

JUDGMENT *in the* HOUSE OF GOD



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CHAPTER 1

JUDGMENT IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

1 PETER 4:17

17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

The Word of the Lord came unto me on the night of August 20, 2012, saying: *Write, the world is expecting some kind of catastrophe by the end of the year 2012 fueled by the movie "2012" and by many soothsayers. Indeed it will be catastrophic in many places of the world but it will not be the end of the world as the movie depicts. But for the Church and the believers there will be a judgment, a cleansing, in the house of God. Blow this from the mountaintop.*

A catastrophe, the Collins Dictionary defines, is an unexpected event that causes great suffering or damage. An earthquake, for example, is an unexpected event that causes great suffering and damage to people and property. Likewise, the "catastrophic" shaking resulting from the judgment of God in His house will bring believers much pain, suffering, and loss, both spiritual and natural.

First Judgment in Heaven

The very first judgment that was executed in God's house took place in heaven.

EZEKIEL 28:12-18

12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.

14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

16 "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.

17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.

18 "You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured

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you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you.

Every student of the Bible knows only too well that this passage of scripture refers to none other than Lucifer himself, who was the highest ranking Archangel in heaven. His attempt to stage a coup to take over the throne of the Almighty God failed and he was cast from heaven (Cp. Isa 14:12-14).

Lucifer was handed this judgment by the Lord Yeshua Himself. This word of judgment came forth like a sword from Lord Yeshua's mouth and the devil was thrust out of heaven. Later, in response to His gloating disciples over demons being brought into submission by His name, the Lord Yeshua was to say: *I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven* (Lk 10:18).

First Judgment on Earth

The very first judgment that was executed in God's house on earth took place at the Garden of Eden.

GENESIS 3:1-19

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

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4 *Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.*

5 *For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

6 *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

7 *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.*

8 *And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*

9 *Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"*

10 *So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."*

11 *And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"*

12 *Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."*

13 *And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

14 *So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.*

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15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

The Garden of Eden was God's house on earth before there ever was a temple. It was in this garden that God walked and fellowshiped with Adam and Eve. The Garden of Eden was the temple—the very house—of God. When Adam and Even sinned, they were cast out of Eden, and judgment started in God's house on earth as it had earlier begun in heaven.

Since then, judgment has been flowing through the entire course of history everywhere on earth, just like the four headwaters flowing from the river that watered every part of Eden before the entrance of sin.

CHAPTER 2

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

Let us look at a few other biblical examples of judgment executed in the house of God.

EZEKIEL 9:1-6

1 Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, "Let those who have charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand."

2 And suddenly six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen and had a writer's inkhorn at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar.

3 Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side;

4 and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."

5 To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity."

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6 Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.” So they began with the elders who were before the temple.

Here we read about the Lord God giving orders to Angels to go and slay all those who had defiled the temple of God. We also read in Ezekiel 8:5-18 how the temple was defiled with all kinds of “great abominations.”

EZEKIEL 8:5-18

5 Then He said to me, “Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north.” So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, north of the altar gate, was this image of jealousy in the entrance.

6 Furthermore He said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations.”

7 So He brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, there was a hole in the wall.

8 Then He said to me, “Son of man, dig into the wall”; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door.

9 And He said to me, “Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there.”

10 So I went in and saw, and there – every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls.

11 And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up.

Biblical Examples

12 Then He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, 'The Lord does not see us, the Lord has forsaken the land.'"

13 And He said to me, "Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing."

14 So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the Lord's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.

15 Then He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these."

16 So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house; and there, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east.

17 And He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose.

18 Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them."

The abominations we read in these scriptures did not take place in some heathen nation but in the temple—the very house—of God in Israel. If the Lord would not allow His temple of wood, stone, and metal to be polluted, He surely would not allow His temple of flesh and blood—His chosen sanctified people in whom He will inhabit by His

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Spirit—to be defiled: *If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are* (1 Cor 3:17).

Does this mean there will be judgment of death in the house of God? Yes. Let's return to the Prophet Ezekiel.

EZEKIEL 11:1-13

1 Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the East Gate of the Lord's house, which faces eastward; and there at the door of the gate were twenty-five men, among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azzur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.

2 And He said to me: "Son of man, these are the men who devise iniquity and give wicked counsel in this city, 3 who say, 'The time is not near to build houses; this city is the caldron, and we are the meat.'

4 Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man!"

5 Then the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and said to me, "Speak! 'Thus says the Lord: "Thus you have said, O house of Israel; for I know the things that come into your mind.

6 You have multiplied your slain in this city, and you have filled its streets with the slain."

7 Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Your slain whom you have laid in its midst, they are the meat, and this city is the caldron; but I shall bring you out of the midst of it.

8 You have feared the sword; and I will bring a sword upon you," says the Lord God.

9 "And I will bring you out of its midst, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and execute judgments on you.

Biblical Examples

10 You shall fall by the sword. I will judge you at the border of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.

11 This city shall not be your caldron, nor shall you be the meat in its midst. I will judge you at the border of Israel.

12 And you shall know that I am the Lord; for you have not walked in My statutes nor executed My judgments, but have done according to the customs of the Gentiles which are all around you.””

13 Now it happened, while I was prophesying, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then I fell on my face and cried with a loud voice, and said, “Ah, Lord God! Will You make a complete end of the remnant of Israel?”

The Prophet Ezekiel was brought into the Lord's house in the Spirit, not in the flesh. The Lord commanded his prophet to speak judgment against the people who were doing wickedness in God's house. And even while prophetic word was being delivered, Pelatiah the son of Benaiah was struck dead by that same word of judgment from God.

The judgment of death in the house of God carried through into the New Testament, and we are given a shocking account of this in the Early Church in the Acts of the Apostles.

ACTS 5:1-11

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.

2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much."

9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.

11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

What, Ananias and his wife Sapphira falling dead at a mere word from the Apostle Peter? Could it be that the same Angel who struck King Herod dead when he reveled in the glory reserved for God (Acts 12:20-23) also stood beside the Apostle Peter, a servant acquainted with the constant companionship of angels during his ministry (Acts 12:5-10)?

Biblical Examples

Harsh as they seem to be, the ways of God's judgments are righteous because the throne of God is established on the foundations of righteousness and justice (Ps 9:4; 89:14). Oftentimes it is because of God's great kindness and mercy that He executes judgment in His house, for by such judgments He is able to save our souls.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-5

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles – that a man has his father's wife!

2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

We must be careful how we conduct ourselves in the house of God. If we truly believe as we claim that God's presence is in our midst or in our church, can we be careless or non-reverential in our thoughts, attitudes, and ways? The more we should be careful—knowing that the eyes of the Lord are everywhere (2 Chr 16:9; Ps 11:4). We must learn to walk humbly and meekfully in the house of God (Ps 101:2).

Exegesis of 1 Peter 4:17

Let us analyze the following scripture by studying the key Greek words.

1 PETER 4:17

17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

- i. *kairos*, translated “time,” means *occasion, a set or proper time, a season.*
- ii. *archomai*, translated “has come,” means *commence (in chronological time).*
- iii. *krima*, translated “judgment,” means *a decision (the function or effect for or against [“crime”]).*

These three key Greek terms tell how God has set in motion at His set time the decisive act of judgment against “crimes” done in His House.

CHAPTER 3

WHY JUDGMENT IN GOD'S HOUSE?

HAGGAI 2:6-9

6 "For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land;

7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the Lord of hosts.

8 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the Lord of hosts.

9 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the Lord of hosts."

The Lord God is going to pour out His latter rain glory upon the Church. The Church is going to walk in a power and glory she has never known since the beginning of time. The Church will work wonders and miracles that not even the angels have seen yet. This is the powers of the age to come (Heb 6:5).

Several years ago I saw a vision that demonstrated the powers of the age to come. In this vision I saw a prophet

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friend and I walking down the corridor of what appeared to be a school building. Strangely all the classes were empty.

As we walked down the corridor we came and stood at the entrance of a certain classroom. In it we saw three teachers—two males and a female—discussing something. The arm and leg of the male teacher who was talking, I noticed, was badly twisted due to some deformity. He suddenly stopped, and turned to look at me. I gazed back at him. Instantly, before all our eyes, his twisted arm and leg were straightened out and healed.

I was excited and told my prophet friend: *Look—this man has been made totally whole.* But the prophet's attention seemed to be on the field outside. He said: *Let's go yonder to the field where all the students are gathered.* We walked to the field. The three teachers followed us.

When we came to the students they were greatly surprised to see him completely whole. The teacher quickly gave testimony of what just happened. I then followed by preaching to the students concerning the mighty power of God. In response, all the students accepted the Lord as their Savior.

About two months after this vision I was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to speak at a convention. I was praying and seeking God concerning what I should preach. Four Angels appeared before me. The chief amongst them said that they are the ones appointed by the Almighty God to oversee the affairs of the State of Louisiana.

Reminding me of the vision I saw two months ago the Angel said: *What you saw in the vision is the display of the powers of the age to come. This is what you shall preach at this*

convention. This is the power that has been kept in reserve by God for these last days.

This power—the demonstrative works of the Seven Spirits of God—has been kept hidden from the beginning of time to be poured upon the Church in these last days for the final harvest before the coming of the Lord Yeshua (Isa 11:2; Joel 2:23).

As bearers of such glory we must be clean, pure, and holy (Isa 52:11). Only then are we made worthy to carry such awesome power in these our earthen vessels.

We are also going to judge the world (1 Cor 6:2). If we ourselves are guilty of “crimes” how can we be worthy to judge others? We must be spotless and free from condemnation or accusation.

Strange Fire

LEVITICUS 10:1-7

1 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.

2 So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

3 And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’” So Aaron held his peace.

4 Then Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, “Come

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near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp.

5 So they went near and carried them by their tunics out of the camp, as Moses had said.

The offering of strange fire is doing the things that God did not apportion for us to do. Let us look at two different translations of the Bible. They will shed more light for our understanding of Leviticus 10:1.

Complete Jewish Bible:

But Nadav and Avihu, sons of Aharon, each took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and offered unauthorized fire before Adonai, **something he had not ordered them to do.**

New Living Translation:

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu put coals of fire in their incense burners and sprinkled incense over them. In this way, **they disobeyed the Lord** by burning before him the **wrong kind of fire, different than he had commanded.**

Aaron the High Priest, not his sons, was the one called by God to perform this holy task—the burning of incense (Ex 30:8). Nadab and Abihu intruded into this sacred space without the authorization to do so. We must be careful to do only what we were called to do. We must be careful about where and who we are in the *rank and file* in the body of Christ. We must know our place. We must not be presumptive and step beyond our place.

Fruit

MATTHEW 3:8-10

*8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,
9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have
Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is
able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.
10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees.
Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut
down and thrown into the fire.*

Chastisements and other forms of discipline are released by God into our lives so that we can bring forth more fruits. The pruning knife of God brings fruits of value and goodness from our innermost being that will remain throughout eternity.

Such fruits, which bring glory to God, will also feed others, so they can become more like Christ. Please observe carefully what the Lord Yeshua said concerning the eating of His flesh.

JOHN 6:51-58

*51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven.
If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the
bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for
the life of the world."*

*52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves,
saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"*

*53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to
you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and
drink His blood, you have no life in you.*

*54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has
eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

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55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.

56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

58 This is the bread which came down from heaven – not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”

Believers who are “pruned” into bearing “self-denying” fruitful lives will allow others to partake and be nourished by the rich fruits that come forth from their lives.

Wheat and Tares

MATTHEW 13:24-30

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’

28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’

29 But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.’

Why Judgment in God's House?

30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.""

Besides the action of cleansing and pruning, the judgment of God will also be separating the wheat from the tares in the house of God. How will it happen, especially given that the wheat and tares in the church body now look so alike?

The fires of judgment, thankfully, will greatly refine and purify the wheat. It will become purer than gold and be gathered into the barn of His most holy purpose and possession. Those who are of the company of the wheat will shine with a brilliant lustre. They will look very different from those of the tares company.

God's Kingdom Is Coming

LUKE 11:2

2 Your kingdom come. Your will be done.

Every Christian young and old knows the Lord's Prayer by heart. The Church has been praying this prayer, knowingly or mechanically, for the last 2000 plus years. Now the set time has come for the Kingdom of God to come down into the Church, albeit not so visibly at first. This momentous coming of the glorious eschatological kingdom that will set in motion the restoration of all things is why the Church must be cleansed of all defilement.

Let us consider an event that took place on Mount Sinai early in the exodus of God's chosen people from Egypt.

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EXODUS 19:10-11

10 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.

11 And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

Before He came down upon Mount Sinai, the Lord God told the Prophet Moses to ask the children of Israel to sanctify themselves for three days. "To sanctify themselves," in concrete terms, is having the people cleanse themselves bodily, wash their clothes, and avoid sexual intimacy even between husbands and wives during this three-day period (Ex 19:14-15).

Afterwards, when the people had done what they were instructed to do, the Lord God came down upon Mount Sinai together with His saints and angels (Deu 33:2; Ps 68:17). Earthly government protocol demands that when a Head of State goes anywhere he is accompanied by his security personnel and staff. Likewise, on Mount Sinai, we witness the coming down in a "small scale" the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God comprises the Lord God, the saints in glory, and the angels.

The event that took place on Mount Sinai is going to be re-enacted in the Church very soon. The invisible Kingdom of God – comprising the glorified saints and angels and the heavenly host of the Lord God – is going to manifest in the Spirit soon in the Church. All Israel saw the glory of God upon the mountain – they saw fire, saw the mountain quake under the weight of the Shekinah *kabod* glory of God, heard the sound of trumpet, and heard the voice of God (Ex 19:18-19). Likewise every true sanctified

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church and its true sanctified believers will experience the glory of God in such or greater manner in their midst.

Later, the Kingdom of God will also be manifested visibly so that the entire world can see (Matt 24:30; 25:31). That visible Kingdom of God will be established on earth under the government of the Lord Yeshua (Isa 9:7). The City of the Great King – the New Jerusalem made without human hands – will descend from heaven to earth as the Tabernacle of God among man, in which the Almighty Himself will dwell as their God (Rev 21:2-3).

CHAPTER 4

DISPENSATION OF THE LAST DAYS

EPHESIAN 1:10

*to that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times
He might gather together in one all things in Christ,
both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in
Him.*

We learn the following from this scripture:

1. Dispensation of the fullness of times – *these present last days*
2. Gather together in one – *working together in unity* (Eph 4:12-16)
3. All things in heaven – *the glorified saints* (Heb 12:1) and the angelic host
4. All things in earth – *the Church seen and also the unseen – the preserved ones*

When the Prophet Moses came before the holy presence of God where also an Angel stood, he was asked to remove his shoes because he was standing on holy ground (Ex 3:2-5). Likewise, consider also what Joshua experienced when an Angel of the Lord – the Captain of the Lord's Host who stood in God's presence – appeared to him. He too

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was asked to remove his shoes (Jos 5:13-15). Among other things, shoes denote *filth*.

It is a necessary fact of life that the soles of the shoes or sandals often get dirty. But not just such things we go everywhere with them in public. Even something as private and hidden as the foreskin of an uncircumcised man, when hygiene is neglected, can become unclean and defiling. Perhaps that is a principal reason why God had all male Israelites undergo circumcision. But of course behind the “cutting away of the flesh” is something deeper: this act signifies a covenant God established with Abraham and his seed, that He would be their God and He would grant His holy, separated people a blessed inheritance (Gen 17:10-14).

When the Angel Gabriel came, all the vigor and strength departed from Daniel’s mortal body and he dropped down as if dead (Dan 10:8-9). That someone like Daniel, who purposed himself not to be defiled by Babylon at great personal costs, could hardly make it through such an encounter must surely teach us an important lesson: For the angels to come to work together with us, the Church must be cleansed from all defilement.

But it is not merely the external fleshy foreskin that can defile the body that is most crucial. It is the heart—out of which defilements are germinated. The Lord Yeshua describes it in this manner:

MATTHEW 15:17-20

17 Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated?

18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

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19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

MARK 7:21-23

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

Believers should therefore circumcise the *foreskin of their hearts* (Deu 10:16; 30:6; Jer 4:4). That is the act of crucifying the deeds of the flesh. That is the rightful duty of every true believer.

COLOSSIANS 3:5-10

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

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When we are willing to consecrate ourselves – willing, that is, to circumcise the foreskin of our hearts – we will be able to receive the Kingdom of God into our midst. It is as if we are being graced by the heavenly coal one of the seraphim in the throne room of heaven used to touch the lips of the Prophet Isaiah, sanctifying him by removing his iniquity and purging his sin (*Cp. Isa 6:5-7*).

Next, let's consider another scripture:

HEBREWS 11:39-40

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Who are “all these”? They are the ones mentioned in Hebrews 11:4-32. These are the *Cloud of Witnesses* (Heb 12:1).

Let's read Matthew 27:50-53.

50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;

53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Why would they – the glorified saints – appear to the people in Jerusalem if not to announce the Messiahship

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of the Lord Yeshua? These saints have been waiting for redemption by the Messiah in Abraham's Bosom for thousands of years. They heard the Gospel of the Kingdom preached to them directly by none other than the Lord Yeshua Himself immediately after His death at the cross (1 Pe 3:18-19). Therefore they were most qualified to testify to the true Messiahship of the Lord Yeshua. Many of the resurrected saints were highly esteemed by orthodox Jews.

Let us look again at Hebrews 11:40: *God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.* This scripture is translated in simpler concrete terms in a popular modern version of the Bible like this: *"God had a better plan for us: that their faith and our faith would come together to make one completed whole, their lives of faith not complete apart from ours"* (THE MESSAGE).

In order for the work and ministry of the "glorified saints" in this world to be fully completed they need to come back and work together with the Church in these last days.

Consider the transfiguration experience of the Lord Yeshua:

LUKE 9:27-36

27 But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God."

28 Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.

30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah,

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31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.

33 Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" – not knowing what he said.

34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud.

35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

36 When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.

The Lord Jesus was transfigured only after spending a long while in prayer. Light from within Him broke through His skin and he was engulfed in light. This light is not the ordinary light that we get from the sun. The light that engulfed the Lord Yeshua is the sanctifying pure light of God. It is the God-light—the light that is essentially His being.

It is of this light we are called to walk in: *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin* (1 Jn 1:7). The light from the Lord Yeshua sanctified the mountain top where they were standing and it also sanctified the disciples Peter, James and John. Bathed in that light of sanctification they were able to see two saints

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in glory – Moses and Elijah – appearing and talking with the Lord Yeshua about His ministry.

God's house must therefore be cleansed and sanctified before His Kingdom – His glorified saints and angels – can come down to the Church.

CHAPTER 5

LIBERTY MISUSED

1 CORINTHIANS 10:23

23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

Liberty – the grace that has set us free from bondage to sin – should not be misused. Grace is one gift of God that is largely misused by the Church to justify our frailty and our inability, true or otherwise, to deal with sin. The scriptures say: *Well then, shall we keep on sinning so that God can keep on showing us more and more kindness and forgiveness?* (Rom 6:1 TLB).

God extended His matchless grace to us so that we, leaving sin behind, can continue to live holy as sons and daughters of God. The grace that God imputed into us through the blood of the Lord Yeshua will work in us, if we allow it, a work of sanctification. Why did I say “if we allow it”? Because it is conditional upon us being willing to crucify our flesh (Gal 5:24-25).

Are we willing to die to self?

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It is the SELF that craves like a hungry bear for fame, attention, glamor and wealth. It is also the SELF that wants to build for itself a name – like the mighty hunter Nimrod setting out to build for himself the city of Babel (Gen 11:3-4). The Kingdom of God demands that God's servants put on the cloak of humility and meekness (1 Pe 5:5). Ministers of God, without exception, are required to serve God with humility of heart and mind (Acts 20:19; Col 3:12).

True Servanthood – the model of selfless service encapsulated in the life of our dear Lord Yeshua – must be restored back in the Church in these last days (Cp. Lk 22:24-27; Jn 13:4-17). Consider the Levitical priests: separated into their family groups within the Tribe of Levi, they were happy and contented to perform each their specific duty relating to the Tabernacle (Num 3-4). No one considered their work to be superior or inferior to another. No one sought for greatness or fame or name.

The Lord Yeshua modeled humility in His life (Phil 2:6-8). We can only adorn that humility if we willingly yoke ourselves with the Lord. Didn't the Lord say: *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light?* (Matt 11:29-30). The yoke the Lord Yeshua referred to is the *Cross*. Humility is the virtue of a life surrendered to God and that dies daily to self (1 Cor 15:31).

Selfless attitude and kingdom mindedness must be restored back to the Church. This truth is what our dear Lord meant when He said: *If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me* (Lk 9:23; Matt 16:24; Mk 8:34).

Ministerial Accountability

MATTHEW 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Serving the Lord is to know the will of God and doing His work according to the purposes of God. Consider the following two examples that illustrate this.

NUMBERS 20:7-12

7 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

8 "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals."

9 So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as He commanded him.

10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?"

11 Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

12 Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of

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the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

DEUTERONOMY 3:23-27

23 "Then I pleaded with the Lord at that time, saying:

24 'O Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds?

25 I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.'

26 "But the Lord was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So the Lord said to me: 'Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter.

27 Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift your eyes toward the west, the north, the south, and the east; behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan.

DEUTERONOMY 4:21-22

21 Furthermore the Lord was angry with me for your sakes, and swore that I would not cross over the Jordan, and that I would not enter the good land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.

22 But I must die in this land, I must not cross over the Jordan; but you shall cross over and possess that good land.

The Prophet Moses was judged and punished by the Lord God for not fully obeying the Lord's command. The Lord God requires from servants called to walk closely with Him a greater degree of obedience. Presumption of God's will or ways will not be tolerated. The Lord God will be

friendly towards those called to walk closely with Him, but He will not allow familiarity to breed contempt.

We read of another unfortunate incident concerning a prophet in the Bible who chose to disobey God.

1 KINGS 13:1-30

1 And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

2 Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'"

3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the Lord has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."

4 So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself.

5 The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord.

6 Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the favor of the Lord your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the Lord, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.

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7 Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."

8 But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place.

9 For so it was commanded me by the word of the Lord, saying, 'You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.'"

10 So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel.

11 Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king.

12 And their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" For his sons had seen which way the man of God went who came from Judah.

13 Then he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him; and he rode on it,

14 and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. Then he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I am."

15 Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread."

16 And he said, "I cannot return with you nor go in with you; neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place.

17 For I have been told by the word of the Lord, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.'"

18 He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying,

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'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.' (He was lying to him.)

19 So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water.

20 Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the Lord came to the prophet who had brought him back;

21 and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the Lord: 'Because you have disobeyed the word of the Lord, and have not kept the commandment which the Lord your God commanded you,

22 but you came back, ate bread, and drank water in the place of which the Lord said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water," your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers."

23 So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, the prophet whom he had brought back.

24 When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.

25 And there, men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road, and the lion standing by the corpse. Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

26 Now when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard it, he said, "It is the man of God who was disobedient to the word of the Lord. Therefore the Lord has delivered him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke to him."

27 And he spoke to his sons, saying, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled it.

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28 Then he went and found his corpse thrown on the road, and the donkey and the lion standing by the corpse. The lion had not eaten the corpse nor torn the donkey.

29 And the prophet took up the corpse of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back. So the old prophet came to the city to mourn, and to bury him.

30 Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb; and they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!"

This nameless prophet may seem innocent of the judgment that was meted out to him. But it is not so. A prophet who stands in the presence of God, who hears from God, and who is sent out by God is expected to obey God's orders and commands to the letter. From this incident we learn that a prophet is not to accept any other word of command which contradicts what God has already given even if that word may come from an Angel or another prophetic source.

During the Day of Reckoning it's not what we did or accomplished for the Lord God that we will be asked to make an accounting for. We will be asked if we did everything in accordance to the Will of God for our lives and ministries.

Let us read here the Parable of the Talents.

MATTHEW 25:14-30

14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

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16 *Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.*

17 *And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.*

18 *But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.*

19 *After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.*

20 *"So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'*

21 *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

22 *He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'*

23 *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

24 *"Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.*

25 *And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'*

26 *"But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.*

27 *So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.*

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28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

29 For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

In this parable the Lord Yeshua is giving us an important principle regarding servanthood in the Kingdom of God: *spiritual accountability*. We must learn that the Master expects the servant to know His will and to seek to do it well. After entrusting the servants with the talents, the Master never tells them what to do. Nevertheless, He expects the servants to seek to know and make good with what they are provided (Cp. v. 26-27).

No minister of God should take lightly the will of God. Nor should there be presumptuousness concerning the will of God. The Church we are pastoring or the Ministry we are doing does not belong to us. We are mere custodians of the works of God entrusted to us according to our call. The gifts and callings of God are not one's private property or reserved for one's own posterity. It is vitally important to seek and know the will of God.

Consider another parable:

LUKE 12:42-48

42 And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?"

43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

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44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.

45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,

46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

47 And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

In this parable the Lord Yeshua, the Great King of heaven, teaches us the following principles.

1. A servant of God is expected to be diligent in his work.
2. A servant of God is expected to treat other servants with love and kindness in a spirit of humility.
3. A servant of God is expected to know what the Master's will is.
4. A servant of God must prepare himself adequately to do his Master's will well.

I remember very well how our good God was merciful and kind to lead me like a good shepherd leading his sheep into uncharted places. I was called by the Lord Yeshua to preach the gospel in Tibet on December 24, 1983. Not

knowing anything about the right time to go to Tibet or how to do the work there, in my youthful zeal I made plans to go to Tibet in January 1984. I did not know that due to severe snow fall all the roads leading from the border of Nepal to Tibet were closed in the winter months from December to April.

In the midst of enthusiastically telling everyone of my impending trip to Tibet, a dear minister of God visited me. While praying together the Lord spoke through him that I should not go to Tibet in January 1984 as I was neither prepared nor ready for such a ministry. I felt my youthful zeal fizzle out like a popped balloon. Nevertheless I obeyed the Lord.

I spent many hours each day in fasting, prayer, and meditation of the word. I was just waiting on God for His right time to go to Tibet. Oftentimes, during prayer, I beheld the similitude of the Lord Yeshua. Like a loving father and instructor He was teaching me the geography, people, culture and spiritual conditions that existed in Tibet. This preparation lasted for two and half years from January 1984 right up to April 1986. Even as I now recall this season of my life some 30 years ago, I feel so humbly privileged by the multitude of God's grace and mercy. He had so generously extended His goodness to me – the least of God's unworthy servants – by training me Himself.

After two and half years, one day in April 1986, the Lord Yeshua said to me: *Now you are prepared in spirit, soul and body to go and fulfill your Master's will. Go and evangelize Tibet.* He then asked me to kneel before Him. When I did, He laid His hands upon my mortal head, blessed me, and commissioned me into the ministry.

In the Parable of the Talents the Lord Yeshua too warned about the serious consequences of acting against or outside the will of God. The failure to do the will of God will result in being beaten with stripes. This is a warning no minister should take lightly.

The reader may probably have read about the legendary saint Sadhu Sundar Singh. His life was dedicated to preaching the gospel chiefly in Tibet. During one such evangelistic tour around the western part of Tibet he met a wonderful Christian saint called Maharishi (Great Seer) at the famed Mount Kailash.

During one visit with the Maharishi the Sadhu desired to spend more time meditating and praying together with the saint. In no uncertain terms, the Maharishi turned down the noble request: *"Your work is to preach the gospel, whereas my work is to intercede. You should not neglect your work by remaining here."*

Not giving up the Sadhu begged to be allowed to stay with the venerable saint at least for a week. The answer was an unflinching "No!" Pausing, as if waiting for an answer from heaven, the Maharishi then said: *"But you can remain with me just for another 24 hours. You should not remain any longer after that."*

The Sadhu could not take a "no" for an answer. *"If you will not permit me to remain here in this place of bliss with you for a week,"* he breathed out his holy threat with genuine conviction, *"I will end my life here right before your eyes."*

Unmoved, the Maharishi calmly replied, *"If you were to do that, I don't know whether if you will go to heaven or hell after your death."* *"But one thing I do know for sure, if you go*

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and stand before your Father in heaven having not completely finished your work, you will surely be beaten."

This incident clearly illustrates the fate of every minister of God who knowingly fail to do the will of God for their life and ministry.

Please be not envious of another minister's church or ministry. The following parable is another serious caution concerning working for the Kingdom of God.

MATTHEW 20:1-16

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

4 and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went.

5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise.

6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?'

7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'

8 "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.'

9 And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius.

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10 But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius.

11 And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner,

12 saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.'

13 But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?'

14 Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.

15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'

16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

It is God who apportions to every man what seems right to Him, the Master of the Harvest. It is not our business to compare our ministries with others and play the numbers game.

Whether a church or ministry is big or small doesn't matter. Doing the will of God joyfully and faithfully is what matters and counts in God's kingdom (Matt 24:45-46). Ministers of God, please kindly do not be envious of other ministers or of their church or ministry. Do not be envious when another ministry takes off suddenly and begins to attract many newcomers while your ministry remains small.

I know of a certain precious minister of God. He sincerely labored for the Lord God, loved all ministers, and

he especially tried to help itinerant ministers. One day in fellowship he frankly shared how much he envied another minister who was his junior. This other minister started his church much later but had a thousand members while my friend had only about eighty believers.

After praying for him I encouraged him: *My dear pastor you have a different calling – that of a pastor-evangelist. You are to go out to the nations to preach the gospel with signs, wonders, and miracles. Don't be envious of this other minister. He is called to pastor a large church and that is why his church is growing quickly.* The senior minister could not be reasoned with. He allowed jealousy to rob him of God's call and anointing upon his life.

His church began to dwindle. He began to lose many members. After three years and quite frustrated, this pastor finally headed out to the nations as an itinerant preacher. One day he called and requested to meet with me. Over lunch he excitedly told of his tremendous success in the mission field: hundreds of people got saved; many were healed and delivered. Then he humbly repented: *I regret not listening to the word you gave me from the Lord. I had wasted three years of my ministry life.*

Some 20 years ago I met a pastor at a Pastors' Fellowship. During tea-break, I enquired about pastoral fellowships in his country. He shared about the needless politics that went on there. He also added that when the pastors met together their favorite question was: *How many members do you have?* So I asked, *Well, how do you answer such a question?* His reply made me break out in laughter: *I always tell them I do not live in the Book of Numbers but in the Book of Acts.*

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Another pastor with whom I am closely connected since 1997 leads a small fellowship in Vancouver, Canada. Once I asked if he ever felt intimidated or insecure in pastors' fellowships when asked the size of his congregation. At that time he had about 20 believers in his house church. His saintly answer surprised me: *I am perfectly satisfied with the little flock that God has entrusted into my care. The Lord told me to disciple this little flock that they may become the Bride of Christ.*

Faithfulness to God's will even if it is just a small ministry is what counts in the Kingdom of God. Do not be envious – or this poison might destroy us in this world and in the world to come (Rom 13:13; Phil 1:15).

Envy will open the door for the enemy to corrupt our soul (Jas 3:16).

CHAPTER 6

THE MINISTRY'S FOUNDATION

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-11

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord came to me on January 1, 2012: *The foundation of every ministry and church will be examined for whether it is built according to the foundation ordained by the Lord God. The Spirit of the Lord will bring admonishment and counsel to set right foundations. If we do not submit to such holy impetus, then the Holy Spirit will take forceful action to set the foundation right. Every wrong foundation will be totally destroyed by God (1 Cor 3:11-15).*

What is the foundation ordained by the Lord God? It is the Lord God's *expressed will!*

When God revealed His will concerning the Tabernacle to the Prophet Moses, He charged him: *See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain*

Judgment in the House of God

(Heb 8:5). A careful study of Exodus 25:40; 26:30; 27:8 reveals that the Prophet Moses was literally shown how the things of the Tabernacle should be made and how the Tabernacle should be erected. Nothing was left to the imagination to corrupt the expressed will of God.

EXODUS 25:40

40 And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

EXODUS 26:30

30 And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.

EXODUS 27:8

8 You shall make it hollow with boards; as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make it.

Consider for an example the making of the special incense for the Tabernacle service.

EXODUS 30:34-38

34 And the Lord said to Moses: "Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each.

35 You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy.

36 And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you.

The Ministry's Foundation

37 But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall not make any for yourselves, according to its composition. It shall be to you holy for the Lord.

38 Whoever makes any like it, to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people."

The Holy God made two important statements in these scriptures which we must pay careful attention to.

1. *Make the incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy.* It is God who calls us to do His work. We must be made and molded into the plans and purposes of God. We must be willing to be fashioned in a manner in accordance to God's will.
2. *You shall not make the incense for yourselves, according to its composition. It shall be to you holy for the Lord.* The call of God is unique for each individual. God gives to those whom He calls specific plans and methods concerning how to accomplish the will of God. A plan of God for one person should not be duplicated by another.

The will of God for a person's ministry or church should be the foundation upon which that ministry is built upon. The expressed or revealed will of God should be the basis for which every ministry is founded upon. The Lord God is the owner of the harvest field, which is the entire world. The Owner dictates how His work should be done. It is the servant's duty to first seek to know *what* the Master wants done. Then, he must understand *how* the Master wants His work to be done.

Judgment in the House of God

The Apostle Paul built on the foundation laid by the Lord Yeshua for the Church.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-11

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul was careful to lay the foundation for the churches and ministries he planted or shepherded according to the pattern given to him by God in Christ.

EPHESIANS 2:19-22

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Those who are not pastors please kindly look within you what foundation God laid in you when He first called you. For example, consider the Prophet Jeremiah's call: *Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations"* (Jer 1:5). The foundation that God laid for Jeremiah was for the work as a prophet.

Consider the birth and calling of the prophet John the Baptist.

LUKE 1:11-17

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

John the Baptist was called as a prophet in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. The foundation of his prophetic ministry was clearly explained by the Archangel Gabriel. We know from the gospels that John understood his call and mission and that he stayed true to the Lord's expressed will for his life (Matt 3:1-3; Mk 1:2-3; Lk 3:4; Jn 1:19-23).

What is the foundation that God has laid for you? Every minister has a unique call from God. No two persons'

gifting and calling are the same. The stars in the heavens all differ from one another in brilliance (1 Cor 15:41). No two stars or two snow-flakes are alike.

A certain minister came to see me about 20 years ago. He was desperate. His church was not growing. He was willing to try anything that would grow his church into a mega-church. He told me that he taken a furlough to go to two cities in North America where there was tremendous revival. He wanted to study their success and then formulate a growth strategy for his own church.

He excitedly asked for my blessing as he was leaving for those cities in a couple of days. When we knelt down to pray, I saw the similitude of the Lord Yeshua before me. The Lord said: *Tell this pastor, in order for him to grow his church he need not go to the west or to the east. All he needs to do is to wait on Me. Then My Spirit will give him My plans and will for his church to grow. Ask him to cast away his plans and to spend time at My feet to seek Me concerning My plans for his church.*

I dutifully conveyed the Lord's instructions. When we got up to our feet after praying, the pastor thanked me and promptly added: *I will see you in two months after my trip to North America.* As it turned out, the success formulas he took from that trip did not work in his church. In fact he failed terribly, was greatly saddened, and became depressed.

Do not imitate another man's calling or duplicate his ministry model. Seek the Lord for His plans and purposes. After hearing from God, then earnestly put what He tells you into action.

CHAPTER 7

THE LORD IS COMING TO HIS TEMPLE

Consider the action of the Lord Yeshua when He entered into the Temple of Jerusalem at the approach of the Feast of Passover.

MATTHEW 21:12-14

12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

When the Lord Yeshua declared that "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations" He revealed the Lord God's foundational plan for the Church – *a house built upon prayer and praying for all nations!*

This house of prayer is a place where prayer is offered to the Lord along with worship, where His people

Judgment in the House of God

fellowship in His presence, where the Word is taught, and where the sick are healed and set free.

The church is not to become a social club where cheap grace is taught and where sugar-coated teachings are devoured by believers with “itching ears.” It is not a place of entertainment where you make a mockery of holy worship through fleshy emotionalism or behavior. It is not a business center where you wheel and deal and merchandise the anointing.

When the Lord Yeshua first came into the Temple of Jerusalem He lacerated the wicked and the greedy and chased them out of the temple. He pronounced judgment on the temple, declaring that *the house of prayer had become a den of thieves.*

Here are some of the characteristics of thievery: cheating, conniving, conspiring, deceiving, and robbing. That was what took place then in the Jerusalem Temple. Sadly it is no different today in a large part of the body of Christ. Many believers and ministers who bear the name of Christ Jesus are actually trapped in pitiful states of spiritual degradation and corruption.

After cleansing the Jerusalem Temple, the Lord manifested His glory openly through signs, wonders, and miracles (Matt 21:12-14). Before He comes back for His Bride, He will once again bring such a cleansing judgment, but this time to the Temple He raised by His death and resurrection – the Church. He will rid the Church of wicked, greedy, unrighteous, and unfaithful ministers. He will pour upon His Bride the latter rain glory.

The Lord Is Coming to His Temple

God will release judgments into the Church to prepare the way for the Kingdom. The government of God is coming in power and glory into the Church. This latter rain glory will surpass whatever glory ever manifested on earth since the beginning of Creation (Hag 2:6-8).

So, let us come humbly before the presence of the Holy God and prepare ourselves to meet the Lord our God (Amos 4:12).

CHAPTER 8

ASK GOD TO JUDGE YOU

PSALMS 139:23-24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

This is the constant prayer of King David, a man after God's own heart. He was dear and near to God. He was a man always in pursuit of God's own heart (1 Sam 13:14). He was a worshipper of God like no other. Just take a look at the depths of his love for God in his many heart-stirring psalms. He cherished and longed to dwell in the house of God, now and always.

PSALMS 27:4

4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple.

Even though David was a man after God's own heart and the Lord loved him exceedingly, this humble shepherd boy who became celebrated king over all of Israel was not

without flaws in his character. The utter depravity and weakness of King David's flesh eventually showed its full destructive force in his adulterous tryst with Bathsheba.

2 *SAMUEL 11:1-27*

1 *It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.*

2 *Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.*

3 *So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"*

4 *Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.*

5 *And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."*

6 *Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.*

7 *When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered.*

8 *And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him.*

9 *But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.*

Ask God To Judge You

10 So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"

11 And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

12 Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next.

13 Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

14 In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die."

16 So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men.

17 Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

18 Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war,

19 and charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king,

20 if it happens that the king's wrath rises, and he says to you: 'Why did you approach so near to the city when

Judgment in the House of God

you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?

21 Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall? – then you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’”

22 So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him.

23 And the messenger said to David, “Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate.

24 The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king’s servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.”

25 Then David said to the messenger, “Thus you shall say to Joab: ‘Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.’ So encourage him.”

26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

In order to hide his illicit sexual encounter with Bathsheba, King David schemed the death of not only an innocent man but a man already badly wronged. Bathsheba’s husband Uriah, surely one of King David’s finest field commanders, was to be abandoned by his own troops, secretly under orders by King David himself,

so he could be killed in the heat of the battle by the enemies of Israel. Understandably, such an unimaginably flagrant thing brought deep displeasure to the heart of God (2 Sam 12:9).

Later, when confronted and rebuked by the Prophet Nathan on this heinous act, David did not seek to hide or justify his sin even though he was the king (2 Sam 12:13). He humbly confessed it all. In brokenness and true contrition, he cried out to God for mercy, acknowledging the enormity of his guilt and sin.

Psalms 51 reveals how humbly remorseful and King David was after being rebuked by the Prophet Nathan. This prayer, which came from inner depths of his soul and out of a broken heart, shows how truly repentant he was.

PSALMS 51:1-19

1 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight – that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Judgment in the House of God

8 Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice.

9 Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise.

18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

Remembering his sin and mindful of his personal frailty, in the latter part of his life King David began to bring this constant prayer before the Lord: *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting* (Ps 139:23-24).

Ask God To Judge You

We should really learn well this most precious lesson from the man after God's own heart. Our prayer must come from a humbled and broken heart. We must lay our heart naked before God's all-seeing eyes as He will surely examine every part of it. Nothing will be hidden from Him. It would do us well if we come daily before God with such a prayer of King David. Prostrated before God in soul, spirit, and body, we should totally lay bare our contrite heart before the Judge of all flesh so He can see if there is anything displeasing to Him.

If we would judge ourselves, we will not be judged.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:31-32

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Once in a vision I saw a man come and stand before God. He was standing before the Ark of the Covenant like how the High Priest in the Old Testament days used to do.

This man was standing before the Ark with his head humbly bowed. I saw the Shekinah glory of God pulsating with life and suspended above the mercy seat on the Ark. Rays of light projected from the Shekinah glory cloud and penetrated into this man's heart. The rays of God's light were scanning the contents of this man's heart.

This is what happens when we come before the presence of the Almighty God. The Holy Spirit will examine our hearts to show us our sins if there be any (1 Cor 2:11). As our sins are being exposed, we can then confess them

one by one and allow the light of God to cleanse us from all faults (1 Jn 1:7).

God wants every bit of our lives, our churches, and our ministries to be above reproach. We must therefore ask Him to bring us to a place of perfect peace with Him and with ourselves. And for Him to accomplish this in our lives, He may be required to judge us by way of strong reprimands, corrections, and even severe disciplinary actions.

HEBREWS 12:5-11

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Ask God To Judge You

When we unceasingly open up our hearts before God in true contrition and humility to be judged, chastened, and refined by the Lord, we will be found before Him without spot and without blame (2 Pe 3:14).

Therefore, let this be your daily prayer:

*Holy God, I bare my naked heart before.
Please judge me severely,
so that I could serve You with a perfect heart.
O, Lord God I humbly ask You to correct me ruthlessly,
so that I could walk before You with a perfect heart.*

May We Hear From You

Dear friends, we believe this book has been a blessing and challenge to you. Millions of people from around the world have been blessed by Brother Sadhu's messages on books, CDs and DVDs. We believe that even now you have been blessed by this book. Why don't you take a minute and write to tell us how you have been blessed by this book.

If you would like Brother Sadhu to pray for your needs, write to him today. He will personally read your letter and pray for you with much compassion beseeching the Lord Jesus Christ to bless, comfort and grant the miracles you need.

If you would like to know more about the ministry of Sadhu Sundar Selvaraj and receive our free quarterly newsletter "Healing Love", feel free to write us. We will send you one immediately and you, too, can uphold Sadhu and this worldwide ministry in your intercessory prayers.

For further information write to:

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*Jesus Ministries
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Do You Need Prayer ?

Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleads for his neighbor! (Job 16:21). Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven (Matt. 18:19).

Brother Sadhu, please uphold me before the throne of God and agree in prayer with me for

My Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Tear out and mail to:

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Tamilnadu, INDIA
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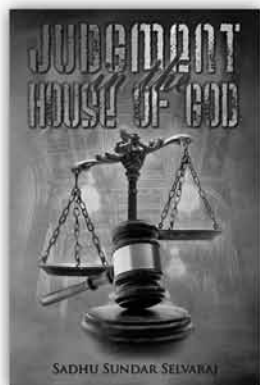
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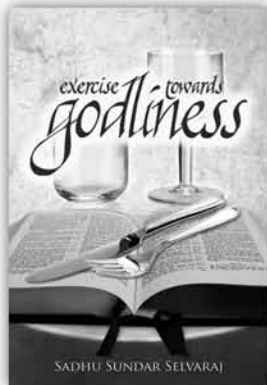


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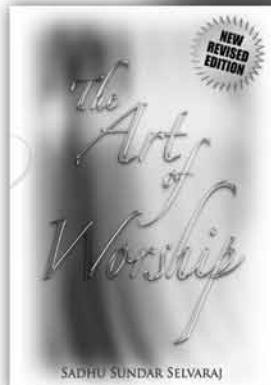
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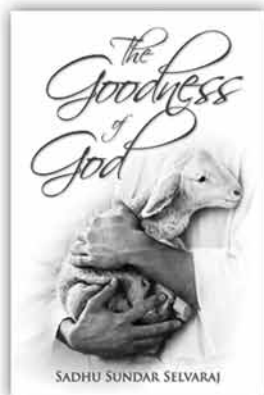
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THE ART OF WORSHIP



THE GOODNESS OF GOD



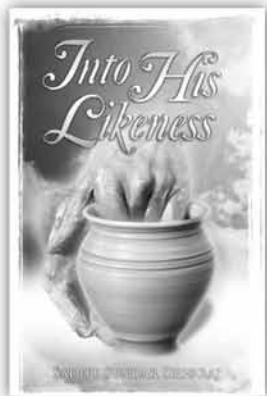
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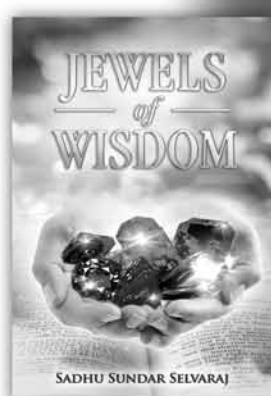
PRAYER SECRETS IN THE TABERNALE



LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY



INTO HIS LIKENESS



JEWELS OF WISDOM

JUDGMENT IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

The Word of the Lord came God's prophet, Sadhu Sundar Selvaraj on the night of August 20, 2012, saying: *Write, the world is expecting some kind of catastrophe by the end of the year 2012 fueled by the movie "2012" and by many soothsayers. Indeed it will be catastrophic in many places of the world but it will not be the end of the world as the movie depicts. But for the Church and the believers there will be a judgment, a cleansing, in the house of God. Blow this from the mountaintop.*

Indeed we have entered into the period of the Day of the Lord – a period of time when God will openly interfere in the affairs of men. In this period all nations and people and even creation comes before God's searching eyes.

The Church, whom He set as light of the world, will first needs to be judged before she can be qualified to judge angels and the world.

The Holy Spirit, the author of this message, has spoken through God's vessel the manner in which God will judge His house. So, read this book and find out for yourself how you can be found in Christ Jesus spotless and blameless as you stand before the Judge of the House of God.



SADHU SUNDAR SELVARAJ is a forerunner who has been privileged to be called to prepare the way for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. At age 16 he experienced a dramatic and supernatural encounter with the Living Christ. He has been preaching the Gospel and bringing the healing power of God to his generation since 1979 in over 50 nations. His television network, Angel TV, currently reaches out to approximately half the globe. Brother Sadhu has had numerous encounters with the Lord and has been specifically commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ "to prepare the Bride" for His second coming. His life and ministry will provoke, encourage and teach you how to walk intimately with Christ.

