WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER VII

Knowing The God of the Prophets II

TUESDAY, July 1
Scripture: Ephesians 2:3-17

If we're going to know God in the depth necessary to carry and impart His purpose to a generation capable of winding up the age, we need to embrace His ways to recognize the preparational path! Perhaps the best place to start is accepting and agreeing with Who God says we are. Ephesians 2 points us in that direction. When we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior we are no longer considered a Gentile. If we have Jewish roots, we are equally challenged. We are *"…one new man…."* Verse 15 says it well, *"…having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself* ***one new man*** *from the* ***two,*** *thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them* ***both*** *to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity."* There was **enmity between the Gentiles and God** because they were not a part of the covenants of promise. There was **enmity between the Jews and God** because they had the covenants of promise but couldn't keep them and they rejected the very One they claimed to represent. Therefore God made of the two **one new man**. If God made of the two one new man when a Gentile becomes a believer and tries to be Jewish, he stomps all over the Spirit of grace and through adopting law climbs back into enmity. When someone is Jewish who becomes a believer and he tries to relate to God by keeping all the ordinances, he stomps all over grace. Hebrews says we should beware lest we fail of the grace of God. There is only one safe thing to do and that is to become a Christian and major on the **new man**. To try and please God through Jewish custom and tradition is a trail that could easily lead to forfeiting the grace of God by embracing the death of the law. The way of the **new man** is the way of the Spirit and the way of life. Accept no less – walk in no less!

WEDNESDAY, July 2
Scripture: Ephesians 2:18-22

Living in days when revival is being poured out, demands deep relationship with the Holy Spirit to discern both the manifestation and the altar upon which it is poured. Mixed seed must be discerned or we risk the fate of the young prophet who disobeyed God through the lying word of the old prophet. God's purpose for us is to be built together for a holy habitation in the Spirit. That is why moving toward **one new man** is so important. Jesus modeled the **one new man** throughout His life and ministry on the earth. He moved from one confrontation to another with the Jewish leadership over custom and law. Is it any wonder the New Testament tells us the *"…letter killeth but the Spirit gives life."* Embracing Jewish or any other tradition, while it may give a great degree of appreciation for heritage and history, is inherently dangerous because within it is a giant bear trap violating the principles of Ephesians chapter 2. If Paul's revelation of the church was accurate, then we need to act accordingly and embrace it with all of our heart and being. Are we Gentile? Are we Jewish? Or are we Christian? As for me and my house, we choose Christian, which is neither Jewish nor Gentile - it's ***one new man.***

THURSDAY, July 3
Scripture: Ephesians 3:1-7

John Wimber had a big challenge discerning the Toronto Blessing but time proves all things as the fruit emerges. Those who press into the Holy Spirit can get it right initially while others must survey opinions. Paul blazed a trail in this arena. Paul explains **one new man** and how by revelation he began to understand the Gentiles were to *"…be fellow heirs of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel."* The New Testament book of Ephesians is the pinnacle of revelation concerning the church and it's purpose in the earth. God has an eternal purpose for the church and we are the ones who choose to embrace that purpose and walk in it. As we yield, a heart-cry comes in praying for the realization. Paul prayed for this realization twice in Ephesians chapters 1 and 3. God's purpose for the church is that we would walk in **His** fullness. That fullness can only come when we embrace and pursue the **new man**. We will never attain it by clinging to our traditions. Abraham was a pioneer and today we need spiritual pioneers to pole-vault above tradition and into the glory.

FRIDAY, July 4
Scripture: Exodus 19:1-8

Let the nameless, faceless priests arise to possess the glory and pursue an end-time harvest of cities and nations. Something unique is happening in the body of Christ, a picture of which emerges as we study God's intent for each believer. In Exodus 19:3-11 we see God's heart desire for a nation of priests. Verses 5 and 6 say, *"'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."* In verse 8 the people responded, *"Then all the people answered together and said, 'All that the Lord has spoken we will do.' So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord." God revealed His purpose to a whole nation and the nation in mass said, "yes, we will go for it."* The people said "yes" undoubtedly believing it was a great promotion, that they would be very close to God and they would get to know Him in a very unique dimension. While all of this was true what began to transpire caused them to re-think their initial commitment.

SATURDAY, July 5
Scripture: Exodus 19:7-24

Immediately after agreeing to become priests all the people started seeing the price tag. In verse 10, *"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Go to the people and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people."* In verse 12 He told them there were boundaries involved and they could not cross the boundaries or it would cost them their life. In verse 14 we're told, *"Then Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes."* Again they are told to be ready. In verse 22 they are warned again, *"'Also let the priests who come near the Lord sanctify themselves, lest the Lord break out against them.'"* The people began to realize something. They were dealing with a God who did not tolerate seeker-sensitive anything-goes Christianity. What would we do if the Lakeland revival turned judicial? Their covenant Partner just happened to be the ultimate straight arrow! They could almost sense the attitude, "Fool around in My presence - and die!" The revelation of the price tag to be a priest caused people to re-think their commitment and the events that would transpire shortly would definitely convince them there had to be another alternative.

SUNDAY, July 6
Scripture: Exodus 20:1-20

When Moses came down to talk to Israelites like they were the priests they agreed to be, there was thunder and quaking and the earth shook and God showed up to talk to the people face-to-face. They heard His words thunder from heaven and the thunder carried the message of the ten commandments. There was lightening. There was the

sound of the trumpet. The mountain began to smoke at God's presence. People freaked-out! They quickly reconsidered the price tag and decided, "forget it." Verses 18-20 say, *"Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and* ***stood afar off****. Then they said to Moses, 'You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.' And Moses said to the people, 'Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.'"* The lesson we learn from this is people have to see the holiness of God in order to be able to fulfill the call of the priesthood. The test was to bring the fear of the Lord to the people so it would act as a bridle on their flesh allowing them to walk in purity and fulfill the office.

MONDAY, July 7
Scripture: Exodus 20:19-20

Unfortunately when the people saw the test it was to much for them to bear. They experienced the voice of God, the lightning, the smoke, the thunder and the trumpet. They smelled the aroma of burning mountain when God came down. Is it any wonder they trembled and ran the other direction! You can almost see them beginning to back up as God started thundering out the ten commandments. You can bank on the fact that after commandment number 10 they were several hundred yards further away than when they started. Unfortunately, after saying "yes" once they experienced the price tag they reneged on their promise. Isn't it astounding today that while we are all called to be priests we have so many who once they discover the price of the priesthood begin to choose other things.

TUESDAY, July 8
Scripture: Revelation 1:1-6

If we take the early date for the event of the Exodus then we are looking at 1345 BC, therefore the question becomes how long is God willing to wait for us to get our act together and fulfill His purposes. We certainly can do a date-line in this instance and realize the fulfillment of God's call is accomplished by the church. We're looking at somewhere between 1475 and 1500 BC years after the Exodus until fulfillment. We therefore have to conclude God was willing to wait 15 centuries to find a people that would wholly embrace all that Israel forfeited. The book of Revelation tells us we have all been made kings and priests to our God. The question is - are we going to find out what a king does and prepare? Will we choose to really be the church?

WEDNESDAY, July 9
Scripture: Ephesians 4:7-11

God chose a special pathway for a special purpose. He waited 1500 years for fulfillment. Jesus *"…led captivity captive and gave gifts to men."* He chose the fivefold ministry to bring understanding to individual believers concerning their call. The purpose of the fivefold ministry is to wake up the church and show them the full measure of the stature of Jesus Christ available. Leading the church into the true measure of their priesthood is an honor. The scary thing about God is He is willing to wait centuries for a generation that will do His will. Will we stand afar off like the Israelites did or will we step up to the plate and shoulder the promise God has for us. What are we going to embrace in this hour? We need more than a healing revival. Seeker-sensitive Sunday Wednesday Christianity can't stand in the face of demonized Islam. Will churches continue without the Spirit and without the anointing? The question is which way will we go? We can go close or we can stand afar off. The choice is ours.

THURSDAY, July 10
Scripture: Psalm 2:1-4

In Psalm 2:1-4 we see a depiction of the warfare raging in the realm of the spirit in the heavenlies over nations. This Psalm presents a prophetic picture of what Jesus would face when He came to the earth, but also a picture of what He bought and paid for. We face the same pattern every time God releases the Holy Spirit and attempts to revitalize the church in an attempt to fulfill prophecy. People who set themselves against the move of the Spirit do so

consistently generation by generation and really hinder the work of winding up the age. God always uses flawed vessels. The flaw is often so blatant as to give reason to reject the demonstrations because of the deliverer. Getting past the offense of the flaw is usually our test in order to possess the gold. Those with strong biblical boundaries cannot reconcile miracles and mixture. How can God bless mixed seed? How can God be involved? The old-timers coined a phrase from rural America which fits! Eat the hay and spit out the sticks or eat the chicken and spit out the bones. A move of miracles through mixed-seed vessels may well usher in the justice of God *first* manifested in the church and *then* the world. If this is the case, the period immediately following the wane of this outpouring will be a season of entrenchment and great confrontation. To know the time of visitation is to embrace the dealings of God and move toward both individually and corporately. Jesus is about to arise as the Judge of all the earth. I suspect the first Ananias and Sapphira manifestations to come from the pulpit rather than the pew!

FRIDAY, July 11
Scripture: Psalm 2:5-9

Psalm 2 may be the most important Psalm in the Bible for the end-time church because it is a prophetic road map guiding us to a desired destination. That destination is an anointing for signs, wonders and miracles that enables verse 8 to be fulfilled. *"Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession."* Verse 9 becomes especially applicable because of the magniutude of demonic resistance to an end-time harvest. "*You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."* How is it we find such a large segment of the church readily embracing a vision for verse 8 without recognizing the necessity of verse 9? As the anointing for miracles is poured out, God seems to be preparing the church to get ready for the greatest harvest the earth has ever seen. We all can get excited about the harvest; the problem is we miss the progression and transition that leads us to the fullness of preparation. Is it possible that like the early Israelites who initially embraced the joy expectant with the priesthood, the price of preparation was so concealed that when clarity began to emerge they reconsidered and fought against God's plan? Are we anywhere close to living in the middle of a manifestation of that pattern?

SATURDAY, July 12
Scripture: Psalm 2:4-8

The transition between the church in Acts 4 who prayed a prayer based on Psalm 2:1 and 2 and where the church is now in verses 7 and 8 is a very interesting one if we draw the parallels. God said in the midst of great warfare He would *"…sit in the heavens and laugh…and hold his enemies in derision."* Out of the divine laughter would pour forth His wrath, distress, and deep displeasure revealing how He has set authority upon His chosen. In the place of His ordination He declared and decreed the parental relationship by fulfilling what was asked by the early church. They were filled a second time with an anointing that brought both great adversity and great inheritance. Such a progression in Psalm 2 separates believers into two camps. Anytime we embrace a pre-set notion of how God has to act, we begin to be the author of bonds and chords which God is forced to break and destroy. A sovereign God decides how and through whom He will pour His Spirit. Our choice is to reject or receive!

SUNDAY, July 13
Scripture: Psalm 2:10-12

If Psalm 2 is part of the road map for the end-time church then possessing the anointing of verse 9 is absolutely essential to gain our assigned harvest. Pinnacle points of prophetic revelation are absolutely crucial to survival and fulfillment in the days ahead. Verse 9 is one goal while verses 10-12 tell us God is insistent on the fear of the Lord being resident within His people. It also hints at the fruit of restoring that fear and the judgment coming to those who refuse to recognize God's work in the earth. Verses 10-12 say, *"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."* If, in fact, the miracle anointing of the latter part of Psalm 2 is here, then initial manifestations should follow the church. We

may indeed see the reality of the fear of the Lord being restored by His judgment on impurity among us. When churches choose to ordain homosexuals or bless same-sex unions, they are apostate and fully qualified for Ananias and Sapphira encounters. Jesus is coming to judge apostasy in the church. I do not believe there has ever been a season, other than during when Jesus was on the earth, that our future will be so impacted by the choices we make. Watch … how … you … judge!

MONDAY, July 14
Scripture: Acts 3:1-8

If the Psalm 2 progression is upon us, then we should see principles in the first few chapters of Acts in action as events unfold. The pattern of Acts should manifest in power. Those who were in relationship with God and obedient received the fruit of that relationship - manifested power. Peter put it this way, *"Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."* The early church had the power of the Spirit and they had it to the degree they could declare what they knew and Jesus proved it by His action. This should be a major separating issue in the church. Those who complained the loudest and the hardest about the abnormal theology and practices of those who walk in the Spirit are the ones who should be challenged to do the works of God which should more logically follow from their adherence to biblical theology. The world-wide assault on Christianity should be a sign to every believer that what Jesus spoke in Matthew 24:9 is happening, *"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake."* Lest fear consume you, verse 14 guarantees an anointing, *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."* Jesus lived the pattern of this anointing. Luke 4:28-30 describes the encounter between Jesus and the people He grew up with, *"Then all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way."* The anointing guarantees we can't be killed till we finish the race, assuming we are obedient. Jesus promised signs and wonders to aid us in finishing the race. Let us possess them!

TUESDAY, July 15
Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

When we look at the great commission in Matthew 28 and Mark 16 it becomes very apparent we are not the first generation to embrace Psalm 2. The great commission is a direct fulfillment spiritually of David's prophecy in Psalm 2, *"Ask of Me and I will give you the nations…."* The command "Go and disciple the nations" shows Psalm 2 in view because now there is power to fulfill. The difference between that generation and ours is they understood the necessity of the **ex-oo-see-ah**/authority of God as a foundation for going to the nations. They were not told to wait in Jerusalem for direction. They were told to wait in Jerusalem for power. What are we waiting for?

WEDNESDAY, July 16
Scripture: Acts 4:5-22

The wisdom of waiting for power did not take long to manifest. It came to the forefront in the very first confrontation they had with the Sanhedrin. Verses 5-8 say, *"And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, 'By what power or by what name have you done this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ….'"* The empowering brought them into direct confrontation with the religious leadership who rejected the move of the Spirit in the Person of Jesus and consequently the witness from His disciples. Governmental rejection brought them into confrontation over the issue of power. The principle we begin to see is the power comes to enable obedience to the great commission. When we accept what God says and do our best to walk in it, God honors our choices according to Hebrews 11. Some get victory and some sow their life pursuing heavenly

goals. When the early church preached the Word, the Lord confirmed the Word with signs following. Let the season begin!

THURSDAY, July 17
Scripture: Acts 7

The ultimate confrontation between people who are religious and those who have waited for power is portrayed in the life of Stephen. Acts 7:51-55 sums up such a confrontation, *"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 'Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murders, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.' When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,…."* The church has radical Islam bent on killing us on one side and the radical homosexual agenda advancing national destruction on the other. The church has little choice except to pursue the power to move God's hand against the enemy! Isaiah 11:4 promises, *"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."* Until the breath of our lips moves God's hand to destroy our adversaries, we really have not brought divine justice to our generation.

FRIDAY, July 18
Scripture: Psalm 2; and Acts 4:23-31

The pattern in possessing the power to ask for the nations comes out of confrontation with demonized people who refuse God's way and therefore have no blessing of His presence. After being threatened by the religious leaders the apostles go back to the believers and they pray the prayer of agreement quoting Psalm 2 and asking God for power and a boldness that no man can gainsay nor resist. It has been said that we are only motivated to possess the full measure of the power of God after a confrontation of intense persecution? I think we can say this appears to be the New Testament pattern. Is persecution coming? Historians would say, if you don't believe persecution exists, where have you been for a decade? If you are afraid of persecution do not step out on the cutting edge and proclaim what God is saying for you will be no stranger to persecution.

SATURDAY, July 19
Scripture: Acts 4:32-5:11

There was a very unexpected side effect to the agreement in prayer and demand for an anointing that no man could gainsay nor resist. They were asking for a new and stronger level of God's presence and power in order to answer their critics and make a bold display to national leadership that Jesus was in fact LORD and empowered those who obey Him. What happened next they did not expect. The last thing they expected God to do was bring judgment into their midst! They were seeking God for power to deal with the pressure of the Pharisees. What came had to be shocking because before God dealt with the Pharisees He laid down a stricter life-pattern for them. Before God judged the Pharisees He judged the idolatry of money in their midst which speaks to the root of why the Pharisees were persecuting the apostles. The apostles with the power of God were making a dramatic impact on attendance in the temple. People who became believers found where the power was and no longer fed the old religious system. When the Jewish leaders rejected the Holy Spirit they were demanding judgment. The **koo-ree-os** (Lordship) test of Luke 4:5-8 dropped. Before God ever released that judgment on the Pharisees, He brought a **koo-ree-os** mammon test into the midst of the early church. Are we willing to walk this pattern? We better be. Just like the violent weather of tornado alley has in 2008 swept away whole sections of communities, so God will visit and remove or sweep away the political pimps masquerading as ministers. Ezekiel 34 will manifest.

SUNDAY, July 20
Scripture: Second Corinthians 3:18

Second Corinthians 3:18 says, *"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."* This verse says we grow in stages. If God is taking us through the same stages as He took the early church, can we not expect the same result? We haven't completed all of them yet but they are certainly recognizable and He is obviously walking us through them. Should we not have the same expectation as the early church when we move through the preparational stages for the power to impact nations? By 317 AD the early church had impacted the then known world. If we embrace a move of the Spirit with great power, perhaps we too can have "the then known world" in a generation. Are we willing to say "Yes" to the Lord?

MONDAY, July 21
Scripture: Matthew 10:1-8

Are there really stages in growth and development toward the fulfillment of God's plan generationally? I think there are definite stages and we can follow them through the New Testament, especially in the book of Matthew which gives us a very clear account in chapter 10 of the calling and commissioning of the men who would become foundational in establishing the Church. Matthew 10:1-8 gives us the calling of the first apostles. They were selected from all walks of life, business, government (tax collecting), fishing and even ministry. Jesus called them and then He said in verses 5-8, *"But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 'Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.'"* I think we can call **stage one** in the preparation of God's purpose generationally, the ***grace years*** where the calling and the commissioning go together and the demand for character development is minimal. Those seem to be the years where we become enamored with the gifts and they flow like water without any price, without any cost, without any demand for character they just flow. It's very easy during that stage for mammon to gain a foothold. When the power of God comes to people who have character flaws it really magnifies those flaws and brings them out into the open like a blinking neon light for all to see. The ***grace years*** usually begin to wind down with a visual manifestation of the character flaws of leadership who have moved in the power but need some dramatic character corrections. The grace stage highlights God's use of flawed vessels. It's very easy to lose your humility in the ***grace years*** when the power of God flows and miracles are present. We have two generations who are unfamiliar with ***grace years***. Perhaps the "Fathers in the Faith" can save this younger generation decades of wilderness experience if they will listen!

TUESDAY, July 22
Scripture: Matthew 17:14-16

We could call **stage two** the **POWER YEARS**. Verses 14-16 of Matthew 17 say, *"And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.'"* During the ***grace years*** power flows consistently overwhelming opposition. But as we transition into the **POWER YEARS** getting very comfortable with the power of God, the Lord leads us into situations where we face obstacles for which we have no answers. This forces us to deal with character issues. When the ***grace years*** give way to the **POWER YEARS**, the obstacles begin to appear and we have to face issues of character. Jesus said in Matthew 17:17, *"O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me."* Jesus delivered the man of a spirit the disciples couldn't touch. That brought a question to them, *"Why could we not cast him out?"* God brought them into a situation to force a question! And the answer was, "You don't have enough of a prayer life." The character flaw of partial commitment was revealed as a result of facing a brick wall they couldn't get through. You know you have transitioned from the ***grace years*** to the

POWER YEARS when suddenly you begin to hit obstacles you cannot get through. Situations arise which were previously as easy as a walk in the park but now seem impossible. The **POWER YEARS** are very frustrating, but congratulations should be offered because progress decrees the road to maturity becomes visible.

WEDNESDAY, July 23
Scripture: Matthew 26:30-35

For those who experience the **POWER YEARS**, we look back at the ***grace years*** and say, "Those were the good old days." When we hit **stage three** we long to once again experience "Those good old days." In **stage three** we face the **pain years**. In the **pain years** there seems to be a major power failure. What use to work - no longer works. Every spot, wrinkle, and blemish comes cruising to the surface. It is almost as if we get to participate with the twelve IN Jesus' pronouncement of Matthew 26:31, *"I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered."* Any spiritual pride and arrogance resident in the heart IS always revealed in the **pain years**, *"Peter answered and said to Him, 'Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.'"* Peter said *"never."* Jesus said *"Before the day is over, you will stumble three times."* Welcome to the initiation of the **pain years**. The nasty thing about the **pain years** is nobody escapes, *"Peter said to Him, 'Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!' And so said **all** the disciples."* No one escapes the **pain years**. It comes to **all** with the only exception being the younger generation who winds up the age. There is an issue of brokenness that God is after and He will get it during the **pain years**.

THURSDAY, July 24
Scripture: Matthew 26:36-46

Unfortunately much of the pain, certainly not all, but a significant amount, could have been avoided if the disciples had simply done what Jesus taught them in prayer. *"Pray that you enter not into temptation"* He said, but during Gethsemane they couldn't even pray. The **pain years** include a very strong "Gethsemane experience." They baptize us in humility, usually through humiliation. All the spiritual pride and arrogance accrued during the ***grace*** and **POWER YEARS** now come to the surface for crucifixion in order that we do not become Pharisees, losing the power and presence for the rest of our lives. Oh, the **pain years** are very very important. They become the foundation for finishing the race in the glory of God. We cannot go on to the ultimate calling and fulfilling of our race without walking through the **pain years** and climbing onto God's ironing board where all the wrinkles get steamed out of us. There is a generation that does not experience this progression but their escape demands a very specific attitude.

FRIDAY, July 25
Scripture: Romans 8:31-36

During the **pain years** we get a whole new revelation of how God prepares people for ministry. We always thought Romans 8:32 would apply, *"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"*. We thought this verse meant Jesus paid the price and all we had to do was walk it out. But suddenly during the **pain years** we get a whole new revelation of verse 32 that what Jesus walked out was, in fact, a pattern we have to taste also. And the same God Who did not spare Jesus but delivered Him up for us will not spare us in delivering us up for others. The cross has to become more than what we recognize in the life of Jesus as a pathway to power. It has to become **our** pathway to power. During the **pain years** the cross is applied to our life and if we walk it with the same attitude as Jesus we come out with the same blessing for being obedient to take the trip. For many, there is an end to the **pain years** but for some, it includes laying down their life. God has a graduation for all who willingly walk the path of this school. Are we ready for our diploma?

SATURDAY, July 26
Scripture: Romans 8:15-17

Stage four is where we want to live and finish our race. *"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."* The fourth and final stage is the stage where we enter covenantal relationship with God and possess what He has for us. We could conclude the reason God is giving us the full measure of power and authority to fulfill our individual and corporate gifting and calling is because we were willing to walk the preparational path of the **pain years**. We are ***"joint heirs"*** with Jesus from the day we accept Him and confess Him as Lord. But walking the preparational pattern builds into us a divine character and nature that we can often attain no other way. Have we faced impossible mountains with unfulfilled dreams and visions? What if we have been assigned to pay the price for what another generation will one day walk in – are we willing?

SUNDAY, July 27
Scripture: Romans 8:15-17

God-like compassion comes to us as a result of what we endure and walk through. For years we proclaimed ***"joint heirs"*** but we forgot the latter part of verse 17. There is an "if" attached to being ***"joint heirs"*** and the "if" says if we are willing to walk the **pain path** Jesus walked. We can't get to the reality of the ***"joint heirs"*** years without the pathway that takes us through pain. How could we preach verse 17 for two decades and never mention the "if". It is easy not to mention something we've never experienced. What we proclaim in the **POWER YEARS**, God tests our willingness to pay the price during the **pain years** and that yields a graduation into the reality of being ***"joint heirs"*** where the power flows and we have the character not to defile it. In this place we should live the remainder of our days! Like David, paying the price may empower us to impart the vision.

MONDAY, July 28
Scripture: Psalm 2:1-4

The early church claimed Psalm 2:1-2 when facing political persecution and God answered dramatically. They were filled a second time. Boldness exploded with signs and wonders following as an avalanche . A second **koo-ree-os** (Lordship) mammon test dropped which they passed releasing divine justice on Ananias and Sapphira. When justice fell, sickness and disease was judged in their midst and even the shadow of Peter healed people. The prophets all promised a double portion of God's blessing to the generations which wind up the age. The problem with this promise is it may mean a double preparational price tag for the generation that winds up the age. If this proves to be the case then the blessing comes in imparting the vision and anointing the Solomon's who will walk it out!

TUESDAY, July 29
Scripture: Psalm 2:4-9

We face a very different world than previous generations. In WWII nation rose against nation but we have graduated to kingdom against kingdom. When our early forefathers bled and died for "freedom of religion" they never envisioned that freedom extended to groups actively seeking the destruction of the land. If the church continues in the theological ditch of unsanctified mercy never actively utilizing their covenant of "Sure Mercy", the nation will be lost. We as a church have not progressed through Psalm 2 to possess the anointing offered to counter the enemy whose strategy is to fill the land with iniquity so it is destroyed before we get the full harvest. Four justices on the California Supreme Court just overruled the people and legalized same-sex marriage in the State. The action of four perverse, arrogant bastard judges have opened the flood gates of filth further destroying any semblance of decency and like a blinking neon sign in the spirit demanding "judge me"! God destroys cities and nations who legalize

perversion. The church must invoke the covenant of "Sure Mercy" and demand God remove these four justices preferably in one night! *"Let **God** arise, and let **His** enemies be scattered"!*

WEDNESDAY, July 30
Scripture: Psalm 2:8,9

The Christian heritage of our forefathers empowered them to enact laws that banned homosexual behavior and limited marriage to one man and one woman. We can certainly see the enemy at work trying to destroy all those biblical boundaries, claiming lesbian and homosexual partners should have the right to marry, adopt and do what normal families do. For most of us that kind of thinking is so perverse it turns the stomach and leads one down the pathway to sheer vomit! The State of California has just been baptized in more vomit from which it may never recover! The only chance it has in avoiding major devastation is in the prayers of the church. If God "cuts off" the perpetrating parties and we pass a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, we have a chance. Can we claim verses 8 and 9? We certainly can if we are walking the pattern. I choose to walk the pattern so I can ask God for the promises embodied in verses 8 and 9. God is certainly raising up a people to go to the nations. Ruling with a rod of iron means moving God's hand against the enemy so we see them no more!

THURSDAY, July 31
Scripture: Psalm 2:10-12

As amazing as it is, the Holy Spirit seems to have highlighted the issue of judges being the main obstacle to an end-time harvest as indicated by the end of Psalm 2. God does not warn specific groups like **judges** to "*Kiss the Son…or perish*" and not mean it. This Psalm encourages us to pray **God's hand** on wayward judges to "*Kiss the Son*" (repent)…*or perish*". Their own decisions reveal a refusal to "*Kiss the Son*" so it is time to activate covenant and demand a visitation in which they turn or perish under **God's hand**. If I were in a supermarket in the checkout line behind one of these judges who was attacked, I would be biblically obligated to help fend off the attacker but in the prayer room I'm asking for **God's hand** to remove him! **God's justice** must be birthed by the spirit - not executed in the flesh. Vengeance is the **Lord's** and **He** must do the visiting! **Visit** - Lord Jesus!

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ITINERARY
Al Houghton

July 12-15	Ministry Of Living Stones Sterling, Alaska For meeting times call: (907)262-5058

‘‘Brothers’’ and ‘‘sisters,’’ Be called along side!
Don’t be isolated, And no longer hide.

Enriching your brethren, Is what God wants from you.
To know and be known, As your course you pass through.

Spending time with God’s family, Sharing bad times and good,
Facing strengths and our faults, ‘‘Family’’ works as it should.

You weren’t meant to walk, On life’s journey alone,
But as one key part, God builds stone upon stone.

In God’s holy plan, Each one plays a key role.
Each Christian’s essential, To make up His whole.

Relationship brings, An unleashing of power,
As together we birth, God’s great plan for this hour!

RELATIONSHIP

We were not meant to walk alone
But need another's hand to share.
All peoples need each other,
To support, uphold, to care.

Isolation's fruit is anguish,
Independence smacks of pride.
Yes, we need one another,
To come along side by side.

Hurting times are hard to face,
When there's no human touch
Though at times we don't admit it,
We need fellowship so much.

There's such warmth that comes in sharing,
Such support to be found there!
It reduces pain and anguish,
Makes it possible to bear.

The tears don't seem so hopeless,
To cry them with a friend.
The emptiness fills up a bit,
When your sister helps you mend.

The Creator in creation,
Built into His sovereign plan,
The human need for fellowship
Ever since the world began.

So don't erect those lonely walls,
That prison you inside.
Reach out to meet another.
One who'll walk right by your side.

Jayne Houghton