

W O R D A T W O R K

Kingly Character of Christ IX

Dear Friend:

On a recent flight across country, the Lord said, "I'm in the mood to restore!" My first question was, "What do you mean when you say restore?" I find myself having a parallel experience with Nehemiah as he, "...wept, mourned, fasted, prayed..." over the loss of the Christianity of my youth. The fear of the Lord that once permeated Christian circles and guided political discussions has been lost. I believe God is intent on restoring it!

Acts 3:19-21 is a great New Testament promise for restoration, "*Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*" Will God visit us again and show Himself to be both Savior and Judge? I believe He will. Just like Nehemiah rebuilt a physical wall, we have the opportunity to rebuild a spiritual wall that has been broken down. Jesus the Judge is practically unknown in the land.

Ezekiel 13:4-5 says, "*O Israel, your prophets are like foxes in the deserts. You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle on the day of the LORD.*" By embracing the Kingly Christ we are rebuilding a spiritual wall against evil. The gaps or breaches are national policies that violate covenant, like abortion, homosexuality mandated for schools and military, and nature worship. The last chance to save a nation before destruction comes are the people who comprise God's wall.

Prayers of repentance open the door of invitation for intervention. "Father, we repent for all the church leaders who have not honored Your word over the pulpits. We repent for the failure to uphold the uncompromising standard of biblical morality. Do not hold the politicians or the innocent responsible for our failures. Therefore we repent for our timidity and compromises. Visit us again bearing the full weight of Your judicial Hand against the perpetrators until Your name is once again feared! Let restoration be the reward of repentance! Come Lord Jesus!"

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

THE KINGLY CHARACTER

Kingly Character of Christ IX

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Scripture: Galatians 5:22

Galatians 5:22 says, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,...”* The fifth fruit of the Priestly Christ is the Greek word **khroy-stot-ace** and means ‘forbearance.’ Perhaps there is no greater picture in how the Priestly fruit and the Kingly fruit balance each other out than forbearance applied as a Priest versus Revelation 19:15 where we are told, *“His eyes are like a flame of fire...”* The Priestly kindness balances the judicial fire. Kindness and forbearance give space for repentance. The angel told Abraham he had to go and see because the outcry was great and the sin very grave.” Are we there yet?

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Scripture: Genesis 18, 19

When we look at Jesus in Revelation, with fire in His eyes, it reminds us of what He did to Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis. The Priestly Christ appears in Genesis 18, when the angel meets Abraham and tells him that he is going to Sodom and Gomorrah to find out if it is really as bad as he has heard. Based on kindness, Abraham intercedes for Lot. We discover in Genesis 19 that intercession is what saved the righteous just before fire was released on the wicked. Perhaps there is no more burning issue in society today than how the church prays about those who champion Sodom and Gomorrah lifestyles. Do the politicians mandating the teaching of homosexuality in our schools deserve an angelic visit? One thing you can say about the fire of God in Kingly fruit number five, it cleanses the land of wickedness. When the so called church spits in the face of God’s Word, they no longer qualify as the true church. When I was young two terms emerged for those who disconnected believing the Bible from Christianity. The first was ‘social gospel’ and the second was ‘country club Christianity’. Both terms describe people now apostate because they have no conscience of sin. This is the battle being fought even in the church. Jesus is coming with fire in His eyes and is it any wonder that the same issues that brought fire in the Old Testament will bring it in the New. The book of Revelation announces the release of fire. Massive manifestation of it!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Scripture: Exodus 9:23-29

Since we have all grown up on Jesus the Priest, the thought of Jesus the King is really very unusual to many in the church world today. That is the fault of every one of us who stand in the pulpit, because by choice, we have ministered things that people want to hear. Very few want to hear about the Jesus who returns with fire in His eyes. To cut that out of the Bible is to be dishonest with people and to not prepare them for the encounters that are coming. Exodus 9:23-29 states, *“And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. And the hail struck throughout the*

whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail. And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, 'I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. Entreat the LORD, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer.' So Moses said to him, *'As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, that you may know that the earth is the LORD's.'*" The fire mentioned sounds like lightening. If so Zechariah 10:1 is a parallel passage for Revelation 11:1, *"Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain and He will give lightening!"* (King James Version.) When Moses stretched out his rod, hail and fire fell. When Moses stretched it out again and prayed, the hail and fire stopped. That tells us that the church has a part to play in the fire of God falling. When we find that the circumstances in our culture reach the level that qualifies for fire according to the New Testament standard of Romans 1, then it is incumbent on us to ask for fire. It would certainly appear from the book of Revelation that the God of fire is alive and well, that He has not changed a bit and that He will visit the unruly, the rebellious and the abominable. If we really love them, we will warn them. Do not tempt the God of fire! One visit can push us into eternity.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Scripture: Exodus 40:37,38

Exodus 40:37,38 states, *"But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys."* It is also interesting to know that the fire of God was a blessing to the covenant people. It kept them warm at night, became a sign to their enemies and was a constant covenant manifestation that the Hand of God was with them. Are we seeing God's fire today? Are we even asking? It seems that covenant Israel grew to expect the God of fire as both a preservation and a deliverance from enemies.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Scripture: Numbers 16:1-3, 35

In Numbers 16, Moses was falsely accused. Verses 1-3 state, *"Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men; and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, 'You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?'"* Hardly a day goes by that the righteous people of God are not falsely accused. The worst offenders are in the news media. Anyone who has Christian integrity and conservative views is usually assaulted at every level. It is time to ask for the same fire that Moses asked for in Numbers 16. The judicial fire of God is reserved, in Scripture, for those who resist God's purpose. The anti-Christ spirit permeates most news organizations making their reporting of moral conservative candidates a character assassination. If ever a group deserved fire the mainstream news media does. They often call good evil, and they call evil good. May fire fall on their finances until they fail in business! It is time to ask that the fire of God visit them. Verse 35 says, *"And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense."* Let the God of fire once again be seen in behalf of Christian people and let Him be seen with His hand against the mainstream media who work overtime to pervert, character assassinate and completely promote every form of evil in our culture. To stand up for what is righteous is to face a storm of lies, scrutiny and public character assassination that deserves the full measure of God's fire. And every believer should be demanding covenant intervention against the mainstream media and their financial allies. If the nation hangs in the balance, then it is time for the God of fire to show up and bankrupt the mainstream media.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Scripture: 2 Kings 1:9-12

2 Kings 1:9-12 states, *“Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: ‘Man of God, the king has said, ‘Come down!’ So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, ‘If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.’ And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him: ‘Man of God, thus has the king said, “Come down quickly!”” So Elijah answered and said to them, ‘If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.’ And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.”* About four years ago, the Lord brought me to this passage and said, ‘What Elijah experienced here is coming to the church, and I want you to prepare the church. The true picture of what is transpiring in the Spirit comes through the Hebrew word **yaw-rad**. **Yaw-rad** means, ‘to bow down as an inferior to the superior’ and is also a word used for ‘subdue.’ When political government says to spiritual government, ‘I am going to subdue you. I am going to make you bow down and worship at my Throne,’ the church has historically had to say ‘No!’ and suffer the penalties. It was true of Peter, James and John. It was true of the church in the early book of Acts. Throughout church history, the pattern that was set by the apostles has been the one that true believers followed. And yet, there is spiritual truth here about God's fire. Whenever government says, ‘Accept the perversion of homosexuality...accept the murder of innocent children in abortion,’ the church has to stand up and be the conscience in that hour and say, ‘No! God does not accept it and we cannot accept it. You may not like it, but you are inviting the God of fire to visit you, and when He does, He will eternally remove you so that there is nothing left!’ When the political ruler issued the **yaw-rad**, there were two that came back at him. It should not really be any different in our season, but the church today is slow to represent the judicial Christ. By not understanding that we have an obligation to pray God's judicial fire on the head of every governmental official who wants to legislate the murder of innocent children, we are forfeiting what God has made available. There is no fear of God in the land and the church is at fault because God is ready to move.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Scripture: Acts 2:1-4

In Acts 2:1-4 we are told, *“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”* When the Holy Spirit came in Acts 2, it should not be a surprise that a rushing, mighty wind filled the house where they were sitting. We should be asking ourselves why did God also choose to release divided tongues of fire that sat upon each of them. There was not a person who received the Holy Spirit who didn't experience the wind, pray in another language and experience the fire. When we accept the empowerment that God has made available, we have to understand that we carry a judicial fire that God will use if we will ask Him. The only way the King can rule, at times when facing a demonized, determined enemy is when the church brings the fire. And God seems to be waiting on us to pray that fire into existence. Isn't it time? The candidates are obvious.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Scripture: Acts 2:15-21

In Acts 2:15-21, we have an explanation of what came with the Holy Spirit. The prophetic word from Joel was used to describe what the Holy Spirit brought. One of the signs God promised for the earth is fire. Where is the fire that God promised when the Holy Spirit comes? Where is the fire in the church? Where is the fire released on the enemy? Where is the fire to bring Kingly rule? **Where is the fire?** Are we asking? Probably not – tradition has robbed us of the fire. But it seems God has us in a recovery mode. I know we can ask God for judicial fire and get it! As the church, we pray to move God's Hand against evildoers so that, evil will not rule the land.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Scripture: Acts 2:32-36

Acts 2:32-36 says, *“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. ‘For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: “The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’” Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”* Jesus became both the **koo-ree-os**, Judge of all the Earth, and the **khri-tos**, anointed Savior-Priest. We have spent so much time representing the anointed Priest that we have not brought the Kingly fire. It is obvious our culture is headed in a direction demanding Kingly fire. If we are going to save even a part of our nation we need fire. That time has come and fire is a part of the Kingly Christ. It is time we said yes to that part of who Jesus is and called it down. If we can stand in the fire, we can call it down! Are we listening for orders from on High.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-6

How serious is God about fire in the New Testament? When John the Baptist came to prepare the way, he had two distinct messages. The first message came to those who were obedient. The obedient did what he said and were baptized for the remission of their sins. We have those same two groups today. The obedient and the ones who want to war against us because they think they can keep their disobedience. Verses 1-6 are a perfect example of **khri-tos** in action. We have been **khri-tos** for so long, it is time we balanced out with **koo-ree-os**. The Judicial Christ wants to deal with the opposition by fire.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Scripture: Matthew 3:7-12

In Matthew 3:7-12 we find that John the Baptist has to speak God’s Word to the rebellious. There are people who do not want to be obedient. Verse 8 tells us that fruit worthy of repentance comes with a change of mind. But for those who refuse, verse 12 makes it really clear that Jesus, after He baptized us with the Holy Spirit and fire, releases a winnowing fan that is in His hand. He goes on to say, *“He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”* John the Baptist came, announcing the unquenchable fire of the Lord Jesus Christ. How have we managed to miss the Kingly application of who God is by always emphasizing the Priestly and neglecting the fire? It is no wonder there is hardly any fear of God in the land. Fire is falling for those who are calling!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Scripture: Matthew 7:15-20

Jesus said in Matthew 7:15-20, *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”* In verse 15, Jesus makes it clear that the wolves are the ones who have not passed the money test. They manipulate, they work very hard to make sure they can collect the maximum amount of money out of people and they do it through a variety of different schemes. Some of which include felt-tipped, color motivating highlights emphasizing the high points. Pictures of needy people and anything that would elicit a sympathetic tug on the heart, causing people to give is used. Jesus made it clear—these are the branches that are going to get chopped off and thrown into the fire. Perhaps that is beginning to happen. It is time to learn that when it comes to giving, you give by *revealed* need rather than *apparent* need. As long as you allow yourself to function only in the apparent need realm,

you are open to every manipulation that comes along. Growing up into God's maturity means that you learn to give only as you are prompted by the Holy Spirit, in obedience to God's Word and Voice.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Scripture: Mark 9:42-49

Isn't it interesting that Jesus Himself warns about the Father's fire? There is a fire that shall never be quenched. John warned about it. Jesus warned about it. It is real. It is a part of who Jesus is in Revelation and we must declare that it is a part of who Jesus is right now! Why is the church reluctant to represent the God of fire when it may be the only thing that opens the door to the harvest in the hardened minds and souls of many? Have we become a church who preaches another gospel? Gospel light is a version of Christianity where sin is never discussed. It is very popular and has swept over much of Christianity. The Jesus of Revelation is hardly ever ministered because He kills those who rebel. We should minister Him and believe for signs following.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-3

Malachi 3:1-3 says, *"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. 'But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness."* If there was ever a picture of the Jesus of Revelation visiting His people, it is right here. Malachi spoke it and we are living in a season where Jesus is coming to perform it. Is there any doubt that He is the refiner's fire? And as such, He is after one primary thing – an offering in righteousness. An offering without manipulation. An offering that is not taken by telling people how much we need. But an offering that is done in righteousness. When we are the Priest that can make that offering before the Lord, then we arrive at the place God wants us and His hand can be moved solidly against the enemy.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Scripture: Malachi 3:4,5

Malachi 3:4,5 states, *"Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years. And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien—Because they do not fear Me," Says the LORD of hosts.*" If we will submit to the fire, so that we can offer an offering in righteousness, then we see what the Lord does. He comes near for judgment. He is a judge against all those who become our enemies. We don't have to do anything but ask God to deal with our enemies...then sit back and get ready for the fireworks! Now if the enemies are purported believers, then the same refiner's fire that we submitted to intensifies as it comes on them. Whether or not they turn and acknowledge their sin and repent, depends on whether they survive the fire or not. Malachi knew the Messiah. Do we know the Messiah of Malachi? Peter did. Paul did.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Scripture: Isaiah 4:1-4

Isaiah 4:1-4 states, *"And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, 'We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; Only let us be called by your name, To take away our reproach.' The Renewal of Zion In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped. And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of*

burning,..." Most of us, in Bible School and Seminary, were taught about the gifts of the Spirit and were taught to do what Scripture says: to earnestly desire and seek the gifts of the Spirit. It seems, according to Isaiah, that part of the empowering of the Spirit in the last days will include the release of the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning. Perhaps this is what the seals, trumpets and bowls of Revelation are all about. The spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning are real. It is possible to qualify so that we carry both. When the Spirit came, fire was part of the experience. Why have we never pursued an increase in the anointing for fire? It almost seems like there is an invitation to participate in this realm and dimension based on what we experience with people who refuse to repent. All those who walked through the fire stood. Here we stand, cleansed, purified and ready for the Master's work. I trust we choose to be in the group that calls down fire!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Scripture: Isaiah 33:10-14

We need to ask ourselves if we can live with the fire. Isaiah 33:10-14 states, *"Now I will rise," says the LORD; 'Now I will be exalted, Now I will lift Myself up. You shall conceive chaff, You shall bring forth stubble; Your breath, as fire, shall devour you. And the people shall be like the burnings of lime; Like thorns cut up they shall be burned in the fire. Hear, you who are afar off, what I have done; And you who are near, acknowledge My might.'* *The sinners in Zion are afraid; Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: 'Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?'"* As God comes to purify His people in the last days, we need to realize that we are going to be living in a season of fire. That judicial fire is not only going to expose even the hidden things of the heart, it is going to demand that changes be made. For those who refuse to make changes, "...The fear of the Lord is coming back to the church." Verse 14 says, "The sinners in Zion are afraid; Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites." I would like to see fearfulness seize church leaders. I would like to see fearfulness seize the government leaders. I would like to see fearfulness seize heads of nations throughout the world. May the fear of the Lord be restored!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Scripture: Romans 11:1-5

In the last days we are definitely going to see God move dramatically and part of this moving very clearly is judicial and it has fire involved. In Romans 11:1-5 we are told, *"I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, 'LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life'? But what does the divine response say to him? 'I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.'* *Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace."* It is always good to know that there is a remnant. God has saved a group of people who will respond to Him and walk with Him in the last days. Perhaps one of the greatest harvests is the final grafting back in of the Jewish people who will say 'Yes!' to Jesus. We have already been grafted in and because they rejected Him, they also have to be grafted in, just like we were. Jesus truly made of Jew and Gentile one new man. Any other gospel is an attempt to divide the body and is just not biblical. When the fire comes, will we be ready? We better get there because the fire is here!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Scripture: Romans 11:19-22

Romans 11:19-22 tells us *"You will say then, 'Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.' Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off."* It is obvious that the fire comes to test the condition of the heart of the branches. That fire will reveal both the goodness and severity of God and I trust we are ready to live in God's fire.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Scripture: Romans 11:25-32

If there was ever an obvious target for God's fire, it should be all those who want to destroy our last great harvest field. God promised that the last great harvest field would be the Jewish people. Look at the nations who have lined up to threaten our harvest field. We need to realize that this is not only a challenge to the church and possibly the meaning of the Luke 18 passage where Jesus challenges us by saying, "When the Son of Man returns, will he find this kind of faith on the earth?" The real answer to that is whether or not we are going to stand up as believers and fight for our last great harvest field, the Jewish nation. That means we have no choice but to pray the fire of God on every nation that is determined to destroy that harvest. Those nations are lining up: Iran, Saudi Arabia, etc. We are seeing a progressive radicalization of Islam taking over nations and we should know these nations can become the target for the fire. Will the church stand up for our last great harvest field?

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Scripture: Genesis 12:3, Revelation 16:6

In Genesis 12:3, God made it clear to Abraham "*I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;*" When we get to Revelation 16:6 we are told, "*For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.*" Biblical justice is never clearer than in Revelation 16:6. Actually the same Greek word that is used for 'worthy' is used here for 'justice.' It says, "*For it is their just due.*" 'Just due' is the Greek word **ax-ee-os** and it means 'befitting, congruous and corresponding.' God's fire is befitting, congruous and corresponding for some. What the enemy determines to do to us, God says, must come back on his own head. The whole pursuit of developing atomic weapons by Islamic nations is so they can destroy Israel. Guess who gets nuked first? Jesus makes it pretty clear He is the God of fire, He is coming, there is a spirit of judgment and there is a spirit of burning. And to say they are not here, they are not loose in the earth, is to be a spiritual ostrich with our heads buried in the sand. The God of fire is here and asking us to walk with Him.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:8-10

In 2 Peter 3:8-10 we are told, "*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*" It is very interesting to see that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. And this day of the Lord comes suddenly *with fire*. How can ministers stand in the pulpit and only preach, blessing, blessing, blessing, blessing when the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning are loose in the land? God, give us men and women who will speak the truth, whether people want to hear it or not!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Scripture: Revelation 11:5

In the original Spirit-Filled Bible by Jack Hayford, the notes on Revelation 11:5 state: the two witnesses are the "church militant". Everyone who attempts to harm the witnesses dies by fire! Why would the Bible say they must be killed this way? The picture of fire in the last days that are dispensed by the two witnesses as often as they desire demonstrates goodness and severity. The witnesses of Revelation are revealing the same God who judged Ananias and Sapphira. We have never seen more God-haters than we see right now. They even have television shows to spew their poison into the land. Watch the fire as it falls on the God-haters. Watch them removed. Watch the spirit of judgment and spirit of burning come forth. There is a responsibility the church has. If we are walking in the Spirit, we should be

releasing some of these things in order to preserve our harvest field before it is defiled by the God-haters! Let fire fall on every God-hater who is determined to destroy the harvest!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Scripture: Galatians 5:22, Revelation 19:13

It is the kindness and forbearance of God that has withheld the fire this long. In number six, of the nine fruit of the Kingly Christ, we find goodness, or **ag-oth-o-soo-nay**, as the counterbalance to a robe dipped in blood because of releasing the Word of God. We are, right now, in that struggle between kindness and fire and between goodness and the Word of God that slays the wicked. One of these days the church is going to wake up and realize that the Word in us exposes evil, condemns it and judges it. And when we speak that Word, because filthy perverse and vile people are intent on destroying our harvest field, then the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning will be released in the land to save that harvest. Perhaps there is no greater example than Acts 4:34—Acts 5:3. The whole reason God killed Ananias and Sapphira was to save the church from being exposed to the spirit of mammon after everyone had been delivered. Are we ready to walk in this dimension? Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Scripture: 2 Kings 1:9-12, Jeremiah 23:16-20

When political government demanded that church government bow, the fire of God came and destroyed the emissaries. It appears, in the book of Revelation that is going to be repeated not just once or twice, but numerous times as often as needed. So the real question becomes, can our words slay the wicked? Does God kill at the release of His Word? He certainly did for David, Samuel and the other prophets. He certain does for the two witnesses. In Jeremiah 23:16-20, the real question becomes, why does it take so long? For Elijah it was instant and for the two witnesses, it seems to be the same way. Jeremiah had a question that bears on this issue. Verses 16-20 state, *“Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD. They continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The LORD has said, “You shall have peace”’; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, ‘No evil shall come upon you.’ For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it? Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD has gone forth in fury—A violent whirlwind! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.”* “The latter days” define the time when judgment increases in nations because people refuse to repent. The loss of the land comes for refusal to repent. The nation ceases to exist! Jeremiah spoke a word about the latter days—about how we would understand the difference between the true and false prophets. He prophesied that clarity would come to the church. The church is growing up to understand the price of filling the cup of iniquity. God gives the unbeliever the maximum opportunity to turn. We could say that fullness of iniquity takes time.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Scripture: Psalm 94:1-13

Psalm 94:1-13 makes it clear: the believers pay the price while the pit is dug by the wicked with their words and their actions. The words and actions of many in this nation are digging a pit and the day is coming when God is going to drop them in it. During this time, whenever a believer publicly stands up for righteousness, we see all-out war to destroy and assassinate their character to diminish the validity of their voices. Every person who is involved in the slander is digging a pit that they are going to fall in. The sad thing is when believers join in and dig a pit for themselves. Hearts are revealed. The pit is being dug – and a Holy Spirit bulldozer is about to swing into action.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Scripture: Ester 3:10-12, 4:11-14

There is probably no greater story in the Bible that reveals this process than the book of Esther. Esther 3:10-12 and 4:11-14 state, *“So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. And the king said to Haman, ‘The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you.’ Then the king’s scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king’s satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king’s signet ring. ...All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.’ So they told Mordecai Esther’s words. And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: ‘Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’”* The believers pay the price for hearts to be revealed. Their lives hung in the balance as the gallows were built. The pit was being dug, but suddenly, when the righteous stood up, God swung into action. When God goes into action, justice happens!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Scripture: Ester 8:1-8

God turned the captivity of Esther and the Jews in chapter 7, where the King in a rage hanged Haman and granted Esther’s requests! Are we requesting? In Chapter 8, Esther is given the house of Haman. Mordecai got the king’s signet ring, which was taken from Haman’s hand. Mordecai became the steward over everything that Haman had. The king was enraged at the boldness and duplicity of Haman. God is enraged because of today’s ‘hamans’. God turned the captivity of Mordecai and Esther. The same covenant God is ready to go to work for us. The same covenant God offers us justice, which is only a prayer away. Isn’t it time we declare our covenant against the enemy?

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Scripture: Ester 9:1-5

The Jews gathered together in all the cities of the Kingdom and the very people that were poised to destroy them were themselves destroyed. Throughout the entire realm, the Jews arose and turned the tables on every one of their enemies. They defeated them all. With the stroke of the sword and with slaughter and destruction they did what they pleased with those that hated them. Esther 9:1-5 says, *“Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, with slaughter and destruction, and did what they pleased with those who hated them.”* When are we going to learn that this is God’s covenant justice? Anything less doesn’t qualify. It is time we prayed covenant justice in the land and watch what the Lord does.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Scripture: Ester 8:1-8, 9:1-2, Psalm 94:14-23

In the book of Ester, we see the process unfold and we watch God turn the tables on the enemy. Complete deliverance comes. In Psalm 94, we realize that the Throne of iniquity is overturned. The book of Ester pictures the process by which thrones of iniquity are overturned. We need to realize that God is in the process of overturning thrones of iniquity in order to ensure our harvest. Are we ready to balance kindness with fire and goodness with a robe dipped in blood, because the judicial Word is coming out of our mouth? This is the kind of growth God is looking for in the church in preparation for the last days. We better get ready, because that season is here!

ITINERARY

9/2-9/5	Oak Ridge, LA	Common Denominator Ministries Cross Walk Ranch 76 Sunset Oak Ridge, LA 71264	Curtis and Tabitha Wilson 318-381-9151
9/16-9/18	Delta, BC, Canada	Kingdom Harvest Ministries, Int. Tsawwassen Arts Center 1153 - 56 Street, Delta, BC, Canada, 71264	Darce Dube 604-943-8100
9/30-10/2	Dresden, OH	Northgate Open Bible Church 10516 Frazeyburg Road Dresden, OH, United States, 43821	Mike & Melody Foster 740- 754-3330

The land of the free
And the home of the brave—
Let's roll up our sleeves
We've a nation to save!

For courage and bravery
Once we were known.
Where has that spunk gone
When such 'gray' we condone?

Believers rise up
And be clad now in 'brave'.
Let's fall to our knees
We've a harvest to save!

By Jayne Houghton