

2 DANIEL



Joseph Daniel Austin

The author of THIS book will be decided by each person who finds it...

Introduction

This book is a collection of parables, prophecy, proverbs, and a psalm that I have heard in my spirit and recorded. They have been edited for clarity and arranged by myself alone, Joseph Daniel Austin of the www.chooseJesus.today online ministry.

Although I hope to avoid shifting focus from this book, some people will want to know how the ministry was started and by whom. A brief introduction should help answer these basic questions.

I go by Daniel and have lived in the United States all my life. Along with being married to my high school sweetheart for nearly three decades, I have been blessed with three children. For the last two decades, I have worked in Information Technology and am currently a senior engineer for a global manufacturing company. During this time, I have come to realize that the satisfaction my heart and soul crave will never come from worldly success, but instead from listening to and acting on all plans set before me by God. My hope and prayer are that all of God's plans and purposes for this ministry and His message, "**choose Jesus today**", be fully accomplished.

The ministry, first published online **September 7th, 2015**, was not created by a group, organization, church, or denomination. It is a God-led ministry through one servant of Jesus Christ with the support of his family to be accomplished by believers. By His masterful design, God created this ministry to spread the Good News of Jesus through teaching, encouragement, and unification of Christians around the world. Like bright lights in a dark and dying world, may God's children unite together to become a shining beacon of hope, joy, and peace leading only to Him.

Let all Christians put aside their differences to proclaim this most important message of God, "**choose Jesus today**", because weakness is the only fruit of division in the Church.

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The words of Jesus Christ have been printed in red.

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Chapter 1: The Concert

Love and joy...joy and love...two words that cannot be separated in the lives of God's children. Those who have taken the path of life and light through Jesus Christ cannot deny the hope, joy, and peace that come from being one of his followers. Yet this truth seems to be a contradiction in the world we live.

Two brothers were given FREE tickets to the concert of a great musician. When they arrived, the first brother was overwhelmed with joy, amazed and in awe of his good fortune, and humbled to be able to attend such a desired event. The second brother, however, did not seem pleased at all. "The seats are too far from the stage, the people around us are too noisy, and the music is too loud!" said the second brother. After the concert, a great banquet was held for the musician. The musician stood at the door of the banquet greeting all who came to enter. The first brother, brimming with joy, was the first to meet the musician, and the musician could see the passionate love in his eyes. The first brother was welcomed into the banquet with open arms. The second brother, still distracted by the concert's conditions, was the next to meet the musician. The musician could tell that the second brother was displeased and could find no love or joy in him. With a heavy heart, the musician told the second brother he could not enter the banquet, because he had never really listened to or understood his music.

I tell you the truth, not all who are invited or even all who think they have accepted the invitation will enter the Kingdom of God. The two brothers represent those who claim to be our brothers and sisters in Christ. The free tickets represent the gift of salvation offered to all, something that cannot be earned, bought, or bartered for, but only accepted through grace, faith, and repentance. The concert represents this world and our short troublesome life in it, where there will be constant distraction drawing our eyes, ears, and hearts away from the great musician. The great musician is Jesus Christ, and his music is the Word of God. Lastly, the great banquet represents the Kingdom of Heaven, which must be entered through the narrow gate. Jesus himself states, *"Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter."*

On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.' (Matthew 7)

And how will we know where a person's faith, love, and loyalty lie? Jesus teaches that we will know people including false prophets by their fruit. *"You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions."* (Matthew 7)

Though we ALL face hard days, weeks, maybe even years in our lives, help us to keep our eyes on you Lord. Give us Heavenly wisdom so that no matter how devastating a trial may be, our faith and trust remain in you. And let nothing steal our joy and love! In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN!

Chapter 2: I See a Church

I SEE A CHURCH! I see a church where there is a smile on everyone's face. No one is sad or downtrodden, because we realize who we are...children of our Father in Heaven, the King of all that is, was, and ever will be! I see a church bursting with joy over its good fortune of salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior! I see a church full of hope, joy, and peace that defies understanding and is always ready to show others God's love through us. I see a church where the people can barely wait for the next opportunity to worship, overflowing with excitement to hear the Word of God preached with POWER and AUTHORITY because of the presence of the Holy Spirit! I see a church where you find encouragement and have the opportunity to encourage other believers in Christ. I see a church where children are surrounded by adults who love God, strive to please God in all they do, and KNOW how to please God from reading the Holy Bible and obeying his instructions in it. I see a church that welcomes everyone seeking God with open arms and considers all believers in Christ (no

matter the church, denomination, or country from which they come) for who they really are, our BROTHERS and SISTERS in Christ! I see a church that does not need to ask the people to tithe and has no reason to send baskets or bags among the people to collect their tithe. I see a church that BRINGS its tithes and offerings to the altar while singing, dancing, and praising God for the OPPORTUNITY to give back even a part of what our gracious Father has given to us! I see a church where the Holy Spirit rains down on all who come, rekindling the fire for God in those who have become lukewarm, and increasing the fire in those who already please God like that of a thousand furnaces! I see a church where the blind can see, the lame can walk, and the sick are healed when the elders anoint them with oil in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

I SEE A CHURCH in my spirit! And this church WILL exist when the people lay aside their pride, their stubborn hearts, their disobedient ways, and WORSHIP God as intended from the beginning. Must we wait until our Lord Jesus Christ returns to reign, or will we make the choice for change now and bring honor to our Father in Heaven? I pray for change in the church, a change in the hearts of the people, wisdom and understanding that can come only from God, the ordering of our every footstep, and a people that truly seek to bring GLORY and HONOR to God with all they do! In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN!

Chapter 3: The Great King

A Great King sat on a mountain top looking over his Kingdom and admiring all he had built. A crowd gathered around him in awe as well of the Kingdom he had created. The Great King told ALL who would hear him that he wanted them to enjoy the splendor of his Kingdom. After hearing the Great King's offer, a man came up to the Great King and said "Look, an angry and jealous mob has gathered between us and your Kingdom", and the fearful man caused panic in the crowd. The Great King then addressed the crowd himself, and said "ALL who will join me, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the bold and the timid, ALL are welcome in my Kingdom, if you will accept my gift and follow me!" Some in the crowd were afraid and feared the angry and jealous mob, so they fled from the Great King. Some in the crowd could not understand why the

Great King would make such a generous offer, so they turned away in confusion. Some in the crowd were so distracted by the angry and jealous mob that they never even listened to or understood the Great King's offer. And lastly, some in the crowd lived wealthy and comfortable lives and said, "This Great King's offer is not worth our trouble, so we will settle for what we have made for ourselves", and they turned away and went home ignoring the splendor of his Kingdom.

But there were some in the crowd who DID accept the Great King's offer. They yelled back to the King with excitement, "We accept your gift and will follow you to your Kingdom!" And those who accepted were filled with joy over their good fortune and the generosity of the Great King! To all who accepted the Great King's offer, he gave a gold medallion and said, "This is my gift, and it will be the mark upon you of my offer and your acceptance so that the gatekeepers will know that you belong to me." Those who accepted the offer and the Great King began their journey back to the Kingdom from which he came, but the road was difficult and troublesome. Some said, "This journey is too hard, we were better off before!", so they gave back their gold medallions to the Great King, then turned away and went home. As the Great King and crowd approached the angry and jealous mob, those with him said, "Look, there isn't anything to fear from this mob, they have come to greet us!", but the Great King warned, "Follow me and stay close, so that you do not become lost in the mob!" As the Great King and crowd passed through the mob, they offered every type of pleasure including beautiful men and women, comforts and luxuries, and everything pleasing to the eye in trade for their medallions. Some in the crowd were so distracted that they left the Great King's side and became lost in the mob, and other traded their gold medallions for what seemed pleasing at the time.

Just after passing through the mob, the Great King and crowd reached the narrow gate of the Kingdom. The Great King passed through, and the crowd gathered in behind him to follow. The gatekeepers checked each one and let pass those who still wore the gold medallion as a mark of the Great King. But those without the gold medallion were stopped and not allowed to pass into the Kingdom. They yelled through the gates to the Great King and cried, "We followed you; we accepted your gift and want to join you in the Kingdom!" But

the Great King replied, "Where are your gold medallions? You valued the pleasures of the mob more than you valued me! For my yoke was easy to bear, but you never loved me, and I declare today that I never knew you!" And among all of those who were not allowed to enter, there was bitter weeping and gnashing of teeth. For they could see the Kingdom but never enter it, they had met the Great King but could no longer feel his presence, and they had known his gift of true love but traded it for pleasures that last only a moment.

To make clear the many facets of this parable, I will explain only this one at length. The "Great King" represents our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the "Kingdom" represents the Kingdom of Heaven. The "crowd" represents the people of this world who are seeking their purpose in it. The "angry and jealous mob" are the many people who don't love Christ and are filled with anger, jealousy, hatred, and rebellion of every kind that is inspired by the prince of this world, Satan. We must all pass through the mob on our journey to the Kingdom of Heaven, and Jesus Christ is the light illuminating our path to that Kingdom. Jesus has offered salvation and a home in the Kingdom to ALL who will accept and follow his teachings. Jesus explains, *"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."* (John 14)

But some are so fearful of not conforming to the world or standing apart from it, that they will abandon God's offer and the Way, Jesus Christ. Others believe the Word of God to be nothing more than a fairy tale; a story to inspire false hope and control people with its message. They cannot imagine a supreme Creator caring for or desiring a relationship with ordinary people, so they ignore the message in disbelief. Some will be so distracted by this difficult and worrisome life, that they will never take the time to understand God's Word or his message of hope through Jesus Christ. And lastly, some will be so comfortable and consumed by their possessions and luxury, that they will be deaf to God's truth and blind to the magnificence of his creation. They fear they might somehow upset or disrupt their good fortune, and in turn, they disregard wise teachings.

The Apostle Paul warns, *“But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks.”* (Romans 12)

To continue explaining, “those who did accept the Great King’s offer” represents people who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and enthusiastically claim they will follow him. At first, they are filled with joy over finding Jesus, but all too soon, their faith and love in Christ are crowded out by the troubles of this world. The “gold medallion” represents the gift of salvation offered to us all through Jesus Christ. It makes us right in God’s sight and worthy of entering the Kingdom of God. The “difficult and troublesome” road are the trials of this life that will cause some to turn away. There could be an untimely death of loved ones, sickness and disease, money troubles of every kind, wars and rumors of war, and oppression at every turn, BUT we must cling to and never lose sight of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We may not understand why some people seem so troubled and others so blessed, but it is not our place to question God’s plan and unwise to turn away because of it!

“What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, ‘Stop, you’re doing it wrong!’ Does the pot exclaim, ‘How clumsy can you be?’ How terrible it would be if a newborn baby said to its father, ‘Why was I born?’ or if it said to its mother, ‘Why did you make me this way?’ This is what the LORD says—the Holy One of Israel and your Creator: ‘Do you question what I do for my children? Do you give me orders about the work of my hands? I am the one who made the earth and created people to live on it. With my hands I stretched out the heavens. All the stars are at my command.’” (Isaiah 45)

Those in the parable that “became lost in the mob” represent the people who

become lost in the distractions, chaos, and pleasures of this world. They trade their love and faith in Jesus Christ for worry and doubt, hatred and unforgiveness, jealousy and selfishness, sexual perversions, and all kinds of sinful pleasure. “Just after passing through the mob” represents the passage of our life in this world into the next, and the “narrow gate” represents the way to Heaven. Jesus declares, *“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.”* (Matthew 7)

From the parable, “those who still wore the gold medallion” represent the people who accepted Jesus Christ in faith as their Lord and Savior, and in turn, their love and faith were proven by the change in their lives, actions, and by doing the will of our Father in Heaven. Jesus says, *“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.”* (Matthew 7) “Those without the gold medallion” represent the people who put themselves and their own selfish desires first, even though they claimed Jesus as their Lord. There was no change in their lives, actions, or obedience to the instruction of our Father in Heaven. Again Jesus explains, *“On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’ “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”* (Matthew 7)

Will we be perfect children of God through Jesus Christ? NO, we will all fall short of the standard set by our Heavenly Father. But through repentance, God will see the love we have in our hearts for him. “Christians” who have no remorse for their sins and disregard God’s laws are the ones in jeopardy of trading their salvation for the pleasures of this world.

And finally, there will be “weeping and gnashing of teeth” by those who ignored, put off, did not take the time to understand, or traded their salvation for this world. I can only imagine the terror and unthinkable horror of having such a magnificent gift within reach, yet turning away and focusing on a life that will be here today and gone tomorrow.

May God’s message and the explanation of this parable open the hearts and minds of ALL who find it, so that we can join him in the splendor of his Kingdom once this short and troublesome life is over. In Jesus’ name I pray, AMEN!

Chapter 4: The Last Call

I will tell you a truth that God has revealed to me about himself and this ministry. This truth is about God’s love of irony in his plans and purposes. One definition of irony is “a state of affairs or an event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects and is often amusing as a result”. Those who are familiar with the Holy Bible will know these ironic stories well, so I will list only a few.

- Jesus, the one and only perfect son of God, our Lord and Savior, and the man in which God gave all authority in Heaven and Earth, was laid in a manger when born, not in a palace or place of luxury.
- The twelve apostles Jesus chose to be his students and closest to him were not experts in religious law or those who held respected positions at the temple. Fishermen and a tax collector were some of their occupations before being called by Jesus to follow and help start the Christian church.
- The apostle Paul, who was called on by Jesus miraculously to spread the Good News, was a man on a mission to hunt down and persecute all of followers of Christ that he could find!
- When Gideon led the Israelite army of 32,000 against a Midianite army numbering 135,000, God told Gideon that the Israelite army was TOO LARGE! Once God had shrunk down the Israelite army to only 300 men,

THEN God made Gideon's small army victorious over the vastly larger Midianite army.

- And who could forget John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus who was called to prepare the way for Jesus' ministry. John was not a powerful leader in society or highly esteemed member of the temple that you might have expected God to use. John was a man who lived alone in the wilderness and wore a garment of camel's hair with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild honey to survive and called other religious leaders who came to witness baptism a "brood of vipers"!

The point of this truth being that God will again prepare for the coming of Jesus (his return). Will God use a mighty Christian church or well-established Christian organization to proclaim Jesus' second coming? Will God use a highly esteemed man who has been well educated in religious law to prepare the way? Or might God use a small and relatively unknown ministry to reach and prepare God's people? A ministry untainted by the business mindset and pleasing of people that many churches conform to, today.

Just as God used John the Baptist's ministry to prepare the people for the first coming of Jesus, I believe God has created this ministry for a specific time and purpose as a precursor to the second coming of Christ. A ministry that will serve as a LAST CALL for believers around the world to prepare their hearts before Jesus' return. A time for the bride to be made ready for the Bridegroom, without spot or blemish.

May God prepare us with wisdom and understanding for the second coming of Christ. And may all who find this message know in their hearts to prepare, because the time of our Lord will be soon, suddenly, and unexpected. I pray for these things in Jesus' name, AMEN!

Chapter 5: The Three Wanderers

There was a rich man who encountered three wanderers in his travels. In his compassion for others, he made the three wanderers a gracious offer! He told them, "I have a mansion with many rooms, but it is not near to you. This

mansion is 1000 miles away, and you must begin your journey now by foot. Leave behind your troubles and join me in the splendor of my mansion, and I will be waiting there for you. I have prepared a map to show you the way, and I have even written notes on the map to guide you through the many dangers you will encounter. Also, I give you this purse of gold that will provide you with all provisions needed for your journey.” After these instructions were given, he gave them the map and purse of gold and then left their company.

Now one of the wanderers considered himself strong, another considered himself to be wise, and the third wanderer simply considered himself fortunate to receive such an offer. Together they made a pact and said, “We will make this difficult journey together, and together we will soon enjoy the splendor of the rich man’s home!” So, the three wanderers began their journey by foot as instructed by the rich man.

As they followed the narrow path marked on the map, they did encounter many dangers! But the notes provided by the rich man always guided them safely through. Then one day, they came to a mighty river alongside the narrow path whose water flowed opposite to the direction they were heading. The man who considered himself strong said, “The water of this river is crystal clear and beautiful to behold, so I will go down into it to bathe and be refreshed.” But then one of the other wanderers replied, “The map warns us to stay on the narrow path, or else we may lose our way!” But the man who considered himself strong ignored the warning and went down into the river to bathe anyway. Once he was waist deep, he realized the current was much stronger than he had assumed and was swept away and lost by the strength of the current.

Afterwards, the two remaining wanderers traveled on much further and came to a great city alongside the narrow path. The great city had every comfort and luxury imaginable and was very pleasing to the eye. The wanderer who considered himself wise said, “I am tired and weary from this long journey, so I will take my portion of the gold from the purse and stop here for a while to rest.” But the other wanderer replied again, “The map warns us to stay on the narrow path, or else we may lose our way!” But the man who considered himself wise ignored the warning and took his share of the rich man’s provision into

the city to purchase luxuries, comforts, and everything pleasing to the eye. Once he had gone into the city, the temptation and lure were too great, and he remained in the city for the rest of his days.

The third and final wanderer, who considered himself only fortunate, traveled on much further and finally arrived at the mansion of the rich man. The gold in the purse provided by the rich man had been just enough for everything needed on the journey. The rich man came out of his mansion to greet the wanderer, and the wanderer fell to his knees in thankful humbleness before the rich man. The rich man then asked, "Where are your companions?", and the wanderer replied, "They were lost along the journey, because they did not heed your warnings." The rich man replied, "I tell you the truth, many have set out for this same magnificent destination, but few will reach it. For those who trust in their own strength or wisdom will surely perish, but those who heed my warnings and follow my instruction will find me. For the thankful, the humble, and the meek will inherit all that I have to offer." Then the rich man embraced the wanderer, as they continued into his mansion for a great feast!

Chapter 6: Reorganization of the Church

I share a vision that I believe God gave me for the church. A design and blueprint for the reorganization of the church to better serve God and his people. In this vision, I could see...

- There was a centrally located place of worship for multiple communities (a community tabernacle) that was designated and made accessible for all within a reasonable traveling distance. This tabernacle was an abandonment of the many separate places of worship in the same or even close communities that we see today.
- The tabernacle was a place where the day chosen as the Sabbath was a true DAY of rest and worship by the people. A place where the tabernacle was open the entire day for God's people to come and go, enjoy meals together, hear sermons at various times, sing songs of praise, and hear the scripture of the Holy Bible read frequently while they listened, worshiped, and prayed.

- The abandoned (for worship) churches were repurposed as Christian schoolhouses where those who could pay to attend do, but those who cannot come freely. Pastors were leading and guiding those who taught and worked at each schoolhouse. The schoolhouse was a place where children could come and learn what is truly needed to be successful in both worldly jobs AND their relationship with God. A place where love, compassion, and comfort from God's people could be instilled in our children EVERY day. A place where those who do not want to come and learn, be respectful, and build a relationship with God aren't legally bound to do so. And a place where teachers are appreciated for the incredibly important role they have... nurturing the hearts and minds of God's children and ultimately our future leaders.
- The tithes and offerings of the people were combined to maintain the tabernacle, maintain the Christian schoolhouses, bless those in need, bless Israel, and bless mission workers abroad. And the tithes and offerings were not collected or plead for. But instead, a time was set aside for the people to bring the offerings that God put on their heart, in which God himself looked over and examined, and in which the people themselves brought forth with joy, praise, and true thankfulness.
- There was a high council of pastors with rotating sermon duties who presided over the tabernacle as its leaders. This council was responsible for organizing tabernacle resources, Christian schoolhouses, and helping with the needs of the people. There was an obligation to forge bonds with other community tabernacles for mutual support. There was an election held every 3 years for each high council seat by a vote of the people. And the people brought their quarrels to the council for judgement and obeyed its decree, instead of a man-made and godless legal system.
- And finally, an ornate hand-crafted wooden chair by the talented wood workers of the community was built and placed on an elevated platform above but close to the High Council's table. It remained unused in honor and remembrance of our Savior's return. A single light always illuminating it...day and night.

I have served in many roles as ordained by our Father in Heaven, including a

son, a brother, a husband, a father, a servant, a messenger, and today possibly one more... an architect for the restructuring of the Christian church. I pray that if this vision is truly accurate, God himself will stir the hearts of the people and pastors for change. By the power and authority of Jesus' name I pray, AMEN!

Chapter 7: The Golden Shackles

There was a man who lay outside the gate of a magnificent city, held there by golden shackles around his wrists and ankles. Each day, a wise and generous host would come to the gate of the magnificent city and call out to all who would listen saying, "The weary will find rest, the weak will find strength, and the broken will find comfort, love, and peace when they enter my city!" The shackled man was all of these things and longed to enter the magnificent city, but no matter how hard he pulled, he could not break the chains that bound him. As the shackled man lay outside the gate, he watched as the children, the meek, the poor, and the humble walked by and entered the magnificent city. They were each greeted by the wise and generous host as they entered.

As time went on, the shackled man grew older and suddenly died one day. He then found himself standing outside the gate of the magnificent city, and the wise and generous host met him there asking, "Why did you never come to me and enter the city when I called? I called out to you every day and welcomed you in, but you never listened! Today I declare, I never knew you...and your home will not be with me in this magnificent city. Despair and regret will be the home in which you dwell, far from me." The man who had been shackled then cried out, "Lord, Lord, I heard your call and wanted to come! But I was bound by the golden shackles and chains which I could not break!" Then the wise and generous host replied, "Look there, the golden shackles that kept you bound were not even locked! I tell you the truth, the choice was always yours to accept my invitation or remain bound by the golden shackles, but your love of money kept you chained. Now depart from me, you who practice iniquity."

This parable of the golden shackles teaches the meaning of Jesus' statement, *"I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a*

needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" (Matthew 19) The golden shackles are the riches and luxuries of this world that constantly distract and hold us back from a healthy relationship with God. Even though the choice is always ours, many leave their hearts and minds bound by worldly desires and won't let go of these chains. May God open our eyes and help us recognize what keeps us from praying regularly, from reading his Word in the Bible, from helping those around us, from being a reflection of God's love, and from sharing the Good News about Jesus Christ! And help us to hear and listen to your call, Father God. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN!

Chapter 8: Unknown Event

7/7/2019 – On the 7th second, of the 7th minute, of the 7th hour, of the 7th day, of the 7th month, of the 7th year of the next decade, which will be 7 decades since the State of Israel was proclaimed, **7/7/2027@07:07:07 CDT** (3:07pm in Israel)...

Close to 8 months ago, I woke up in the middle of the night restless and feeling like God had a new message for this ministry. I have received and written several messages for this ministry in the same manner, but this time I heard only a date and time. Dates and times of things to come have been reported erroneously or misunderstood many times by others, and I have struggled with whether to share what I heard in my Spirit. Since that time, I have had constant reminders and have not been able to put aside this date. So today, exactly 8 years until that day, I share it through this ministry. If I knew the meaning of this date and time, I would tell you. But whether it is the beginning or ending of something, or possibly some special event in God's eyes, I feel peace now that I have shared it. For those with ears and discernment, the date occurs on the 12th year of this ministry, and my number is 8.

UPDATE 9/20/2023: While fasting and praying this previous week, I felt God nudging me to re-examine this message. When originally posted, I simply used the common calendar shared by my own and many other countries which is the Gregorian calendar. The countdown timer on the ministry website has now been adjusted to mark the date and time on the Hebrew calendar being the 7th day

of Tishrei (3 days before Yom Kippur). The 7th hour now also reflects the 7th hour as it would have been known in Jesus' time which is 1:00pm (John 4:52). This new date and time of 7/7/5787@13:07:07 on the Hebrew calendar equates to 9/18/2026@05:07:07 CDT on the Gregorian calendar.

Chapter 9: The Drunken Man

A drunken man who recently lost his job sat quietly in a bar dreaming about how his life could have been different. Despair and heartache were his companions that night, and he did not know how to pay his debts. He felt abandoned by God and that nothing in life was going his way, even though he was a faithful Christian and had always done his best to love and help others. As the waitress walked by, she dropped a tray of dirty dishes and silverware. The drunken man leaned down and helped her clean up the spill. Before leaving the bar, he gave a very generous tip to the waitress in hopes of brightening her day, because she also seemed stressed and upset.

As the drunken man left the bar, two successful businessmen were entering. They sneered at the drunken man and his condition and gave no thought or concern about his troubles. As the two men enjoyed their meals and drinks, they joked and laughed about the drunken man's appearance and treated the waitress harshly because of slow service. They boasted to each other about their good fortune and how much God had blessed them, and they thought only about themselves. Afterwards, the two businessmen left the bar to return home to their families.

Soon after they left the bar, Jesus suddenly and unexpectedly returned for the church! Who will be justified when they stand before God in Heaven? I tell you the truth, only the drunken man will have God's favor and Jesus as his advocate when judged, because anyone without LOVE has nothing. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even*

sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” (1 Corinthians 13) Paul said again about the importance of love, “*Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.*” (1 Corinthians 13)

Chapter 10: The Meaning of Life

Many people have many explanations for the meaning and purpose of life, but I tell you the truth, there is only one. The meaning of life is not difficult to understand, a path you must find, a truth you must discover, and certainly not different for everyone. If the purpose of life was different for everyone, there would be chaos, and we do not serve a God of chaos but of order. I will tell you plainly the meaning and purpose of life, so that no one has to be left confused, or in doubt, or troubled, except by their own choice.

The meaning of life does not come from how much or little money, or power, or success, or longevity, or sex, or education, or possessions, or popularity, or husbands, or wives, or children, or accomplishment, or opportunity we have. It is not about which country, or city, or street, or house we live in, or even this planet in general. The meaning of life is so much easier than any of these things that we think give purpose to our lives. You do not even have to be a scholar or highly intelligent to understand this plain and simple truth about the meaning of life.

The meaning and purpose of life can be summed up in a single word. A word that affects every day, every hour, and even every minute of our lives. A word that describes the very fabric of God's creation down to its foundation. A word that will determine the final outcome of your life not only in this world, but also the next. And that word is...

Choice.

Every day we make choices, and the choice is between only two things in God's eyes...not many. You will choose yourself, or you will choose God. You may think God put you here for many reasons, but I tell you the truth, you have only confused God's plan in your own mind. And you make your choice each day by showing God who you love more...yourself or him.

To love God is not burdensome. The two greatest commandments on which all others can be summed up are to love God (striving towards obedience) and to love others (treating them as you would yourself). In contrast, to love yourself is to make money, power, success, longevity, sex, education, possessions, popularity, husbands, wives, children, accomplishment, opportunity, or anything else lord of your life which leads to many worries and troubles.

The most important part of loving God is accepting his son, Jesus Christ. Beyond that, there is only living in a way that pleases God and loving others, and God knows everything we do and every choice we make. It is through the choices we make that God will bring us into his presence for eternity or cast us far from his home. For God desires a people who have CHOSEN to love him, not a people who he has forced to love him. And in this search for companionship with a truly loving people, you will find the explanation for all of life and creation as we know it.

Chapter 11: The Shepherd and the Wolf

There was a good Shepherd who tended a flock of sheep near his home. The Shepherd was careful to lead his flock to the stream when they were thirsty and to the field when they were hungry. The Shepherd watched over and protected his flock from the many dangers of the wild, and he taught his flock to listen and stay close to his voice. The flock was given great care and attention from the good Shepherd, and the flock produced a mighty harvest of wool.

Always nearby, there was a clever wolf with the worst of intentions for the good Shepherd's flock. The wolf lurked in the shadows watching and waiting for one of the sheep to stray too far from the Shepherd. And some did stray despite

what they had been taught. Some of the sheep ate from other fields, some drank from other streams, some simply wandered out of disobedience, and still some followed other wayward sheep. When the sheep did stray, the clever wolf was quick to attack and even kill the sheep, if possible. In fact, the wolf desired nothing more than to kill, steal, and destroy as many of the sheep as he could, and his thirst for destruction was never quenched.

After the good Shepherd had tended the flock for a season, he gathered the remaining sheep into his Father's barn, to protect them from a bitter winter storm that approached.

Jesus, the good Shepherd, is always watchful and attentive to the needs of his people, the flock. In fact, Jesus has led us to fountains of living water and fed us the bread of life with the truth that he has taught. But still, many of us wander and stray. Some will follow others and be caught up in un-godly lifestyles, some will eat and drink of the lies and misdirection of men who only pretend to love God or have been misguided themselves, and still some will simply choose to ignore God and live in whatever way pleases them. But be sure of this, Satan, the clever wolf, will show no mercy or patience for those who stray from God and his instruction through Jesus. He will kill, steal, and destroy as many of God's children as possible in the small amount of time he has left. And the bitter winter storm that approaches will be the seven years of tribulation that follow the calling up of the church.

So rejoice and be thankful that we do have a GOOD Shepherd, Jesus Christ! And he leads ALL that will follow faithfully into his Father's barn, the Kingdom of Heaven. Each one of us has free will to choose whether we are obedient or wayward sheep, so be sure of your choice! Father God, give us wisdom to fully understand the teachings of Jesus, the endurance to hold tightly to our faith until we join you in Heaven, and the opportunity to bring you a MIGHTY harvest of honor, glory, and praise with our love and obedience. In Jesus name I pray, AMEN!

Chapter 12: Sermon in the Wilderness

Blessed are those who hunger for God, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are those who thirst in their spirit, for they will be refreshed.

Blessed are those compassionate to others, for they will be shown compassion.

Blessed are the timid in speech, for they will be emboldened.

Blessed are those who lose family for my sake, for they will have many brothers and sisters.

Blessed are the young at heart, for their faith is their strength.

Blessed are the old in age, for wisdom SHOULD be their companion.

Blessed are the humble, for they will sit at the feet of God.

I tell you the truth, many who claim the Kingdom of God will never see it. Many who call upon my name do not know me, and I will not acknowledge them before my Father. But a day is coming when all will be set right. A plan was made in the beginning, before the mountains or the seas were formed by my command. Before my breath brought life to man, the plan had been written.

In the last days, confusion will abound among my people. The culmination of man's efforts in science, technology, and new ways to sin will be a constant distraction from the true focus, our Father in Heaven. But these days will soon end, at the appointed time of my Father. How blessed that day will be when I return for those who follow me. And I will show them my love as I call them up to meet me in the air. Woe be to those alive at that time, for there will be great suffering and distress in those days. The scroll will be opened, and the days foretold of by Daniel and John will come to pass seal by seal, trumpet by trumpet, and bowl by bowl.

I tell you the truth, NOW is the time for repentance. Now is the time for a heavy heart and to be humbled before our Father in Heaven. Now is the time to love God and lift up the Son of Man. Now is the time to love your neighbor and all people who need your help, even your enemy. Pray for those who persecute you, give to those who are hungry, stand up for those who are weak and

innocent, and heap burning embers on the hearts of the wicked by showing love to those who hate you. The Holy Spirit, your great helper, will order your every footstep, pen stroke, and word spoken for my glory and the glory of the Father.

A great day is coming, a day that many have longed for, and sought after, and plead for. I departed from you as a lamb for sacrifice, but I will return as a roaring lion for my people. And they will know justice, and peace, and rest. They will shed no more tears in the light of our Father in Heaven. They will fear nothing except our magnificent Lord on High. And their spirits will be set ablaze with a joy that cannot be understood, by anyone outside of his presence.

Let those with ears hear, and understand, and share what God has spoken into their spirit. By the power and authority of Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 13: The Three Sons

A just father, who lived on the edge of a vast forest, had three sons. After watching his sons grow into young men, he desired to know the true intentions of their hearts. So he brought them together and said, "I am sending you out into the forest for a season. All I ask is that you live in the way I taught you from the beginning, and I will send helpers to aid you during your stay there. When the season is at an end, I will call you out of the forest, so be sure you are prepared to come home." The next day, all three sons entered the forest together and said to themselves, "If we stay together, no obstacle will be too much for us, and we will remain strong in each other." As the days turned into weeks, weeks into months, and months into years, the three brothers became desperate to return home. During this time, the just father did send helpers to guide the three brothers in the forest and to encourage and give them hope. All three brothers recognized these helpers sent by their father, and they were in agreement with each other.

But a prince lived in and ruled over the forest and had many loyal subjects there, and he had hatred for the just father and his three sons. So the prince

also sent men disguised as helpers to confuse and put a wedge between the brothers, because he knew they would be weaker apart. And these men of the forest did cause great trouble and confusion among the three brothers. The just father recognized the evil plans of the prince, so he disguised himself as a helper and went into the forest to aid and encourage his three sons. But even the aid and encouragement of the father was not enough to hold the three brothers together. The first brother recognized and welcomed his father and found a lasting joy and peace from his visit. The second brother also recognized his father but preferred the leadership of the men in the forest. And the third brother did not even recognize his father and simply continued searching. After only a short visit to the forest, the just father returned home to watch and wait patiently. The first brother continued to please his father and spread hope of The Way home. The second brother, who preferred the leadership of other men, was led astray and had many troubles. And the third brother continued searching until he was swayed by the false teachings of other men, which happened long after the father's visit to the forest.

At the predetermined time, the just father called on his three sons to return home from the forest. With the first son, he was well pleased and welcomed him with open arms. But with the second and third son, he was heartbroken, because he knew it was no longer their home. Their home was now with the men of the forest with whom they had put their faith, so the second and third son were cast back into the forest. Then a great fire swept across the forest, and there was weeping and gnashing of teeth among the castaway sons and all their descendants. But at the father's house, there was a great feast and celebration for the return of the first son and his descendants. And they made their home there with the father, never having to leave his presence again.

I tell you the truth, this is the story of the world we live in. Everyone who worships the God of Israel is a descendant of one of these three sons. Heavenly Father, open the hearts and the minds of the people with your mighty Spirit, and make the truth plain for their eyes to see. Unmask the prince of this world, so that many more will be prepared for the return home and understand The Way. In the power and authority of Jesus Christ's name, I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 14: Prayer of the Prophets

Many have claimed to know the will of God or to have an inspired message for his people. Many have deceived and misled the Lord's chosen and given false hope or false direction. Many have lied to gain favor or position with God's children, when their goals were only self-motivated.

I tell you the truth, it would be better on the Day of Judgement that a false prophet had never been born, than to receive the wrath of the Almighty for this egregious deed! Jesus warns his followers in **Matthew 7**, "*Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.*" God also warns in **Jeremiah 14**, "*These prophets are telling lies in my name. I did not send them or tell them to speak. I did not give them any messages. They prophesy of visions and revelations they have never seen or heard. They speak foolishness made up in their own lying hearts. Therefore, this is what the Lord says: I will punish these lying prophets, for they have spoken in my name even though I never sent them.*"

To avoid judgement for intentional or even accidental false prophecy, teachings, or messages, you must examine your heart as God will do. I would rather be struck down by the Holy Spirit where I stand just as Ananias and Sapphira in Acts (Chapter 5), rather than mislead any of our Heavenly Father's flock. Anyone claiming to be a prophet, or pastor, or minister, or teacher, or messenger of the church should pray this prayer as I have done many times before.

"Our Father in Heaven, King of the Universe, thank you for all your gifts. Use these gifts that you have given me for your glory and that of your son, Jesus Christ. Order my every footstep, pen stroke, and word spoken through the Holy

Spirit, to keep me on the narrow path and make me a lamppost in this dark world for your people. If anything I say, or do, or write will lead your flock astray, I would rather you strike me down this very moment with the Holy Spirit rather than mislead even one of your children. By the power and authority of Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN, AMEN, and AMEN!"

Let those with ears hear, and understand, and share what God has spoken into their spirit. By the power and authority of Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 15: The Rich Man

There was a rich man who had every comfort that money could buy. He went to church once a week and prayed occasionally for continued blessings and prosperity. But when there was a problem in his life, he had faith that his money could solve it. The rich man wanted for nothing, and he felt as if the world was at his fingertips. From the time he was a boy, this had been the way of his life, because even his parents were extremely wealthy and provided for his every desire. As he grew from a boy to a man, he felt he could always trust in money and that no problem could be too great. The rich man started his own family and said to himself, "There will be nothing that I cannot provide, so I will teach them the value of money and trusting in me." One day though suddenly, a car crash took the life of one of his sons. He could not understand how or why this happened and turned his grief and anger towards God for allowing it. Slowly the rich man began to lose everything. His grief and anger drove away his wife, and his remaining children felt abandoned by their father and had no guidance. Even his fortune began to dwindle as he neglected his many businesses because of depression. In what seemed like the blink of an eye, the rich man's lifetime had passed, and then he stood before God.

In that same city, there was a poor man who could afford only the necessities of life. He grew up poor from childhood and barely understood the meaning of luxury. He went to church once a week and prayed regularly that God would be with him and use what little he had for his glory. And the poor man knew that he would depend on God for every problem that arose, because he had no one and no money to help him. The poor man eventually had a family also, and he

worked incredibly hard to provide even the necessities for his wife and children. He taught his family to depend on and trust in God only, because God had always provided exactly what was needed at exactly the right time. He taught them that faith in God never fails, even though God sometimes had different plans for his life than his own. Eventually though, the poor man's only son became ill. The disease slowly overcame his son, and the boy died at a very young age. While the poor man did not understand why this happened or why God had allowed it, he continued to put his faith and trust in God, as he had done since childhood. The poor man remained as strong as he could for his family and continued to care for their needs. He prayed regularly to God for peace over his son's death and the ability to provide for his remaining family. And God did answer that prayer. In what seemed like the blink of an eye, the poor man's lifetime had passed, and then he stood before God.

On the day of judgement, God spoke to the rich man first saying, "From your years as a boy until you were a man, you lacked nothing that the world could offer. Your hope and trust were in your money, so you never felt a need for my help. When money could not save your son though, you lost all faith, because you never developed a relationship with me. And today, I declare that I never knew you. Go and join your family with whom you became a stumbling block, in the place of torment far from me." God then spoke to the poor man saying, "You have suffered many troubles from the time you were a boy through manhood. You had very little in the world, so you learned to trust and put your faith in Me. And I was always with you through every trial. You taught your family how to love me, and I declare today that you will be as wealthy as any man in My house. Go now and join your family in the paradise I have created for my children, because today, I claim you as my son."

I tell you the truth, this is why Jesus said, *"In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"* (Mark 10) Whether you have much or little in this world, put your faith and trust in God only. And pray God use all that he provides you for his glory. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN!

Chapter 16: Teachers of Light or Confusion

How many teachers does it take to find the truth? How many men must you ask to understand God? How much knowledge does one need to understand the way to Heaven? How many voices must you hear for salvation? How many churches, and which ones, must you attend to find God?

I tell you the truth, there are many teachers, many ideas, many books, many ways to Heaven, and even many gods, if you look for the truth in men. Different teachers could give you 10 different interpretations of the way to salvation, or even a single verse in scripture. But which is right? Which teacher is true? This is the struggle of God's people in an explosion of knowledge. One can find the opinions of thousands of teachers, easily, quickly, and always at their fingertips any time of day or night. This is the final attack of the prince of lies before our Savior's return. A final stumbling block to confuse as many of God's children as possible, at the most critical time. A divided bride that is not fully prepared for the Bridegroom's return.

Let your hearts and minds be at peace. For there is only one God. There is only one Salvation. There is only one Heaven. And there is only one Way to it.

The children of the Light should seek God first in the scripture, the Holy Bible. There you will find the truth for yourself. And God will reveal to you his plan from the beginning. That we were made blameless. We fell from grace through our own choices and disobedience to God's will. That a savior would come to rescue us, and he did, Jesus Christ! Love is what the entire Bible, all the prophets, all the commandments, and all the teachings of our perfect Rabbi, Jesus, have led us to. Again, loving God and loving people in faith and obedience to Jesus is the key and ONLY way to Heaven.

So, should I ignore all the teachers of the Way around me? No, no, no... listen to and learn from those who God leads you to... THOSE WHO GOD LEADS YOU TO; those who God puts in your path at the perfect time for those earnestly seeking him. And God will enhance your relationship with him and bring even more fruit of the spirit, through knowledge.

Let those with ears hear, and understand, and share what God has spoken into their spirit. By the power and authority of Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 17: The Three Fields

There was a good farmer that was well respected and loved by everyone that knew him. He lived just on the edge of town and was known for producing a mighty harvest each year. His crop was enjoyed and praised by all that had an opportunity to eat from it. One season, a boy from town wanted to meet the farmer, because he hoped to have his own field to farm one day. The boy wanted to learn everything he could about farming and knew there could be no better teacher than the good farmer.

When the boy finally had his chance, he met with the good farmer on the edge of town. The farmer said, "I own a great amount of land, but not all soil is the same. You must learn to test the soil and plant where you can produce a mighty harvest. So let me teach you The Way." Just as the farmer said, he showed the boy three different fields that stretched as far as the eye could see. To the boy's amazement, two of the fields were barren but the third field was full! The farmer told the boy, "Look at this first field where the soil is mostly sand. Even though the seed will start to grow, the crop is quickly uprooted when a strong storm passes through. I sow only one tenth of my seed in this field, because the harvest will be small. Now look at this second field where the soil is mostly clay. Only a small portion of the seed sown here will take root, because the soil is hard and difficult to penetrate. I sow only one tenth of my seed in this field, because the harvest will be small. Finally, look at this third field of which I am most proud where the soil is dark and rich. The seed sown in this field will take root and grow quickly, because the soil is receptive and nourishing to the seed. I sow eight tenths of my seed in this field, because the harvest will be great!" The boy learned much from the good farmer, and he began to search for his own field with the perfect soil to sow. And the farmer continued to guide and teach the boy many of his secrets, so that the boy's harvest would also be mighty.

I tell you the truth, this is the story of this ministry, but it can be the story of any other Christian ministry as well. Learn to listen to the Good Farmer, our Father in Heaven, and be receptive of what he teaches. Not all fields are the same, and the crop from one field is no more valuable than the crop from another. I say again, a bushel of crop from one field is not worth more than a bushel of that same crop from another. Learn which fields are rich and fertile where The Word can be planted and take hold and spend most of your effort there! Because the field of sand where The Word takes hold initially but then is quickly uprooted by troubles or the field of clay where The Word does not penetrate the stubborn and hard hearts of the people will produce very little, and the little that is produced is no more valuable than what is gathered from the fertile field. Sow where the harvest will be mighty, because this season is coming to an end. And there remains many souls to win for the glory of God and his son, Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN!

Chapter 18: Just Wages

Every action has its reward, everything sown produces a harvest, and every thought has its wage. A reward, harvest, or wage can be either good or bad, depending on the work being done and for who. I tell you the truth, the work that you do whether physical or even in your heart will not go unpaid. So what can we expect as payment for our many works?

For those who do the work of our Father in Heaven, your reward will be great! Your wages will be peace, joy, and a satisfaction that cannot be achieved through any other work in this world. And your work looks like patience for the misguided, loving people... even when not earned or deserved, guidance for those who have lost their way, helping those who have fallen, and mercy for those in your debt. Love your Father in Heaven through obedience to his will, and your harvest will be great and your storehouses full! Your reward will not be in this fleeting life where thieves break in to steal and moths destroy, but in your eternal home with our Father in Heaven. Those who serve God will sometimes be blessed even in this world, although blessings in this world for the faithful will come with many hardships.

For those who work for the prince of this world, your reward will also be great! Your wages will be envy, self-loathing, and a dissatisfaction caused by thirst that cannot be quenched by any worldly possession. And your work looks like anger, hurting those who hurt you, leading the lost into further darkness, stepping on those who have fallen to lift yourself even higher, and demanding payment or consequences to all in your debt. You will love your father, the devil, through obedience to his will, and your harvest will be great and WORLDLY storehouses full. Sadly though, your reward will be only in this fleeting life that is as short as a flower blooming in season before being thrown in the trash. Thieves will take what you hold most precious, decay will destroy all that you love, and any treasure you have left will be burned in the fires of our Heavenly Father's justice, at the end of the age. Suffering and spiritual death await workers such as these.

Followers of Christ, be especially careful of those who claim to know God, when their wages pronounce a different truth. Men claiming to be the closest to God challenged Jesus and his followers, so Jesus spoke to their own actions by explaining, *"Why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God? For instance, God says, 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.' But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.' In this way, you say they don't need to honor their parents. And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'"* (Matthew 15)

Let those with ears hear, and understand, and share what God has spoken into their spirit. By the power and authority of Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 19: The Old Man

There was an old man who lived within the walls of a great city, where the people were proud and confident in themselves. The people had a powerful

army that could overcome any foe. There was wealth enough that the poorest of the people lived like the rich of other nations. And the people celebrated continuously with drunken and wild parties.

One evening after dark, the old man came to the head of the guard and said, "The enemy is at the gate, make ready your soldiers for war!" But the head of the guard laughed and said, "Old man, leave the protection of this city to me, for I have protected it for most of my life. I have many men who guard the gate, and they would have surely told me if there was a threat. Now go and leave me alone, so that I can drink and enjoy the company of my men." Then the old man quickly rushed to the city manager and said, "The enemy is at the gate, make ready your soldiers for war!" But the city manager said, "Old man, the city is protected by a mighty wall and an army that has no equal. There is no threat to our great city, so go now and leave me alone. Because tonight, I celebrate the wedding of my daughter." In desperation, the old man made one final plea to the mayor and said, "The enemy is at the gate, make ready your soldiers for war!" But the mayor said, "Old man, I have been elected by the people of this great city, and they have put all of their confidence in me. If our city was under attack, would I not know about it? Go now with your foolish ideas and leave me alone. Because tonight, I will be feasting and celebrating at the festival."

Just before dawn, the sound of a trumpet blast could be heard throughout the city from beyond the wall. As the many people and soldiers of the city looked at each other in confusion and drunkenness, an attacking army broke through the gate and ransacked the city. After the attacking army took control of the city, they captured and imprisoned those who had previously been in control. As they marched the mayor and leaders out of the city for banishment, the mayor noticed the old man standing at the edge of the gate. The mayor said, "How could you have known we would be attacked before anyone else? Did you conspire against your own people?" The old man simply responded with, "I tell you the truth. I love the many people of this city, but you would not listen. Each night I walk to the highest point of the city wall to pray and give thanks to God, and I could see the torches of the approaching army in the distance. I did everything I could to warn you, but in your confidence and pride, the wisdom of

an old man meant nothing to you. And today, you have eaten the fruit of your wickedness.”

Chapter 20: The Winter Harvest

The light shrinks away, the darkness grows greater, and the warmth of life turns bitter cold as winter approaches. So goes the hearts of men at the end of the age. I tell you the truth, this final season of winter is already upon us, and you will see people wax worse and worse.

The signs of winter are not difficult to see. It looks like war, and famine, and unforgiveness, and pride, and greed, and jealousy, and deception, and murder, and self-exaltation, and sexual sin, and all sorts of newly created wickedness. As these things become more and more prevalent and accepted in the world, the hearts of the people will grow cold for one another, and most will turn away from our Heavenly Father.

BUT the harvest of God’s children does not end because of this spiritual winter, as a worldly harvest would! The Spirit of our Father in Heaven will CONTINUE drawing many to follow and accept his Son and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And as followers in Christ, we will STILL be required to love and guide those who are called, no matter how cold and bitter this world becomes. You will be a lamp whose oil has not run out, a beacon leading those who are searching, a voice of encouragement for those who are confused or in doubt, and wisdom and reason for those who know not where to turn.

Churches (the physical places of worship) and religious organizations built by men may fall away, but the light of the true Church, those who follow Jesus Christ, will always remain and cannot be extinguished. Unification of believers will be more essential than ever during this great and terrible winter, and the common ground on which we stand is loving God, loving others, faith in Jesus as the Messiah, and repentance. The bride MUST make ready for the Bridegroom, and a divided bride is unfit!

The Lord has this message for the most stubborn of hearts... Cut off and

separate your hands, and then show me how well you can wash the feet of your neighbor. Cut off and separate your feet, and then show me how well you can walk down the narrow path. Cut off and separate your tongue, and then show me how well you can sing praises to your Father in Heaven. Just as you use and rely on the different parts of your body, I too require that all parts of the Body of Christ serve, obey, and worship in harmony.

Let those with ears hear, and understand, and share what God has spoken into their spirit. By the power and authority of Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 21: The Judge

There was a man who was highly respected by everyone in the community, and he even served as an elder in the church. Since he was a young man, he had been God-fearing and followed all of God's commands. No one in the community had anything bad to say about him, because he was honest, hardworking, dependable, and could be trusted with all things. Everyone in the community loved this man and gave him high praise in discussion. So his self-confidence was at a peak, and he felt like he could accomplish any task.

In that same community, there was a humble man who lacked many of the elder's qualities. He also feared God, but he felt as if he failed as much as he succeeded in following God's commands. This man struggled with various sins, although he always repented and did his best to please God. For the most part, he was dependable, but he did sometimes fail in his commitments. Some in the community did not respect him because of past failures, and many did not even know him due to his quiet nature. But those who were closest to him knew of his kindness and love for others. So his self-confidence was very low, and he generally worried if he was good enough at his work.

One day, a drifter came into town, and his appearance was very rough. His clothes were ripped and full of holes, and his hair and beard were long and unkempt. He did not even own a pair of shoes. This man did not know God and sinned in almost every way. He constantly lied and stole to meet his needs and openly had sexual relations with any man or woman who would pay him. So he

did what was pleasing to himself.

As time went on, the elder was careful not to associate with the drifter, because he knew of his many sins. When their paths did cross, the elder simply shook his head and thought, "Thank God, I am not a sinner like this man." The paths of the drifter and humble man crossed sometimes as well, but the humble man felt sorrow in his heart and thought, "If only this man knew Jesus, his life could be completely transformed!" So the humble man did things from time to time to show love and compassion to the drifter. At one time, he gave the drifter one of his best pair of shoes. At another time, he bought the drifter a meal and tried to share the Good News about Jesus. But the drifter was resistant to change.

After more time, the drifter was put in jail for theft and prostitution. While in prison, the humble man visited occasionally and brought small gifts. The humble man did his best to explain that he had also struggled with sin, but his love and respect for Jesus kept him on the narrow path. He went on to explain that true joy and peace come only through a relationship with Jesus, not anything in this world. And these visits continued over the several years that the drifter was jailed.

During that time, many in the community gossiped about why the humble man was so interested in helping the drifter, and many vicious lies and rumors were spread. But while in prison, the drifter's heart did change, and he developed a relationship with Christ and was baptized. The drifter left behind his sinful lifestyle, and once out of prison, the drifter and humble man became lifelong friends and brothers in Christ.

After their lifetimes, the elder stood before God for judgement. And God spoke..."People say you followed my every command since you were a young man, and you were highly respected by everyone that knew you. You served in the church and were successful in all that you attempted. No one has anything bad to say about you! But I see through a man's successes or failures, sins or innocence, actions or inactions, all the way down to his heart. And you have failed at the commandment that is as important as loving me with all of your heart, all of your soul, and all of your mind...which is loving others. You made

yourself judge in the world over who was worthy to hear the Good News about Jesus. You condemned the drifter to a fate without a Savior, and for this, I am greatly displeased. For I am the only one who can truly see a man's heart and judge justly. The drifter you cast aside had been beaten, molested, and abandoned by his parents at a young age. No one had shown him love in his whole life, until he met the humble man with whom I am well pleased."

Chapter 22: The Wayward Son

After a busy dream where I was trying to complete something (cannot even remember what) for God but couldn't, I woke up during the fourth watch of the night (2:00am–6:00am) briefly. Within 10–20 minutes of trying to go back to sleep, the smoke detector in my bedroom started beeping due to a low battery causing me to have to get up, go downstairs, and search for replacement batteries. While trying to go back to sleep for a third time, I kept feeling like God had a message so much so that I started writing tediously on my cell phone, since that was the only thing close. This message felt different than most messages I have written, meaning it was not a singular and focused message, and more like questions to stir thought around our spiritual lives. These are the questions I heard...

How many times must a wayward son ask his father for something, before the father is inclined to act. In comparison, how many times would a favorite son who is perfect in all ways need to ask his father for something, before the father is inclined to act, even when pleading FOR the wayward son?

Whose ears have more compassion for a wayward son? Would it be a disappointed father, or a brother who has walked in our shoes and suffered in the very same ways that we have?

These are the reasons that we should pray to the Son, Jesus Christ, and the reasons he is willing to go to the Father on our behalf and plead our case. Who did the thief, hung on the cross beside Jesus, ask for help? Was it the Father or the Son? Who answered his plea so quickly with grace, mercy, and understanding? You will not upset the Father by asking help directly from the

Son, because the Father has given all authority in Heaven and Earth to the Son. Lifting our prayers to the Son brings glory to our Heavenly Father who sent him!

Separately, I felt like God was describing the battle with our great enemy, satan, who is the prince of this world. Who is satan, but another wayward son of the Father. Satan is like an older brother burning with envy and jealousy, because his younger brother (man) has found favor with the Father and will inherit the larger portion normally given to the firstborn.

Tell me, which faithful child of God has not suffered? Which follower of Christ has not faced many trials and tribulations? Was Joseph spared by his jealous brothers? Was Daniel not thrown into the lion's den? Was Job spared by the jealousy of our wayward brother, satan? Was Christ himself, the greatest and most faithful of all God's children, not flogged 39 times, mocked, spit on, given a crown of thorns, and hung on a cross to die?

I tell you the truth, if you have not suffered like men such as these, the prince of this world has no reason to be jealous of your coming inheritance or your relationship with the Father. Be wary of men who claim only prosperity for God's children, because a pure and faithful son or daughter is created by fire, not prosperity.

Prosperity and affluency create fair-weather children. When times become difficult, they will turn away from their Father and his instruction. They will seek help from whoever offers it and at any cost.

Let those with ears hear, and understand, and share what God has spoken into their spirit. By the power and authority of Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 23: The Gift Bearer

There was a generous and loving King, who always ruled fairly and justly. No one truly knew him, but he desired a relationship with the people of his kingdom. There was a city that held a special place in his heart along with its people, and he sent many messengers to introduce himself and his ways. Some

of the messengers were accepted by the people, but many were not and sometimes even killed!

Even while the people were being stubborn and wicked, the King's love always endured. So the King sent a Gift Bearer, his very own Son, to take a gift to each and every person of the city and show how much love and compassion he had for them. But when the Gift Bearer arrived, he found that only a few would listen and receive the gift from his Father. Some said, "The Gift Bearer offers an unbelievable gift, but it's a trap, because the King would never offer such a magnificent gift without payment of some kind!" Others said, "This Gift Bearer claims he was sent by the King and is his Son, so let him prove his authority!" But the Gift Bearer would not give the proof they demanded and was faithful to what the Father had instructed him to do. Finally, out of jealousy and hatred of the authority claimed by the Gift Bearer, the people conspired to kill him as they had done to many of the King's messengers that came before him.

At this, the King's heart was truly saddened, so he sent out messengers yet again. This time though, they were sent to ALL of the people in the kingdom. From the greatest to the least of the people, ALL were offered the King's gift by his messengers. And many did accept his gift with great joy, because it meant they would have a relationship with the King that could not be broken by anyone or anything. And ALL who had accepted his gift rejoiced, as they prepared and gathered for a great feast with their King!

Chapter 24: Importance of Fasting

The practice of fasting is presented in the Holy Bible for different reasons. Sometimes it is to show honor and reverence to the Lord, sometimes it is a sign of remembrance, and still sometimes it is during times of great hardship or anguish. But what is gained from a sacrifice such as fasting? How does it affect or improve our relationship with the Lord when stripping away earthly pleasures and necessities? Why did Jesus fast for 40 days before starting his earthly ministry?

Through wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit, I hope to give some insight

into what we can learn from fasting, and its true significance. Yes, fasting can be used for all the things listed above, but what can be gained is far greater than the sacrifice for any of these reasons typically given for fasting. Each of these things could also be addressed through worship, celebration, or answered prayers for favor and peace, so why would God teach us to fast?

The answer is simple, but not obvious to most. When denying ourselves food, one of the basic pleasures and necessities of life, we discover the condition of our heart. When denied food, are you consumed with hunger, frustration, anger, and lack of love or mercy for others, or do you still praise the Lord and love others? Even though the Lord always knows the condition of our heart, we sometimes convince ourselves otherwise through conditional acts of loving others, showing kindness, and praising the Lord only when all our own worldly pleasures and/or necessities are being met. But without pleasure or even necessity, you will see clearly for yourself the condition of your own heart as God sees it. And in this stripping away of earthly fulfillment, you will discover your shortcomings and weaknesses in the eyes of the Lord. If “good people” do terrible things to others when faced with hunger, what does that say about the condition of their heart? People may use excuses like “survival instinct” to justify their actions to themselves, others, or even God, but I tell you the truth, anything contradictory to love is both displeasing to and not from the Lord. Some may read this and say that there are parts of the Holy Bible that contradict showing love to others, but I tell you the truth, any form of loving people is always superseded by obedience to God (loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind being the GREATEST commandment). To conclude, denying yourself the pleasures, comforts, or necessities of this world will unmask the true intentions and condition of the heart.

When led by the Holy Spirit, you should fast for a time based on guidance from the Lord. Along with being an opportunity for reverence, remembrance, or favor in times of trouble, it will be a revelation of the condition of your heart to yourself and even others. You will discover what the Lord already knows about the condition of your heart, and this knowledge can be used to improve the condition of your heart through awareness, and in doing so, improve your relationship with God.

Let those with ears hear, and understand, and share what God has spoken into their spirit. By the power and authority of Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 25: The Good Father

How are there still so many misconceptions about the way to Heaven? As Jesus taught, teachers of religious law continually come up with new rules and regulations to enter Heaven, which have not come from the Father and which they do not even keep themselves! How terrible it will be on the day of judgement for all who have been misled, but even more terrible still for those false teachers. (**Matthew 23**)

Salvation is like a Good Father with many children, who wanted to prove just how dearly he loved them. So when the right time came for each of them to learn to drive, he was careful to teach them everything they needed to know to be safe. The Good Father taught them about the dangers of the road and what to watch out for, he taught them how to read the map so that they could navigate the treacherous road home, and he even found good teachers to give instruction and guidance along the way so that help could always be found.

After the Good Father's masterful instruction was completed, he offered each of his children a new car that none of them deserved or could pay for. He simply offered the new car to them as a testament of his love and desire for relationship, and all they needed to do was accept it and follow his instruction. Now some of the Good Father's children understood the deep and compassionate love he had for them, and in turn, they truly loved the Good Father and loved others as he had shown them love. And the Good Father was well pleased with these children.

But some of the children did not love others or listen to the Good Father and loved only themselves. With these children, the Good Father was very displeased. So he took the car that was offered to them and offered it to other children who would accept it in true love and obedience. And in doing so, others became his sons and daughters with whom he was well pleased.

Because the heart is so stubborn and deceitful, I will explain even more clearly. Salvation that brings eternal life cannot be earned through good works, and NO ONE is good enough to deserve it on their own. God offered us a way, his son Jesus Christ, so that all who accept and declare him as their savior in true love and appreciation will be saved. But TRUE love and appreciation of what our Heavenly Father has done comes with repentance. And LOVE is not just a feeling, but an ACTION! Those who love God seek to please him through obedience, and you will fail many many times! But God's mercy is refreshed each and every day (**Lamentations 3**), so be even more thankful still! And when that day of judgement comes, the one true Judge over all will make known what is in every man's heart.

In Jesus' own words, *"A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'" (Matthew 7)*

Chapter 26: Love Your Enemies

A world filled with hate, anger, no compassion, no mercy, and no forgiveness has truly strayed as far as possible from the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And the people of this world have determined that they are capable of being its judges, a self-righteous people that are ready and willing to cast judgement on all of God's glorious creation themselves. I tell you the truth, the shame and spiritual debt that the judges of this world will accumulate in God's eyes will truly be great and horrifying on that most wonderful day when you stand before our Heavenly Father, the creator and one true judge of all creation.

Will we live as God intended and as Jesus taught AND LIVED during his earthly ministry, or conform to worldly practices of declaring ourselves God and judge over this world and everyone in it? In the words of our greatest teacher pulled from pieces of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, *"God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell. So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow. You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect."* (Matthew 5)

Ask, plead, even beg for God to examine your heart and open your eyes to the truth of its condition, so that you may be ready for that most wonderful day. IN LOVE, teach what is right and true according to the scriptures, and allow God time to convict the hearts of those who are not in a healthy relationship with him. Don't misunderstand what I am saying, for there will be judgement for all of God's laws that are broken and for those who mislead others regarding the

law, but that judgement and punishment will come from the only one qualified to do so, our Father and Creator in Heaven. And those who break the laws of this world, whether aligned with God's law or not, will surely be subject to the authority of this world, as well.

Let those with ears hear, and understand, and share what God has spoken into their spirit. By the power and authority of Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 27: The Three Wise Men

There were three wise men living in one of the wealthiest cities in the world, who had access to the best education, unlimited resources for learning, and money for training of any kind. These wise men were known throughout the city for their wisdom in all things. One day, a very wealthy man met with them and offered each of the wise men up to one third of all he owned to teach him the TRUE way to Heaven, because he had heard many people teaching different ways to Heaven and feared for his family's salvation. The three wise men accepted his offer and gathered all the information they could find.

Even though the three wise men agreed that all creation must be from intelligent design and not just by chance, they could not agree on the way to Heaven. So after much studying and deliberation, the three wise men went to the wealthy man's home to present their conclusions.

The first wise man proclaimed, "We are all like Gods, and someone extremely wise like myself must have created all things." He continued, "As long as you can please yourself and are happy, your life will be like Heaven on Earth." So the wealthy man replied that if God was merely a wise man such as himself, explain to me, *"Have you ever commanded the morning to appear and caused the dawn to rise in the east? Have you made daylight spread to the ends of the earth, to bring an end to the night's wickedness? ...Have you explored the springs from which the seas come? Have you explored their depths? Do you know where the gates of death are located? Have you seen the gates of utter gloom? Do you realize the extent of the earth? Tell me about it if you know!"* (Job 38) Frustrated from not knowing how to properly respond to any of the wealthy man's

questions, the first wise man put his head down in embarrassment and left.

Then the second wise man presented his case by saying, “We are not God, but God is whoever we believe him to be and is different for everyone.” He continued by explaining, “So long as you serve and please your own God, you will surely make it to Heaven.” So the wealthy man replied, “If we all have our own God, then we must all have our own Heaven, also. In my father’s house, when I was a boy, he was the master of his house. No one else could come into his house and claim authority or bring anyone in without my father’s permission. So if there are many Gods, then there must also be many Heavens. Otherwise, there would be conflict over authority! The Heaven I seek is a place of peace and joy that I hope to share with those I love, and not a place of isolation or conflict.” The second wise man was dumbfounded by the wealthy man’s response, so he hung his head in shame and left.

The third wise man then began by stating, “There is only one God, there is only one Heaven, and there is only one narrow path to find it.” The wise man went on to say, “SINCE there is only one God, I studied many religions to determine which of the many Gods served by the people was the one TRUE God. Because of the beauty in the creation in which we live and the expectation of Heaven being a place of peace, joy, and communion, I have decided that the one TRUE God must be defined by LOVE. And out of all the religions I have investigated, the God who shows more LOVE than any other, enough to sacrifice his own son for your sake and declare loving others equal in importance to loving him, is the God of Israel. Faith in Jesus Christ combined with loving God and others is the cornerstone in which the bridge to Heaven was built.” So the wealthy man replied, “If a man were lost in the wilderness and came upon a group of ten men, he would ask them the way to town. But if the ten men all pointed in different directions, then only one of them really knew the truth, and the other nine were as lost as the man asking for help. I agree that the direction pointing to God, Heaven, and the narrow path to them must be defined by LOVE. Let our agreement and faith in this join us like brothers in this world and the world to come.” So the third wise man and wealthy man did become like brothers, and they worked together to teach their families and all who would listen the Good News about Jesus.

Chapter 28: Motives

Motives are not the actions of men, but the reasons behind those actions that are often hidden, unknown, or even misunderstood by both those who witness them and sometimes even those who commit them. I tell you the truth, the motives of men are not hidden, unknown, or misunderstood by our Father in Heaven. There will be an accounting of every action and motive of men as their works are brought into the light on that most wonderful day that you stand before God. And you will answer fully for each and every one.

So how do we know and understand the motives of men? Wisdom from God should always and frequently be prayed for in all situations, but the motive behind actions can also be discovered by their fruit. Is the fruit of a man's actions to lift himself above others, or to humbly lift those around him who God puts in his life? Is the fruit of a man's actions to build an earthly kingdom that we SHOULD know will not last, or to build God's heavenly kingdom that will last for eternity? Is the fruit of a man's actions to gather as many worldly things in this life as possible, where moths and rust destroy and thieves break-in and steal, or to gather his treasure for the next life in Heaven with God, where moths and rust do not destroy and there are no thieves.

Many have been misled by wolves in sheep's clothing, who claim to have been sent by God while orchestrating a plan that serves themselves and an earthly kingdom, not God. When the actions of a man lead to extravagant clothing that neither serves nor impresses God, who created the flowers of the field and birds of the sky in all their beauty, what is his motive? When the actions of a man lead to great accumulation of wealth that neither serves nor impresses God, who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, what is his motive? When the actions of a man lead to the exaltation of himself above others that neither serves nor impresses God, who sits on a throne above all creation, what is his motive? What have God's children done with the many resources entrusted to them by their Heavenly Father? Only a great fool would believe a lavish lifestyle would bring more glory to and impress God than giving to the poor, helping those in need, and investing in the spread of the Good News of Jesus Christ. I tell you the truth, each man will be held accountable for what he was given in

this life and how he used those resources.

Ask, plead, even beg for God to examine your heart and open your eyes to the truth of its condition, so that you may be ready for that most wonderful day.

Let those with ears hear, and understand, and share what God has spoken into their spirit. By the power and authority of Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 29: The Sparrows

There was a Good Farmer who came across a nest of three young sparrows not able to yet fly. After watching the nest for several days, he realized that the three young sparrows had been left abandoned. They had no hope of survival without his help. The Good Farmer had a compassionate heart, so he decided to care for the three young sparrows and give them a chance at life. First, the Good Farmer brought the nest onto his porch where he could easily warm them on the coldest nights and cool them on the hottest days. Each day, the Good Farmer would feed the young sparrows from his hand, and each day, the sparrows grew stronger and thrived. At the appropriate time, each sparrow learned to fly with some nudging from the Good Farmer, and all three sparrows were able to leave the nest.

The first sparrow would fly out into the wilderness to explore but always returned each day to the Good Farmer's porch. And each day, the Good Farmer would feed and care for the young sparrow to help it prosper. After some time, the young sparrow matured and built a nest of its own on the Good Farmer's porch. So the Good Farmer watched as the first sparrow's family grew and prospered together from all that he had provided.

When the second young sparrow learned to fly, it would stay gone for longer and longer each time it left the Good Farmer's porch. This sparrow was captivated by the wilderness and wanted to explore further and further away. Until one day, the Good Farmer realized that the second sparrow had been gone for a very long time. But then one bitterly cold Winter's day, the second sparrow did return. The young sparrow had matured, but it was scarred from the

dangers of the wilderness and hungry from the scarce food in Winter. And the Good Farmer was overjoyed to see the second sparrow return and resumed all care that he had once provided. The second sparrow also built a nest on the Good Farmer's porch and never wandered far again.

But when the third young sparrow learned to fly, it immediately flew far from the Good Farmer's porch determined to experience all that the wilderness had to offer. After much time had gone by, the Good Farmer knew that the third young sparrow was not coming back, and there was sadness in the Good Farmer's heart. Each day though, the Good Farmer would still call out into the wilderness hoping to see the third sparrow return, but the sparrow's choice was its own.

Chapter 30: Baptism

What is the purpose of baptism, who should be baptized, and when should you be baptized? These questions are common among those who are new in their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Baptism is a beautiful and visual representation of the death and burial of our sinful life along with the resurrection and beginning of a new life in Jesus Christ. This is a declaration to all who witness that you have put your faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior and that you are ready to start your new life of loving (obedience and respect for) God and loving (kindness and compassion for) others. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and instructed all of his followers to do the same when he said, *"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28)

Who should be baptized then? In this quote from the Book of Matthew, Jesus indicates that ALL disciples (followers/students) from ALL nations should be baptized. There is no one excluded by Jesus from this instruction, so ALL brothers and sisters in Christ should feel confident in beginning their journey

through baptism.

When should you be baptized? This is probably the question that followers and even leaders within the churches of Jesus Christ struggle with most. Did Jesus say that disciples must fully know, or fully understand, or be fully practicing everything that he had commanded before being baptized? No such prequalification was given and should not be added when a person hears the Good News and wants to be a follower of Christ. A new disciple will not be well-trained in all the teachings of Jesus Christ, and they will certainly not have mastered obedience in their walk with Christ. Becoming a disciple indicates the beginning of your walk with Christ, the start of your desire to be obedient to Christ's teachings, and the beginning of your journey in this new life (not the completion of that journey). New disciples will struggle and even fail in their obedience to Christ, just as those who have followed Jesus for DECADES sometimes struggle and fail in their walk with Christ. There is no record in the Bible of anyone being turned away, being asked to go home and think about it, or being asked to study scripture before they are baptized, because baptism is ordained by God and not men, organizations, or churches. Three thousand examples of this principle were given by the Apostle Peter, *"So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah! Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter replied, 'Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.' Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation!' Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all."* (Acts 2)

This desire to follow Jesus Christ in general does not come from within a man and is not taught from one man to another. The desire to follow Jesus, the Son of God, comes from our Heavenly Father as he draws their spirit as Jesus described, *"For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. As it is written in the*

Scriptures, 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me." (John 6) Therefore, what man, organization, or church can declare themselves the gatekeeper between a man who desires baptism and the Kingdom of Heaven? What man, organization, or church can say to another man that "you are not ready for baptism", when God himself draws them with the desire to come and follow Jesus?

Ask, plead, even beg for God to examine your heart and open your eyes to the truth of its condition, so that you may be ready for that most wonderful day.

Let those with ears hear, and understand, and share what God has spoken into their spirit. By the power and authority of Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 31: The Free Meal

A priest, a pastor, and a rabbi were debating God's will for the church while walking down the street to find lunch. When they passed by a small restaurant, the owner stepped out to offer them a free meal, so the three teachers felt blessed for their good fortune. As they went in, the owner greeted each man and took their jackets before seating them at one of his finest tables.

Promptly after seating them, the owner asked what type of sandwich each man would like. The first and second teacher told the owner what they wanted, and the third asked that his sandwich be wrapped up and given to the homeless man outside the restaurant with specific instructions to tell him who sent it. The owner then asked what they would like to drink. The first teacher ordered water and was proud to boast that no alcohol had ever touched his lips. The second teacher said that he would take his drink and sandwich to go, since he did not want to be seen eating or drinking with teachers from a different church. The third teacher ordered multiple glasses of wine and said that Jesus turned water into wine, so it must be good to drink. The owner was happy to accommodate each of the men, and said he hoped to see them all again soon as they left and went their own separate ways.

Which man in the story best represents Jesus?

I tell you the truth, the man in this story who best represents Jesus' character was the restaurant owner. While many men have dedicated their lives and careers to teaching the Good News about Jesus, some have misrepresented the character of Christ. The character of Jesus is not proud, or boastful, or demeaning, or judgmental, or self-serving. Jesus has instructed us to be full of love and compassion for one another, to meet each other's needs, and to serve others. He has offered us the bread of life and drink that can quench any thirst, if only we accept it and follow him. And Jesus himself has declared loving others as important a commandment as loving God!

Who does your character best represent? Is your character born of the ideas and plans of men, or the true teaching of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?

"Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus replied, 'You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.' 'No,' Peter protested, 'you will never ever wash my feet!' Jesus replied, 'Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me.' Simon Peter exclaimed, 'Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!' Jesus replied, 'A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you.' For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, 'Not all of you are clean.' After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, 'Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have

done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.” (John 13)

Chapter 32: By His Command

By His command, mountains will rise or crumble.
By His command, oceans will separate or spring forth.
By His command, rain will fall or dry up.
By His command, nations will overcome or be conquered.
By His command, men will be lifted up or brought low.
By His command, hearts will be softened or made hard.
By His command, Jesus healed every type of sickness.
By His command, you were given Hope in the darkness.
By His command, you were given free will to choose.
By His command, every knee shall bow before Jesus.

Chapter 33: The Seven Sisters

There was a rich man who had seven daughters, and he taught them everything he knew about the ways of God but also the world. While his daughters were still young, he was taken away unexpectedly, and his daughters were left with only his instruction on how to live successful and full lives.

As the seven sisters reached a proper age for marriage, they each found a suitable spouse and were married. The first sister relied on her intelligence in worldly matters, and she had wealth and a successful business of her own. The second sister relied on her beauty and caught the attention of many suitors. The third sister relied on her charm and could ease almost any situation. The fourth sister relied on her strong will, and no challenge seemed too big. The fifth sister relied on her ability to cook, so every meal prepared was an exceptional feast. The sixth sister relied on her cunning, and she manipulated every situation to her advantage. And finally, the seventh sister had a servant's heart with kindness as sweet as honey, and she only relied on her faith in God.

Of the seven sisters, whose husband found a true treasure in his wife?

The first sister's marriage fell on hard times, when the economy and her wealth began to dry up. The second sister's marriage ended as she aged, because physical beauty is a fleeting gift. The third sister's charm could just as easily turn to venom, if her husband did something to displease her. The fourth sister's will was eventually broken, when she encountered many struggles in this life that neither she nor her husband could overcome on their own. The fifth sister's marriage ended with her husband's early death, because gluttony serves no man well. The sixth sister was cunning but eventually outwitted, by the prince of this world. And finally, the seventh sister had a long and well-kept marriage due to her willingness to serve and her kindness to others, traits the husband she chose carefully also shared.

I tell you the truth, the husband of the seventh sister is the one who found the true treasure. Serving others, kindness, mercy, and love will produce fruit that endures not only in this world, but also the next. Every worldly treasure gained in this life will be destroyed at the end of the age, but the fruit of righteousness and a God-fearing heart will build a spiritual treasure that can never be taken from you.

Chapter 34: Root of All Evil

Some say the root of all evil could be money because of 1 Timothy 6, *"For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows."* But money in itself is not evil or even our true desire but merely a means to get something more, because we have compared it to what we currently have. The desire for more in general comes from comparison with what we currently have versus what we do not. Some say the "root of all evil" is merely a myth or simply does not exist. But I say through wisdom and understanding (gifts of the Holy Spirit) and the trials in my own life that the answer to this age-old question, "What is the root of all evil?", is simply **comparison**! We ALL have struggled from problems that stem from comparison in our lives even though many of us have already heard not to compare ourselves to others. It is a battle we all face, but I

truly believe God is telling me it is even bigger than that. Comparison, if left unchecked in our lives, will dictate our actions, feelings, and even shape our future including our relationship with God. We should understand that comparison is the root of evil and that it must be avoided to the very best of our ability, so that our relationship with God can prosper. If someone told you they could give you one word that was the root of practically every problem in your life including frustration, jealousy, envy, anger, depression, and unhappiness would you listen? Would you use this knowledge to change?

The first sin by a human ever recorded was when Eve in the Garden of Eden sinned due to her desire for more knowledge, when inspired by Lucifer's temptation to compare her knowledge to that of God's. Lucifer himself fell into this trap of temptation and path of darkness. He dared to compare himself to God which inspired the prideful actions that led to his fall. If Lucifer had fought his urge to compare and simply chosen to be the best he could be for God, he might still be one of the most powerful angels in heaven. Cain compared God's acceptance of Abel's offering to the rejection of his own leading him down the path of darkness which ended in him killing his own brother. Be mindful and guard your thoughts when you see television, Facebook, friends, co-workers, and even family including their possessions, actions, and accomplishments. **Do not compare...**God has beautifully orchestrated a **different path and purpose for each of us** to work in harmony and to the benefit of each other for His glory! If certain things in our lives are triggers for comparison, let us realize this through wisdom and understanding from God so that we may guard our thoughts and urges to compare, in Jesus' name I pray. AMEN!

Case and Point:

How better can I give a case and point of this truth than to describe it using my own life? My father, who was one of the kindest men I have ever met, fell ill and passed unexpectedly when I was 35 years old. I do wonder why it was his time and certainly miss him, but I have chosen to be thankful. I am thankful for having him in my life for 35 years and all of the great memories I have with him. I could compare my father's seemingly early death with that of other fathers I know who are well past that age, I could compare my life to friends and family who still enjoy time with their fathers, I could compare my father's

kindness to that of men who seem to have none and live much longer, but these are all paths to spiritual darkness. I don't claim to understand why some seem so blessed while others seem so unfortunate, but I know God has a beautifully orchestrated plan for each of us. Our sinful nature will distract us from our own special plan with the temptation to compare our lives to others, and this temptation is always present in everything that we do. The moment you begin to compare is the moment you begin the journey into darkness.

I plead with all who find this message to **stop comparing** and spare yourselves from the problems that it creates in your life and relationship with God, and may we be successful together in doing so, in Jesus' name I pray. AMEN!

Path of Darkness:

Comparison leads

to **Pride / Judgement / Frustration / Jealousy / Envy / Boasting / Anger / Depression / Unhappiness** which are all on the path to spiritual darkness.

Path of Light:

Do not compare...Be the best YOU can be for God **without comparing** your possessions, actions, or accomplishments to anyone else's possessions, actions, or accomplishments. Be thankful to God for all he has blessed you with each and every day without comparison, and God will turn your life into a beacon of light as bright as the sun to shine glory, praise, and honor upon himself and his son, Jesus!

Chapter 35: The Sun

How better to describe the glory of our Father in Heaven than to compare his glory to the most prominent of lights, the sun. The sun, only one small part of God's creation, is vastly more than most of us can imagine. The sun shines so brightly, that a blind man can feel its intensity and knows its presence, even without sight. The sun is constant, and no one questions whether it will fail, or disappear, or no longer exist within their lifetime. Each day when the sun rises, the birds sing, the darkness is illuminated, and people feel refreshed and renewed after sleeping. The light and warmth of the sun bring life and growth

to every plant needed to feed this world. And like the intensity of the sun, harm would come to anyone who looked directly at God or got close physically, in this life.

If the Father is like the sun, then how could the Son of Man be compared? The moon, the second greatest body in our sky is easily comparable. Like the Son, the moon is even closer to the people. The Son of Man came down from Heaven, and lived amongst the people for 34 years, before being taken back up again. Because of this, we have a more intimate relationship with the Son. And just as the moon controls the tides of the sea, the Son of Man will sway the hearts of many men. The moon can come between the sun and the people (solar eclipse) like an intercessor, and when the sun forsakes the moon and does not shine on it (lunar eclipse), the moon becomes red and is called a “blood moon”, similar to the time around the crucifixion.

The stars that fill the night sky could be compared to the angels in Heaven, the prophets of old, or anyone that works in this life to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ. Like bright lights in a dark and dying world, let those who have accepted the Son of Man become a beacon of hope, joy, and peace leading towards our Lord and Savior, before it is everlastingly too late.

Could the sun, moon, and stars be a continuous parable from God displaying his plan and design for salvation through Jesus Christ? A story that all could see play out time and time again which repeats for every generation until our Lord’s return and mocks all who would ignore the evidence for God and his Son that surrounds us daily.

A few references to the sun and moon from scripture to think on...

“Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (Matthew 24)

“In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below—blood and fire and clouds of smoke. The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives. But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Joel 2 & Acts 2)

Chapter 36: The Order

1. God
2. Spouse
3. Children
4. Work (because it provides for #2 and #3)
5. Extended Family
6. Friends
7. Strangers
8. Enemies

The way we prioritize our life speaks volumes about our love for Jesus Christ and our willingness to follow his example. If we were to order the priorities in our lives without the wisdom and guidance of God, the list would look much different than the list above. Maybe it would look more like the list below:

1. Myself
2. Work
3. Children
4. Spouse / Friends (depending on your mood)
5. Extended Family

The point being that “myself” doesn’t even make the list if you were to model your priorities like Jesus did. Jesus was **selfless**, always putting the needs of others first, going as far as to lay down his own life for those that did not know

or love him and even those who hated him. Which list of life priorities more closely resembles our own? Have we followed the example given by Jesus Christ, our perfect Lord and Savior?

It would be a lie if I claimed that my life priorities matched the first list perfectly. Knowing how we should live and actually following through can be very difficult sometimes, although I do strive with my whole heart to have the right life priorities. With help and wisdom from God, we can all achieve the correct ordering of our life priorities, and in doing so, we will please God and bring great glory and honor to him and his son, Jesus Christ! May God help us with this most important task in our lives, in Jesus' name I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 37: The Desert

How hard is it to find truth in this world, where darkness is as prevalent as the Light? I tell you the truth, it is easier for a man to find a puddle of water in the desert, than to find truth in this world. I say again, the prince of lies will use all tools at his disposal to deceive as many of God's children as possible.

There was a wonderfully righteous and just King who lived in the oasis of the desert with an abundance, so he sent his son out to gather as many who would choose to come as possible. Not everyone the son told about the good news of the oasis would listen though, and many would not accept his message. Some people were too stuck in the traditions of their ancestors to change anything, so they would not follow him. Some people were too busy with worldly affairs and self-created obligations to listen, so they would not follow him. Some were too consumed with wild parties and worldly pleasures to care, so they would not follow him. But there were a few humble servants who believed and recognized his authority and the truth, so they followed him to the oasis where there was no more hunger, no more thirst, no more tears, and an abundance beyond anything they could have imagined.

Chapter 38: 1st Campaign

All believers know that Christians should live in a way that represents our love for Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, but how many opportunities do we miss in affirming our faith and telling others the Way to salvation? Consider that we might pass 10 people every time we walk through a grocery store or even 10 people on the way to that store. There are countless examples of where this same principle holds true including at workplaces, gas stations, or other shopping centers where we miss opportunities to profess the faith, we hold so dear. This campaign represents a movement for Christians everywhere to display the all-important message of God, "**choose Jesus today**", as one people, brothers and sisters in faith, united through our hope, joy, and peace in Jesus Christ!

Now imagine for a moment how **amazing** and **encouraging** it would be for us as Christians to see the name of **Jesus** on someone's wrist every time we left home? How good would it feel to know wherever we go we would be sharing our faith and displaying God's message, "**choose Jesus today**", as one united body of Christ? We as believers live in a world much different than the goals of this campaign with so many non-believers working tirelessly to remove God and his son, Jesus, from all aspects of our life, and so many believers never sharing our great victory in Christ!

To every Christian who reads or recognizes our 1st Campaign bracelet, we have given encouragement through our shared hope, joy, and peace in Jesus Christ.

To every non-Christian who reads or recognizes our 1st Campaign bracelet, we have displayed our Lord's name, **Jesus**, we have displayed God's message, "**choose Jesus today**", and we have given a location on the Internet for them to begin their journey in salvation through Christ.

If an average of ONLY 10 people a day were to read or recognize our bracelet at gas stations, stores, and workplaces, we could each impact the lives of 10 people a day, 70 people a week, and 3,650 people a year for the glory of God. A

typical family of 5 could impact as many as 50 people a day, 350 people a week, and 18,250 people a year for the glory of God!

Chapter 39: Bracelet Design

The bracelet design is both simple and easy to recognize with a focused message, and there will not be multiple colors or designs. Through inspiration and guidance from the Holy Spirit, I believe "www.chooseJesus.today" is God's plan for ultimate glorification of his son, along with a location to rally and encourage believers, and even a place to learn about salvation and what pleases God through his messages. God has even given the colors meaning with the black background representing the dark and sinful world we live in, and his message, "**choose Jesus today**", in solid white representing the way to salvation, life, and light. Each bracelet will also contain the "**Remember the 7th**" secondary message as shown below.



Chapter 40: The Voyage

There was a ship Captain who knew of a land flowing with milk and honey, everlasting peace, and an abundance for all who lived there. He knew of this land not because he had been told, but because this was his home in which he was anxious to return. In preparation for his return, the Captain sought to bring

as many with him as would come, so that his house would be full. And in hearing of this land of abundance, many were excited and wanted to join him on his voyage!

Once all who accepted the Captain's message had joined him on the ship, they set sail. Each crew member was given a specific job by the Captain, so that no man was left with idle hands. Some of the crew were responsible for steering the ship, some were responsible for navigation to keep them from veering off course, some were responsible for feeding the many passengers, some were the lookouts for any danger, and some simply tended to the needs of the ship or encouraged the rest of the crew in their work.

Along the way, they passed by many ports where brief stops were made to resupply. The crew grew weary of the journey, because the Captain had not told them how long the voyage would take. In their impatience, some of the crew stayed at a port where there were many riches and life seemed good, so they traded the Captain's promise for these things. Others of the crew stayed at another port where there were many parties and wild living without rules, so they traded the Captain's promise for these things. Over time, portions of the crew stayed at various other ports where religious leaders told them exactly what they wanted to hear, so they traded the Captain's promise for these things.

The voyage also took them through open sea, which was fraught with danger from passing storms, limited supplies requiring sacrifice, and even encounters with other hostile ships destined for other lands. Some of the crew abandoned ship when threatened by passing storms, some abandoned ship to trade sacrifice for abundance, and some abandoned ship to join crews destined for other lands.

Finally, one morning as the sun rose in the East, a lookout rang the bell to alert the crew of land straight ahead. With guidance from the Captain, the crew carefully navigated the ship between the treacherous rocks on both sides of the narrow bay. After the ship safely arrived at port, the Captain brought the whole crew on deck to welcome their arrival to the land he had promised. And while

speaking to the crew, he noticed that many who had started the journey with him were no longer present. But some who they had encountered along the way from other ports and ships had joined them when hearing the good news of their destination and the Captain's promise. And the Captain's house was indeed full of great feasting and celebration for all who had completed the voyage.

Chapter 41: Remember the 7th

"Remember the 7th" is a secondary message on each 1st Campaign bracelet. This secondary message became a part of the bracelet design, before I fully understood what it meant. In fact, I thought in my haste and excitement to begin this ministry as God intended, that I had possibly misunderstood and included something in error. The number 7 represents the biblical number of God's perfection, but while trying to figure out in my own mind what God was planning, I became discouraged. I even considered discarding the first batch of bracelets in hope of being completely obedient to God's will.

Then God woke me early one morning with the answer and made clear his intention for this secondary message. The 7th day of every month will be a day of tribute through feasting and celebration for both God and his son, Jesus. It will be a day to lift up and glorify them both, strengthen the faith of his followers, and stir confusion among non-believers. "Why are they celebrating on the 7th day of every month, and what could they possibly have to celebrate? There is sickness, disease, famine, poverty, hatred, war, and suffering everywhere! Don't they realize what is going on in the world around them?", will be on the tongues of non-believers.

As believers, we strive to please God and meet at least once a week to worship, give praise, and encourage other believers, **but** have we forgotten to celebrate our victory in Christ? Sadly, we complain about the same worldly problems as non-believers; forgetting that although we will not win every battle, we have already won the war! Beginning October 7th, 2015 and on the 7th day of every month following, I truly believe God is calling us to lift up the name of Jesus and bring great glory and honor to them both through feasting and celebration!

To be faithful to God, I have delivered this message as it was given to me. May the Holy Spirit give peace and understanding to all who find this message as well as a special blessing to those who join in the 7th Celebration. And may it not be a snare or stumbling block, in Jesus' name I pray. AMEN!

Chapter 42: The Fishermen

There was a good Fisherman, who was known throughout the land for his great success. Not only did he know how to catch fish of every type, but he could also catch them in abundance. The fisherman knew he only had a limited amount of time, so he taught others to fish as he did.

The King was preparing for a great banquet and knew of the Fisherman's abilities and heart for serving the King. So the King sent the Fisherman with orders to bring back as many fish as possible for the banquet. For this important task, the Fisherman knew he would need help and began to choose men to help with the catch. The surprising part was that the Fisherman did not seek other fishermen to assist him, because he wanted men who had not already been trained by other fishermen...a blank slate to work with...a piece of clay to mold and form exactly as the Fisherman required to share in his success. At this plan, the other fishermen laughed and scoffed, mocking the Fisherman for choosing untrained men for the greatest catch ever ordered by the King.

When the Fisherman set out to sea with his chosen men, they encountered many hardships. At times, the seas became turbulent and dangerous when storms rolled through. Even other fishermen, who were envious of the King's selection of the Fisherman and his untrained chosen men, tried to sabotage their efforts. But no matter the obstacle, the Fisherman and his chosen men always prevailed.

While gathering the greatest load of fish ever attempted, the chosen men were amazed by the variety of fish. The Fisherman had unmatched skill in catching every type of fish, and there was no fish too cunning, too stubborn, too small,

too large, too shallow, too deep, or even too far out from shore that the Fisherman could not reach them. The fisherman taught these skills to the chosen men that he had brought with him, and he taught some to catch the cunning fish, others to catch the stubborn fish, others to catch the small fish, others to catch the large fish, others to catch the shallow fish, others to catch the deep fish, and yet others to catch the fish that were furthest out from shore. Each chosen man did as the Fisherman had instructed to the best of ability, and they had much success.

After the Fisherman had finished instructing the chosen men, he returned to the King ahead of them to tell the King of their success and wait for his chosen men to return with their catches. After some time, the chosen men did return, one by one, until the time for the great banquet had arrived. And the King was well pleased with the Fisherman for all he had done, and with his chosen men for all of their effort, and with the mighty catch and variety of fish they had brought to the banquet.

Chapter 43: The Tide is Rising

The tide of the Holy Spirit is rising in the hearts of the people! I can feel it in my soul that God's plan for this ministry will come to fruition through Christians around the world. As the seeds of encouragement and the Good News of Jesus Christ are sown in all nations, I know there will be a mighty harvest, because I know the Sower. I pray that God and his Son, Jesus Christ, are glorified by every action of this ministry, and I pray God order its every footstep, penstroke, and word spoken. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN!

Let the 7th Celebration for our Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus bring them great honor and joy, as we lift them up in remembrance of Their glory. Through feasting and communion with other believers, I know we can accomplish this together! Of all the messages God has given me for this ministry, the 7th Celebration seems to be one of the more difficult for believers to accept. But hearts will soften, joy will abound, and the celebration will grow until the pillars of Heaven shake from the sound of rejoicing on the 7th day of every month!

Chapter 44: Song of Daniel

O Lord our God, you lifted me up,
from the darkness, endless night.
Rescued from the depths of blindness,
given treasure, holy sight.
How many times my heart has wandered,
from the narrow path, O Lord?
Did not leave me, alone and stranded,
drew me back in, to the light.

Shame of past, a heavy burden,
but you dried all of my tears.
I hear your voice now, yes a faint voice,
takes away all doubt and fears.

(Refrain)

Voice pours down now, mighty river,
rejoicing spirit, at the sound.
Tongue of fire, I must record it,
messages of love abound.

(Refrain)

Will I hear more, Lord I crave it,
how long awaiting in-between.
Ears wide open, faith and patience,
joy overwhelming, like a dream.

(Refrain)

Unfinished plans laid out before you,
waiting on your hand to move.
Many questions and my motive,
but a servant, you will prove.

(Refrain)

Don't let my heart go, it is yours now,
wrapped up in thy Holy love.
Like the beginning, renew our hearts Lord,
bring us to a church above.

(Refrain)

Can't lose hope now, your children need you,
make us like a spotless bride.
Unify us, brothers and sisters,
combining hearts will turn the tide.

(Refrain)

Celebrate Him, Heaven awaits us,
heavy price God paid with Son.
I will remember, never forget you,
glorious Kingdom surely come.

(Refrain)

<<< Refrain >>>

Rescued from the depths of blindness,
given treasure, holy sight.
Did not leave me, alone and stranded,
drew me back in, to the light.

Chapter 45: Proverbs of the Penitent

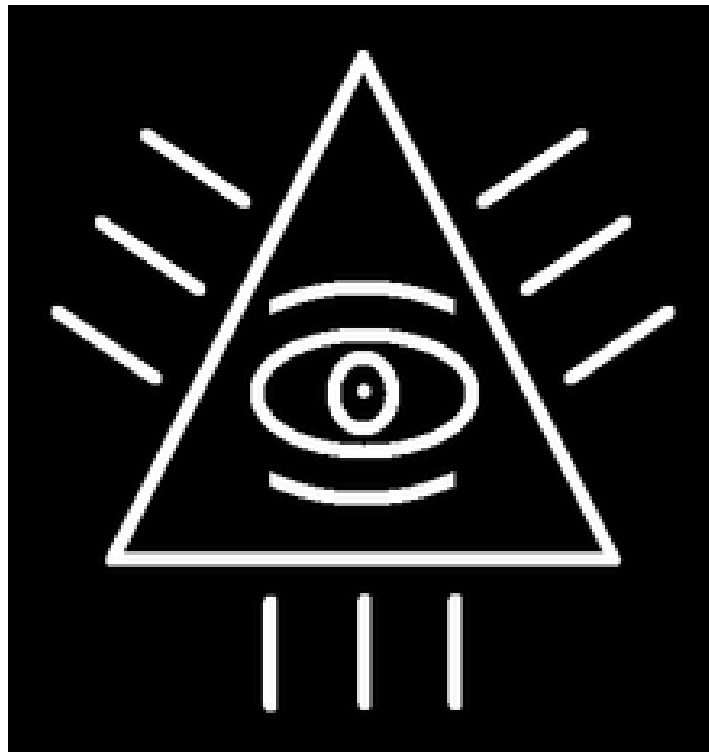
- The blood of Jesus Christ covers the sins of those who have faith and repent, but the sins of those who have faith and knowingly sin are atoned for with their own blood and/or the blood of their family.
- The eyes and ears of those earnestly seeking God will be opened, but the eyes and ears of those seeking worldly things will be shut.
- Wisdom from God should be cherished, but wisdom from the world can lead to many troubles.
- Those who know God will mourn this life and rejoice in the next, but those led astray will celebrate this life and weep in the next.
- Ashes on the head are a sign of a penitent heart, just as wild living is a sign of a rebellious heart.
- As the light in this world grows dim and turns to dusk, the dawn of a new age will appear suddenly in the east.
- The treasures of this world are fleeting, but the treasures of Heaven are everlasting.
- Our Lord has continued to speak for the last 2,000 years, but there are few who have continued to listen or even recognized his voice.
- The shortest path to wisdom and knowledge is through listening, so speak less when seeking these things.
- The eyes of a lost sheep will be fixed on the wolf, but the eyes of a sheep that has been found will be fixed on the Shepherd.

- Worldly things will consume every thought you allow, so protect your time with the Lord as if guarding a precious gift.
- Like a house built on sand, the strongholds of the wicked will crumble when the storm of God's judgement is poured out.
- God is not slow to intercede on our behalf, but we are slow to truly seek his guidance.
- Seek God always, which means faith, trust, meditation, prayer, fasting, reading scripture, and obedience.
- No worldly struggle can overcome you, when resting in the hope, joy, and peace of the Lord.
- The beacons of truth in this world grow fewer and fewer, but they all still lead to Jesus.
- The fires of this life will destroy or purify, depending on who your father is.

Chapter 46: Ministry Logo

On April 26, 2017, this uniquely designed logo was created for the ministry. The “Eye of Providence” has been used by various organizations over time, but for me, this symbol has just one meaning. The eye represents the ALL seeing, ALL knowing, and ALWAYS present God of Israel that I love dearly and serve with all my heart, soul, and mind. The triangle represents the three self-described parts of God including the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit which work in unison to accomplish the plans and purposes of God. The radiating sides represent the glory of God that permeates and binds all parts of his creation together.

A symbol with a meaning this powerful crosses all language barriers and could have no better home than a ministry designed by God. May God order every footstep, word spoken, and penstroke of this ministry. In Jesus’ name I pray, AMEN!





Let those with ears hear, understand, and share
what God has spoken into their spirit. By the power
and authority of Jesus' name I pray, AMEN!