

KINGDOM CONCEPTS II

Based on the book, *“What On Earth Are You Doing Here”* by

Dr. Kenneth Meadors

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BIB442

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This course is based on the book, *What on Earth Are You Doing Here?* Dr. Kenneth Meadors

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Course Requirements

- 1) Read the text, "*What on Earth Are You Doing Here,*" by Dr. Kenneth Meadors
- 2) Class Attendance
- 3) Class Participation
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LESSON ONE

The Purposes of God in the Earth

An Important Purpose for the Earth

God has placed us in the earth, and He has an important purpose for the earth. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. He has not given up the earth nor has He given it over to the devil. The earth was created to be inhabited. It is the intention of the Lord to fill this earth with His glory and to restore it in all of its splendor.

The Earth to be Restored and Redeemed

Instead of a destruction of the earth, the earth will be restored and redeemed. There will be a cleansing and purging of the earth. God's ultimate goal is that there be new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness. God's method of cleansing is fire. Does this mean the earth will be totally annihilated by a raging fire? Peter said the elements will melt with a fervent heat (II Pet. 3:10).

Distinction between the Earth and the World

There must be a distinction made between the earth and the systems of the world. The end of the world does not mean the earth is blown up, but it refers to the end of this present age or the end of the present corrupt world systems. The earth is not to be annihilated, but to be restored.

Many Sons Unto Glory

One of the great purposes of God is to bring "many sons unto glory", or to bring forth a body of chosen believers who will do in these latter days what Jesus has already done as one individual. That purpose is to destroy the works of the devil and to bring restoration and redemption to the earth and its inhabitants.

The Plan of Redemption

God is a God of principle. He turned the earth over to man, and He, too, must gain entry into the earth through man. God's influence in this earth is through man, and His means of redemption had to come through man. That is the reason Jesus had to come in the form of human flesh to pay the full penalty that brought us complete redemption. The plan of redemption became God's primary purpose in the earth. This work of redemption would encompass everything that had been previously affected in the fall.

Conforming a People Into His Image

A purpose of God in the earth became that of conforming a people into this proper image,

or the proper reflection of a holy and incorruptible God. This people are the “many sons brought to glory.” “*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren*” (Rom. 8:29). The old creation man was created. The new creation man is being formed. This people is being shaped, formed, or conformed into the likeness of God's Son.

God's Purpose Is to Destroy Every Enemy

The purpose of God in the earth is to destroy every enemy. When sin was introduced into the earth, death passed upon all men. This power of sin has been broken through Jesus Christ. The truth that we are yet to understand in its fullness is that the power of sickness, disease, poverty, and death must be broken. “*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil*” (1 John 3:8).

God's Will Is Life and Liberty

Every good and perfect gift comes from above. It is the will of God that we do good in the earth as Jesus did good. “*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power; who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him*” (Acts 10:38). The will of God is healing and restoration; the will of God is life.

Total Restoration

The purpose of God is to bring total restoration to this earth. The righteous rule of God in the earth is to be the norm. Even though the kingdom of God is a present reality, there is yet to be a manifestation of the eternal kingdom in this earth. Presently, the kingdom of God represents a domain of authority. It is a people who has submitted itself to the kingship and lordship of Jesus. This kingdom is real to those who recognize it. Presently, all men have not faith. We do not yet see every enemy under foot. We do not see all men as righteous, and righteousness is not prevailing among the governments of men. There is still pain, suffering, heartache, sickness, disease, and death. Wars and rumors of wars still prevail.

A Heavenly Place

What could be more glorious than the perfect day of peace and harmony? What is more glorious than a state of being which represents perfection, where there is no lack, no devil, and where there is fullness of joy? Won't it be wonderful when there are no more wars and peace prevails universally? There is nothing greater than restored fellowship with God and our fellowman.

A Change Is Coming

I believe that we are now being changed as from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18), but there is a final change (1 Cor. 15:51-53). I am convinced that when the change comes, there will be no limitations. The limitations of our flesh will be destroyed. Walls will not be able to constrain or restrain us. Transportation will be no problem as we can be translated from one part of the universe to the other in a wink of the eye. Who is to say there will not be other worlds or planets

to conquer? If God has something in mind elsewhere, that is His business. I know that I am coming into a union with Jesus the head, and where He is where I will be throughout eternity.

LESSON TWO

A Further Look at God's Purposes

Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom

God's will is for the gospel of the kingdom to be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations. Though we no doubt are living in the end days, many generations have felt they were the chosen generation to be alive and to remain until the coming of the Lord. Whether we be that generation or not, the fact still remains that there will be such a generation. However, I believe that I am a part of the great eternal purposes of God in the latter days of this age in helping to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Keep in mind that we are talking about the purposes of God *in the earth*. We are not talking about the purposes of God in heaven. It is not the matter of the will of God being done in heaven but the will of God *in the earth*. Jesus said to pray "*thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven*" (Mt. 6:10)

Satan Sought to Abort the Purpose of God

When Jesus came to redeem us, He came to redeem us in spirit, soul, and body. Thank God for complete and total deliverance. Anything short of complete redemption is aborting the purpose of God. Satan has tried to abort God's plan on numerous occasions. He sought to abort God's plan for deliverance in the house of Jacob when Joseph's brethren sold him into Egypt. But out of the dungeon, Joseph ascended to the highest office in the land just beneath Pharaoh! As a result, Joseph was in a position to one day bring life to those who had sought to take his.

The Eternal Purpose of the Church

The purpose of God is to raise up a church that will "*declare to the principalities and powers in heavenly places the manifold wisdom of God*" (Eph. 3:10). This is according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. The intent of God is that the church might be the demonstration of the mighty power of God to the power of darkness in heavenly places. It is time that the church recognize that God has invested in it all the power and authority over every work of the devil. Sickness, disease, poverty, and physical death are enemies to be put under our feet. We as the church need to begin standing up to be what God has ordained us to be.

A Mature Church

Hebrews 5:11 states, "*Of whom we have many things to say and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one should teach again which be the first principles of the oracles of God and are become such as have need of milk and not of strong meat. For every one who uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*"

A Glorious Church

The purpose of God is that the church might be a glorious church, which means to be full of the glory of God. It is to be without spot or wrinkle (Eph. 5:27). We are the light of the world, and we are to expose the works of darkness by that light (Mat. 5:14). To be the light of the world means that we are to shine in the midst of the greatest darkness the world has ever known. Isaiah 60:1 states: “*Arise, shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people, but thy light is come.*” In the darkest hour the world has ever known, there will be a light and a witness in the earth. This light will expel and break the power of darkness.

A Victorious Church

God’s will is for the church to be victorious in all things. Some may feel that it is the will of God that we be defeated in order that we might learn some valuable lesson. We certainly need to know how to deal with defeat if it comes, but defeat should not be in our thinking. It is never God's will that we be defeated. God never uses defeat as his method of teaching or instruction. Sure, we should learn from failures and mistakes if we experience them, but that is not God's method of teaching.

In Earth As It Is in Heaven

We're talking about the kingdom of God in this earth. We're speaking about the will of God to be done in earth as it is in heaven. Is there any sickness in heaven? Is there any disease in heaven? Is there poverty in heaven? Is there any lack in heaven? Are there any shortages in heaven? The kingdom of God is the realm of total possibility, and the kingdom of God is at hand

LESSON THREE

One Holy Nation

Who Is the Chosen Elect of God?

Here are some questions for us to consider. To whom will the glory and blessings of God be given, or to whom are they intended? Who will be used to manifest His glory to the world? Through whom will God fulfill His purposes? Who are the saints of the most high God in the book of Daniel who shall possess the eternal kingdom of God forever and ever?

The purposes of God in the earth are not divided between two groups of people. While some recognize the church as the chosen elect of God, others consider natural Israel. Who is the chosen people of God? Who is the holy nation? Are they Israel, or are they the church?

The Church Is Not God's Plan B

How do we view the church? Do we see the church as God's plan B? Let me break that down. Did God have plan A that failed, and then He had to turn to an alternate plan? Many people believe Israel was God's plan A. They failed, and then God had to put plan B into action, which involved the church.

God had an eternal plan in Christ Jesus from the foundation of the earth. In the beginning, when Adam failed in the garden, God had a purpose in mind. When Adam sinned, God immediately had plans to raise up a seed unto himself who would bruise the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15).

God's Eternal Plan to Reveal Himself through the Church

Why has it always been God's purpose to reveal himself through the church if the church is just a New Testament concept? The revelation of the church is New Testament. The church has been in the earth through the centuries. It was in the Old Testament. Keep in mind the church is a called out people unto the Lord--a people raised up for His name sake. It is a people who would be a praise unto His glory.

Who Is the Seed of Abraham?

It is not enough to say you're the seed of Abraham. The Arabs can say they are the seed of Abraham and be correct. The Jews can say the same. We say we are the seed of Abraham (rightfully so), and we are neither Arab nor Jew in the natural. God is not dealing with nationalities and national boundaries.

They are not all Israel who are of Israel. In Romans 9, Paul begins by saying that he is grieved and heavy of heart with continual sorrow for his natural brethren, who are those according to the flesh. *Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect.* The prophet Hosea said that all Israel shall be saved. But Paul was grieved because he knew that if his natural brethren did not accept Jesus, they would be lost.

The Seed of Isaac

So, it is not enough just being the seed of Abraham, but it must be the seed of Isaac. Again, this is not just making the distinction between two natural seeds--the Ishmaelites and the Isaacites. This is absolutely beyond the realm of the flesh. It is not the "*children of the flesh, but the children of the promise are counted for the seed*" (Rom. 9:8).

"*Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise*" (Gal. 4:28). This is being addressed to the spiritual seed, the church. It is not being spoken to the natural seed of Isaac, but to the children of promise. We are heirs according to the promise (Gal. 3:29).

Abraham had two sons (Gal. 4:22-31). Sure, he had Ishmael and Isaac, one by the bondwoman and the other by the freewoman. Isaac and Ishmael are used as an allegory to speak of a deeper truth. An allegory is defined as "the representation of spiritual, moral, or other abstract meanings through the actions of fictional characters that serve as symbols" (Random House Dictionary). Abraham's two sons represent more than two natural fleshly seed, Ishmael and Isaac. The first answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But the second answers to Jerusalem which is above and is free, and is the mother of us all. The second is the spiritual Jerusalem. "*But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven*" (Heb. 12:22).

Heirs According to the Promise

"*And if ye be Christ then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise*" (Gal. 3:29). We answer to Jerusalem above, which represents the New Covenant. Paul said this is an allegory, for these represent the two covenants. The contrast between Ishmael and Isaac was an allegory, because it speaks of a deeper truth of contrasting the natural Jews and the spiritual Jews. One is loyal to the law, and the other is faithful to the spirit by faith.

One New Man

Those who were once afar from the promises of God are now made nigh by the blood of Jesus. Jesus is our peace, and He has made one those who were outsiders and those who were insiders (Eph. 2:13-14). There is one man; one church; one body; one chosen; one elect; one holy people of God; one seed of God, and that seed is Christ. It is those in Christ. That which was twain or two is now made one in Christ Jesus.

God Is Looking for One Holy Nation

The important thing to remember is that God from the beginning has had a purpose in mind and that is to have a people who would be the expression of His glory in the earth. He is looking for His one holy nation who will bring restoration to a world which has fallen under the dominion of Satan.

LESSON FOUR

Many Sons unto Glory

The Unity of the Head and the Body

In Hebrews 2, the writer states that God created man a little lower than the angels (Elohim, which actually means God), and “*hast put all things in subjection under his feet.*” We do not yet see all things put under him, but “*we see Jesus...*” (Heb. 2:6-9). So God has put all things under Jesus' feet, and gave him (Jesus) to be the “*head over all things to the church...*” (Eph. 1:22).

The Earnest Expectation of the Creation

For whom is the creation waiting? “*For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God*” (Rom. 8:19). These sons of God are the extension of the hand of God, and they will not be perceived as the church often is--wandering in darkness with no purpose. They will be a people who has discovered its purpose, and this people will have learned it is the light of the world. The whole creation is waiting for a revealing of these sons of God. Praise God!

Many Sons Unto Glory

“*For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing MANY SONS UNTO GLORY, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings*” (Heb. 2:10). Jesus' purpose of coming to earth was not to just be one manifestation of God, but that He might bring many sons unto glory. He suffered in order for that to be an accomplished fact. Jesus is the captain. His bringing forth of many sons makes his salvation perfect, or complete (Heb. 2:10). By making his salvation complete, his sufferings were not in vain.

He That Hath This Hope

Every man who has this hope purified himself. What hope? The hope of being just like Jesus! How does that purify us? “*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*” (II Cor. 3:18). Beholding the glory of God, and the hope of becoming as He is, is the hope that purifies us.

The Seed of the Woman

The first promise of redemption is found in Genesis 3:15. God speaking to the serpent said, “*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*” Jesus was the seed of the woman who not only bruised Satan's head, but put him and every work of evil under his feet.

Again, Ephesians 1:22 states, “*And hath put all things under his feet.*” All things have

been put under our feet. We are the seed of Christ, and it is the destiny of the Body of Christ to put Satan under our feet. *“And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly”* (Rom. 16:20).

Jesus has already gained the victory. He has already destroyed the works of the devil. Jesus has already conquered death. What is left, then, except for the Body of Christ to put Satan under its feet, to gain the victory, and to conquer death?

LESSON FIVE

Uncovering Satan's Seat of Authority

Satan's Primary Purpose Is Not to Get People into Hell

Satan's *primary* purpose is not to get as many people into hell as possible. Otherwise, why does he seek to kill Christians when he knows that is their sure ticket to heaven? Why does he want to get rid of Christians? There is something else that concerns Satan, and that is God's purpose of bringing forth His glory in the midst of His people. Satan does not want this to happen; therefore, he will seek to keep it from happening.

Why Would Satan Want to Kill Anyone?

Why does Satan seek to kill Christians even though he knows that by doing so they are straight on their way into the presence of God? He has to know he can't stand a chance of getting them after they are in the presence of God, for then they will be forever secure. I have dealt with people in my ministry who were in and out, up and down. They would get saved every time the evangelist came to town for revival. Some of you may not believe in backsliding, but I'll tell you a lot of Pentecostals do! They have so much faith in it, that they practice it quite frequently.

Satan's Purpose Is to Control the Earth through Silencing Man

What is Satan's purpose? It is to control the systems of this world, and thereby its inhabitants. Anything that can be done to incapacitate you and to remove you in order to keep you from functioning for the kingdom of God is serving Satan's purpose, and there are many means to make us ineffective.

The Dead Have No Influence in the Earth

Satan doesn't like people who are alive! The dead do nothing. They say nothing, and they have no influence or power in this earth. Therefore, it is time for the children of the kingdom to rebuke death, be filled with life, and go forth in the name of the Lord Jesus preaching the everlasting gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must declare the establishment of the kingdom of God, which is a kingdom of light and life and leads to the demise of the kingdom of darkness. A sure way toward a powerless life is for that life to be contaminated with sin, which is the reason Satan hates holiness. He can duplicate (or should I say counterfeit) certain demonstrations of power and gifts, but he cannot manifest the true holiness of God. Holiness is the essence of God Himself and cannot be duplicated--it can only come from God Himself.

Satan Would Love to Remove the Saints

I would like to share another thought-provoking idea which will be elaborated on later.

One of the biggest lies which has ever been conceived by Satan--and he's going to see that it is overemphasized more than ever before--is that the purpose of the Lord is to take us out of this world and leave the earth to the antichrist. I heard the Spirit of God speak to me in one of the most explicit ways ever that Satan would like nothing any better than to get all the saints of God out of the earth, even through a so-called "rapture." Though this will not happen, the propagation of such teaching has caused the saints of God to have a mentality of just hanging on a little longer. "We won't be here long, so there's no need to do anything." As a result, little is done to destroy the works of Satan and to establish the kingdom of God in this earth.

LESSON SIX

Exposing a Great Deception of Escapism

A Well-Devised Plot

It is necessary to understand the purposes of God in the earth in order to understand the “rapture” and the coming of the Lord. We sought to establish this understanding in previous chapters. The teaching of the “rapture” in this chapter is not according to traditional teaching of the church world. However, anything which is not in agreement with the Word of God must be rejected. We should not follow nor adhere to any teaching which is contrary to the Word of God.

When we deal with the subject of the “rapture”, I will be attempting to expose what I believe to be a great deception brought into Christian teaching. It is a well-devised plot of Satan to distract the Body of Christ from the purposes of God in the earth. One of the primary purposes of God in the earth is found in Ephesians 3:10. *“To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.”*

If this distraction is a device of Satan, then it becomes necessary for us to look further into this “rapture” teaching. There are three questions which are often asked: (a) What takes place at the rapture? (b) How soon will it take place? and (c) Who will be a part of it? We will be dealing with these questions in two basic categories: (a) What is the rapture? and (b) When is the rapture?

A Look at the Traditional “Rapture” View

First, it would be helpful to look at the traditional teaching of the “rapture.” It basically is the idea of a “catching away.” The Bible says nothing about a “catching away”, but it says something about a “catching up.” Nothing is said about the Lord coming back “after” a glorious church, but He is coming “to present unto himself a glorious church.” There is a difference.

A Brief History of the Pre-Trib Rapture

Let's take a look at a brief history of the pre-tribulational rapture theory. First of all, the early church never taught it. The apostles did not teach it. In 1830, a young lady by the name of Margaret McDonald had a vision. In this vision, she saw the church leaving the earth before the tribulation. This gave rise to the two-phase returning of the Lord--first, for His saints and second, with his saints to rule on the earth. Dreams and visions are legitimate, but no doctrine should be built upon them. Doctrine can only be built upon the Word of God.

Based on McDonald's vision, the teaching of the pre-trib rapture caught the attention of many. This vision was excitedly embraced by an excommunicated minister of the Church of Scotland, Edward Irving. Irving began to teach this two-phase rapture throughout all England and Scotland. In one of these prophetic meetings, John Darby of the Plymouth Brethren received this teaching, and from him, C. I. Scofield, author of the Scofield Bible, popularized this

teaching through his footnotes and comments. More people base their belief of the coming of the Lord on Scofield's notes than on the Word of God itself. His teaching has become the basis of the vast majority of the distorted, traditional teaching of the rapture unto this day.

Clarence Larkin was influenced by Scofield, and he devised elaborate charts to reinforce this teaching. Larkin was not a spirit-filled believer, and yet most of the Pentecostals at the turn of the century still adhered to his charts and teachings. These teachings have been carried over into our present-day Charismatic and Pentecostal teachings.

Removal From the Earth?

What about the removal from the earth? The Scripture declares that the righteous shall never be removed. Psalms 37:9 says that evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait upon the Lord shall inherit the earth. Psalms 37:11 says, "*The righteous shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*" Psalms 37:29 declares, "*The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell therein forever.*"

Now, here's a good one. Proverbs 2:21-22 says, "*The upright shall dwell in the land and the perfect shall remain in it, but the wicked shall be rooted out.*" I like this one: "*The righteous shall never be removed, but the wicked shall not inherit the earth*" (Proverbs 10:30). How much plainer can that be?

A Gathering Together Unto the Lord

If we are not taken out of the world, then what does take place? Three things take place, all after tribulation. The first thing is our gathering together unto the Lord. The context of I Thessalonians 4 is to give hope to those who have lost their loved ones. There is hope if they have died in Jesus, for these are the ones God brings with Him when we shall all be reunited together.

The Resurrection of the Sainted Dead

The second thing associated with the coming of the Lord is the resurrection of the dead. Thank God for the resurrection! The resurrection is our hope for those who have already died. The Word of God teaches two resurrections--that of the just and of the unjust. Daniel says some will be raised unto everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt (Dan. 12:2). Jesus spoke about the resurrection unto life and the resurrection unto damnation (John 5:29). John in Revelation 20 said the two resurrections are separated by 1000 years.

Translation of the Living Saints

A third thing that takes place at the coming of the Lord is the translation of the living saints. This is recorded in I Corinthians 15:51-52. Notice all these Scriptures to which we are referring are the same ones used by pre-tribulational rapture people. Paul says, "*This I say brethren, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.*"

LESSON SEVEN

Kept From the Hour of Temptation

Take Them Not Out of the World

The Lord will provide protection for those who have kept the word of his patience. He will keep them from the hour of temptation. The phrase “to be kept from” in Revelation 3:10 is identical to the what Jesus prayed, “Take them not out of the world, but *keep them from* the evil thereof. That denotes a preservation right in the “midst of.” At this point, it looks like protection is by preservation instead of by removal

Protection from Egyptian Plagues

All Scripture is given by inspiration. All Scripture is profitable. Everything that has been written is for our benefit. Old Testament Scriptures are for our examples. In the Old Testament, we find one of the most profound examples of God's exemption for his chosen. During the outpouring of the plagues of Egypt (typical of the wrath of God) provision was made right in the midst of Egyptian bondage. This was under the old covenant, and we now have a better covenant. If that provision was made under this old agreement, just think of the provisions of the new covenant!

The Seal of God

In Revelation 7:2-3, John said he saw an angel with the seal of the living God who was given the commandment to not hurt the earth or any living thing until the servants of the Lord were sealed. If this is speaking of the natural Jews as many have indicated, and if the Lord can protect them, why can He not protect the church-age saints by sealing them in their forehead? Every point of view, whether pretrib, midtrib, or posttrib, generally agree there will be tribulational saints. If God can keep these tribulational saints regardless of who they are, can He not keep the church?

The Lion's Den

We will begin with Daniel. The lion's den was tribulation! That was an extreme tribulation that many thought would be the end of Daniel. Daniel had made prior preparation for this experience of tribulation. He didn't wait until he got in a situation and then “prayed through.” He had already made a commitment to the Lord to not bow a knee to the decree of human flesh and human will. The decision had already been made. His day of preparation had been settled. When he went into the tribulation of the den of lions, the mouths of the lions were closed. He came forth out of the lion's den victorious and unscathed! He came through his tribulation triumphantly.

The Fiery Furnace

Consider the Three Hebrew Children, Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego. Is there a more beautiful account of deliverance from tribulation in the Word of God? This is not a type or shadow, but a real-to-life deliverance, which of course is typical of deliverance from the tribulation of Satan. This is not a fairy tale; it actually took place. Some have looked upon this story as one of fantasy. Others have declared it to be so far back in history that it is irrelevant to us today. The same faith and determination they had to demonstrate in order to come forth victorious out of the fire is the same that will bring us through *anything* we will ever be faced with, but it will take a determination.

The Secret Place of the Most High

The message of the church is one of overcoming and victory--total victory--and there is a secret place of the Lord. *“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust; his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday”* (Ps. 91:1-6).

LESSON EIGHT

The Glory of the Lord Is Risen

A Light in a Dark Hour

One of the major purposes of God in the earth is for the Body of Christ to shine forth as lights in a dark world. If the church is to be a witness or a light during dark hours upon the earth, then it is evident there will be no removal of its presence or influence before these dark days.

The Earth Filled with His Glory

The Word says in Habakkuk 2:14, “*For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*” The sea or ocean represents a great expanse. As far as you can see, you can't begin to see the end of it. That's symbolic of the glory of God! That's awesome! That speaks of the universality of the greatness and vastness of God. “*As surely as I live, saith the Lord, the earth shall be filled with my glory*” (Num. 14:21). Isaiah said, “*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together*” (Is. 40:5).

Glory in His House

The glory of God will be revealed in the house of God. The Word of God says that the glory of the Lord so filled the house that Solomon built that the ministers could not minister for the power of the glory of His presence. That temple was little more than a type or shadow, but there is a greater tabernacle. There is a house of God which is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone, and that house is we!

Glory in His Saints

The Word says WE are the habitation and the house of God! (Heb. 3:6; I Cor. 6:19; Eph. 2:19-22). That house will be filled with the glory of the Lord. People will be able to see the manifestation of God in the saints of God. The Lord will come to be glorified in His saints! The next appearing of the Lord will be the appearing in His saints. II Thessalonians 1:10 declares, “*...when the Lord shall be revealed from heaven with his angels...when he shall come to be revealed in His saints...*”

The Whole Creation Cries Out

There is a groaning, crying, and travailing in pain until of the whole creation of God until this present time, waiting for a manifestation of deliverance. “*For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body*” (Rom 8:22-23). Through whom shall this be? “*For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God*” (Rom. 8:19). The answer is the many-membered Son of God!

Light Expels Darkness

Why must there be a manifestation of the antichrist before the coming of the Lord? That's very simple. Second Thessalonians 2:8 says the Wicked shall be revealed so that the Lord may destroy him with the brightness of his coming. Darkness must come first in order that the light might destroy it. Evil must be manifest so that the light of His glory might be revealed for its destruction.

When Zion Is Built Up

When will the Lord appear? "*When the Lord shall build up Zion, then shall HE appear in His glory?*" (Ps. 102:16). He didn't say that he would appear over in gloryland, but He will appear in His glory, or He would reveal His glory. Where is Zion? You are Zion! Zion is the holy city of God. We have come unto Mt. Zion, the holy city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem (Heb. 12:22). The Zion of God is the church, the Body of Christ. When the Body of Christ is built up, edified, and come into its maturity, then the Lord shall appear in His glory.

The Greater Glory

The Bible speaks of the greater glory. It speaks of the glory of the latter house (Hag. 2:9). The glory of this latter house will far supersede the glory of the former. According to II Corinthians 3, we are experiencing a greater manifestation of glory through the ministry of spirit and life. There was a glory associated with the law. There was a glory associated with the ministration of death and condemnation. In fact, there was such a manifestation of the glory of God upon the face of Moses that he had to veil his face, but now we are able to experience an even greater glory.

LESSON NINE

Inheriting the Eternal Kingdom

Flesh and Blood Shall Not Inherit The Eternal Kingdom

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (eternal kingdom); neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. 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'” (I Cor. 15:50-54). Here the prerequisite for entrance into the eternal kingdom is a change into incorruptibility and immortality since flesh and blood can not enter this kingdom. Only those who have been changed can inherit this kingdom. That is the key to this chapter; the change from mortality to immortality--from corruptibility to incorruptibility--from death unto life.

An Everlasting Kingdom

Keep in mind, that of which we are now speaking is the eternal kingdom. Let's see what Daniel says about this eternal, everlasting kingdom of God. *“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 forever.” (Dan. 2:44).* You must also keep in mind that God is laying the foundation for this kingdom now, but there is yet to be a full revealing of this kingdom which shall rule all the nations. Though we yet must inherit this kingdom, we now have the earnest of our inheritance, which is the Holy Spirit (II Cor. 5:5; Eph. 1:14).

The Last Enemy to Be Defeated Is Death

When we speak of the purposes of God in this earth, we are speaking of an overcoming victorious Body. We are talking about defeating every work of the devil, which includes the last enemy of the human race--physical death (I Cor. 15:26). Before we enter this eternal, visible kingdom of God upon earth which shall reign forever and ever, there must be a change. Physical death must give way to immortality.

A Change Is Coming

There must be a change. Creation is crying out for it. *“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).* Unless there is a change, I don't want to live for 1000 years! I don't even desire to live 150 years, or even 100 years if all I

have to look forward to is suffering and corruptibility of the flesh. The promise of longevity of life is not just quantitative but qualitative. What good is it to live a long time without a quality of life? Existing is not enough. Thank God, there is a change coming!

Three Principles in Overcoming Death

There are three basic Old Testament principles which could give us some clues as to how to discover the secret of overcoming the works of the enemy. All Scriptures are given by inspiration and are given for our examples. Egypt was a type of death and corruptibility. It represented oppression and enslavement to the devil. There was death on every hand; Egypt stood for death. The people of God were in bondage to this corruptibility, but God through the mighty hand of the prophet Moses brought the people out of enslavement. They were lead through the wilderness experience into the rest prepared for them. That is of what Hebrews 4 is referring. "There is a rest remaining for the people of God."

The First Step Is the Actual Deliverance

The first principle is that of deliverance. Coming out of the bondage of the death realm into life is much like the deliverance of the children of Israel out of Egypt. First, there was the slaying of the passover lamb. Thank God for the passover lamb. It took faith to believe that God had spoken to Moses that each head of every household was to kill a lamb and apply the blood to the doorpost. Who would have ever believed that just taking the blood of a lamb and sticking it on the doorpost would save those households?" Brother, that took faith! It doesn't take any less faith today. Faith brings the miraculous deliverance of God through the blood of Jesus.

The Second Step Is Entering

The second principle involves entering. After you are delivered from something, you must then enter something else. The Israelites could have delivered from Egypt and then have refused to enter Canaan. In fact, this is precisely what happened for the older generation (other than Joshua and Caleb).

Canaan was a type of entering into life. It was a type of entering into the rest of God where we cease from our labors. It is no longer us, but it is the manifestation of the life of Christ within us. Unbelief kept the people of the Lord out of Canaan then, and it will keep us out of our inheritance of life today. They then did not mix the preaching of the word with faith. They died or perished in the wilderness. Therefore, we must mix the preaching of the Word of life with faith.

The Third Step Involves Overcoming All Obstacles

The third principle involves overcoming all obstacles between steps one and two. Between Egypt and Canaan was a great obstacle known as the Red Sea. That was a monumental obstacle. The Israelites were brought out of Egypt and were faced with the biggest hindrance to date. Fear gripped their hearts. "We would to God we had stayed in Egypt," the people cried. "Here we are faced with the Red Sea with no apparent way of escape, and Pharaoh is coming up from behind us quickly."

We Are the Firstfruits

The Bible says every enemy will be destroyed (I Cor. 15:26). This will not be *universally* accomplished until the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ upon this earth. There will continue to be death during this period of time (Is. 65:20), but death has already been conquered by the Body of Christ before the reign of the kingdom of God upon the earth. Satan, who has been incarcerated will be loosed for a short season at the end of this period, but it will not last very long (Rev. 20:7). That demonstration of rebellion will be short-lived. This will represent the final battle with Satan, and afterwards, every enemy will have been conquered, including physical death. Then is when the kingdom will be offered back to the Father (I Cor. 15:24).

The time will come that we will say that death is not only defeated for the Body of Christ but for all of mankind. Death will have to be defeated in the Body of Christ first. These represent the firstfruits (Rom. 8:23; 1 Cor. 20:20, 23; Rev. 14:4). The Body of Christ must follow in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus Christ (I Pet. 2:21). It makes no difference what past history says, because regardless of what every other generation has done, there will have to be a generation who will be alive and remain to the coming of the Lord. For them, death will have already been conquered before it is conquered for all mankind.

The Dead Praise Not the Lord

Isaiah 38:18 states, "*For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee.*" Psalm 115:17, "*The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.*" Again, in Psalms 6:5, "*For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?*" You can't glorify God in death; you glorify him in life and the power of the resurrection. The dead have no influence in this earth. They can not accomplish the purposes of God in the earth. Therefore, if we are to have any influence in this earth, we must possess life.

The Universal Rule of the Kingdom of God

There will come a time when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of the Lord and his Christ (Rev. 11:15). The rule of God will be universal; His dominion will be all encompassing. There will be a day when the reign of peace shall be supreme in this earth. Life will be prolonged. This is in reference to what we call the eternal kingdom of God, in contrast to the present-day reality of the kingdom of God.

In the Days of These Kings

Daniel 2:44 speaks of the establishment of this eternal kingdom. Daniel has already given the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The dream contained a great image representing the four major world empires. These kingdoms included the Babylonian empire, the Medes and Persian empire, the Grecian empire, and finally the Roman empire. In verse 44, Daniel said, "*In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom...*" Take note-- in the days of these kings.

Subduing the Earth

We were created in the likeness and image of God. Adam was a very intelligent being. The commandment of God to him was to take dominion over the earth. He was to multiply and to replenish the earth; but, equally important, he was to subdue the earth. God is bringing us back to this state of restored power and dominion over the earth.

Reigning by the Lord and His Christ

Concerning the double reference of the Lord and his Christ, of whom is the Word of God speaking? First, the Scriptures say that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ. Jesus is Lord and Christ, but I believe the double reference of the Lord and his Christ is Jesus and his Body. The Word says, "*As the body has many members so is Christ*" (I Cor. 12:12). Christ is a many-membered body. As the physical natural body has many members, so is the Christ Body. The word Christ simply means the anointed one, and the Body of Christ is certainly anointed.

The Two Witnesses

The Scriptures speak of the two witnesses in Revelation 11. Some say these are two literal men. Others say this is the witness of the Word and the Spirit. Still others opine this refers to the witness of the Jews and the Gentiles, or the witness of natural Israel and the Church. John said, "*These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth*" (Rev. 11:4).

Reigning as Kings and Priests

The declaration at the sounding of the seventh angel is that the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of the Lord and His anointed one. He (the perfected man) shall rule forever and ever. To further verify this, look now in Revelation 5:10: "*And hast made us unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth.*"

LESSON TEN

Life in the Eternal Kingdom

Life Conditions in the Kingdom

Universal Peace

What are the conditions of this period of time? First, there will be universal peace. Isaiah 2:4 says, “*Neither shall they learn war any more.*” Isaiah 11:5-9 declares further, “*Neither shall they hurt nor destroy in my holy mountain saith the Lord.*” This is the time when the ferociousness and fierceness of the beast nature will be brought under subjection to the dominion of the kingdom of God. This will be the time when the lion will eat straw like an ox, and a little child shall lie down beside a lion.

Freedom from the Curse

The eternal kingdom of God represents a freedom from the curse. Psalms 67:6 declares, “*Then shall the earth yield her increase.*” Isaiah 55:13 says, “*Instead of the thorn the fir tree shall come forth.*” In Isaiah 35:1, “*The desert shall blossom as the rose.*” Again, Isaiah 51:3, “*The wilderness shall be as Eden and the desert like the garden of God.*”

Prolongation of Human Life

In the eternal kingdom of God, there shall be a prolongation of human life. For those who pass on into this period of time without being a part of the firstfruit company (who have become immortal and incorruptible) physical death will still be a possibility. There will be sinners who will live a hundred years and be accursed. A person who lives 100 years will still be considered a child. There will be no more an infant of days nor an old man who has not filled his days (Is. 65:20).

They Knew Not Their Day of Visitation

As it was in the days of the Lord Jesus in His earthly ministry, many know not the day of their visitation (Lu. 19:44). “*f thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes*” (Lu. 19:42).

If the Windows of Heaven Were Opened

Some will declare that if the windows of heaven were opened (and they are), how can this thing be? As the prophet declared “it will happen but you'll only see it with your eyes” so shall it be now (II Kings 7:2). Many will simply stand afar off to see what will come of it (II Kings 2:7). God is calling a people who will commit themselves to the purposes of God. The blessings of His outpouring will come to those who anticipate them.

LESSON ELEVEN

The Coming Great Outpouring

The Latter Day Revival to Be Greater

The latter day revival through the latter day church would have to be characterized by the word “greater.” The glory of the latter house shall be *greater* than the glory of the former house (Hag. 2:9). Jesus said *greater* works than these shall you do (John 14:12). I have to believe that this latter day outpouring will represent *greater* miracles than we have experienced. The healing revivals of the past would have to be only a foretaste of that which is to come.

Latter Rain to Bring Maturity of Harvest

The latter rain outpouring of God's Spirit will bring the seed of God to maturity. Then will come the greatest harvest the world has ever known. This will be the harvest of the end days. Hosea stated that Jesus will come as the former and latter rain. It will be the manifestation of Jesus all the way. He is the focus of every revival and every move of God.

Fulfillment of the Feasts of Israel

One of the greatest revelations from the Word of God concerning this coming great outpouring can be found in the spiritual fulfillment of the three major feasts of Israel. The feasts are commonly referred to as the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles.

These natural feasts represent a pattern or figure of that which is in the heavenlies. The natural represents the visible representation of that which is spiritual. We will see beyond a shadow of doubt the first two of these feasts have been fulfilled spiritually in the experiences of salvation through the blood of Jesus and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The fulfillment of these natural feasts gives us a little bit of an idea what can be expected in the next great move of God, especially by looking at the spiritual fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

LESSON TWELVE

The Spirit of Revelation

- I. REVELATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND UNDERSTANDING.
 - A. Revelation is a function of the spirit.
 - B. Two kinds of knowledge (natural and spiritual).
 - C. Understanding is a function of the mind (soul).
 1. Be transformed by renewing of the mind.
 2. Let this same mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus.
 - D. Why it is difficult to understand the spiritual things of God.
 1. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
 - a. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.
 - b. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?
 - c. Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
 - d. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- II. WE UNDERSTAND SPIRITUAL THINGS BY THE THINGS SEEN.
 - A. II Cor. 4:18 - *"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

- B. Rom. 1:20 - *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead;..."*
- C. Our understanding and experiences of the natural comes first.
 - 1. *"Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual."* (I Cor. 15:46).
 - 2. We understand the function of the spiritual body through the analogy of the natural body.
 - 3. We understand the relationship of Jesus to His church through analogy of relationship of husband and his wife.
 - 4. Understanding of spiritual, mystical, universal church (which is Christ's Body in the earth) through the function of the local church.
 - 5. We understand God's relationship with spiritual Israel by studying His relationship with natural Israel.
 - 6. Understand the spiritual birth through understanding natural birth.
 - a. Behavior of babes; children.
 - b. Growing up into maturity.

III. ACTUALLY, EVERYTHING BEGINS WITH THE SPIRITUAL.

- A. Everything begins with God.
 - 1. God gives us the natural so we can understand the spiritual.
 - 2. When we understand the spiritual through natural analogies, we can walk in the reality of God.
- B. God called Moses up into the top of the mount to show him a pattern. He said, "Here's the real thing, now go back to earth and make a replica."
 - 1. The replica is not the real thing.
 - 2. The things in the natural were shadows--a shadow is not the real thing, but only a reflection.

3. Therefore, the natural things are only reflections of the real things, which are spiritual, or invisible.
- C. So we say that the real things are only the things we see, feel, hear, and touch?
1. Just the facts, ma'am, just the facts!
 2. Can you trust these things?
 3. What you see and hear can be deceptive.
 4. Are we moved by what we see?
 5. Do we require seeing and touching before we believe?
 6. What is our hope, trust, value, security in?

IV. EVERYTHING IN THIS LIFE SHOULD BE A REFLECTION OF GOD.

- A. As we have borne the image of the earthy, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly.
- B. God is a God of order and pattern--He is not haphazard.
1. Order in nature should be a reflection of God.
 2. Disorder in nature the result of disharmony with the God of nature.
 3. When peace of God prevails, all his creation will be at peace.
 - a. The lion and the bear will lie beside a child.
 - b. The lion and the ox will eat straw together (2 miracles!
 - (1) That the lion and the ox can co-exist
 - (2) That the lion is eating straw instead of the ox!
- C. *"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."* (Ro. 8:22).
1. v. 19 - Earnest expectation for the manifestation of the sons of God.
 2. Creature made subject to vanity, not willingly...(v. 20).
 3. Creature shall be delivered from bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God (v. 21).