

WORD AT WORK

Kingly Character of Christ IV

Dear Friend:

Revelation chapter one points us to a conflict between rulers that dominates the end-times. That conflict rises between the whole cadre of political rulers of nations and the Ruler of Heaven. Revelation 1:5,6 states, *"...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."* Political kings and judicial kings challenge the Heavenly King by attacking the church who represents Him!

The church is caught in the middle of this conflict. Nowhere is this more evident than on the issue of homosexual marriage. The end-game of homosexual marriage is the silencing of every pastor and closing of every church through discrimination lawsuits. God discriminates against those who practice homosexuality because He judges it. If I as a pastor marry homosexuals, I am guilty of sin unto death, according to Romans 1:32. If I refuse to marry homosexuals, I am guilty of discrimination according to state and looming federal statutes, once homosexual marriage is legal. The end result of the homosexual movement is the driving of true Bible-believing churches underground. Daniel 11:37 defines homosexuality as a foundation for the antichrist spirit!

Judicial prayers exist in Scripture for moments in history like this one. The homosexual movement in North America is just like Haman who sought the destruction of the Jews in Esther's generation – they even use the same game-plan. The real question for the church is how will we respond and what will we pray?

When David faced an enemy like the church faces today, he appealed to his covenant and asked God to intervene as in the days of old. David ruled in the midst of his enemies by what he prayed. Can we rule by what we pray? The Great Commission shouts yes and amen!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

WORD AT WORK

Kingly Character of Christ IV

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Scripture: Revelation 1:5,6

We are told in Revelation 1:5,6, “...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.” There are two words that pop out in verses 5 and 6, and have to grab the heart of any believer. The first, in verse 5, is that Jesus is the **Ruler** over the kings of the earth. The second, in verse 6, is He bought and paid for **dominion** forever and ever. Ultimate rule belongs to God. It does not belong to civil government. It does not belong to any government instituted by man. It belongs to the living God and to no other. Romans 13:1-4 encourages us to submit to civil government but only when it does not violate God’s **Ordained Law**. When we encounter conflict, we must agree with Peter & John in Acts 4:19, “*Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.*” When antichrist-motivated politicians lead government, conflict is inevitable—welcome to the end-time church. A very prophetic friend called to relate, she had just awakened in the middle of the night in a sweat, and God spoke this: “If the church has submitted to civil government, who will hear My voice and who will guide My people?” We submit for conscience sake when government does not violate God’s Word. What voice are we listening to? The One who has the dominion forever and ever is the One in heaven – not the one in DC, Sacramento, Austin or any other nation’s capital. May we bring Kingdom Rule to our nations!

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Scripture: John 12:20-22

Verses 20-22 state, “*Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.*” There were certain Greeks who were looking for Jesus. Because they understood that Jesus had Greek disciples, they went to those Greek disciples to present their request: “We want to see Jesus.” In every generation, we find ourselves with the same request. We want to see Jesus in action. If anyone can demonstrate or advertise miraculous healings, thousands of people flock to see if it is really Jesus. The desire to see Jesus is as great today as it was when He physically walked the earth. The only difference is, there were not any con-men pretending to be Him 2000 years ago, with great flair, advertising their miracle ministries. Seeing the real Jesus has to go deeper than whether or not a person is physically healed. We are told in the last days that we will be facing lying signs and wonders. From the day that I met Jesus, I have been excited and expectant about praying for people who are sick, with the intent of seeing healing, deliverance and freedom. But in all those years, I have never seen

competition growing in the realm of the lying signs and wonders as it is today. Satan gives **du-nam-is** to individuals who are willing to compromise for him, just as God gives **du-nam-is** to people who refuse to compromise. We have to discern the difference.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

Scripture: John 12:23-25

The question was, “We want to see Jesus!” Verses 23-25 state, *“But Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.’”* Jesus answered the question He was asked, but in a very unusual way. He gave an answer for how He would be seen through those who believe. This was an answer for every generation. The core concept communicated was self-denial. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, is the issue of “Will I choose to deny myself for a greater good?” Those who say no – those who love their life – will never find ultimate life in God. It is only in the laying down of our life for others that we truly find it. Jesus gave an answer that covered every generation. For those of us who want to bring forth Jesus so that He can be seen through our lives, the key is embracing the cross. We dare not deceive people by claiming deliverance, freedom and healing as being poured out, when in fact it is being manufactured. Integrity of heart forms the foundation of the character of Christ and without that character we will never continually see the real Jesus. God is moving dramatically and preparing people to harvest nations. It is the character of Christ that sustains the work of Christ. Jesus laid out the key of it in verse 25—to lose our life in His will is to find ultimate life.

MONDAY, APRIL 4

Scripture: John 12:26-28

Verses 26-28 state, *“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor. ‘Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.’”* To see Jesus also means the crucifixion side of the cross has to be seen. For years and even generations the Victorious Christ has been ministered without any teaching or acknowledgement to the price paid to bring forth that level of authority and power. During the days of the “faith message” when the Word of God was being exalted and lifted up not many would share the cost or the price or the level of warfare that went with the ministry that they were bringing. Transparency allows people to see not only the victory but also the warfare that was sustained prior to it. To see Jesus we not only need to see His Hand moving to deliver but we need to see the price of walking with Him in waiting, patience, rejection, persecution and all the things that are mentioned that were part of His life. It is hard to build a big church talking about the cross, because most Christians do not want to hear it.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

Scripture: John 12:20-32

The conflict of rulers is complete in the accomplishment of verse 31. John 12:31 now becomes the foundation for all Kingly authority, *“Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”* Jesus either ascended from the grave with keys to death and hell or He did not. If He did, then the ruler of this world is judged. It is the responsibility of the church to enforce that judgment or to demand that judgment in the Throne-Room which makes every single believer an agent of God’s judicial authority. Have

we accepted our badge? Have we accepted the responsibility? Are we demanding the ouster of the ruler of this world? If not, we are not accessing everything that Jesus died for and affecting what needs to be changed!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

Scripture: John 14:11-12

We are told in verses 11 and 12, *“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”* Now the question becomes, are we willing to settle for doing the works Jesus did? Or will we embrace the greater works? The works He did are awesome in nature and very, very practical, from healing sickness and disease to delivering people from oppression. Jesus even prayed and the food was multiplied. These are all realms we can enter by faith, but perhaps the realm that looms largest in the days ahead are the greater works. All the judicial works of Christ qualify as greater works simply because Jesus was not allowed to do them in His earthly walk. Those had to wait until He was seated at the right Hand of God after the ascension. Are we prepared to ask the Lord for greater works? Are we prepared to ask Him for manifestations of the judicial Christ? The supernatural demise of Ananias and Sapphira was a greater work than raising the widow’s son at the city of Nain. It is always a greater work when we have to pray people into the grave for eternity than when we have to pray them into life. The real question is, are we prepared to ask for the greater works? Are we prepared to enter the realm of the judicial Christ? The greater works all address the stopping of evil so that it does not destroy a harvest field. It is not about making a name ourselves but it is about stopping evil before that evil destroys our harvest.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Scripture: John 14:13-14

John 14:13-14 states, *“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”* Jesus announced that we could do greater works and also said that whatever we ask in His name will be done because the Father desires to glorify the Son. Let us remember that context determines meaning. The greater works glorify the Son because they stop evil. Those who promote homosexuality deserve the full measure of the greater works on their head. It would glorify God and stop the progression of evil. Every Supreme Court justice who champions a perverse lifestyle should experience the greater works of God. Can we ask? Can we pray? Can we believe God to do it? I certainly hope so!

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-2

We read in verses 1 and 2, *“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed saying...”* It is obvious that we have a conflict prophesied by Psalm 2. That conflict is between the political leaders in the earth and the rulers (national, state and governmental leaders) who set themselves against the LORD and against His anointed. Have the leaders of some nations set themselves against the LORD? Have they championed causes like abortion? If so they have set themselves against the LORD. Have they championed homosexuality? Then, they have set themselves against the LORD. How many state and national leaders have set themselves against the LORD? Every single individual in government who sets himself against

the LORD fits into Psalm 2 verses one and two. The real question which emerges is what is the church going to do about it? There is a conflict of rulers. Where is the church? Because tradition has made the Word of God of none effect, the church is turning the other cheek but Jesus is not! The church tolerates evil. Jesus did not tolerate evil. He judged it! Why do we tolerate what God has already judged? Why do we refuse to move the judicial Hand of God through prayer when that the moving of that hand has already been bought and paid for? Where is the Judicial Christ?

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Scripture: Psalm 2:3-5

Verses 3-5 describe what God is ready to do. They describe what Jesus has already bought and paid for. *“Let us break their bonds in pieces And cast away their cords from us.” 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:*” We have a covenantal obligation and right to demand God speak to the lawless in His wrath and distress them in His deep displeasure. To pray anything less is to be completely and totally biblically out of touch with what is necessary in order to save our harvest. As this Psalm unfolds we have an obligation to break the opposition with a rod of iron. Much of the church, however, is too busy turning the other cheek because the church is often nicer than God.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Scripture: Psalm 2:4-5

Verses 4 and 5 use two very interesting Hebrew words that when connected give us a very clear picture of the magnitude of God’s intervention in supporting His people and insuring their harvest field. When scripture says in verse 5, *“Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:*” The same Hebrew word for “wrath” appears in Exodus 32:10 where God tells Moses, *“Now, therefore, let Me alone that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.”* When God talks about speaking to people in His wrath, He is talking about the end of their cities, the utter and complete annihilation of their person. When we move down to the Hebrew word **baw-hal**, it means to terrorize, to deeply distress or to trouble. It is the word that is used in Job’s experience with God. Job 4:4-5 says, *“Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, And you have strengthened the feeble knees; But now it comes upon you, and you are weary; It touches you, and you are troubled.”* Now, is there any doubt that Job was greatly distressed at his losses? People who stand against God can experience that level of loss. The interesting part of walking with the Lord is that people who are standing for Him can also experience that level of loss. Jesus did, and so did Paul. Paul even stated that everything he lost, he counted as gain for Christ. Let us do our best to make sure we are on the right side of the ledger when it comes to the issue of adversity. If we have to walk in it, let it be because we chose the path of righteousness and have said ‘No’ to unrighteousness.

MONDAY, APRIL 11

Scripture: Psalms 2:6-9

As we look at the progression between this conflict of rulers, we find out that it is our job not only to ask for the inheritance for which Jesus died, but to deal with the resistance. Every area of resistance must encounter the rod of iron. Only verse 9 does not say God will break them with a rod of iron, it does not say God will dash them into pieces like a potter’s vessel. It says you and I have to do that part. It says you and I have to speak to the mountain. You and I have to bring the rod out and strike the offenders, spiritually

speaking, by praying God's **baw-hal**, by praying God will speak to them in His wrath and distress them in His deep displeasure. It is our prayer that brings the action! Are we praying that way or are we still nicer than God? It is time to pray the full measure of God's Hand and that He will thoroughly terrorize every ruler who chooses to stand against the living God. When the church rises up in this dimension, I suspect we will see God's Hand upon our leaders in an entirely different way.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-4

Isaiah 11:1-4 presents a picture of the authority of the New Testament church as we come forth under the Hand of the Living God and manifest His Spirit. Verses 1 and 2 specifically address that issue by saying, *"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD."* Verses 3 and 4 continue by saying, *"His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked."* The reason why the church can bring forth the greater works is because they choose not to judge by what they see nor by what they hear. But they choose to find God's wisdom and counsel on an issue before declaring or prophesying a divinely-directed response. Any Christian who refuses to strike the earth with the rod of his mouth and call forth justice in the face of evil fails to enter the greater works. We do not want to reject our call because of a religious spirit. That passivity enables evil and hinders the harvest God wants us to have. How long will we be stuck in tradition? How long will we say 'No' to the Kingly Christ? How long will we enable the enemy? I do not want to get to heaven and find out I lived my whole Christian life being codependent with evil, thinking wrongly that I was supposed to "turn-the-other-cheek" when in fact I was supposed to take a stand. That deception would be unbearable for calculating lost fruit in eternity.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

Scripture: Romans 13:3

Romans 13:3 says, *"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same."* Rulers have a very specific purpose assigned by God Himself from the Throne-Room. The purpose of Godly rule is to limit evil. If we cannot restrain evil, we are not stepping into the full purpose for which God created us and we are not taking the governmental authority Jesus bought and paid for. By submitting to political government who is championing evil, we are denying the Christ who bought and paid for our Judicial Authority. Are we Christ-rejecters or Christ-accepters? If we are Christ-accepters, we must, when Spirit-led, bring the rod of iron on specific evils that are championed by wayward rulers. Homosexuality is one of them. Rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Since we have been made a King and a Priest, we have been made spiritual rulers. What are we doing with the rule that Jesus bought and paid for? Are we terrorizing evil? Are we declaring 'Not on our watch!?' Are we praying the Hand of God on the perpetrating parties or are we allowing them to continue to spread their evil? How long will the church enable evil? How long will passivity grip those who claim to represent the powerful Christ? It is time the Hand of God was seen – but historically that comes at the prayer of the believer when enduring the stress of persecution. When the early church cried out under persecution, God answered with an anointing that first put Ananias & Sapphira and then Herod in the grave.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Scripture: Isaiah 11:4

Isaiah 11:4 is one strong passage. Is it possible that the breath of our lips will slay the wicked? It is possible when the breath of our lips brings a rod of iron down on perpetrators that are poisoning and destroying our harvest, that God will remove them. The God of heaven is ready to move with the church to gain a harvest. But there is tremendous resistance and it is our job to break that resistance with the rod of iron that Jesus has bought and paid for. Therefore "The Rod" has to be possessed, it has to be released and it has to be utilized. Are we up to such a task?

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Scripture: Romans 13:4

Romans 13:4 makes it very clear that as a spiritual ruler, we have a job to do. Verse 4 says, *"Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: 'That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged.'"* Our job is to bring the sword. God will demonstrate His wrath against evil. We participate as we pray by moving God's Hand. How long will we say 'No' to that proposition? God is ready! He is recruiting. He is encouraging. But the church continues to sit on the sidelines. It is time for the judicial Christ to rise! Bearing the sword is a biblical responsibility. It is time we said yes!

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Scripture: Matthew 28:18

The Great Commission says in Matthew 28:18, *"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'"* Jesus made it clear that He bought and paid for the authority to walk this out and He released it in us. The question is, are we willing to take it and run with it? Jesus did not say **some** authority in heaven and earth; He said **all** authority in heaven and on earth was given to Him. He was speaking of governmental authority. And He gave it to us to use against evil. The question is how are we going to release it? Are we going to use Judicial Authority? Will we strike with a rod of iron? Will we pray and release the Hand of God on perpetrators in order to gain our harvest? What are we going to do? Is it going to be church as usual or are we ready to break out and say, "Here we are Lord! We volunteer. Give us our harvest!"

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Scripture: Revelation 1:16;19:15

In Revelation 1:16 we find that out of Jesus' mouth goes a sharp two-edged sword. In Revelation 19:15 we find out exactly what He does with it. We are told, *"That out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations."* The sword of Jesus' rule is expressed as a result of the prayers of God's people. As we pray in concert with the Holy Spirit, Jesus strikes the resistance. David asked God to strike the enemy. We can ask God to remove all resistance. We pray Spirit-led prayers and speak to the mountain allowing God to remove it! Why are we nicer than God? How does tradition so rule the American church as to turn us into 'nicer than God' Christians? What would the church look like that was confident in striking the enemy with the sword of their mouth? May such a people arise!

MONDAY, APRIL 18

Scripture: Isaiah 2:4a

Isaiah 2:4 says, *"He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares...."* Benjamin Franklin in his generation said, "Show me the man that beats his sword into a plowshare and I will show you the same man that's plowing the field for the one who kept his sword." Franklin understood the season in which he lived. He understood the Christ who said, "Buy a sword" for just such a season. Maybe that is the problem we see in many nations. We have a generation that does not realize the times and seasons in which they live. We need to be buying a sword not beating them into a plowshare.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Scripture: Matthew 10:5-10

In Matthew 10:5-10 Jesus sent the twelve out. He told them where not to go before telling them where they could go. They were not to go to the Gentiles and they were not to enter a city of the Samaritans but they were confined to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. They were sent to covenant people who had a foundation in Scripture. Because they were sent to a covenant people with a foundation in Scripture, Matthew 5:38-48 would make sense. In this passage Jesus taught them not to resist an evil person that they were trying to win but to turn the other cheek. That principle was best applied to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. We have made it apply to everybody, all the time, anytime and everywhere to our own hurt. Jesus defined the priestly ministry which was to win the lost. But then He made a transition, a transition the American church and many churches throughout the world have yet to make.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

Scripture: Matthew 10:11-15

In Matthew 10:11-15 we see Jesus making that transition for the twelve before they ever leave the city to which they are sent. Verses 14-15 state, *"And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!"* Jesus said that when people do not receive you invoke a Biblical curse on their head and tell them that judgment is coming. That is not turning the other cheek. That is saying that you have chosen to reject the Word of God therefore the God of heaven rejects you. It will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for you. Rejecters of God were warned about judgment. Why do we not warn rejecters? Where is the warning Jesus commanded? Our tradition has taken teeth from the Gospel. We do not bring God's justice on the heads of people. Jesus told the twelve to do it. Why are we nicer than God?

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Scripture: Luke 10:8-12

Jesus not only told the twelve to invoke a Biblical curse when they were not received, but in Luke chapter 10 when Jesus sent out the seventy he told them the very same thing in verses 8-12. Verses 10-12 says, *"And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!"* Jesus was clear to the twelve, and He was clear to the seventy. He said to biblically release a sword against those who refused to hear. Why do we not do that?

Why do we spend a lifetime enabling evil doers. The church of today is not the church that Jesus built. The church of today is a church without a sword.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

Scripture: Luke 22:35

Luke 22:35 says, *“And He said to them, ‘When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?’ So they said, ‘Nothing.’”* Jesus is referring specifically to the initial sending of the twelve and of the seventy. They were sent out to be Priests. They were sent out to turn the other cheek. They were sent out to witness but they also were sent out to declare if you are not going to receive the Word here is the price you are going to pay. It will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for you! Jesus reminded them of the initial sending and how God took care of them all the way through. Jesus knew and He reminded them. And they said yes. You took care of us. We needed nothing. And they had to invoke God’s Biblical curse. They probably ticked off a few people and God still provided for them. The Lord is reminding them, look when I sent you out before and you were not received and you had to invoke the Biblical curse ,did I not still provide! The answer is a resounding yes! So let us take courage and realize the twelve and the seventy had to do it and God took care of them. Will He not take care of us! He has not changed! He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Scripture: Luke 22:36

In verse 36 Jesus said, *“But now he who has a moneybag, let him take it, likewise a sack; He who has no sword let him sell his garment and buy one.”* It is more important to have a spiritual sword than a black suit. It is more important to carry a sword in the realm of the Spirit, than to have the appropriate attire for any event. Why have we emphasized dressing right and have not equipped our men and women with a Biblical sword. Jesus said that a sword is more important than the garment you are wearing. The sword has to be bought! The failure to buy a sword is to be unequipped for what is coming in the days ahead. As a church we must buy a sword and prepare for what is coming. Jesus ordained it and ordered it, and it is time we stepped up to it.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Scripture: Revelation 2:3-5

Happy Resurrection Day!

Verses 3 through 5 state, *“...and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.”* The joy of resurrection day is the joy of walking with the Jesus who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, the One who has prevailed to open the scroll and loose its seven seals. What does that mean? That means when Jesus took a seat at the right Hand of God He became the Judge of all the Earth. As the Judge of all the Earth He can release a sword anytime, anyplace, anywhere it is needed and the rest of our Bible shows us very definitely that He does it at the prayers of the saints. Are we ready for that responsibility? Maybe the twelve were not ready to invoke a Biblical curse. Maybe the seventy were not ready to invoke a Biblical curse. Maybe Peter was not ready to announce the Ananias and Sapphira event. Maybe the whole early church had to get ready very quickly when they faced loosing James and then Peter and they had to bring the sword down on Herod. If we are going to gain our harvest field instead of forfeiting it, perhaps we need to learn very quickly. Have we bought a sword?

MONDAY, APRIL 25

Scripture: Revelation 5:1-2

Revelation 5:1 and 2 says, *“And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?’”* In the book of Revelation we find a major transition and this transition is over simple qualification. Who is worthy? The Greek word ‘worthy’ is **ax-ee-os** which portrays the picture of a commercial balancing scale or the balancing scale we would see as the scales of justice. Who is worthy? Have we qualified? Have we paid the price? He who loves son and daughter more than Me is not **ax-ee-os** of Me. He who is not willing to take up his cross and follow Me is not **ax-ee-os** of Me. The word **ax-ee-os** is the word that shows up in the New Testament concerning whether we are willing to walk the walk that will initiate the sword. If we are willing, we have bought the sword. If we are not, we are forfeiting our access to the sword until we repent! Which one will we do?

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

Scripture: Revelation 5:9-10

Verses 9 and 10 say, *“You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”* Since reign, **bas-il-yoo-o** is the verb form of **bos-il-yooce**, the real question here is, are we the verb or are we not? Are we the action of the king or are we not? The real question Jesus is probably looking at and asking is, where is our Kingly action? Do we know how to swing a sword? Do we know how to bring a sword into the middle of our circumstance? Do we know how to bring a sword on the enemy? Do we know how to banish them? Do we know how to pray them into the grave? After twenty-five years of walking with Jesus the Judge, I can impart what has been learned through experience. Jesus drags us into aspects of ministry we would have never volunteered for. If we yield, we get to fulfill our call!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

Scripture: Revelation 5:5

Revelation 5:5 says, *“But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.’”* The word translated prevailed is the Greek word **nik-ah-o** and in Revelation 2:4 the church at Ephesus is told they have left their first love and then in verse 7, to them who **nik-ah-o** or overcome apathy, blessing comes. Every single church ends with the same statement—a promise to him who overcomes. At Smyrna, they had to overcome fear of persecution. At Pergamos, they had to overcome sexual immorality. At Thyatira, they had to overcome tolerance. At Sardis, they had to overcome apathy. At Philadelphia, they had to overcome hardship through perseverance. And at Laodicea they had to overcome ease. Are we overcoming? If we are overcoming, then we are preparing to represent the Kingly Christ.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

Scripture: Psalms 110:1-2; Acts 4:5-8, 19

The question is, *where did the early church swing the sword?* Who did they pray against? The answer is in Psalm 2. It tells us where the early church swung the sword. It is very clear. They were praying against the kings and rulers. And they were praying for the anointing to defy onerous rules and regulations. They

asked for distress and the wrath of God on the enemy's head. The early church put action to the Kingly Christ. They swung the sword – will we? Do we face the same resistance they did? That is a question that should give us a whole lot of confidence in this hour. In verses 5-8, they were facing persecution from the religious leaders. In verse 19 they defied what the religious leaders said. It is obvious that the early church had to deal with the counterfeit church. They had to swing the sword against the counterfeit church. How difficult must that have been, to find themselves praying against the very institution they had grown up in and bringing the sword of God on it? That could not have been easy. It had to be unbelievably difficult. Can we do that? Can we swing the sword against institutions that simply build their own kingdom and are hurting the Gospel? Swinging the sword is not easy!

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Scripture: Acts 4:5-8, 19; 5:1-5

How difficult must it have been for Peter to announce the death of Ananias and Sapphira! How difficult must it have been to have buried them before the families were even notified! These are not things that endear you to people. How can we do such things in the Spirit? We need to realize we are representing a God who kills without apology. Our God will put us in an ignoble grave for rebellion without a service. When God kills, He kills twice: the first time, He kills the body, the second time the soul. No wonder the fear of God was everywhere. If the fear of God comes again, will it come on the heels of an Ananias and Sapphira event? Will it start in the church before it goes to governmental leaders?

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Scripture: Acts 12:1-6,23

Where did the early church swing the sword? They first swung it at the religious system. Secondly they swung it against rebellious people in their midst and third, they had to swing it at government. Each time they swung the sword, they prayed a judicial prayer. Swinging the spiritual sword has nothing to do with swinging a physical sword. It has everything to do with praying a judicial prayer and bringing the sword of God's Hand against individuals hopefully for their repentance and if they refuse to repent then for facing utter and total destruction. Exercising authority against evil was the call and they stood up to it. When it comes to matching generation with generation, how will our generation match up with the one who started the church? I hear individuals all the time praying and asking for the double anointing for the end-time church. Do we have the character to carry the double anointing?

ITINERARY

3/27 – 4/1	Kilauea, HI	Lighthouse Christian Fellowship Sun 9:30 am, Mon, Wed, Fri 7 pm	John Schmeling (808) 828-6682
4/18 – 4/19	San Jose, CA	Leadership Conference	