

WORLD AT WAR

VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER IX

Dangerous Deceptions II

MONDAY, September 1

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:11b and 3:14-18

In 2 Corinthians 2:11b Paul says, “...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” This verse, like a blinking neon light has gone off for me and I have begun to study the dimension of unseen devices present in our Christian culture. The corollary truth says when we are ignorant of his devices *then* we give him advantage. How can we win a war over the nation if we give the enemy advantage? How can we win a war for our family or city if we give the enemy advantage? The central question looms as to what degree have we given the enemy advantage? Is the determinant factor the degree to which we are ignorant of his devices? What mindset must we change? Is being ignorant of the principle of “fullness of iniquity” a contribution. Both church and political leaders feel that they can tolerate, allow and promote what God prohibits (homosexual marriage and abortion) without penalty. Nothing could be further from the truth. When perverse decisions of Supreme Court Judges nullify Godly choices by the people, church leaders are obligated to appeal for Divine Justice! When State or Federal Legislators, Governors or Presidents continue to promote perverse paths we will see selective devastation beyond anything our nation has ever known unless we demand covenant deliverance. Praying mercy instead of justice spiritually enables perverse leaders to continue destroying the land. The enemy who comes not but for to, “...steal, kill and destroy...” seems to have great advantage in our land right now. That fact is obvious by the imbecilic decisions of godless leaders who are utterly clueless to the consequences of their actions. California has been assaulted by the spirit of Antichrist. The people said “No” to homosexual marriage but Judges said “Yes” and now the church must pray God’s hand on them for removal!

TUESDAY, September 2

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:14-18

The Greek word translated “devices” in 2 Corinthians 2:11 also appears in 2 Corinthians 3:14, “*But their minds/devices were hardened. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.*” It is obvious that the devices of the enemy in chapter 2 verse 11 are the same thing as the mindsets being hardened in 3:14. Being veiled, or the wearing an iron mask can nullify our authority in covenant intercession. Apparently we have a host of leaders and politicians who are wearing an iron mask when it comes to biblical principle and are utterly ignorant of the consequences of their decisions. Their decisions guarantee future judgments by filling the land with iniquity. The land will be destroyed, whether through natural disaster or by plague or pestilence. The God who destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah is just as active today. He will not tolerate a Christian nation, whose forefathers covenanted with Him, to defile the land without action. The God of justice is about to manifest but we wonder if anybody will recognize

it when He does. Within days after the California Supreme Court legislated homosexual marriage a freak lightening storm started 1700 different fires that grew to 2700 and burned thousands of acres in Central California. Does anyone believe that the two events are connected or are the devices of the enemy firmly in place in the church because of mammon mastered ministers who want to build a large ministry rather than tell people the truth of God's Word. In all the decades that I have lived this is the very first time I have seen a freak lightening storm that has caused so many individual fires. To me that is a God manifestation in direct response to an abominable perverse decision of four arrogant men on the California Supreme Court who should, by the church, be prayed out.

WEDNESDAY, September 3

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:15-18

2 Corinthians 3:15-18 reveals a procedure by which iron masks are removed from the minds of men. The enemy's devices are overturned and destroyed, and the advantage of the enemy is taken away. These verses state, "But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." Most of us as believers think, "I don't have a veil". I thought I didn't have a veil for thirty years. For thirty years my application of mercy was always individual. I prayed **for** people. I never prayed **against** them. I was more merciful than God – to my own destruction. When four California Supreme Court Justices spit in God's face and the majority of voters faces by legislating homosexual marriage, I would pray mercy upon them and thereby continue to enable their perversion in the land. But one day the iron mask came off and I saw another manifestation of mercy in scripture. I saw mercy for the nation meant the removal of those who were destroying it or filling it with iniquity. David, the original recipient of the covenant of Sure Mercy understood the difference between personal mercy and corporate mercy. When it was time to save the nation, David's prayer was not "forgive their sin" it was "have mercy on the land and cut the perpetrators off". David prayed consistently and continually for covenant justice. It became the word of the Lord in his mouth. David prayed the will of God. God moved and the nation was saved! Until the iron mask came off, I never saw it and I never prayed it. Scripture says there are things in the Bible we don't see because there is a veil over our mind and that veil over the mind is a device of the enemy and it gives him advantage. May every veil come off and every advantage of the enemy fall to the ground and let the church rise to be victorious in every dimension. An unveiled church crying for justice can save a nation!

THURSDAY, September 4

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Does God have an answer for every veil? "Yes" He does. Right in the middle of the introduction of the devices of the enemy manifested when our minds are hardened we have 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 *"Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death to death, and to the other the aroma of life to life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ."* Paul said because we put mammon under our feet the veils have come off and we can speak the true knowledge of the Lord in every place. To those who hear, it is life. To those who don't, it is death and judgment. That is precisely what God told Abraham in His covenant, *"I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you."* "In other words, Abraham, how people treat you is how I will treat them." It is time we saw that again in the earth. The church is not a dividing line in America. It resembles a wimpy family of weasels probably because it has been fed mush, milk-toast and anything but the meat of God's Word. Paul would never have settled for that and I don't think Jesus is going to settle for it either. Let His justice fall first in the church to remove the wimps and the weasels from the pulpits so that the people can have a diet that exceeds mush and milk-toast. *Then* and only then can the church be the army that God intended it in the last days. Judgment begins in the house of the Lord! Let the fire fall!

FRIDAY, September 5

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-8

Psalm 2 projects both a war-cry and the marching orders for the end-time church. There is no getting away from it. We have to embrace it, say “Yes” to it and prepare to fulfill it. Psalm 2 is very simple and has a straight-forward message. Are nations raging against God? San Francisco is and those they send to Washington, D.C. The politicians and the princes of the earth “*set themselves ... and rulers take counsel together...*” (California Supreme Court, Governor, Mayor of San Francisco) “*...Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.’*” The recent San Francisco city-wide action against the Catholic church fully fits Psalm 2 verse 3. What is our response? Are we just to pray for our enemies. Lets see what God does. Verses 4 and 5 say, “*He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:....*” When God speaks “*...wrath...*” and promises to “*...distress...*” the abominable, the perverse and the ungodly – what do you think is coming? Do you think it is picnic time? Do you think it is time to pray for the enemy? I think not. I think it is time to bring the justice of God and put a demand on covenant to save the land by cutting them off. Moses found himself in the same position twice. Both times the perpetrators were judged and the land saved! Verses 6-9 state it pretty clearly, “*Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.’*” “Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance....” If we will ask – God will give. Jesus said to ask for the nations. Are we **asking**?

SATURDAY, September 6

Scripture: Psalm 2:10-12

Verses 10-12 state, “*Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*” God identifies the plan of the enemy to fill the land with iniquity so it is destroyed before we can gain the harvest. In such an hour, how do we pray? Verses 10-12 guarantees access to the “*rod of iron*” and how we should use it on the resistance that arises. The politicians and judges are warned in verses 10-12. They are warned to “*...Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And they perish....*” What does that sound like God’s intention is for the four California Supreme Court Justices who have legislated homosexual marriage and the Mayor of San Francisco who has been championing the issue for a long time. What does any reasonable interpretation of verse 12 say should happen to them? Unless we have an iron mask around our head and are biblically brain-dead and moronic, the answer is obvious! Unless we are paralyzed by the depth of a religions spirit the prayer path is clear. It is time to seek covenant vengeance on these leaders. Intercessors can move the hand of God upon these people so they perish in the way. By using their positions of authority to exalt perversion they are destroying multitudes of innocent people throughout the State. Whether we want to talk about kindling God’s wrath, moving His hand or interceding Him into action so that the nation is saved – Hezekiah did it – David did it – Paul pulled out the “*rod of iron*” when he needed it. Will the real church arise while the wimps and weasels depart. We must grow into the latter part of Psalm 2 if we are going to save the nation! We better step up to the plate.

SUNDAY, September 7

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY – AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Scripture: Acts 15:15-17

In Acts 15 we are told, “*And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: ‘After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen down. I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up, So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.’*” God promises that He will “*...rebuild...*” the tabernacle of David. He will “*...return...*” He will rebuild its ruins and that word is **an-oy-kod-om-eh-o** and it means to construct again or to rebuild. The “*I will return...*” in verse 16 is **an-as-tref-o** which means I will return or I will overturn what has

taken its place because I am going to restore the original. **An-oy-kod-om-eh-o** means to construct again or to build from the foundation. He says it twice. *"I will set it up..."* **an-orth-o-o** means to build anew, to correct a deformity, to make erect or set up. God is very serious about what He is going to do inside the church in the last days. The tabernacle of David spoke of a relationship that David had with the God of the ark, as opposed to Saul. Saul spent his whole kingship with the ark outside of Jerusalem, a significant ways off, where he did not have to live up to the righteous requirements of God's presence. David said I'm willing to live up to the righteous standards of God's presence because I want access to the Throne and to the Creator of the heavens and the earth." **The difference between Saul and David was in the heart.** For those who are willing to allow God to rebuild the heart of David in them they will find that like Jesus they become the walking ark of the Lord for both blessing and judgment. The same ark that killed Uzza, brought deliverance and freedom for David where no one could be his enemy. It transformed debtors into mighty men! Those in covenant with him became mighty men because they discovered this relationship with the God of the ark. The God of the ark now dwells inside of us and He says "I am going to rebuild the tabernacle of David." That means God is going to rebuild David's heart inside of us – if we will let Him. That is the reason why the weasels and the wimps have to be removed from pulpits so that God can rebuild in His people a heart for the ark and bring about the full manifestation everywhere they go. That is the purpose of this ministry. That is what we are all about. Everything we publish has that purpose. It is time to be a walking ark. It is time to walk like David in the earth and we will accept nothing less.

MONDAY, September 8

Scripture: Amos 9:11,12

After reading the Acts 15 New Testament promise to restore the tabernacle, we need to go back to the original quote for context. None of the New Testament individuals who were preaching had a New Testament to preach from. They had no New Testament scripture upon which to stand. They all stood on the Old Covenant and brought forth their messages from scripture. The New Testament was yet to be added and they were walking out this transition. Revelation of salvation, fulfillment of prophecy and freedom in Christ began to emerge! So the Holy Spirit was interpreting for them passages long hidden. Their Bible was the Old Testament. This is the reason why whenever you hear somebody say, "I'm a New Testament Christian" you have to roll your eyes and remember that everything on which they base being a New Testament Christian was preached and ministered out of the Old under the revelatory Spirit of the Living God! We would be better off to say, "I'm a Christian – Old and New – one new man!" Even Paul said, *"All these things are written for our training and preparation upon whom the ends of the world have come."* Amos 9:11,12 says, *"On that day I will raise up The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old;...."* The transition between verses 11 and 12 is really interesting because it connects two key concepts - #1 *"...rebuild it as in the days of old..."* meaning what David did before the ark is going to be done again. It has to be done again in order to fulfill a purpose and the purpose is 12a, *"That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,"* The key word being *"...possess...."* Why does the tabernacle of David have to be rebuilt to possess the end-time harvest? The answer to that question could carry life or death!

TUESDAY, September 9

Scripture: Amos 9:11,12

The Hebrew word for "possess" in Amos 9:12 is **yaw-rash**. It means, "be an heir, i.e. gain the possession of an inheritance, received by an ancestral agreement, some other agreement dispossess, i.e. displacement from one's property, taken by military force...implying a loss of economic means and benefit; and finally to drive out." (Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains). God intends that we possess nations in an end-time harvest. Jesus died for that! The key to possessing them is in a restoration or rebuilding in the human heart of what transpired in David's heart as he stood before the ark. What did David know that we don't? What did David have that we don't have? Perhaps if we can answer that question we can come to the root issue of why God connects rebuilding that relationship with possessing nations.

WEDNESDAY, September 10

Scripture: Psalm 2:8,9

Psalm 2:8,9 say, “*Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.*” It is fairly obvious that God’s intent is not to destroy a harvest He promised to give in the first place. So verse 9 cannot mean that we are to ask for a harvest and then destroy it. There has to be another application of Verse 9 that fits the context. That application in context becomes clearer in verses 10-12 as major resisters to the harvest are identified as politicians and judges. It seems the one thing we can conclude is that God intends to rebuild in us the same heart David had for Him and through that relationship release a “*rod of iron*” that will break the resistance that comes through politicians and judges. God promises the church fullness but the enemy is attempting to bring fullness of iniquity before the church can achieve fullness of God. The race is on! For a complete understanding of “Fullness”, see “Marked Men.”

THURSDAY, September 11

Scripture: Psalm 2:9 Revelation 2:26,27

When God told the Son to “*Ask of Me and I will give You The nations ... And the ends of the earth for Your possession*” He then gave Him authority in the form of a “*...rod of iron...*” So the term “*...rod of iron...*” becomes a key phrase that needs biblical definition. The best dictionary for the Bible is none other than - the Bible. So if I want to find out what the definition of “*rod of iron*” is I have to go through scripture until I find its usage and check the context. God wants us to know what He means! In Revelation 2:26,27 we are told, “*And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations – “He shall rule them with a **rod of iron**; As the potter’s vessels shall be broken to pieces”....*” One promise is for sure and that is to wield the “*rod of iron*” we have to overcome. The next question is, overcome what? It appears we are back to the iron mask issue.

FRIDAY, September 12

Scripture: Revelation 2:18-20

One of the primary exegetical principles that keeps us in safety states that “context determines meaning.” “Context determines meaning” dictates that before we go anywhere else for supplemental information we have to first look at the context for application. Verses 18-20 state, “*And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: I know your works, love service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and beguile My servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols.’*” The first thing God had against the church at Thyatira was unsanctified tolerance. They were nice to evil. They made peace with evil. They “*...allowed...*” impure vessels to sow seed into their congregation. These impure vessels were blatant and we have them with us today. They bless homosexual unions. They have no problem marrying same sex partners. In some places they fight to make their apostasy the rule of their denomination. They are spiritual Jezebels and all who “*...allow...*” are equally guilty. The Greek word is **eh-ah-o** and it means to tolerate, to refuse to restrain, or to take a position of passivity. Many in the church enable apostasy by continuing to support, opening the door to personal destruction (see “Purifying The Altar”). Don’t ever think that we can wield the “*rod of iron*” as David in moving God’s hand when we “*...allow...*” sexual immorality or promote it in any way, shape or form. Context determines meaning, either the church overcomes the onslaught of pressure to accept homosexuality or we forfeit access to the “*rod of iron*”. It appears right now, more than any other time, we need the “*rod of iron*”.

SATURDAY, September 13

Scripture: Revelation 2:26 12:5

Revelation 2:26 says, “*And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power....*” **Ex-oo-see-ah** is the word and it means governmental authority to release, usually justice, to stop or start a flow. Is there anywhere else that we see “*rod of iron*” and does it fit the picture that is emerging. The answer is “Yes” – Revelation 12:5 says, “*And she bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.*” We know Revelation 12:5 is a description of Jesus. We also know that Jesus bought and paid for the authority to rule the nations which He now commands and makes available to us. Praying and asking is our part. Revelation 2 promises governmental authority to those “*...who overcomes and keep My works until the end....*” That authority must be used to finish the harvest. Year by year a clearer picture emerges concerning an end-time harvest. Rebuilding the heart for war that David had in his relationship with God, from a foundation of understanding the covenant of Sure Mercy is essential. What David wrote to be sung continually before the ark is our guide. The power released made it impossible to subdue all enemies in war. David subdued all the enemies and when it comes to an end-time harvest we have access to the Throne Room in moving the hand of the Lord to bring forth the “*rod of iron*” to remove the resistance and gain the harvest. This is a picture that has to grow inside of every believer because carrying the ark was not a “hear it once and I’ve got it.” It was immerse yourself in it, meditate in it, mutter it to yourself until it becomes who you are *then* and only **then** can you step out in faith. There is a “*rod of iron*” in your future. If it does not flow through the church, we could lose the nation.

SUNDAY, September 14

Scripture: Revelation 19:11-16

Why do we know Jesus of the gospels but don’t know the Jesus of Revelation? Get to know **this** Jesus, “*Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*” Instead of raising the dead, this Jesus is making them dead. The words He speaks become swords and when the sword falls it becomes a “*rod of iron*”. It is obvious from this passage that the “*rod of iron*” is the justice of The Most High manifesting against all those who have chosen to unite with demons to hinder the harvest and this “*rod of iron*” brings a manifestation of the justice of God. Would we describe what happened to Ananias and Sapphira as God’s justice? Only judgment establishes justice! Would we describe what the angel did to Herod as God’s justice or wrath? Would we describe what the angel did as a result of Hezekiah’s prayer In Isaiah 38, God’s wrath or justice – 185,000 all dead. For those who believe in a pre-wrath rapture, I guess we will have to redefine manifestations of wrath. One thing we know for sure, God never appointed His people for wrath. But it sure does seem that throughout the history of covenant, men have prayed and God’s wrath has manifested. David prayed concerning his best friend Ahithophel and Ahithophel expired shortly thereafter. David prayed when Absalom took the throne and Absalom expired with three spears in his heart. It is amazing how the covenant with God opens up the possibility for accessing a “*rod of iron*”. Unless, of course, we are “New Testament Christians” who have chosen unsanctified mercy and jump in the ditch allowing every evil thing and enabling it continually with our theology. Is there a deliverance for the theologically challenged? Having walked in that place, I can say there is. And I trust it won’t take three decades, like it took with me. Iron mask – off! Heart of David – on! “*rod of iron*” – manifest.

MONDAY, September 15

Scripture: Revelation 1:5,6 and 5:8-10

In Revelation 1:5,6 we are told, “...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” We are kings and priests. When we go to Revelation 5:8-10 we find the same thing, only this time we are told in verse 10, “And have made us kings (**bas-il-yooce**. The Greek word **bas-il-yooce** could be translated a kingdom of priests or kings and) ...priests to our God;...” But the verb is used in the second half of verse 10, “And we shall reign... (**bas-il-yoo-o**) which means to exercise kingly authority or to execute justice. So if I am just one of a whole group I can always rely on somebody else to do it. However, if I must be expected to do what a king does in the earth then I cannot cast that responsibility on to somebody else – I must walk in it myself and will be judged accordingly. We have spent a whole lifetime being happy just being priests. We really have not wanted to enter the kingly dimension because it is uncomfortable. **There** we have to do justice, **there** we have to reach for the “rod of iron”, **there** we have to make some decisions that call God’s hand into action. The governmental release of the “rod of iron” is obviously the issue of Jesus having made us kings. But we are kings to His Father meaning we have access to the “rod of iron”. Jesus made allowance for every potential possibility of the enemy stealing our harvest. We can move the hand of God to remove hindrances to the harvest. There is no excuse for allowing the enemy to fill the USA with iniquity so that we lose our harvest before we gain fullness of Christ. If that happens it is a failure to understand scripture and a failure to stand up in being who we are in Christ. That is a failure I do not want to answer to God for and therefore I am compelled to shout what I see from the housetops! The church is mature in a gospel mindset but in infancy in a Revelation mindset.

TUESDAY, September 16

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:7, 14-22

Did David understand the “rod of iron” to be a function of the office of king or a manifestation of blood covenant? What do his prayers before the ark reflect? What is key to our possessing nations? How do we deal with all the resistance that comes from seeking fulfillment of Psalm 2? 1 Chronicles 16 records the very first Psalm David wrote to be proclaimed before the ark. Verse 7 tells us it was the “...first Psalm delivered into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD:...” Verses 14-19 capture the core, “He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. Remember His covenant always, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac, And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel for an everlasting covenant, Saying, ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance,’ When you were but few in number, Indeed very few, and strangers in it.” David is making an appeal to the Lord based on the covenant made with Abraham. It goes on to say it is an everlasting covenant and he appeals for remembrance. It doesn’t make any difference how large the armies are against him because the Lord has delivered covenant people repeatedly when they were just a few. Verses 20-22 state, “When they went from one nation to another, And from one kingdom to another people, He permitted no man to do them wrong; Yes, He reproveth kings for their sakes, Saying, ‘Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.’” This is a perfect picture of the interaction between David and the Lord at the ark. There is thanksgiving, prophetic proclamation, prayer and intercession reminding God of His covenant and proclaiming the fact that He is covenantally obligated to permit no man to do covenant people wrong and He was willing to reprove kings for their sakes, “Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.” The real question is what does that verse mean to us today? For most of us it means, do not judge people in leadership. But is that what it meant to David and is that what it meant then? Has “seeker sensitivity” and political correctness diluted the scripture? If so, we need to reconstitute it or the tabernacle of David cannot be rebuilt in our heart. We need to think like David in order to pray like David. Perhaps God is waiting on us!

WEDNESDAY, September 17

Scripture: Psalm 143:12

In Psalm 143:12 we find David in another precarious situation. This time he is fleeing Jerusalem for his life because Absalom has taken over. He begins prayer by pleading with God not to enter into judgment with him because no one living is righteous. He ends by saying, in verses 11 and 12, *“Revive me, O LORD, for Your name’s sake! For Your righteousness’ sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, And destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant.”* David appealed to covenant for corporate mercy. He was asking God for the “rod of iron” upon those who were trying to destroy him. That just happened to be Absalom and everyone with him. David appealed to his covenant of Sure Mercy when he said, *“In Your mercy cut off....”* There is no way that the tabernacle of David can be rebuilt in our heart if we are not willing to pray what David prayed. It is only as we start to think like David thought that we can enter into the covenant like David did. David understood that personal mercy and corporate mercy were entirely different. The personal application of mercy is to save an individual from God’s justice so that he does not get what he deserves. Corporate mercy, as David practiced it, removed the perpetrators before they could fill the land with iniquity, averting judgment. Mercy to the nation meant covenantally cutting off the enemy. David prayed to access the “rod of iron” and in so doing he was breaking the resistance like a potter’s vessel. Until we come into the righteousness of that understanding, we will always be hindered and probably continue, as the church has for many decades, to diminish the reality of *“Touch not my anointed and do My prophets no harm.”*

THURSDAY, September 18

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3

In Genesis 12:1-3 we have the account of God establishing the covenant with Abram. It says, *“Now the LORD had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, From your kindred And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”* It is very clear that Abram is becoming the center of blessing or judgment based on how people respond. The reason seems very clear. It is because Abram and God are one and therefore how people treat Abram is how God treats them. An example quickly follows. Verses 14-17 state, *“So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh’s house. He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels. But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.”* God was willing to plague Pharaoh’s house because of what he did to Abram’s wife and yet Abram was not completely innocent. Abram was wrong in lying about their relationship and opened the door for this to happen. So there is a certain measure of culpability on his hands. Nevertheless covenant is covenant and God was willing to respond to the covenantal plea.

FRIDAY, September 19

Scripture: Genesis 20:1-7

Genesis 20 portrays a repeat performance of the Egyptian incident when Sarai was taken by Pharaoh. This king’s name was Abimelech. The real question for us is a fairly simple one. If we are so valuable that God was willing to become flesh, pay the price and die for us is it not logical to think we are so valuable that He is willing to kill to preserve us. If God is willing to die to save us – should He not be willing to kill to preserve us? Is blood covenant that strong? Abimelech takes Sarah into his tent and in verses 6 and 7 we are told, *“And God said to him in a dream, ‘Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.’”* *“Do not touch my anointed ones and do My prophets no harm”* comes to the full measure of its meaning here in Genesis 20:7. God said, *“...if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all*

who are yours.” The same God who is willing to offer Himself to die for us by covenant is willing to kill to preserve us. To say that is Old Covenant utterly disregards Galatians 3:29, “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” How does that mindset strike you?

SATURDAY, September 20

Scripture: Exodus 19:5-11, 14,15 and 20-22

There are five specific Theocratic covenants that pertain to the rule and reign of God. Theocratic means to establish God’s will whether man was obedient or disobedient. If we find this same thread in all five of those Theocratic covenants that pertain to the sovereign rule of God then we know that rebuilding the tabernacle of David is an issue of restoring the heart of David to the individual believer so they can access the ark in the same way David did. David accessed divine justice by praising God and proclaiming covenant. “Do not touch My anointed” means grave yard dead! The Abrahamic covenant promised terminal results. It is time to look at the Mosaic covenant. In the Mosaic covenant God offers the people the opportunity to be a nation of priests and He covenants with them over that issue but priesthood has a price. In verses 10-11 the price is sanctify, wash and be ready. Verses 14 -15 proclaim the same, sanctify, wash and be ready. Verses 20-22 require the same process, sanctify and be ready for the third time. When the people experience what the price is going to be to become a nation of priests they reconsider. They counted the cost in Exodus 20:18,19. The people decided, “Moses, we will pay you. You go find out what God wants and come and tell us. It’s okay if He kills you but we do not want to pay the price.”

SUNDAY, September 21

Scripture: Exodus 23:20-23

In Exodus 23:20-23 The Lord answers the question, is He willing to kill to preserve us? We are told, *“Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him. But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.”* Again God says in this covenant, *“I will cut off...”* the enemy to preserve you. There is a consistent thread now moving through scripture and that consistent thread is access to the *“rod of iron”* in order to fulfill God’s covenant promises.

MONDAY, September 22

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:11-20

Deuteronomy 30 records the third Theocratic covenant which is the covenant promising Israel land. This leads to the issue of possessing the land of promise. We have to possess the nations as a harvest inheritance. Deuteronomy 30:15,16 says, *“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.”* God said if you will live according to My statutes and walk in My ways, then I will dispossess the inhabitants and give you the land. Apparently to get the land they had to access covenantally the *“rod of iron”*. They did, God did and the rest is history.

TUESDAY, September 23

Scripture: Joshua 10:9-14

We know that the covenant promising land and its fulfillment was spread over Moses and Joshua, in that Moses brought them out of Egypt and Joshua’s job was to take them into the Promised land. Joshua 10:9-14 gives us a view of what God is willing to do for His covenant. Verses 9-14 state, *“Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. So the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great*

slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the children of Israel killed with the sword. Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: 'Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.' So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel." Several questions emerge. Is God willing to kill to preserve us? Is Israel in their land today because God honors covenant? The answer to Abraham's *"How shall I know?"* was covenant. Did Moses bring God's *"rod of iron"* upon Egypt? The answer is "Yes." We could hardly say anything else after reading Exodus and what happened in Egypt. Has God ever abrogated a Theocratic covenant? God was even willing to stop the sun and moon in its rotation so Joshua could kill more of the enemy. We have a covenant that offers us a *"rod of iron"*. Abraham accessed the covenant and saved Sarah. Moses accessed the covenant and saved the nation from bondage. Joshua accessed the covenant and possessed the land. **What** are we waiting for!

WEDNESDAY, September 24

Scripture: Joshua 23:1-5

Joshua 23:1-5 states, *"Now it came to pass, a long time after the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua was old, advanced in age. And Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers, and said to them: 'I am old, advanced in age. You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God is He who has fought for you. See, I have divided to you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from the Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, as far as the Great Sea westward. And the LORD your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight. So you shall possess their land, as the LORD your God has promised you.'"* Joshua understood how to access the covenant and to call forth the *"rod of iron"*. In the calling forth of the *"rod of iron"* God was covenantally willing to remove the enemy to give Israel what He promised. The same God that promised Israel land has promised us nations and He is willing to give us nations but we may have to access the *"rod of iron"* in order to cut off the enemy who is trying to fill those nations with iniquity so they are judged before we can get a harvest out of them. Isn't it time we woke up to this principle. It has been right here in the Word all along. It hasn't gone anywhere – it is still here. The only difference is previous generations got hold of it and used it and we are "playing church". LET GOD ARISE AND ALL HIS ENEMIES BE SCATTERED! Balance the maturity of the gospel mindset with a Revelation mindset!

THURSDAY, September 25

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:9-11

The fourth Theocratic covenant pertaining to the rule of God is the covenant of David and in 2 Samuel 7:9-11 the Lord told David, *"And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house."* Not only did God promise to redeem all the failures but He said, *"...I have been with you ... and have cut off all your enemies..."* not some, not part, not a few but **all**. David knew how to pray that covenant in war. He taught it to his mighty men. He prayed it consistently. He prayed it in Psalm 55 and in Psalm 143 when Absalom took Jerusalem. The Psalms are full of David proclaiming before the ark that God is willing to *"cut off"* the enemy accessing his authority to wield the *"rod of iron"*. Does our Bible declare covenant access to the *"rod of iron"*? If we don't know, we must find out. Acts 15 says God is going to rebuild that heart in us. Do we have it yet? Are we getting it? Is it growing? It should be.

FRIDAY, September 26

Scripture: Psalm 55:12-15

If we ever wonder how David felt about the covenant of Sure Mercy, all we have to do is look at him when he is fleeing from Jerusalem as Absalom is taking over and he begins to pray about his chief counselor and best friend, Ahithophel. In Psalm 55:12-15 based on the covenant of Sure Mercy, he prays this and later declares it to be words of the Spirit, “For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it, Nor is it one who hates me who has magnified himself against me; Then I could hide from him. But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng. Let death seize them; Let them go down alive into hell, For wickedness is in their dwellings and among them.” Is God willing to kill to preserve us, save us, give us a harvest, take us into our promise? So far we have four Theocratic covenants pertaining to the will of God that declare He is! How have we missed that. Somehow – we managed! It is about time we got it since the Bible is full of it. It is also in Psalm 143:12. Isn’t it time we said “Yes” to the heart of David?

SATURDAY, September 27

Scripture: Mark 11:11-24

The final and cumulative culmination of all Theocratic covenants is the New one. The New Covenant is built on the four previous Theocratic covenants and fully contains their primary principles. Jesus said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am come not to destroy but to fulfill.” (Matthew 5:17). Jesus did encourage us to pray for our enemies – but He did not abrogate covenant justice. Unfortunately we have made the other half of what Jesus told us “everything” and we have neglected the part where He confirms the kingly ministry. In Mark 11:11-24 at the end of His ministry, Jesus goes in and surveys the temple. He sees it has been taken over by the spirit of mammon. After surveying the temple, the next day **on the way in the city**, He curses a fig tree and kills it. Verse 16 says, “*Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’*” **On the way out of the city** in the morning they pass by the same fig tree and Peter noticed it. Peter said, “... ‘*Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.*’” Jesus’ response to that was, “*Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says.*” In effect Jesus said, “*Get it straight boys, you can do what I did to the fig tree.*” At least that is Matthew’s account in chapter 21. Whereas Mark emphasizes speaking to the mountain, Matthew emphasizes killing the fig tree. Matthew 21:21 says, “*Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, ...*” Jesus taught that we could take the faith of God and remove whatever was hindering a harvest, whether it be in the temple or out of the temple. That is New covenant in full agreement with the preceding four Theocratic covenants. Our traditional gospel mindset is lopsided.

SUNDAY, September 28

Scripture: Acts 12:1-5

In Acts 12:1-5 we have a perfect example of the early church standing on the New covenant. Herod kills James, puts Peter in jail and they pray. An angel lets Peter out of jail but Herod is still insistent on doing damage to the church. At the end of their prayers, verses 21-23, state, “*So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, ‘The voice of a god and not of a man!’ Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.*” Did the early church access the “rod of iron”? Who was responsible for releasing the angel that removed Herod? Someone did! Was it God alone? **What was the value of the prayers of the saints?** We have five Theocratic covenants which all say that God is willing to remove the enemy in order that we might gain the full measure of what He has for us. Isn’t it time we started praying accordingly!

MONDAY, September 29

Scripture: Amos 5:21-24

Will we pay the price to access the “rod of iron” ? The “rod of iron” is prominently presented in the Amos 9 promise to rebuild David’s tabernacle. But before Amos chapter 9 we find a major qualifier in chapter 5 where the Lord begins to speak to us specifically about the condition of the church. In Amos 5:21-24 we are told, *“I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs, For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.”* It would appear from this passage the Lord is much more interested in justice than He is in us “playing church”. Unfortunately we have a long tradition of “playing church” wanting the blessing of God instead of finding out the full measure of what He wants us to do, like learn the covenant and access the “rod of iron”. We have a choice to make. Are we going to continue with “church as usual” or are we actually going to let God build the tabernacle of David inside of us where we carry the ark. We manifest it. We are before it all the time. The ark is in us and comes out as needed. **That** is a choice we have to make.

TUESDAY, September 30

Scripture: Amos 5:21-24

Amos 5:21-24 in The Message Bible says, *“I can’t stand your religious meetings. I’m fed up with your conferences and conventions. I want nothing to do with your religion projects, your pretentious slogans and goals. I’m sick of your fund-raising schemes, your public relations and image making. I’ve had all I can take of your noisy ego-music. When was the last time you sang to me? Do you know what I want? I want justice –oceans of it. I want fairness – rivers of it. That’s what I want. That’s **all** I want.”* Isn’t it interesting to read this passage in a modern language version where a little application is thrown in by interpretation of scripture. If this is an accurate expression of the Lord’s heart, then we must accept being agents of justice. We are without excuse for learning our covenant. Once we learn it, we can act on it! God is looking for men and women who agree it is time to rebuild the tabernacle of David. Because the context of Amos 9 includes Amos 5 we have some qualifying to do. How can the Holy Spirit rebuild the tabernacle of David in our heart if we haven’t yielded to Amos 5:21-24. If we can say “Yes” to Amos 5:21-24 as it is presented in The Message Bible, we can say “Yes” I want the ark coming out of my heart in the days ahead. The choice is ours!

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ITINERARY

Al Houghton

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18th 7PM 19th 7PM 20th 9AM-2PM

September 26-29

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