is perfect - but the children are needy. Which again circles back to 1Cor 3. - The Bride is part of the one foundation being made one with God. God is not raising His children alone - He has His help meet. We as individual members

build upon that foundation by heeding instruction from both Father and Mother - thus we perfect and mature ourselves. But when the Trumpet sounds - for better or for worse - time is up and we go with what remains of our works.

What remains for the Bride is not testing, but **consummation**.

This distinction is essential:

Completion of the Bride is not tied to the completion of individuals. If that were the case then it would be impossible for the Church to ever be perfect. This statement is absolutely true.

Nor does the Church need to wait until the end of the next chapter of history for God to call us home. A marriage may be consummated while other family matters remain unresolved. Judah and the balance of the world are going to be led into their own resolutions and they need no help from us. We have removed ourselves from their problems when we obeyed the Gospel and walk in obedience.

Scripture consistently treats the Church not as a defendant awaiting trial, but as a Bride awaiting her Groom. From this point forward in the prophetic narrative, God's dealings are no longer aimed at forming a Bride. That work is finished. The Church does not enter judgment to become complete. Judgment begins because the Church already is complete and now protected from wrath.

And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. 1Th 1:10

For God hath not **appointed** us to wrath, but **to obtain salvation** by our Lord Jesus Christ. 1Th 5:9

We were delivered from wrath so we as covenant faithful believers do not have an appointment with wrath - our appointment is to obtain salvation.

What follows in the remaining unfolding history concerns **kingdom administration, land accountability**, and **covenant enforcement** matters - that belong to Israel and the nations, not to the Church. The Church has conclusively settled the fact that there is only One God and adheres only to Him.

Done deal. Being outside covenant loyalty, the world, including apostate Israel defaults to a god of convenience. That god is what will be taken down during the great tribulation.

Shewing Himself that He is God

Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you?
the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. Amo 5:18

We need to very carefully uncover and give great thought and consideration to what will be unfolding after the Rapture. Besides what has already been discussed as to why Jesus removes His Bride before judgment - this section is going to take a step back and look at the spiritual ramifications of the 'Day of the LORD.'

If we were able to look backwards at this specific time in human history - the day of the Lord - we would be able to see with clarity that it didn't have to be that way. Humanity did something senseless that ended in tragedy- needless tragedy. What did they do? Short answer - they chose another god.

That choice began in the Garden and has spiraled in a downward trajectory ever since. God gave humanity allotted times to find restitution and reconciliation with the One True God - but that clock ran out and God's Word needed to be enforced - 'you shall surely die.' Covenants of restitution were offered continually - to those who chose reconciliation - well, they are now all in Heaven as promised.

That last generation of the last seven year period - now face God's wrath unmixed. The season of normal gospel light and church witness is withdrawn. Judgment becomes dominant and mercy is no longer offered on *our* terms.

That last generation of the final seven year period faces a world where *light is withdrawn* and judgment becomes the dominant note. The ordinary season of gospel witness - candles on lamp stands - now grows silent (Rev 18:23), and the darkness is not merely moral, but judicial (Amos 5:18).

This does not mean God is incapable of saving; it means the world has crossed into a court-ordered phase where mercy is no longer offered on man's timetable, and the cost of resisting truth is met instantly with judgment.

That day is a day of darkness and salvation is going to be offered with very different stipulations. All other covenants all pointed to the Blood of the Lamb and His sacrifice to cover us. Revelations point to a different reality in which our lives face martyrdom as a necessity for salvation. For six thousand years God has covered for us as the One with outstretched arms beckoning all the day long for reconciliation. That seven year period closes that six thousand year open door - and on the other side of that closed door is a day of darkness.

When the Lamp-stands Go Dark

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. John 9:4-5

And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee... Rev 18:23

Revelations began with candles placed on light stands. Those candles represented churches given to provide voice in declaring the Gospel of reconciliation. The day of the Lord now finds all those voices removed and the world now left in total spiritual darkness. No man at all is doing the work of reconciliation. Is this now a place to be refined?

This last seven year time period is the shortest of all with Jesus saying "*except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.*" Mat. 24:22 That verse does mention an 'elect' because there is yet a Davidic Kingdom still coming and to move forward into that phase requires a group to be preserved. That group are the meek that shall inherit the earth - not the Church who have already inherited Heaven.

Now Jesus said 'unless those days be shortened, there should no flesh be save' for very good and sobering reason.

And then shall that Wicked be revealed... Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9

That one phrase 'with all power' is in my estimation one of the most frightening verses in the whole Bible. From Genesis up to this time Satan has been carefully controlled and restricted - only being allowed to do according to God's will. This verse tells me the last seven years are going to be a time of every kind of satanic power running rampant - especially deceptive signs.

Jesus rose from the grave and told us He had all power in heaven and earth. For us who are aligned with Jesus that truth fills us with assurance because God is a loving God and uses His power for our benefit.

But a Satan with all power? If you can describe a spirit as a psychopath - then Satan is a psychopathic killer - not the type we should want in a position of having all power.

The preceding verse tells us how the shift occurs that goes from Jesus having all power on earth to Satan having all power on earth.

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 2Th 2:7

Satan has always been behind the scenes working his mischief and still being restricted. The 'he' that letteth or allowed this mischief - is Jesus or whatever heavenly agent - The One with True authority and power. The preceding verse explains the shift in terms of restraint: "only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way" Within the framework of this book, the restraint is ultimately Christ's authority over the earth - whether mediated through His Spirit, His appointed authorities, or angelic enforcement. When that restraint is removed in connection with the Bride's consummation - the covenant focus shifts, the lawless one is no longer held back in the same way allowing the earth to enter its most concentrated season of deception and coercion. The shift occurs at that

moment in time when Jesus removes Himself from this earthly realm - first to be with His newly consummated Bride and then second to let the former wife have it her way before returning again to set up the Davidic Kingdom amongst the meek that have been spared.

I say all this just to underscore a reality - we who seek righteousness will not find it in a world where Jesus has removed Himself and is now dominated by a psychopathic killer who now calls himself God.

From the very beginning this world had God moving over it. It is His moving that gave the earth purpose of becoming the habitation for all living things - 'not in vain.' Moses adds a layer to this in a poetic sense in what is called the Song of Moses.

He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. 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, and there was no strange god with him. Deut. 32:10-12

The word for 'moved' in Genesis 1 is identical to the word 'fluttereth' in this verse. The word carries the idea of a bird that broods over her nest. The nest is created as a place for both eggs and young to inhabit temporarily until it is permanently abandoned after the maturity of the chicks. This earth was created as a temporary place for God to brood and mankind to mature. Without God the earth is meaningless and without purpose - no different than the billions of other rocks floating around out there.

What God was doing alone - got interrupted by a strange god entering the nest. This is what God is addressing with the judgment. Judgment is not abandonment nor arbitrary destruction. Judgment is God cleaning His house so His brood can fulfill their purpose.

Now consider this contradiction:

...And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose

deadly wound was healed. Revelation 13:11-12

A devil exercising 'all power' uses that power to cause the earth to worship the first beast. The earth that was moved upon to be a life sustaining habitat for mankind now finds itself at a place in time where God is "taken out of the way." With God out of the way restricting Satan's activities - Satan now has a free hand to do whatever he wills. This earth instead of being a habitation for God and His - This earth now becomes the habitation for Satan and his. And being he is the abomination that causes desolation - life is not on his agenda. As a matter of fact it plainly states that he causes all who do not worship him 'to be killed' Rev 13:15

...Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is **become the habitation of devils**, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. Rev 18:2

If it were not for the next chapter and God's ability to move humanity forward regardless of challenge - 'no flesh would be saved.' That world is not the place to be refined. That world is not just anti-God - it is anti-creation and anti-life. And as Farina of the Little Rascals once said: "Come on Algebra - this is no place for you" - Algebra being Farina's mule. Let's be smarter than a mule.

The consummation of the Church does not conclude God's work in history - it does however concludes the Church's *assignment* of one that says 'Come.' Rev 22:17 The removal of the Bride does not end covenant activity on the earth; it lawfully **shifts** it from Groom to Judge. What follows is not the Church's purification, but Israel's covenant reckoning, the exposure of counterfeit dominion, and the clearing of the land for restored kingdom rule. The Bride is complete before wrath (Col 2:10; 1Th 5:9). The Kingdom is pending - and judgment is the severe mercy by which God restores His house to order.

Chapter 15

The Falling Away - Judah's Reckoning and the Judgment of the gods.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. 2 Thessalonians 2:3

The “falling away” is not a sudden collapse of faith among believers, nor a general moral decline of the world. It is a covenantal event - a lawful separation that occurs when a people once joined to God abandon their Husband and bind themselves to another. Scripture consistently treats apostasy not as weakness, but as rebellion - not as confusion, but as choice - and not as ignorance, but as breach of covenant.

This chapter examines the falling away as the legal and prophetic dividing line that separates the faithful from the faithless, the Jerusalem above from the Jerusalem below, and the remnant preserved by promise from the nation that seeks power through alliance with the world. What follows is not arbitrary wrath, but the inevitable outcome of covenant transfer. When Judah rejects her lawful Husband, she does not become neutral - she becomes joined to another. And marriage determines inheritance.

The Meaning of "The Falling Away" - Apostasy as Covenant Breach

While I have dealt with this subject before by defining it. It is now in context after the Rapture of the Church, that full significance impacts the most. Covenants are contracts that legally bind participating parties equally, though not equal in authority or role. God has always dealt with humanity through covenants. As mentioned before - the very simplest interpretation of our covenant with God is: 'I will be their God and they will be my people.' Beyond that there are additional details or stipulations that have appeared with certain people over the course of time. Abraham received certain promises tied to certain responsibilities. David

received unique promises. The nation of Israel received the most exhaustive list of responsibilities. And with the coming of Jesus the covenant again was tweaked to express the new realities secured by Jesus.

Where we are is the juncture in time when certain covenants have been fulfilled on God's part. After the Rapture - The Church has now put on immortality as promised by God - this pretty much fulfilling God's covenant with Abraham. What remains is the Davidic Kingdom to come and now God is dealing with Israel according to promise.

"The Mighty One, God, the LORD, the Mighty One, God, the LORD! 'He knows', and may Israel itself know. If it was in rebellion, or if in an unfaithful act against the LORD, do not save us this day! Jos 22:22

"Your own wickedness will correct you, And **your apostasies will punish you**; Know therefore and see that it is evil and bitter for you to abandon the LORD your God, And the fear of Me is not in you," declares the Lord GOD of armies. Jer 2:19

We are following a path that takes us into gaining insight. Joshua was tasked with leading Israel into the promised land at the very beginning of their history as a nation. They had the Covenant that would insure God would always be their God but that Covenant came with ample warnings of the consequences of disobedience. Joshua clearly states the disobedience equates with rebellion and unfaithfulness - the consequence - loss of covenant standing and protection - 'do not save us this day.'

Jeremiah comes later at a time when the Northern kingdom was already swept away out of existence and he is now warning the Southern kingdom of Judah using the word apostasies. Jeremiah uses that word to indicated more than a just falling into sin - it indicates abandonment altogether. Notice that Husband language now transitions to "the Lord GOD of armies" - Forewarning of the punishment that apostasies earn. Armies took the Northern kingdom of Israel away and armies were now knocking at Judah's door.

...Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she ... hath played the harlot. And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou

unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. Jeremiah 3:6-8 KJV

Abandonment and unfaithfulness are grounds for divorce which is the legal remedy for when a marriage goes bad. The next step to legally end that relationship is the "bill of divorce."

When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then **let him write her a bill of divorcement**, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. Deuteronomy 24:1-2 KJV

Jesus again repeats this very same thing:

They say unto him (Jesus), Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. Matthew 19:7-8

God's original intention for the institution of marriage was for 'two to become one.' God's covenants bring people into a relationship with God that form an unbreakable bond and God sees Himself as a Husband with all the protections and provision that a marriage creates. Marriage creates an institution through which everything the husband is in status and position - and everything the husband owns in lands and possessions now belong to the wife legally and in the event of death of the husband - all that is his - is inherited by the wife.

Moses felt a need to include a clause that was not part of God's original intentions. Hmm... Why? Jesus said - "because of the hardness of your hearts." Moses was looking forward and seeing two rebellious nations that would abandon God - first the Northern kingdom, then later - Judah. 'Because of iniquity' a clause was 'added' - kind of a prenuptial - not just for man but also for God to exit a bad relationship - legally.

So *apostasia* or apostasy incurs the remedy of *apostasion* or the writing of divorce. Divorce then erases all the legal obligations that marriage created - including status, possessions, lands and inheritances.

Once a bill of divorce has been given into the hand of a woman:

And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. Deu 24:2

Her former husband, which sent her away, **may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled**; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance. Deu 24:4

The Divorce

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first... 2Th 2:3

The falling away - *apostasia* - comes first - leading to *apostasion* - the bill of divorce. Which then leads to a former wife having legal permission to find a new husband

"...and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. "

Enter - The New Husband with a Covenant

And he shall confirm the **covenant with many** for one week: Dan 9:27

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, **shewing himself that he is God**. 2Th 2:4

Satan is making a deliberate strategic move to declare his legitimacy as God. In the ancient Near Eastern world, the public taking of a defeated king's wives and

concubines was a recognized political and legal act that functioned to assert succession, legitimacy, and transfer of authority.

There is biblical precedent but let this suffice. The antichrist signing that covenant with Israel gives him global recognition and legitimacy. This is no small thing. Israel are the Chosen of God. But what is the world now witnessing? The chosen are now choosing another god. This is not a small thing and the True God can not let this go without a response.

Once the Temple of "God" is built and the antichrist sits himself in that temple built by the Jewish people - the antichrist has all the legitimacy he needs to openly declared himself to be God.

How do you think the True God feels about this? How do you think He is going to respond? Was God at any time ever defeated that this imposter can make such claims? Expect some floor wiping. Israel on the other hand made a legal choice and returning to God by national covenant reversal or repentance is no longer an option. God will not participate in that abomination. The first husband "may not take her again to be his wife."

Her former husband, which sent her away, **may not take her again to be his wife**, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance. Deu 24:4

But, but, but... yes I know - I will bless them that bless thee. But that blessing is a result of covenant. No covenant - no blessing. But, but, but... All Israel shall be saved. Yes, absolutely. But not all Israel is Israel. And NOW come the days of separating the wheat from the tares.

...For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Rom 9:6

Two Jerusalems - One From Above - One From Below

...Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. Gal. 4:25-26

The Jerusalem which now is, is the secular - non covenant keeping sectors throughout its history.

How is the faithful city become **an harlot!** it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now **murderers**. Isa 1:21

And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, **where also our Lord was crucified**. Rev 11:8

The Jerusalem from above is the covenant keeping - obedient and faithful - the one that inherits it all. This Jerusalem merits all respect and blessing.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:2-3

Two Jerusalems - each coming into covenant with two different husbands. Each inherits the husband's eternal position and status. Secular Jerusalem is just as false an imposter as the imposter she marries. The city from above - the one Abraham was sent out to search for - the one whose builder and maker is the True God. That one - is God's payday and us covenant keepers don't do so bad either.

Secular Jerusalem's Long Spiral Down

Out of the starting gate Israel expressed - let me be gentle - less than loving admiration for God. Moses brought them out of Egypt to the foot of Sinai to meet their God - their response - they fell back and requested to not hear nor see God directly. They asked Moses - you do this - you go see Him and hear from Him then we will obey. Obey? really? - not much. Moses is on top of the mountain hearing from God - and the people are downstairs on the couch playing with a golden calf. God's response:

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. Exodus 32:9-10

Well, Moses didn't leave God alone and thank God for all those who intercede and cool God down. Israel's history as a loving bride showed little improvement and this commentary summed up their relationship with God.

In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes. Jdg 17:6

Interestingly enough the insertion that there 'was no king in Israel' now betrays the direction their eyes were looking. It seems as if something else was capturing their attention and the direction their eyes were looking is the direction they took.

Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations... ...And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. 1 Samuel 8:4-7

From Moses through to this point - judges were people who heard from God and led people back to God - now they were asking for a king. The history of kings is that only a few chose to hear and obey God. Kings have other agendas to tend to not always making room for God in their schedules.

And Aholah played the harlot when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbours, Which were clothed with blue, captains and rulers, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding upon horses. Thus she committed her whoredoms with them, with all them that were the chosen men of Assyria, and with all on whom she doted: with all their idols she defiled herself. Neither left she her whoredoms brought from Egypt: for in her youth they lay with her, and they bruised the breasts of her virginity, and poured their whoredom upon her. Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians,

upon whom she doted. Eze. 23:5-9

This is the history of Israel's affections for the kings round about that created the fate for both the Northern and Southern kingdoms - they both were delivered into the hands of her lovers. And that history has not changed right up to the falling into the hands of the very last king - the antichrist.

Israel was chosen to be a separate holy priesthood representing God to the nations. Instead of desiring God and being faithful - Israel chose the nations to dote over - all the way up to the point of becoming fully integrated by marriage no less. A marriage that she thought would make her queen of the world. And while talking about full integration just connect the dots with the 'head with the deadly wound' and you may see a Queen emerging.

You said, 'I will reign forever as queen of the world!' You did not reflect on your actions or think about their consequences. "Listen to this, you pleasure-loving kingdom, living at ease and feeling secure. **You say**, 'I am the only one, and there is no other. I will never be a widow or lose my children.' Well, both these things will come upon you in a moment: widowhood and the loss of your children. Yes, these calamities will come upon you, despite all your witchcraft and magic. "You felt secure in your wickedness. 'No one sees me,' **you said**. But your 'wisdom' and 'knowledge' have led you astray, and **you said**, 'I am the only one, and there is no other.' Isaiah 47:7-10 NLT

Lucifer said in his heart - and it appears he was not alone - she had things to say too. Well, both together in one day - Husband and wife meet the same fate.

For in one hour so great riches is come to nought... Rev 18:17

I hope this answers the question of who Mystery Babylon might be because Rev 18 is the parallel to Isaiah 47. Nebuchadnezzar was the king of the world empires with many kings to follow all the way up to the antichrist. Israel from below is the last queen and together Homeo and Jewliet meet their fate.

In One Hour - The Judgment of the God's

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. Isa 24:21

...God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods... But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes. Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations. Psalms 82:1,7-8

Perhaps it's poetic justice. Lucifer with all his wanting to be 'like god' ultimately manifests in a man who says he is God - who dies as a man and ends up in the lake of fire. We who place our trust in God will never die and end up in eternity's glory. There is a huge difference between what false imagination imposters can do versus the Real deal. Something we should take note of.

Once purged of these false imposters - the earth is now ready to be inherited by the Davidic Kingdom ruling over the remnant - The True King along with True Israel. Nothing can replace nor destroy God's promises. The great fires of the great tribulation are going to reveal the true Glory of God and Bride when all dross are purged away.

Separating the Wheat from the Tares - The Path to Restoration and the Revelation of the Real

Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. Mat 13:30

Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send

forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. Matthew 13:36-43

Forgive me for the long reading but this parable encapsulates everything I have just said but I expanded to include the full context of history - trajectory and final fate of the tares - Jerusalem from below. Once that fact is in the history books - history continues to move forward on a clean slate - "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

Covenant Finding Fulfillment

Even so then at this present time also there is **a remnant according to the election** of grace... What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded Romans 11:5-7

Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness. Isa 1:27

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And **I will bring the third part through the fire**, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God. Zechariah 13:8-9

Don't take your eyes off the "election" for in them is True Israel going to be called out of the fires of the great tribulation - for they are the Jerusalem from above. This is the Jerusalem we pray for and bless.

"I will make you pass under the rod, and **I will bring you into the bond of the covenant**; and I will purge from you the rebels and those who

transgress against Me... Thus you will know that I am the LORD. Eze 20:37-38 NAS95

"But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. "He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness. "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Malachi 3:2-4 NAS95

"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Bring her into the wilderness And speak kindly to her. "Then I will give her - her vineyards from there, And the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt. "It will come about in that day," declares the LORD, "That you will call Me Ishi (literally Husband) And will no longer call Me Baali (literally Lord.) Hosea 2:14-16 NAS95

With all the passing of Revelations judgments the Kingship of Jesus is no longer contested. The false claimants have been exposed, the covenantal record settled, and the King of Glory stands ready to set His feet once more upon the Mount of Olives. What follows is no longer being left in confusion, but a reign by personal presence. The next thousand years opens as the rightful continuation of God's purposes in history uninterrupted by beasts.

In 2 Thess. 2:5 Paul was calling them into remembrance of previous discussions. This book fills in the gaps of what Paul knew and transmitted. The other Apostles were mostly fishermen - yes, they had been with Jesus and qualified to do their appointed tasks - but they had no formal training as a Pharisee. Paul was singular in his scholarship and he would have been expert in all these legal discussions. Us simple folk get confused enough over calendar dates - never mind legal matters. All this information has been there all along it was just a matter of connecting the dots - those random points of illumination provided by stars - the stars in His Right Hand.

What has been traced in this chapter is not chaos, but order - covenant order. The

falling away is not random rebellion, nor is the following judgment impulsive wrath. It is the lawful outcome of massive covenant breach and covenant consequence. Scripture does not present God as reacting emotionally to history, but as faithfully enforcing what was sworn to, witnessed, and agreed upon.

Covenant is not trivial - to be dismissed - something that can be broken without consequence. It is something that can be entered - securely, with finality, and irrevocably. If judgment reveals what false covenant produces, then redemption reveals what true covenant provides.

Before moving further into prophecy, restoration, and final outcomes, it is therefore necessary to stop and define the covenant that *cannot* be broken—the covenant that hides, secures, transforms, and preserves those who are found **in Christ**.

Chapter 16 turns from covenant failure to covenant fulfillment at the personal level. Not what happens to nations, but what happens to a man. Not how judgment falls, but how salvation holds. Not how one falls away, but how one is kept.

Chapter 16

In Christ: The New Covenant Defined

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Just as assuredly that we saw breach of covenant bring nations and fallen angels down into permanent separation and demise. With the same assurance we can know keeping covenant raises us up to be forever in His presence with glory.

Throughout this book we have spoken of covenant - its faithfulness, its breach, its enforcement, and its fulfillment. But covenant is not merely something God does in history; it is something God places a person into. Until covenant is defined from inside the whole of scripture - from the language Jesus used and the framework Paul taught - it remains vulnerable to personal interpretation.

This chapter defines covenant not as religion, culture, or affiliation for it is none of those things. What it is, is union. To be "in Christ" is not to agree with doctrine nor dogma alone, but to be transferred into a new legal, spiritual, and relational reality. The New Covenant does not improve the old man - it replaces him with the New Creature. It does not reform the sinner - it recreates the heart within a person. It does not invite partial allegiance - it establishes exclusive belonging.

Here we ask the most practical questions Scripture answers plainly:

What does it mean to be in Christ?

What does it mean to be born again?

What is the Gospel - and how is it obeyed?

And does Acts 2:38 truly answer the question, "What must we do to be saved?"

The Open Door

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 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 best way to read this passage is as hindsight because God's promises are so powerful that 'He calls those things which be not as though they were' - Rom 4:17.

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Isa 46:10

Rev 5:9-10 is exactly what defines the Church - those redeemed by the Blood out of every nation. This passage is like a picture postcard sent from Heaven with a note that says "Wish you were here" and a PS that says "Living happily ever after."

If we are to be kings and priests - from which arena can we best learn our roles - From Heaven's throne room watching our Lord of angel armies being in control of every situation? Or from beneath bunkers holding on for dear life - hoping our prepping was enough? And speaking of prepping - When Moses turned the water into blood - it became blood regardless of source - river or pantry closet. That blood scenario is making a return and it's three days without water before lights out. So I choose Throne room - go through that open door.

Throughout this chapter I am going to use the term 'original intentions' repeatedly to demonstrate that the information being provided is void of influence from either man or devils. For it is only God's original intentions for mankind that can make Rev:5:9-10 a reality.

Before diving in to those original intentions I just want to touch on the idea of salvation. For a majority I would say the idea of salvation is that we get to go to heaven - or we are going to God.

If you were ever in a car accident - badly hurt and trapped in a vehicle - you are stuck in a place that if left alone long enough - you will perish. Think of any such life threatening scenario - stuck in a burning building - stuck in the trenches on a battlefield - or stuck on the floor because you collapsed from a heart attack,

stroke or broken bones. When you are stuck - help must come to you and the ones coming - whichever rescue personnel they are - they are the saviors.

Knowing the history of mankind we find humanity stuck over and over again - and over and over again we find God coming to the rescue. He comes to us to unstuck us - He is the Savior. He comes to us - we do not go to Him.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you Joh 15:16

But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) Eph. 2:4-5
NLT

We are saved by grace because it is by His goodness that He searches us out from wherever we are stuck - and He comes to us and gives us treatments to revive us. So salvation is not us going to a place - salvation is God coming to us. We are saved when He shows up where we are. He rescues us from stuck places and becomes our Savior. When we have God we have everything God is and has - NOW. Having God in our lives can be nothing less than an inseparable union in which we have the full understanding that it is impossible to remain unstuck without His active presence working for us always. Salvation is presence maintained. Heaven is only His home. Do we love God because He is God - or do we just love Him for His home?

We love him, because he first loved us. 1Jn 4:19

Hid in Christ

Paul repeatedly and consistently uses the term in Christ to describe that believers have been brought into a relationship, brought into a new identity, brought into a new legal standing and status, and we have even been brought into a new location. This all is not merely metaphorical or symbolic - it is the very real and absolute benefit of the placement of being in covenant.

God is an absolute God of absolute power who keeps His promises with no shadow of failure. That God, can call today with absolute certainty - things that are not and through His power - they are what He says they are. Covenant says we are His. And God says: 'No man can pluck them out of my hands.' Covenant status affords us an absolute assurance to live in confidence - void of all fears.

Rebellion nor resistance nor unbelief nor doubt can disannul or cancel God's intentions ever as long as we remain open to God's intentions and conformation to those intentions is desired. If we continually choose to rebel and resist the transformative power of salvation then rather than choosing to live in covenant we are choosing a place outside hiding. Stuck in a place where you are no longer reaching for God. God is calling - but you are not answering. That is the only scenario that risks the relationship. This pattern is consistent - callings must be answered.

You know me by now and you know I don't speak of myself but I let the abundance of scripture do all the talking. I have a Bible and I'm not shy in using it. So here goes...

Brought Back Into The New Identity

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2Co 5:17

Need I remind you that in Genesis God began a new adventure with the creation of the earth and the Man He ordained to live there. God already had Heaven, the angels and heavenly host so this earth and man thing was a new thing. Man was the new kid on the block or sticking with bible vernacular a new creature created in innocence. Need I remind you that the process of justification is a declaration of innocence as if the charges never existed. It is Satan that does the accusing but The Blood silences those accusations. So it is the power of the Blood to restore us to the original intentions of an innocent humanity in harmony with God. The Blood does not erase memories - but memories make us wiser - and wiser makes us better.

Brought Into a New Status and Standing

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 1Co 15:22

The Blood doesn't erase memories nor does it erase the fact that Satan was given a ruling position in the earth because of Adam's failure. What the Blood does do is remove us out from Adam's failure and then brings us into Christ's victory.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,

who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
Romans 8:1-2

Brought Into a New Location

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Eph 2:6

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Colossians 1:13-14

The word translated in the above verse means to remove to or carry away to The specific location we are carried away to is to be hidden in Christ **in covenant standing**, while we still walk in the world.

Do we now see Jesus? Jesus was received out of sight - Act 1:9. Christ is Himself hidden and the Church being in Him is also hidden. While this flesh is yet visible and in this world - we are not of this world. We are now hidden and waiting for our full redemption. Right now we only have a down payment - the earnest of our inheritance. We are waiting for our fulness - the entirety of God's original intentions to be made manifest on the day He appears.

The Original Intentions

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 8:23

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. Rom 8:19

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 1Jn 3:2

Glory IN the Lord

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. 1 Cor. 1:30-31

This is not a mystical - now you see them, now you don't type of hocus pocus. It is seeing our placement in this whole grand scheme ordained of God. When God created man He spoke to Himself - "Let us make man" - this was different from the other creatures. For fish - God spoke to the seas and the seas was their ordained habitat. For the beasts - God spoke to the earth and the earth was their ordained habitat. With man God spoke to Himself indicating that the New creature was in the world but his ordained habitat was a separate holy place called Eden. Eden was the place God came a walking and our fellowship was with Him. He created us for Himself.

For in him we live, and move, and have our being... For we are also his offspring. Act 17:28

Hid with Christ in God - Covenant Protection

To be "hid" is to be covered. It is to be placed in a secure location - out of view from exposure. Our secure location was Eden separated from the rest of the world where the animals roam free. Rather than Eden this is now transfers to the Church being the Holy place of our secure location.

Our earthly eyes see people. Very normal average and human people. God sees a Holy entity called the Church in which He hides His chosen people. Our placement is in the invisible realm of God's authority operating in the visible realm of this current world. We all are waiting for His appearing at which time we will all appear with Him. At which time it will also appear that we will be "like Him." The whole point is that whether invisible or visible we are in a place of safety out of harms way awaiting our full redemption.

To be hid is the opposite of being on trial. Trials are public events where absolutely nothing is hid and every fact must be uncovered - this is judicial reality. To be hid and covered is marital language. It is what a husband is sworn to do for his wife - to protect and to provide for with his own life if called for. To be hid in Christ is not just a phrase without meaning - it means - He is your God and you are His child. This is covenant language that removes us from exposure to accusations and oppositely to a safe place where He declares our justification.

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that

justifieth. (if God the Judge has declares us innocent then who has a right to say otherwise) Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Romans 8:33-34

For ye are dead, and your life is **hid with Christ** in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:3-4

For in the time of trouble he shall **hide me** in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. Psa 27:5

Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: **hide thyself** as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. Isaiah 26:19-21

We have Old and New Testament scripture saying the same thing - this again points to God's original intentions. This world was created with beasts running free and man placed in a holy place. Jesus came and established a Church in the same pattern - in the world yet separate. The world is a place of trouble but in this world there are pavilions and tabernacles and chambers - places designated to hide ourselves. Jesus came died was buried and He rose up from that grave. Isaiah tells us together with His dead body the dead men shall also arise and live. This pattern shows separation before judgment and not participation when the Lord comes out of His place and appears again to punish iniquity. For when He appears we shall appear with Him in glory.

This is why Paul could so confidently say the Church is not appointed to the wrath to come. It is angels releasing the bowls of wrath and Jesus appears after they are done and we have been with Him hidden for 'a little moment' before the judicial uncovering, disclosing and condemnation coming upon the rest of the world.

The New Creature: The Old Man Dies - The New Man Is Created

In order to have a resurrection there MUST be first a death. Let that just sink in a bit. The New Creature - Man - was created mortal. Jesus was mortal. Dying wasn't the problem - dying was a path.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; Heb 2:14

The mortal creature was part of the solution to destroy death. This is why rehabilitating or restoring the old man is not part of the solution. The old man MUST die in order to destroy the power of death working within us. This is a God thing. Something only capable in the realm of God's wisdom and power. So the mortal creature didn't need to be rehabilitated - and God didn't - His intentions bring us into completed newness. He only gave the old man space until that One mortal being stepped onto the scene. That One mortal creature only needed to shown the path that allows the other mortal creatures the same power to destroy death. History and the Old Testament covenant only dealt with behavior. The New Testament teaches us who we are as newly created beings fully able to put the devil in his place by resisting him - regardless of being mortal.

Death is the Path to Life

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die.... Joh 12:24

Pick up your cross and follow Him. I don't argue with God - I just go with the flow. If God says this is the way - then that cloud I will follow. Being physical with bodies makes us oblivious to spiritual realities. We can only rationalize the physical realities in this physical world around us. However there are spiritual realities that far exceed in power and efficaciousness. I'm not going to argue with God if He offers a choice between a physical death or a watery grave. Watery grave wins. Baptism is not a substitute for mortality - it is covenant participation in Christ's death so that death no longer owns us.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were **baptized into his death**? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with

him, **that the body of sin might be destroyed**, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Romans 6:3-7

Jesus' dying and burial destroyed him that had the power of death - on the same exact equal footing - our repentance equates with the old man dying and baptism equates to our burial. And that does exactly the same - "that the body of sin might be destroyed." If God is OK with that then I'm very gladly OK with that.

Born Again - Entry into a New Order

Jesus' conversation with Nichodemus began His teaching us the paths of spiritual realities that are powerful and efficacious. Efficacious meaning even though our carnal minds don't understand the rational of why getting wet has power - nonetheless power it has. It's not in the water - it's just that water is part of the covenant and the covenant is God's will, and God's will is powerful.

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:5-6

Being born into this world only gets you flesh and the troubles associated with it including a permanent death. Being born again gets you Spirit and the spiritually efficacious promises given by a God who is for us. Being born again means the embrace of a new life and the commitment to 'destroy the body of death' through a continual repentant lifestyle enabled by the Spirit. Again this is covenant language - I will be their God and they will be my people of the original intentions.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 1Pe 1:23

Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Jas 1:18

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Tit 3:5

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Joh 3:5

I'm not pulling rabbits out of a hat. God is speaking His will through His Word. Jesus came and showed us the way - if I let my Brooklyn out - the way to kick the devils anterior posterior - And the path to eternal life through obeying the Gospel.

What is the Gospel? - The Message that Transfers Dominion.

The serpent came with a message that once obeyed allowed him to steal dominion. The Gospel is the message of Jesus Christ that when obeyed - takes back what is rightfully ours. What God gave us originally - Jesus took back and places in His Church - the keys of death, hell and the grave - when you own the keys - locks don't keep you out any longer. When someone loses the keys - they are the ones barred and locked out.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Mat 16:19

So what is the Gospel? It is a proclamation that announces what God has done. He did it because we couldn't. We were stuck and needed a Saviour. We were as good as dead in our sins without hope. He achieved what we could not - nor are we asked or required to achieve what He has finished doing. Paul pointed us in the direction of what Jesus did on the cross and beyond and rightly presented us with the Gospel message.

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how (1) that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And (2) that he was buried, and (3) that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 1 Cor 15:1-4

Jesus came teaching His message of the Kingdom - The Good News. That teaching included the precepts of being born again of water and Spirit. After His resurrection the disciples were commanded to continue to teach His same message.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matt 28:18-20

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And **these signs shall follow them that believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. Mark 16:15-18

"These signs" are the evidence of the spiritual efficaciousness of being born again of the Spirit - living a new life that has dominion over spiritual realities.

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that (1) repentance and (2) remission of sins (covenantally sealed in baptism) should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, (3) I send the promise of my Father (born again of Spirit) upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. Luke 24:46-49

So Jesus taught and the Gospels recorded His teachings and Jesus commanded that His teachings be taught through the disciples to all nations. In various ways using different words they all agree that the elements of the Gospel include repentance, baptism, and the receiving of the promise or the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Another word for teaching is doctrine they are synonymous. Paul was thankful for the Church at Rome because they obeyed the doctrine.

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but **ye have obeyed** from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Romans 6:17

You see teaching or doctrine have no use whatsoever until they are obeyed or put into practice.

How is the Gospel Obeyed? - Faith That Acts

Obedience to the devil's voice brought forth all the misery and destruction that exists in this present world. Obedience to the voice of God will bring forth all the Glories of the next world. Obedience matters. They that receive His message are the ones who will obey His message. Biblical faith is always obedient faith. The mental consent of believing is not enough because even the devils believe. Believing God means obeying God with actions that demonstrate true faith.

As has been shown in the scriptures I presented - true believing and true faith is always linked to repentance, baptism and the infilling of the Spirit. Nothing to do with the works of the flesh - but the efficacious spiritual response of simply doing what God asks in order to obey the Gospel and enter covenant. The Gospel can be obeyed with positive outcomes or the Gospel can be ignored with not so favorable outcomes.

But they have not all obeyed the gospel.... Rom 10:16

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all **them that obey him**; Heb 5:9

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 1Pe 4:17

To answer the question - How do we obey the Gospel we look towards the very beginning of the Church when Peter answered that question being asked by the crowd. "What shall we do?" At this point the Promise of the Holy Spirit had come upon the 120 believers in the upper room. The Peter who previously cowered to a little girl at Jesus' arrest was now filled with the power Jesus promised and He boldly preached truth to the crowd below - laying guilt for not believing in Jesus squarely at their feet - while still offering salvation. To this they ask - What shall we do? And Peter answers:

Then Peter said unto them, (1) Repent, and (2) be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and (3) ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. Acts 2:38-39

Acts 2:38 is not a ritual formula - it is the covenant response of obedience that unites us to Christ through repentance (death to self), baptism (burial), and Spirit reception (new life). It is not magic water, nor emotional confession, but obedient participation in Christ's finished work.

For the Promise is unto You

The Promise is the fulfillment of the pre ordained covenant established before the foundation of the world. The New Testament Covenant is the original intention of God of creating a people for Himself. Just as God breathed into man to create a living soul - that is re-instituted through the Promise of the infilling of Holy Spirit. The words breathed and spirit are connected as the pneuma (spirit) which means a current of air - or as occurred on Pentecost - a rushing mighty wind came and filled them all with the Spirit or breath of God. Thus fulfilling Jesus' born again requirement of being born of the Spirit by which we become sealed in union.

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. Eph 1:13

Being born again of the Spirit is the other half of the creating a New creature - not just molding clay - but filling that clay with the breath of Life to become a living soul. Living things have very definite distinctions over non-living things - Namely - animation. Being animated by God as our life source also has very definite distinctions. Our life being hid in Him - *'For in him we live, and move, and have our being.'* Act 17:28. Our being a New Creature manifests the new reality of our reclaimed dominion:

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. Mark 16:17-18

God living on the inside manifests new life and new language and a new dominion that is from above and over spiritual realities on earth.

The New Testament Covenant isn't moral reform, or national identity, or religious affiliation. It is union with God. Union with God creates a New Man fashioned after the New Adam and living in all the victories Of Jesus.

Union enabled by the death, burial and resurrection of Christ that institutes a permanent reconciliation. This is a covenant being signed by both parties - We sign by entering His death through repentance and baptism - He signs by infilling us with His Spirit. This is the completed transaction that defines obeying the Gospel - and the Gospel is the power of salvation to all that believe.

Obeying the Gospel Saves Us

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Romans 6:17

Scripture teaches that justification is grounded in the blood of Christ and that this blood is covenantally applied when a believer is united with Christ in His death through obedient faith expressed in repentance and baptism.

Therefore as by the offence of one 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. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Romans 5:18-19

Into Death - Into Resurrection

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Romans 6:3-5

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:2-4

Entering into covenant status by obeying the Gospel creates a union which propels our destiny forward. Our destiny has been pre ordained through a cooperative obedience in submission to hearing the voice of God through the

preaching of the Word. Destiny is driven by the will of God - not personal knowledge, not lineage nor human efforts. The only human effort required is to 'labor to enter into His rest' by obeying the Gospel.

Justification is not an abstract declaration floating in heaven detached from obedience. Scripture explicitly connects justification to the Blood of Christ: "Being now justified by his blood" (Rom. 5:9). The Blood was shed once in history at Calvary, but it is applied personally at the moment a believer is united to Christ in His death. Romans 6 teaches that we are "baptized into his death," and Acts 2:38 connects repentance and baptism with the remission of sins. Remission requires blood (Heb. 9:22). Therefore, justification occurs when a believer, through obedient faith, enters covenant union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. The water does not cleanse by magic - the Blood cleanses by covenant application. Faith unites. Repentance turns. Baptism identifies. The Spirit seals. At that moment, the Blood speaks on behalf of the believer, and justification is not hoped for - it is possessed.

Iron Clad - Justification

Everybody agrees that we are justified by the blood for the New Testament is not at all vague about this.

Much more then, being now **justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him. Rom 5:9

Being now is the present reality of being saved from wrath Through Him. This is settled language that doesn't need to become unsettled by our doubts in ourselves. We come to Jesus as we are and He accepts us as we are. It is not any moral standing we might think we have - it is the Blood alone that makes us right with God NOW - not in any future sense dependant on our becoming worthy at a later date. Chapter three of Genesis introduced the Blood and so it has been ever since - our sins are remitted because of the Blood.

...without shedding of blood is no remission. Heb 9:22

So there is no forgiveness of sins (remission) without blood. If there is no remission that means we are yet guilty and not justified.

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 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,

through the forbearance of God; Romans 3:24-25

So justification is: God's grace acting for us by allowing us access to the redemption that Jesus paid for. That payment (propitiation) is accessed by us when we have faith in His blood. Its not just faith but specific faith - in His Blood. The heroes of faith were asked to demonstrate faith in various ways throughout history but always through obedience. Today we are asked to demonstrate faith in His Blood through obeying the Gospel.

So biblically justification is not merely a courtroom declaration - justification is legally grounded in blood atonement. No Blood means no justification. Hence - 'through faith in His blood.' we gain 'the remission of sins.' Therefore remission of sins equals justification. Now for the million dollar question: At what point in our coming to faith in God does God apply the blood? I'm going straight for the jugular. Not going to play with all the theories out there. There are times to be pastoral and there are times to set the record straight. Don't believe me - believe the record of the Bible.

Jesus shed His blood at Calvary in a single time in history - He died once and for all - and that blood has covered innumerable persons throughout human history. Old Testament sacrifice pointed forward to Calvary and faith in the Blood points back at Calvary. Either direction it is an act of faith that applies the blood. So what act of faith on our part applies the blood to our lives?

Scripture is consistent - Jesus shed His blood when He died and we are united with Christ in that death when we are water baptized.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death:** that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:3-4

Therefore union with His death equals the access point at which His blood is applied. Remission of sins equals the forgiveness of sins. Remission of sins comes at the point when the Blood is applied. Our sins are remitted when we are baptized in water - therefore baptism equals the application of the Blood and the application of the Blood equals justification. And in one sentence Peter presents the Gospel that leads to our justification.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Act 2:38

Even though God has chosen the medium of water - it's not the water that washes away sin - It is your faith in the blood that leads you to obey the Gospel. Your obedience is what puts you into covenant. You may see a person standing over you as you get dunked - but that person is standing in for God. God is baptizing you and in doing so He is bringing you into Himself. That is covenant agreement between signing parties.

In whom also ye are circumcised with **the circumcision made without hands**, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: **Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of **the operation of God**, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, **having forgiven you all trespasses**; Colossians 2:11-13

Circumcision was the sign between Abraham and God - showing that Abraham and his offspring were chosen vessels. In that same exact way we have the sign of baptism - not done with man's hands - but by God's hands because we have faith in God's operation that the blood washes away sin. So again Baptism = Remission = Blood = Justification - that is the operation of God we need to have faith in. No baptism equals no justification. No justification equals no salvation.

Even the devils believe. So can we really use believing alone as a foundation of faith? True faith has forever been tied to actions - actions that express obedience. We are commanded to obey the Gospel. Can we be commanded to believe? I command you to believe - In Jesus Name! Nope don't think it works that way. We can only be commanded to take action. The devils believe in God - that's not the problem. The problem is they are obeying a different god.

There is more - I could write another book on this one topic alone. It is sufficient to say the Acts 2:38 message encapsulates the entire Covenant message of the Bible. Repent, be baptized for the remission of your sins in Jesus Name, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

To be "in Christ" is to be legally transferred from the realm of Adam under Satan to the realm of the New Man under Christ, spiritually regenerated by the Spirit, covenantally sealed by obedience to the Gospel, and judicially hidden from condemnation. It is not cultural Christianity, nor inherited religion, nor intellectual agreement. It is union - death with Him, burial with Him, and life in Him.

Covenant is now defined, the remaining question is now unavoidable: If this is what it means to be in Christ, then what becomes of those who are not?

With the Bride secured, complete and the covenant sealed, history moves forward to the next chapter - not towards ambiguity - for we have been warned. Hence now the world moves towards accountability. We who have judged ourselves - will not be judged. What remains now is not a Husband protecting His Bride - but a King dealing with wayward tenants. Next chapter...

Additional Reading:

A) "In Christ" as a legal transfer / representative headship

Romans 5:12–21 (Adam/Christ headship) **1 Corinthians 15:45–49** (first man / last Adam)

B) Union language

1 Corinthians 6:17 ("joined unto the Lord is one spirit") **John 15:1–5** (abide / union imagery)

C) "Sealed" language

Ephesians 1:13–14 (sealed with the Spirit; earnest) **2 Corinthians 1:21–22** (sealed; earnest)

D) "Born again"

Ezekiel 36:25–27 (clean water + Spirit) **Titus 3:5** (washing + renewal)

E) "Judge ourselves and we will not be judged"

1 Corinthians 11:31–32

Chapter 17

The King and the Tenants - Covenant Accountability

Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. Matthew 21:43-45

Covenant union creates covenant privilege. Covenant privilege creates covenant responsibility. When responsibility is neglected or rejected, covenant never evaporates; it either bears fruit or it bears consequence. The Bride is hidden in Christ, but the King still owns the vineyard. And the King requires fruit.

The Vineyard Still Belongs to the Owner

We started this book out with the reality that God is the rightful owner of all things because He is the Creator of all things. We also discussed that it is He who established the boundaries and habitation of all nations. Just because certain nations forget or even deny God - doesn't erase His ownership nor Has He ever relinquished ownership.

Even those who possess a land by covenant rights still do not own the right to possess beyond God's rightful authority. We already covered most of this earlier so I won't rehash this now.

Once the Bride is secured, the Owner turns from betrothal to administration. God is now dealing with wayward tenants as an administrator doing what must be done and then paving the way forward into the next chapter of history. Which will be a present King presiding over His earth without thieves and impostors running loose.

What I will bring out now is the practical reality that in practice God does dispossess nations when warranted because of excessive pollution of the land -

and by pollution I mean iniquity. If and when at the time God deems a nation has adopted lifestyles and practices that are excessively wicked then He exercises His right to reclaim His land.

Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry. Isaiah 5:1-7

The sovereign God did the planting - He did the fencing, the building and infrastructure work. He did all that work because he was expecting fruit. When He looked for fruit He found only wild grapes. This same idea applies to both nations and individuals. Individuals are told to be fruitful and nations should be the habitation for the host of fruitful individuals. When God makes His visitation He has expectations of finding a bounty.

With Jesus' first coming and visitation He came unto His own. His own hardly accepted Him and His own sought to expel the Owner from His own vineyard. The Pharisees 'perceived that he spake of them.' but did they think twice about what they were plotting? No, they doubled down.

Hence we have Jesus' lament over Jerusalem and a declaration of desolation upon Judah now opening the door to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy above. "I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten

up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: And I will lay it waste."

And lo and behold God is true to His word and the diaspora came to be. Not annihilation but a scattering - a separation from being hid behind the hedge of covenant protection. Actions are warned against and actions create inevitable outcomes.

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINE PRESS IN IT, AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. "When the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. "The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. "Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. "But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' "But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' "They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?" They *said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the proper seasons." Matthew 21:33-41 NASV

Jesus is quoting from Isaiah 5 but he expands and adds specific details. Namely that the current occupants of the vineyard (Israel) are tenants that after they kill the son - think they have seized ownership of the land. But when the King comes those responsible for the sons death (covenant breaking Israel) come to a wretched end and the land is given to those who bear fruit - first to a believing remnant and ultimately to the restored people of promise.

The Transfer of the Kingdom

Rather than the covering and protection of a husband - Israel is sent back to where they were before God found them - to fend for themselves.

He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness... Deu 32:10

This alone did not completely sever God's covenant - what does sever the covenant was covered with the apostasy that leads to divorce. Divorce severs covenant. And even yet - promises made to Abraham, David and the prophets still point forward to a remnant and a re-gathering. This is now the heart of what God will be doing - calling out and protecting a remnant - the wheat. While at the same time dealing with the tares - secularism and imposters worldwide.

...For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. Romans 9:6-8

Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. Rom 11:5

So 'The Great Tribulation' we see in Daniel, Matthew 24 or Revelations is the 'Great Separation' **of the remnant** being called just before or during the great tribulation and the chaff and goats are being dealt with. The point is there is a covenantal dividing line being crossed at the Rapture with the Church secured in Heaven and God's attention shifts to the remnant - a different set of 'Saint's' being called. There are before the Rapture Saints being saved now in this time of Grace. Then there will be after the Rapture Saints being set apart to fulfill the promises of moving forward into the Davidic Kingdom.

Covenantal dividing lines matter. Apostolics are keen to point out that the thief on the cross was saved because he was a Jew under the covenant of Mosaic law on one side of the cross. Hence Jesus was fully able to say 'this day you will be with me in paradise'. On the other side of the cross came the New Testament covenant requirements of Acts 2:38. So those who say baptism isn't required are the ones not recognizing the valid covenant dividing line.

So in that case we can see where one testament can remain in force right up until the next is brought in. The door of Church age is going to close at the Rapture.

And the Husband will keep covenant with His Bride which includes being delivered from wrath.

If you are familiar with buying a house or car - you know there are tons of papers to sign. Those papers tell us exactly what we are paying for and exactly what the seller is selling. Every detail and contingency is spelled out - if any detail is not being met by either party then there is every right to seek remedies. Now that's just for a house or car - signing on the dotted line with your soul should carry a far greater significance. In the case of a covenant with God - the covenant specifically states:

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. Rom 5:9

...even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.
1 Thessalonians 1:10

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 1Th 5:9

So the Covenant specifically states - 'No wrath for You!' - provided we keep our end of the bargain through faithful obedience. So who is assigned to wrath?

The Children of Disobedience

...the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: Col 3:6

...these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.
Eph 5:6

There are plenty disobedient persons running amuck - my advice - get into and keep obedient to the covenant and appreciate what the Blood is doing for you.

I said all that in order to be able to differentiate that just because we see the word saint doesn't mean all saints of all generations. There are dividing lines. Those we see the devil making war with are the chosen being saved during the

Great tribulation. The judgment of that time is the angry King giving the evil tenants their just reward while at the same time sealing those who enter the next phase of God's plan.

So what we see unfolding in Revelations is God removing disobedient, unfaithful and unfruitful stewardship - taking them out of the way. And the calling and sealing of the next set of new stewards - the remnant.

And I say unto you, That **many shall come from the east and west**, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the (former) kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 8:11-12

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, **that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him**: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. Daniel 7:13-14

God's Kingdom is never not present - that some think they can make it void and take for themselves to do with as they please. God is forever active and gives the kingdoms in this earth to whomever will bare fruit.

The Stone: Broken or Crushed

Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on **this stone** shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. Matthew 21:43-44

Thou sawest till that **a stone** was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet... they became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and **the stone** that smote the image **became a great**

mountain, and filled the whole earth. Daniel 2:34-35

Jesus told Peter 'upon this stone I will build my Church.' This is the one and the same stone being talked about above. The one stone is the person of Jesus Christ. Those that accept Him get incorporated into His Kingdom. Those who reject Him get carried away into oblivion. Jesus was directly referring to Daniel in teaching about the stone. What needs to be understood is the one stone creates two outcomes. The Stone does not change - relationship to the Stone determines what we experience of the Stone. The stone acts as the foundation and basis for action. God knows what to do with us based on our relation and reaction to "The Stone" - Jesus Christ.

Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, 'The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?' 44) And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. Matt 21:42, 44

Jesus talks about either falling on the stone which means accepting Him and repenting accordingly or if we resist Him - He will crush that resistance. So outcome is completely dependent on how we choose to relate to Him.

The Son of Man Receives the Kingdom

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. **And there was given him dominion,** and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. Daniel 7:13-14

"And there was given Him dominion" - Boom! Dominion is Jesus' rightful authority and at His first coming He exercised it to the fullest extent over every realm that exists.

...The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. Rev 11:15, 17

Back to the King and His vineyard - the beasts, or empires of this world ruled with human and satanic authority killing the servants of God sent to collect bounty - right up to the sending of the Son - whom they also killed. And that was the satanic blunder that they wished they didn't do. Killing the Son did not achieve possession for themselves. When the vessel was broken - the God inside the vessel was unleashed. When the veil was torn - the God behind the veil became accessible.

...that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. Heb 2:14

What do the Marines say? Whoo - Haaa! The devil was ambushed. When the flesh was broken it did not put an end to Jesus' dominion as anticipated. When the flesh was broken the very presence of the Eternal One was called into action.

The Presence of The Eternal One - Faith in His Blood

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. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) Hebrews 10:19-23

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, 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 Melchisedec. Hebrews 6:19-20

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence

of God for us: Hebrews 9:24

This is a very good place to join the heavenly host in giving God some praise.

While the princes of this world thought they were doing a good thing in eliminating the son - what they did was enable the son to consecrate for us a new and living way for us to gain permanent access to the presence of God. This is no small thing.

When Satan gained dominion we were denied continual access to God - giving way to all the despair of this current world. Whether or not we as individuals take advantage of it or not - the presence of God is absolutely available with no restrictions other than us 'drawing 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.' Or in other words having faith in His blood - we obey the Gospel.

Those obeying the Gospel now become an army of individuals doing what Jesus did in manifesting the presence of the Almighty on earth. Until He comes again - we occupy in His stead.

Occupation Equals Presence

He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, **Occupy till I come.** Luke 19:12-13

To occupy in Jesus stead as the visible agents of the Kingdom. God is present whether we see Him or not. That certain nobleman did ascend out of sight. That nobleman is the One who obtained permanent dominion by His works. He has left again into a far country but before leaving He divided His goods to His servants. The question now becomes what have we done with His goods? Have we continued to manifest His presence through occupation?

Obedying the Gospel and producing fruit in our lives - doing the preordained good works - says - Yes, we have been faithful to a faithful God.

The devil wanted to kill one - but the results are innumerable multitudes being born again through the way He consecrated for us. Daniel tells us in the days of these kings:

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Dan 2:44

Daniel was speaking of the entire realm of world empires from start to finish - with the last empire to be Roman at Jesus' first coming. The early Church was 100% empowered to spread dominion and occupy with all the manifest power of God - and they did well. With the passing of the Apostles - their leadership gave way to the wolves and false prophets foretold by Jesus and numbers dwindled but presence never did.

Now while human reasoning sees two thousand years and many other kings and empires coming and going. Prophetically these all are one continuation of Babylon's realm. Names change but spirits and the land's they occupy don't. So in the days of the final ten nation confederation - It's still the One Stone and His Kingdom still continuously present that is still seeking fruit and bounty. Finding none - The Stone proceeds judiciously to grind away untill all unfruitful occupants are permanently removed. Once removed - new tenants are chosen.

The King Returns to His Vineyard - Physical Presence Restored

And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem... Zec 14:4

Incognito is a method for kings to find true love for who they are rather than what they possess. At least this is the way every novel and Hallmark movie always portray it. God is a Spirit and He has options. Right now is a season of spiritual

presence rather than physical presence. Spiritual presence cultivates faith. Later being physically present - He will crown our faithfulness.

Spiritual presence means God is choosing to remain invisible or incognito because faithfulness is important to Him. Us being faithful to our covenant while God is invisible is a sorting mechanism to separate individuals who will love Him regardless, from those who might say they love only after they see Him and all He possesses. Jesus continually pointed to faithfulness to do right always. And to those, God rewards with permanent presence both spiritual and physical.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Mat 25:21

The occasion of the second coming is because God made promises to David in which a visible Jesus would reign as King on this earth. He is now visible because He has gathered the ones who loved Him while being invisible and they become His Bride to return with Him to reign by His side. Both visible and both changed into the immortal beings God created us to be. We are reigning over the spared nations of the world.

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord... Rev 11:15

Being immortal has a very significant effect in how we rule. Authority is unchallenged and absolute - division and arguments are going to disappear. A world void of strife and distress is going to be recreated and Eden like conditions will make a come back. The last time God came walking in the Garden we find man hiding. This time when God comes back man will be restored to fellowship.

His Presence Transforms this World - Eden Restored

The benefit of knowing God:

The wolf also 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 sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:6-9

The New River - Life Everywhere it Goes

...I saw a stream flowing east from beneath the door of the Temple... (7) ...I was surprised by the sight of many trees growing on both sides of the river. (8) ...The waters of this stream will make the salty waters of the Dead Sea fresh and pure. (9) There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows. Fish will abound in the Dead Sea, for its waters will become fresh. Life will flourish wherever this water flows. (12) Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall, and there will always be fruit on their branches. There will be a new crop every month, for they are watered by the river flowing from the Temple. The fruit will be for food and the leaves for healing." Ezekiel 47:1,7,8-9,12 NLT

Prosperity, Longevity, and a Present God

Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses and confiscate their vineyards. For My people will live as long as trees, and My chosen ones will have time to enjoy their hard-won gains. (23) They will not work in vain, and their children will not be doomed to misfortune. For they are people blessed by the LORD, and their children, too, will be blessed. (24) I will answer them before they even call to Me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers! (25) The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. But the snakes will eat dust. In those days no one will be hurt or destroyed on My holy mountain. I, the LORD, have spoken!" Isaiah 65:22-25 NLT

The Globe Returns to Original Intentions

What was prophesied before becomes the reality at Jesus second coming. With the snake locked up out of the way from interfering - God gets back to being the only true God and the folks reap the benefits of being His people. This will be Eden on a global scale. Everything that Eden offered to two - is now freely given to all globally. God's unchallenged authority, humanities un-influenced allegiance and obedience, harmony between all living creatures, no fear and dread, the Tree of Life - providing sustenance and healing for the nations and humanity living many centuries in age. All this because the Owner returned home.

Relationship Always Determines Outcome

The absolute center of all God's desires and intentions is relationship. God created an institution called marriage to show us how two can become one. That happens when both are unfailingly committed to the institution as the greater entity and each submits and relinquishes personal wants to the greater needs of the marriage. The institution fails when a partner doesn't find what they want inside the union and the personal wants take us outside the union. This is infidelity and cause for the dissolving of the union.

It was the serpent that got Eve's eyes looking outside the union. It is his continued influence that caused nations, Israel and Judah to set their affections outside the union. Operating outside the union of covenant is the cause of every evil and dread that exists. Humanity in general has been the unfaithful partner.

God on the other hand has been extreme to the highest degree. He has been faithful to a promise He made Himself. When He ordained the Cross before the foundation of the world - He ordained grace, mercy, and forgiveness as the counterweights to pull people back into relationship - regardless of the serpent's vain imagination and ensuing deceptions.

The Cross Works!

We see the fruit thereof in the last chapters of Revelations with God united in marriage with a faithful Bride. Jesus knew the Cross works and that is why in spite of the horrific agony - He could still have joy. Joy knowing that what was ordained in the beginning would find completion and God will be taking home a Bride.

The Bride is the whole point. Relationship with the Bride is the whole point. And a Bride is gotten by a marriage covenant - legal and binding. This is why relationship to the covenant - right now in this life - determines the outcome for all eternity. God is waiting on the other side of this life faithfully as witnessed by seven thousand years of standing with outstretched arms calling to whomsoever will.

Relationship to covenant works regardless of where you choose to position yourself. To the righteous adhering to God's promises there is reward. To the unrighteous disregarding God's promises there is also reward of a different sort.

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. (12) And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
Revelation 22:11-12

Having a faith in the Blood of Christ has the reward of being united in the Eternal Presence of God.

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: **I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;** and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. 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. John 17:19-24

On the other hand being outside of covenant - keeps you outside.

For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. Rev 22:15

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Revelation 21:8

COME!!!

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city....I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Revelation 22:14,16-17

Thinking Out Loud - Yearning for Completion

For seven thousand years the earth has groaned under divided allegiances. Kings have risen and fallen. Empires have strutted and crumbled. Stewards have mistaken themselves for owners.

But the vineyard was never abandoned. The Owner simply allowed the tenants their allotted time. When that time concludes, reclamation is not reaction - it is restoration.

The same Presence that once walked in Eden will stand again upon His earth. The serpent will no longer whisper. The beasts will no longer trample.

The land will no longer be polluted by unrestrained iniquity.

The King returns - not to experiment with a new plan - but to restore the first one.

What was once confined to a garden will fill the globe.

“The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” Isaiah 11:9

Eden was never the final destination. It was the post card - the glimpse into a paradise still in the making. Life with God - innocent and care free.

Now the Presence that was once localized to one Garden becomes universal - with Jesus on the throne

Presence: Healing or Exposure

The Stone remains the same. The Presence remains the same. The Cross remains sufficient.

What changes is the heart in the person standing before Him. To the yielded, His Presence is life.

To the resistant, His Presence is exposure. The same sun that softens wax hardens clay. The difference is not in the sun. It's the material the light lands upon that differs. One heart softens while one heart hardens. Only God can know the intents of the heart.

So it has always been. Relationship determines experience.

The King does not arrive in confusion. He arrives in clarity. He knows the heart.

“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still...and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still.” Revelation 22:11

This is not arbitrary judgment. It is covenant consequence.

For those in union with Him, judgment was already borne at the Cross.

For those outside covenant, judgment is not imposed - it is uncovered.
Light does not create darkness - it reveals what is hiding within it.

The Cross Still Works

Before the vineyard is reclaimed, before the Stone grinds the resistance, before the throne is visibly established - the invitation still stands.

The Cross has not lost its power.
The Blood has not lost its voice.
Grace has not expired.

The same God who will reign in unveiled glory now stands, still calling.
Not demanding applause. Not coercing allegiance. But inviting covenant.

The Cross works.

It reconciles the guilty.
It restores the estranged.
It silences the accuser.
It prepares a Bride.

And that Bride is the whole point.

The Final Word Is Not Threat - It Is Invitation

The final words of Scripture are not wrath. They are not accusation. They are not fear. They are invitation.

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Revelation 22:17

Sobriety is real. Accountability is real. The King is real. The door to the Kingdom

is open to whosoever will.

The Owner of the vineyard has never ceased calling. Seven thousand years of patience testify to that fact. When the King stands upon His earth again, it will not be because He finally decided to act - it will be because the appointed time has arrived.

And when He stands, Eden breathes again from the fresh air of innocence restored. The earth remembers its Maker.

And those who loved Him in faith - will finally walk with Him in sight.

Onward we go

What has been traced through these pages is not speculation about distant events but the unfolding of God's deliberate design. The vineyard has an Owner. The Stone has been set. The King will return. The Architect will complete what He began.

But a structure is not admired from a distance alone - it must also be entered. Up to this point we have stepped back and looked at the framework: ownership, covenant, stewardship, judgment, restoration, and the final return of divine presence to the earth.

These are the beams that hold the whole structure together. Yet knowing the structure exists does not by itself place a person inside it. The question therefore moves from the global to the personal.

Where does a man stand in relation to this design?

Scripture does not leave that question unanswered. The same God who governs nations also calls individuals. The same covenant that orders history also determines the standing of every soul before Him.

Before the King visibly reclaims His vineyard and before the Architect unveils the completed design, Scripture repeatedly brings us back to one central matter:

covenant standing.

Not the standing of nations.

Not the standing of empires.

But the standing of a man before God.

Chapter 18

The Architect and the Original Intentions

...Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:3

From the moment God walked in the Garden of Eden, His intention has never changed. Creation was not designed merely to exist under His authority but to live in His presence. The entire story of Scripture - from Eden to the Cross, from covenant to kingdom - moves toward that single destination: God dwelling with His people. Sin interrupted that fellowship, but it never erased the intention. Through covenant, redemption, and restoration God has been bringing humanity back to the place where His presence is no longer hidden, resisted, or distant. When the Architect finishes His work, what began in a garden will fill the whole earth. The story ends where it was always meant to end - God with His people, and His people with Him. We go from a place of temporary to a place of eternal presence.

Life is always a mixed journey - running the gamut between utter despair and utter joy. On the side of joy - there are moments that keep us moving forward looking for those rainbows. Falling in love - getting married - the birth of a child - these events are pillars and milestones that mark off the good things of life that we achieve in our journeys.

A journey is the exact perfect word to express our existence in this world. A journey is traveling that starts somewhere and ends somewhere. In between the start and the finish we are sojourners - persons on a journey. By now you know my habit is to find deep truths in the most unlikely places. This last chapter is not going to disappoint.

We know God established the Sabbath and also the Feasts of Israel. Each of the feast commemorate an event. The Sabbath commemorates God's finished work in creation. The first three feasts point directly to Jesus' first coming. Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits all find their fulfillment in the Cross and resurrection. Pentecost commemorates the birth of the Church. The next two - Rosh Hashanah and the Day of Atonement- point forward to God dealing again with Israel.

The Last feast - Tabernacles is the only feast that will be celebrated during Jesus' earthly reign. So the unlikely treasure findings are tied to understanding the deeper truths associated with this last Feast.

The Feast of Temporary Booths

Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD. On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; Leviticus 23:34-36

Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 23:42-43

For Israel - they were told this feast was to commemorate their wilderness journey after being delivered from Egypt. The booths were deliberately built flimsy with exposure to the elements purposefully intended. For them it was a remembrance of their journey and all they experience in the wilderness.

But later we find out when the prophet tells us that Tabernacles is to be kept by the nations as well during Jesus' earthly reign. The question then becomes - we know what this feast means for Israel - What could it mean for the nations?

And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. Zec 14:16

Tabernacles - For Sojourners - For Israel, Humanity and a Certain Someone

This idea of sojourning and commemorating the journey with the feast of Tabernacles seems to encompass a larger crowd than just the Israelites.

Before Israel it was Abraham:

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, **dwelling in tabernacles** with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Hebrews 11:8-10

Hmm. The Father of the Faithful went out by faith, dwelt in tabernacles and looked for a city during the journey. Then came Israel and we know why they were told to celebrate this feast. But who went with them and tabernacled with them in their journey?

God Tabernacled Amongst Us:

And **I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you.** And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. Leviticus 26:11-12

Double Hmm... There is covenant language connected to this tabernacling stuff. God Himself was exposing Himself to the same elements - identifying Himself with their walk in the wilderness. And what does God say - "My soul shall not abhor you." Walking with us in the journey - "I will be your God, and you shall be

my people." That leads to an even bigger question...and I'm ready for a triple Hmm... When else did God tabernacle with us?

And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us... Joh 1:14 (LITV)

Some translations say dwelt among us - some say He made His home amongst us. But the literal meaning of the word 'dwelt' is tabernacled. What was the outcome of Jesus tabernacling with us?

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Heb 4:15

He identifies with us. He cares for our infirmities and the stuff we are dealing with. *He does not abhor us* and He is with us and for us.

The thing is the Israelites built these booths once a year as a memorial. God walked with them continually and Jesus came to 'dwell' with us up until the cross. But we all 'dwell' in these rickety booths for our lifetimes.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you **as strangers and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 1Pe 2:11

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, **we have a building of God, an house not made with hands**, eternal in the heavens. 2Co 5:1

Abraham wandered as a pilgrim looking for a city whose builder and maker was God. We are living in temporary housing with the same aspirations - looking for our heavenly house created by God. So the whole point of this feast of

tabernacles is to commemorate what all of us including God Himself have to endure while tabernacling and waiting for our permanent abode in heaven.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same. Heb 2:14

Don't think I'm quite done yet - with God there is always more and a picture is developing here that tells us there is more to this 'booth' we need to look at.

The Transfiguration - a Glimpse into Future Tabernacle Glory

And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. Matthew 17:1-4

But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, **they saw his glory**, and the two men that stood with him. And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said. While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. Luke 9:32-35

Three of the Gospels record this account but Luke mentions Peter was heavy with sleep. Peter was always sleeping - he slept at the mount of Olives and he slept while the angel was breaking him out of prison. But even in this sleepy state - Peter reacted instinctively knowing it was good to be here in this place - let's build some booths - to continue in this glory filled fellowship. Peter instinctively reached for the language of Tabernacles because this feast celebrated the

moment when God's presence would dwell openly with humanity. "They saw His Glory."

Peter knew he was looking into the future - seeing a preview of the glorified King. This experience was never forgotten by Peter who later writes in his epistle:

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses of his majesty**. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from **the excellent glory**, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, **when we were with him in the holy mount**. 2 Peter 1:16-18

Peter was an eyewitness to His Majesty and excellent glory. And it would be good if Moses, Elijah and Jesus could just tabernacle or dwell a little bit longer. The future looks good - Pete says.

The Waters of the Tabernacle: Flow as the River of Life

There were ceremonies done during the Feast of Tabernacles that we should also look into. While not directly mentioned in scripture it was a practice of the Temple priests of Jesus day to carry water in a golden pitcher, from the Pool of Siloam uphill to the Temple - a distance of about 500 meters or 1/3 of a mile. As he went along his route the people celebrating the feast would shout out "*Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.*" (Isa 12:3) The end of his route was the altar of sacrifice and the whole ceremony was called "The Water Libation." This ceremony occurred every morning for seven days - and was done in gratitude for the rains and a good harvest.

Now that quote from Isaiah mentions 'the wells of salvation'. The Hebrew word salvation is yeshua - which literally is Jesus. With joy shall ye draw waters out of the wells of yeshua - the Hebrew word being the name Yeshua, the very name of Jesus.

This all becomes interestingly significant because Jesus shows up as the people are shouting out this verse - and Jesus shouted back...

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, **let him come unto me, and drink**. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (**But this spake he of the Spirit**, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) John 7:37-39

At one point what was being practiced in ceremony was now being offered as a real choice by Jesus. The people were shouting - 'draw waters out of the wells of Jesus' - and now Jesus was there saying OK - do it! 'Believe in me' and I'll be the true source of living water which is then explained to be the infilling of the Holy Spirit to come.

This whole chapter in context becomes interesting. Most of the feasts required an obligatory pilgrimage to Jerusalem. We find Jesus' brothers making plans to go to this Feast of Tabernacles and taunting Jesus to go also:

and Jesus' brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go to Judea, where Your followers can see Your miracles! **You can't become famous if You hide like this!** If You can do such wonderful things, show Yourself to the world!" For even His brothers didn't believe in Him. John 7:3-5 NLT

John 7 verse 1 says - Jesus was avoiding Jerusalem because the Jews there wanted to kill Him. The Apostle John records a total of five visits to Jerusalem - at the first two - John 2 records the overturning of the tables and the cleansing of the Temple and John 5 records Jesus healing the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda on a Sabbath. None of these things made the leadership very happy with Jesus and the plotting of arrest began. So after Jesus' brothers leave John says this:

But after His brothers left for the festival, **Jesus also went, though secretly, staying out of public view.** John 7:10 NLT

I'm chuckling inside because I see something about Jesus. When He sees something wrong He just has to react. He saw the money changers and just had to react. He saw a lame man waiting for a miracle coming from some supposed stirring of the waters - but the miracle worker was there and had to react. It just happened to be on a Sabbath. And now on this third visit to Jerusalem - Jesus was really trying to avoid being arrested and killed - He was really trying to go incognito and stay out of view - while John records the leadership was really trying to find Him. But, but, but Jesus hears these crowds shouting - 'draw waters out of the wells of Jesus' - and Jesus just can't help Himself - He has to react - and He reacts by crying out - I AM HERE - BELIEVE IN ME! Incognito blown. Full blown. Seems His brother's teasing to become famous were unavoidable.

John 7-10 actually records one continuous six-month period in Jerusalem, from Tabernacles to Hanukkah, the events recorded form a single prophetic drama about the Temple and living water to Hanukkah - 'The festival of Lights.' John records one of the most beautiful narratives in the Gospel of John about a Jesus who can no longer remain incognito.

These four chapters Jesus repeatedly revealed who He truly was:

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow Me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." Joh 8:12

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, **I AM!"** Joh 8:58

...Dost thou believe on the Son of God? ...**Thou hast both seen him,** and it is he that talketh with thee. Joh 9:35, 37

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door of the sheep.** Joh 10:7

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.
Joh 10:11

I and my Father are one. Joh 10:30

Well... when Jesus was talking to His brothers he said: "...I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come." (Joh 7:8) Well... Six months later and the beans have been spilt. While there was a lot of discourse with many things being said - and the people doing much disputing between those who believed and those who didn't what becomes very evident - that Jesus' time was come.

The Festival of Lights

If Tabernacles revealed Jesus as the source of living water, Hanukkah revealed Him as the light that guides life. Hanukkah was known as the Festival of Lights because of the lighting of the menorah in every household window. It was the custom of the day to erect huge lampstands throughout the city of Jerusalem that illuminated the whole city. If anything could be noted it is that with each festival - Jesus continually revealed things about Himself. This festival was no different and Jesus spoke of Himself as the 'light of the world.' Light is what guides lives - it provides understanding and keeps us from stumbling. The Israelites were guided by the pillar of fire by night. The first Church was guided by the fire that alighted upon each of them. John tells us that He was the light and the light is the life of men. And now the Living Light was walking amongst them. Another one of those things about God always wanting to be our guiding light. Isaiah prophesied about the Light:

The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Isa 60:19

Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Isa 60:20

Anytime something is mentioned more than once - that is the Hebrew way of emphasizing its importance. Isaiah nearly repeats the same sentence twice - Why? This is a thing on God's mind that He wants you to know. Light prevents stumbling. Humanity has been stumbling from the beginning because what we do not know does hurt us. What *we do not know* is the devil's playground where he takes advantage of our ignorance. God is saying His presence provides all the guidance we will ever need - that guidance keeps us alive - that Light is our life.

God again and finally repeats this same promise at the end of all these days of darkness and mourning.

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. Revelation 21:23-25

Night time and darkness are associated with stumbling - stumbling caused by the devil - the prince of darkness. Everlasting light is just another one of the Covenant promises being fulfilled by His everlasting presence that we look forward to.

What begins to emerge from all these passages is a simple but profound truth: temporary dwelling was always part of the design. When God breathed into man in creation - God entered and tabernacled. When The Israelites came out of Egypt and built The Tabernacle - God's presence was there and He tabernacled.

The wilderness booths were not merely a historical reminder for Israel. Abraham lived in tents long before Israel became a nation. The apostles described our bodies as temporary tabernacles. Even God Himself chose the final tabernacle among us in the person of Jesus Christ.

This world, from the beginning, was never presented as the final structure. It was the journey - not the destination. Creation itself was a starting point, not a finished city. Humanity was placed here to walk with God, to learn His ways, and to move forward toward something greater that God Himself was preparing.

The fragile booths of Israel's wilderness experience therefore become a picture of the entire human story. We live, move, struggle, rejoice, and suffer within these temporary bodies of flesh while looking for something more permanent. Like Abraham before us, we journey forward "looking for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

The Feast of Tabernacles reminds us that our present dwelling is temporary. The rickety booth is not the house. The journey is not the destination. But it also reminds us of something even more remarkable: God chose to enter the same temporary dwelling with us. He walked with Israel in the wilderness. He tabernacled among us in Christ. And He promises that one day temporary booths will give way to a 'changed body' in the permanent presence when "the tabernacle of God is with men." We started off naked but unashamed - we live in rickety bodies - but we have a promise.

Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and **let me not be ashamed** of my hope. Psa 119:116

...I am the LORD: for **they shall not be ashamed** that wait for me. Isa 49:23

What began as a temporary dwelling in the wilderness will end with an eternal dwelling in the Kingdom.

The Original Design

If temporary dwelling was part of the design, then the next question naturally follows: What was the design moving toward? A journey implies a destination, and Scripture reveals that destination not merely as a place, but as a union. From the beginning God embedded original intention directly into the original design in the creation of humanity itself.

When Genesis tells us that God created man “male and female,” it is doing more than describing biological distinction. The language of creation carries meaning that reaches forward into the entire plan of redemption. The Hebrew words for male and female themselves quietly point to the pattern of design: male carries the idea of remembrance, while female carries the idea of something opened or pierced.

That pattern appears again in the creation of Eve. She was not formed separately from Adam but was taken from his side. Humanity began with a union being created through an opened side. What appears in Genesis as the beginning of human companionship becomes, in the light of the Cross, a prophetic picture of something far greater.

For when the last Adam hung upon the cross, His side too was opened, and from that pierced side flowed blood and water. From the side of Adam came the first bride; from the pierced side of Christ comes the redeemed people who become His Bride.

The temporary booths of this present life therefore move toward something far greater than survival. They move toward union - humanity remembering its Creator and being joined to Him through the pierced One.

Definitions: Male and Female: Remembrance and the Pierced One

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. Gen 1:27

Society has wandered a very long way since that day when God knew in His mind exactly what a male and female are. Our dictionaries have a definition for what it means to be male or female - but the original Hebrew words are not talking about biology at all.

'Zâkâr' is the Hebrew word used for male and the definition is: properly remembered.

'Nekevah' is the Hebrew word used for female and the definition is: to puncture, pierce

Male means remembered and female means punctured or pierced - nope that's not what they taught me in biology back in my day. And I fear to think what they may be teaching today. What is obvious is the God who wrote the original dictionary has something to say more than what we may think.

Adam and Eve were not created the same way. Adam was clay dug from a pit, formed and breathed into. God got dirty and God did mouth to mouth. When God was ready to create Eve - He put Adam to sleep, opened his side and took what was needed to create the woman. God got bloody.

The Foreshadowing of Future Redemption

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "At last this is bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called 'woman,' Because she was taken out of man." For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and **they shall become one flesh.**
Genesis 2:21-24 NASB

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; **that they may be one, even as we are one:** Joh 17:22

The designer had something on His mind in the beginning pointing to a second Adam and a second Bride.

The Second Adam

But one of the soldiers with a spear **pierced his side**, and forthwith came there out blood and water. Joh 19:34

The Second Bride

For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:30-32

These parallels are too profound:

Adam's side was opened and God formed his bride.

Christ's side was pierced, and from that wound flowed the blood and water the covenant elements through which the Church - His Bride - would be redeemed.

Blood, Water, and Spirit: Covenant Witness

This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 1 John 5:6-8 NASB

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized (water) in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;(Blood) and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Spirit) Act 2:38

And almost all things are cleansed with blood, according to the Law, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Heb 9:22

This circles back to justification which was covered. What needs to be pointed out is that justification was not an after thought. It is THE thought embedded in the design from the beginning. The original design that was intrinsically built directly into the God ordained definition of male and female.

This **IS** what needs to be remembered and memorialized.

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: **this do in remembrance of me.** Luk 22:19

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, **in remembrance of me.** 1Co 11:25

Jesus' body was far more broken and bloodied than Adam's side ever was. Yet from that broken and pierced place came the very elements of covenant - blood and water through which the Bride would be born. What began in Genesis as a bride formed from an opened side finds its fulfillment at the Cross, where the pierced side of Christ gives birth to a redeemed people joined to Him in covenant.

The design of male and female was never arbitrary - it was prophetic. From the beginning God was pointing toward a union - humanity remembering its Creator and being joined to Him through the pierced One.

The temporary booths of this world therefore point toward something greater than mere biology or survival. They point towards another place - a future place beyond biology - to a place of union. Humanity lives in temporary dwellings while moving toward the day when the Bride will dwell permanently with the Bridegroom and the tabernacle of God will be with men - provided we remember our Creator and have faith in His Blood.

Tabernacles for the Nations

Tying together the creation of man and the Feast of Tabernacles might not seem to make sense but the connection is what God knew - and what we need to learn. God knew the end of the story and all it would take throughout the journey to get to the fulfillment of Rev 21:3

...Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. Rev 21:3

This is what God had in mind. From that first day in Eden God also knew that fulfillment was seven thousand years in the making. That's a long time for humanity who as Romans tells us - " they did not like to retain God in their knowledge." Or in other words - they chose to forget about God. Hence God intrinsically built into the male a way for God to be always remembered. How? By creating the male in His Image. Like it or not when you see a person - you are looking at the image of God. Hence the devils overdrive attempts to mask, distort, paint over and reshape our images. Our eyes may not see God - but the devils eyes do.

Then of course from the beginning has always been the cross. Another image of the One pierced - whose blood bought the Church - the female coming from that Man's side.

Together male, female and at times God are taking this seven thousand year journey in tabernacles - rickety shanties. Remembering this time of frailty and

exposure now - so when the time of permanence comes, we can all the more appreciate what God has done for us.

So it's not a feast just for Jews but all humanity along with God that this feast is commemorating. While the feasts were originally given to Israel - the promise to Abraham tells us through his offspring Jesus the whole world would be blessed by bringing us all into the family of God.

And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. Zechariah 14:16

They celebrated passover year to year until it found fulfillment at the Cross.

They celebrated the feasts of Unleavened Bread, First Fruits and Pentecost year after year until they found fulfillment in the Church.

They will continue to celebrate Tabernacles until it is ultimately fulfilled in the presence of God.

...Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. Rev 21:3

What began in Eden as a localized holy space finds its ultimate conclusion as a global Holy Presence and then beyond to celebrate God's presence for eternity. So the celebration of Tabernacles is in actuality the celebration of His presence in our tabernacles or our current bodies. And being that presence is intended to manifest into eternity - God offers an invitation to all - to whomsoever will. It is an invitation to Feast Forever in the Presence of God.

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Rev 22:17

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. Joh 7:37

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Isa 55:1

Across the seven thousand year span of history the Door has always been opened. The invitation has always been to all who thirst. The Fountain of Life has always been there.

The Architect prepared the dwellings.

The Pierced One opened the covenant.

And through that covenant the Bride enters the presence of God.

The invitation stands for all who thirst: COME...

The Spirit and the bride say, Come