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Facing the Elements

Part 11

JUBILEE OR AWAKENING?

By Rayola Kelley

Well, it is a new year and how many of us have made, or are about to make new resolutions? I made a resolution to avoid making them because I know they set me up to fail, and I must say it is the one resolution I have been able to keep. However, I do acknowledge we are starting a new year and to say "goodbye" to a most difficult and challenging year and "hello" to a year that might mark some positive changes would be encouraging to say the least.

I must state 2021, along with 2020 have been challenging, not only for us, but for the whole world. The loss of friends, physical challenges, the unveiling of corruption at many levels of society, and the depth of evil that is being uncovered that is beyond description, has added to and compounded the times we are living in. It is obvious that even though the wicked have been bragging about their plans for years, many in society have remained in ignorance, unbelief, denial, or aloof about it. Now that it is being brought out, some people are shocked, others vexed, and some are just plain angry about it.

What I am seeing as to what is being unveiled is not a surprise to me because I knew two things: 1) these wicked people were bent on taking control of the world, and 2) they were in the process of bringing it about because they had the backing and power of the god of this world, Satan, behind them. However, what is shocking is the depth of the evil and the type of inroads it has made in this world. I know evil exists, but my life in Christ limits me from ever imagining it (Titus 1:15-16). After all, what I do know has vexed my spirit and caused such despair to my soul. To be honest the great and thick darkness in which grave atrocities have been committed against humanity, especially

our children, is a blessing because if we actually saw it, it would cause some to go insane, and such brokenness and torment would shake and drive others who are void of, or weak in faith, into deep pits of despair.

To understand my own journey concerning the days we live in, I must go as far back as 1963 when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. I was nine and it awakened my tender soul to the evils of man. Before that awakening, I was shaken out of my innocence by the "Bay of Pigs" incident where Russia and Communism were identified as the enemies, bomb shelters became part of the design of such institutions as school classroom drills included the possibility of a nuclear bomb attack.

As a child, I could sense the fear of adults, the despair they felt over the earth-shaking events happening in our country and the world, and the uncertainty it produced in their own minds. It was then I tasted the fact that man's strength, dependency, and hope could be quickly shattered by the reality of events beyond his control. I was somewhat allowed to remain in my bubble of innocence, but underneath I knew that there was a flaw, a fragileness to man that could be used to topple him easily enough if he did not make sure of where he stood.

As I grew up, the subject of Kennedy's assassination would come to the forefront at different times. I remember hearing that it was planned by powerful people in high places because he was about to expose the sinister plans of the wicked, naming names, organizations, and exposing where the skeletons were buried. This made me realize that only a few in certain positions serve as puppet masters to the whole world, who only needed to pull the right strings, either attached to fear mongering, power, money, and food to make men and governments dance to their tune. It caused me to wonder about those who pulled the strings and then I begin to

learn about secret organizations, and when you listen to President Kennedy's last speech, he was warning Americans about these organizations.

According to the information I received, those in secret organizations have to commit appalling crimes so the leaders can control them with blackmail. In their world, everyone must be guilty of such crimes and indiscretions to ensure absolute control. This is why it is easy for them to transpose suspicion on the innocent until making them guilty; that is, as soon as they can locate the actual crime so they can bring them down to a puddle of nothingness in order to control them.

They have controlled the elections of the world, including ours. I was aware of this because when the Democrats were to advance the progressive agenda, a weak "RINO" who always managed to sabotage the race with some lame move or statement was pitted against them. When a Republican won, except for Reagan, he proved to be a "RINO", a middle-of-the-road politician, that helped put an alarmed public, as to the radical policies and immoral actions of a former administrations, back to sleep so they could subtly continue to move ahead with their wicked agenda. After all, when the radical is being presented, it is to see how ready society is to embrace it, how indoctrinated they are to move with it, and how asleep the rest are who will fail to present any real opposition.

The name that is presently used to describe the elite group of this leadership is the "Cabal." The leadership of the Cabal operates like a pyramid. You have those who carry out the dirty wishes of the ones on top, you then have organizations that recruit and indoctrinate, followed by secret groups or what I call "clubs" that are made up of the elites who, under the oversight of the elites, plan out strategies that include starting wars, fluctuating the stock market, economic collapses, and other destructive policies. Their main goal is to bring all the world under their

tyranny, a one-world government, also known as the "New World Order," but due to the world population they must eliminate most of the people by 2030 because if the masses wake up to their dealings and revolt, they will not be able to withstand them.

They must get the population down to a controllable number of serfs that will simply serve them according to their wicked whims in order to bring in their idea of utopia for them that they have envisioned, and believe they deserve and have been promised. Due to the bio weapon that is referred to as a "vaccine," one-third of the present population who have submitted to it could be done away with within the next two to three years because of the destruction the spike protein and the graphene oxide works within the body. Sadly, this very figure has been prophesied in *Revelation 9:15-18*. It is one of the reasons Paul referred to these days as being perilous and Jesus stated that if those days were not shortened no flesh would be saved alive (*Matthew 24:22; 1 Timothy 3:1*).

It is important to understand these wicked people merchandize the souls of mankind for their own sick pleasures. They are decadent in their pursuits and nothing is off the table as to the extent their wicked imagination is allowed to explore so that they can partake of the unspeakable to satisfy their beastly lusts. They are utterly corrupt in their practices, pagan and occultic in their worship. Their ultimate leader that they are striving to please is Satan who promises them the kingdoms of the world where they can obtain all that they desire and lust after (*Genesis 6:5; 11:6; Matthew 4:8-9; 24: 2 Peter 2:3*).

These people have sold their souls, seared their consciences, and as a result no longer retain the knowledge of the true God. They are of the delusion that nothing will stop them because they owe the world leaders who influence nations, Hollywood which seduces, the education system that indoctrinates, the Media that hypnotizes, the bodies of Parliament and Congress who set policies on their behalf, complicit politicians whose vote is always for sale, the unjust judges who destroy the innocent while protecting the guilty, governors, mayors, and city councils who oppress the citizenry with

unconstitutional mandates, the military and police heads who force honorable ones in their departments to resign, and even the church organization whose message has been gutted out by weak, false gospels, its power dissipated by compromise with the world, and its authority rendered as useless and often mocked because of the hypocrisy that now exists (*Matthew 16:26; Romans 1:28-32; 1 Timothy 4:2-3*).

And, just how dark are their deeds? We can't begin to imagine and would not want to know the extent of them but we must not be ignorant of them (*2 Corinthians 2:11*). How deep are their workings and influences? Let me say it reaches into the very depths of hell. And how would society react if they knew? As one of their leading proponents admitted, "If people knew what we were doing, we would not be able to walk down the street." In fact, they could not walk down the street without people spitting out their name and wanting to tear them from limb to limb.

You might be wondering why I am laying out the history of this wicked group and evil agenda. Nothing is new under the sun, and that includes the push for a one-world government and the conspiracy that is now being brought out, has been operating since the "Tower of Babel" in *Genesis 11*. The Apostle Paul called it the "Mystery of Iniquity" in *2 Thessalonians 2:7*. It is not a mystery that it is Satan's main goal to bring the whole world under his auspice, but the mystery exists because all of its workings and planning must be done in darkness because the common man would be utterly repulsed by it all.

Due to the unconstitutional mandates of masks and destructive "vaccinations," which I already pointed out is a bio weapon developed to depopulate the world, the masses are awaking and what the Cabal has feared is now becoming a reality as people all over the world are standing up against it. Right now, the world is becoming awakened to their attempt to take control, but I do not know how many are awake to the spiritual implications behind what has taken place due to the compromising condition of the church.

Keep in mind, the real church is made up of believers, but the organized church has been infiltrated by the agendas of the world and either its

members have been put to sleep or dulled down to a point that they are void of discernment, and the universal church is being targeted, harassed, persecuted, and its members tortured and killed.

As the true church of Jesus Christ, we must recognize the times we live in. Even though the reality of wickedness is overwhelming, I believe we are being offered a time, probably a short time of opportunity to share the only hope to mankind that is beginning to realize they are on a sinking ship. To effectively discern the times and be ready to walk through any open door, we have to quit trying to interpret the times through acceptable theological lenses and let the prophetic events begin to interpret the times, knowing that what is happening is being done on a world-wide scale and not just in America.

Just before the 2016 election, the Lord impressed me that Trump was His tool that would judge the Democratic party and throw a wrench into the Republican party. At the time, my idea of judgment and disrupting some plan of inept politicians was very limited to the insanity that was evident after the eight years of the communistic, tyrannical, wicked regime of Obama.

Since then, I have learned it is the kingdom of light against the kingdom of darkness and that it is world-wide because the Cabal was using the world as its chessboard and people as their pawns. Leaders have been their bishops, governments their castles, and knights their executors. Like their god, Satan, they have robbed the people of the nations, pillaged every coffer they could, killed any initiative from those who managed to think outside of the box, and destroyed any opposition, but in 2016, they finally hit the end of their rope, and people have been taken into judgment without us even realizing it.

This brings me to the present. Right now, everything is optics. We really don't know what is real. This two-year "plandemic" has served as a cover for both sides and even serves as an indicator as to whether people are being arrested and if they are cooperating or resisting the inevitable. Have you noticed all of the different people stepping down? The real story is that they have been arrested. Have you

noticed that the famous and popular are no longer in the limelight touting their insane threats? Some say Hollywood has become a ghost town due to all the arrests and Washington DC, until very recently, was also a ghost town.

The question is what will 2022 bring us? If God is judging and throwing a wrench into the wicked agenda of the Cabal, what can we expect.?

Back in 2010 the Lord gave me three numbers. Numbers have meanings. For instance, every letter of the Jewish alphabet is assigned with a number. The first letter, "aleph," is assigned the number one and the letter "yod" (jod) which is the tenth letter in the alphabet is naturally assigned with the number "10." However, the next letter, "caph" is doubled and assigned the number 20, followed by adding ten to each letter until it reaches the number 100 and then it adds a 100 to each remaining letter.

The three numbers He gave me were "10", "40" and "22." The number "3" represents a complete picture and as I pondered the three numbers I was wondering if there was some completed picture in them. The number "10" represents "perfect order," while the number "40" points to trials, testing, and probation. However, the number "22" caused me to be perplexed. The number "two" represents contrast that brings opposition or union and when you divide the number 22, you get the number "11" which points to "imperfect order." To double the number "11" points to disorganization.

I easily could reason out the number "10" because it is God's will to bring order to His people and when you divide it by two you get the number "5" which points to grace. Only God in His grace can bring order to a world that is clearly out of order. The number "40" I am quite aware of because most of my Christian walk has been met with testing and trials. It seems that on earth, as a believer I am always facing some type of probation as to whether I am going to pass a spiritual test, small or large.

It is not unusual to add numbers together. For example, $10 + 40 = 50$. This number points to Pentecost. We all know that Pentecost happens 50 days after the Passover and the year of Jubilee. It was the 50th day after the cross of Christ that the Holy Spirit came

down in the upper room. It is interesting to note how the number 50 is arrived according to God's instruction in relationship to Jubilee. They were to count out seventh Sabbath years which would add up to 49 years and then they were to add "one" (Leviticus 25:8). This is significant because $49 = 7 \times 7$. The number "7" points to perfection. You have perfection upon perfection because the remaining "one" in the number 50 points to deity and rest. God stands alone, but when He does something, He brings utter perfection to it that will result in true rest for His people.

As I considered the number "22" I continued to be stumped as to what it meant. There are "22" letters in both the Hebrew and Greek alphabets but that did not seem to fit in any real picture. The number was proving to create an imperfect order or disorganization in my understanding. It did not make sense so I put the numbers on the shelf.

In 2011 we moved and the last two numbers of the zip code of our new address are "22." I wondered if this was God confirming that we were at the right place. However, I left the numbers on the shelf because even though the zip code was interesting, it did not resonate with my spirit that it was really significant in that context.

The numbers came up again after I learned that the money that was stolen by the Cabal would be returned. I began to wonder if 2022 would prove to be a year of Jubilee for many. For the Jews, every 50 years the inheritance of land that was lost to debt would be returned to the rightful owners. If the inheritance that has been stolen from many by the Cabal would be returned to them in 2022, then the number "22" would make more sense. However, I went further. I added $10+40+22$ together which equals the number "72." Guess what this number points to: "spiritual development, awakening, enlightenment, or good fortune."

For Israel their physical inheritance meant everything. They needed their inheritance returned to them to maintain their presence in the land to preserve God's legacy and witness, but for believers our inheritance is really spiritual. It would be nice to pay worldly debts off, but our real need is not to establish ourselves here on earth but to

have a spiritual awakening that will result in spiritual growth that will produce productivity as far as the kingdom of heaven.

The world needs a jubilee for the sake of the oppressed and an awakening for the spiritually blind and for those who are asleep. My desire is that 2022 will be a time of great awakening. What do we need to be awakened to in 2022? The world is being awakened to the destructive agenda of the Cabal, but is God trying to awaken His church to the precarious place it is in because it has failed to be the salt in the midst of corruption, the penetrating light in the midst of darkness, and the voice in the wilderness that is urging the sinner to flee the wrath of God to come by running to Jesus Christ?

A jubilee would be nice, but what is needed is a spiritual awakening of every lost soul, every blind vagabond, and of every drowsy and sleeping Christian. "Lord, send the wind that shakes, the storms that stir, and the events that will knock us out of our places of complacency so we can be awakened to our commission and be about Your business in this coming year. Amen." †

INSPIRING QUOTES

AUGUSTUS MONTAGUE
TOPLADY (1710-1778): Toplady will ever be famous as the author of one of the most evangelical hymns of the eighteenth century, "Rock of Ages," which was first published in 1776.

During the final illness, Toplady was greatly supported by the consolations of the gospel: "The consolations of God, to so unworthy a wretch, are so abundant that he leaves me nothing to pray for but their continuance."

Near his last, awaking from a sleep, he said: "Oh, what delights! Who can fathom the joy of the third heaven? The sky is clear, there is no cloud; come Lord Jesus, come quickly!" He died saying: "No mortal man can live after the glories which God has manifested to my soul."

Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."* – John 11:25

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO?

By Jeannette Haley

*"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
– Philippians 3:13, 14*

When you're young, the future that lies ahead seems almost endless, and every day you're caught up with things you look forward to. As a little kid I looked forward to special events, such as birthday parties with friends, trips to the country to visit Grandma, and especially, Christmas! It seemed to me that a whole year from Christmas to Christmas took forever, and my least favorite day of the year was December 26th.

Kids normally look forward to growing up, but being an only child and being around adults most of the time didn't make me especially excited about being one. Besides, growing up meant parting with toys I wasn't quite "finished" enjoying yet. However, the thought of gaining personal freedom was attractive enough to smooth over any nagging fears of the unknown so eventually I had to "get in the current." After all, you can't stop time anymore than you can halt a swiftly flowing river by sticking your finger into it. As with most people in our westernized culture, I looked forward to getting a driver's license, looked forward to graduation, to getting a job, to marriage and home ownership, traveling and so forth, but all of these things don't amount to any *eternal* significance.

Fast-forward to today. Now that the world is facing another New Year, I doubt if the usual carefree hilarity, party spirit, and downright silliness is going to quite reach the fevered pitch it usually does when the "big ball" drops and confetti fills the air. Yet, in spite of all the tragedy, heartache, loss, misery, fear, evil and just plain insanity, "hope springs eternal" and so there will still be those who go on partying, playing, and "marrying and giving in marriage." Human beings simply must have

something to look forward to in order to "keep going" and this is true for both believers and nonbelievers alike. The difference is, however, nonbelievers look forward, (but not far enough) to what they consider to be "life as normal" on planet earth, while believers look (or should be looking) forward to spending eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ. Living for the things of this world is temporary; living for Christ is eternal. *"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36.*

Perhaps you remember some of the old hymns like "I Am Bound for the Promised Land," "In the Sweet By-and-By," and "Beyond The Sunset." As Vance Havner said about the "old-time saints," "We took seriously the Scriptures' reminder that this world is not our rest, that we are strangers and pilgrims seeking a city." He also said, "Say what you will, the Old Book gives no comfort to those who would drive down their tent pegs in these lowlands. It warns against the love of money, the cares of this life, and the pride of it. It would have us love not the world but lay up our treasure in heaven. It reminds us that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. It admonishes us to be content with food and raiment, and such things as we have.

"It is high time we heeded such counsel. We used to feel like traveling on; now we feel like settling down. This wonderland of plastics and gadgets, deep freezes and give-away shows, ranch houses in Suburbia and push-button living, seems good enough for most of the saints."

He went on to say, "Of course, God's people have a right to the common comforts of life. There is no holiness in a hair shirt. The old mystics were sometimes mistaken; we are pilgrims, not hermits, and living in a hole does not make us any holier. On the other hand, the new fad for equating Christianity with earthly prosperity is hard put to it to find New Testament texts for its position. Our Lord had nowhere to lay His head; He was not at home down here. The early saints bear little resemblance to the new variety, who are not out to overcome the world, but to enjoy it. The heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 do not remind us of many

modern 'successful Christians.' And what shall we say of Paul, who said that the apostles were made as the world's rubbish, the scum of the earth?"

Havner was right when he alluded to the fact that the brand of Christianity we take for granted today began long ago when Constantine paganized Christianity by trying to Christianize paganism. He said, "Then we lost our pilgrim character and the marks of our heavenly citizenship. The church ceased to look for the Lord from heaven; she settled down like Lot in Sodom, and became a gigantic super corporation, another big business, so like the age in which she lives that few can see the difference. It was a dark day when the church forgot that we have no home down here."

The above quotes were taken from the book by Vance Havner (1901-1986), *WHY NOT JUST BE CHRISTIANS* which was published in 1964. This was nearly 60 years ago when he was faithfully preaching to the sleeping Laodicean churches. A person can't help but ask themselves, "What would he say if he could see the state of affairs today?" No doubt Havner understood that fallen mankind is forever trying to forge for himself, for good or for evil, what he believes will bring satisfaction to his life, whether spiritually or physically. You could say that the end result is what he (or she) is looking forward to. This is true for Christians as well who lack understanding of the will of God for their lives. Therefore, the mindset of visible, mainstream Christianity concerning what the church is, seems to be "the bigger, the louder, and the most "feel good" the better"—with Christ tacked on, of course. But bigger doesn't mean "better" if Jesus isn't there. Have we forgotten that He said, *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" Matthew 18:20?* The key is to be gathered in His Name. That means in agreement of who He is according to the Bible. We live in a day and age when self-professing "Christians" have their own take on who Jesus is, and why He came in the first place. Church leaders whose goal is to build their little kingdoms "bigger" know this so they cleverly avoid "rocking the boat" or "stepping on toes" by preaching hard

truths from the Bible, (the King James Version in particular.) Peter warned, "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" 2 Peter 3:16.

As for the "louder the better" concerning music, it seems that there is scarcely a wisp of true reverence, adoration and worship remaining that honors God and allows for the precious presence and move of the Holy Spirit. The competitive spirit that overshadows and corrupts simplicity, sincerity, and wholehearted praise may claim to be "anointed" but the truth is, it's annoying, agitating and, in most cases, just plain awful. As in all things, we need to discern what spirit is behind not only the words we hear, but the music we hear as well. Jesus taught, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" John 4:23, 24.

Finally, we come to the "feel good" part. We all know of mega churches that offer a continual diet of sugar-coated cliches, New Age delusional fantasies, lofty humanistic platitudes, and positive half-truths from watered-down "bibles." People look forward to their weekly "feel-good fix" and in some cases, they're even willing to pay an entrance fee to have their itching ears tickled by flattery, half-truths and outright lies. 2 Timothy 6:5 warns, "Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." As Christians, instead of looking forward to having our egos stroked, we must "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Now that another New Year looms in front of us, what are we looking forward to? Perhaps it is world peace, which would be wonderful, but let us not forget that until Jesus sets up His visible kingdom on this earth, and rules and reigns from Jerusalem, the world is still subject to the "god of this world." (2 Corinthians 4: 3, 4.) Even though it

appears as if God has raised up certain righteous men and empowered them to destroy and expose the hidden things of darkness, there can be no lasting peace until the Prince of Peace appears. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

We are living in times that try men's souls, a time of great anguish and sorrow. Fear and insanity abound, yet in the midst of it all, many are still looking forward to a "return to normal" and whatever that personally means to them. The problem is, we cannot move forward by looking backward. We cannot control, change, or escape reality, and if we somehow could, would our "normal" put God first, or would our particular choice of a lifestyle be first? That is the question to honestly ask ourselves.

When things are going our way, we can list a lot of things we look forward to, but how many of us are truly looking forward to heaven? After all, the Bible talks a lot more about hell than it does heaven, but what is written about it is like precious, glittering gems that we need to stop, "pick up," and carefully examine. Such gems are easily overlooked, however, when our thoughts, emotions, worldly entanglements, responsibilities, relationships, possessions, problems and challenges occupy most of our time. If you ask people about heaven, they will agree that they want to go there, but not yet.

Many years ago, I asked a close friend if she hoped Jesus came soon. Her answer shocked me. She said, "No! I want to see my grandchildren grow up." I was stunned into silence. Jesus did say in Matthew 10:37 "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." People's ideas of heaven are equally shocking sometimes. Reading comments on Line and in emails, there are those who plan to "party, party, party" in heaven, but my Bible says, "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of

God" Galatians 5:21. Others put more emphasis on seeing, and being with, their departed loved ones than they do on Jesus, and many seem to believe heaven will be an eternal continuance of their earthly life without sin, death, Satan, and so forth, while some have a vague notion that we become "angels," but Jesus said, "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." Matthew 22:30.

From my experiences with Christians through the years, I'm of the opinion that far too many of them, though decent and well-meaning, have become so overly caught up with, and influenced by, the world that the idea of being "as an angel of God" for all eternity holds no real joy or anticipation for them. After all, considering what we know about angels from the Bible, they don't seem to have much, and fun is something all earthlings look forward to. On top of that, there is no romance, marriage or family units in heaven either, and aren't those things at the top of the list of "what it's all about"? (And, yes, I do believe we will see our saved loved ones in heaven, but they should not be, and won't be, the "main attraction.") So, what about those mansions Jesus mentioned in John 14:2, proclaiming, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you"? Surely, in heaven we all get to live like the rich folks do on earth as a grand reward for saying the "sinner's prayer," right?

At this point, for your edification, I'm taking the liberty of quoting a short excerpt from a most informative, edifying and in-depth explanation of the dwelling places ("mansions") that Jesus spoke of by Mike Weatherford Ministries

(<http://mikeweatherfordministries.com/many-mansions/>): "On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit would come to dwell with men who called upon Jesus' name, and would cause the seeking souls to know all aspects of the Life that is in Christ, i.e. His crucifixion, death, and resurrection (resurrection life), thus Gods redemptive plan and activities were accomplished in His Son, not in us, but in His Son, we only know them in Him. Now, all of what God will do for you and I, His many efforts toward us

will be in His working to reveal and give spiritual knowledge of the Son who abides in us. Therefore, God is working on our behalf for us to continue to abide in Him, by faith; for there is no other place, all is in Christ, if we miss this, we miss it all. And so that we might understand, regarding our new place which is much higher and more majestic than what the disciples knew physically with Him, He reveals Himself in a new and living way, in our spirit, via the Holy Spirit, who grants us, through the Father's Will, those heavenly things and spiritual blessings the Father has both placed and hidden in Jesus His Son. Andrew Murray said it this way,

"With the Holy Spirit Christ came down to be with His disciples as really, and more nearly, than when He was with them in the flesh. The abiding nearness and fellowship of Christ, and in Him of God the Father, is the very central blessing of the Kingdom. This experience was what the Holy Spirit at Pentecost made real. The disciples had their Lord with them as consciously as the angels.

Certainly, now we can begin to see what Jesus intended and instructed regarding His going away and returning, and where He was, or is, they would be also. Our dwelling place, not only a future place, would be through the Spirit, in heavenly places, in Christ, and surely in this context is not a future place we would live one day, in our assigned furnished mansions. To assign such an estranged interpretation that is according to this physical temporal world demeans and degrades heavenly things, and the kingdom that God occupies, which certainly speaks to the level of immaturity of those who speak of these things in terms of temporal and physical means.

"However, and as mentioned previously, if we are to understand our new dwelling place, and to possess insight, it is a God given spiritual understanding that He grants according to His sovereign Will; He opens our eyes to see, and our ears to hear, His given instructions, thus drawing us to His Son that we might dwell or abide in Him, by faith, where in Him all spiritual blessings are available, in heavenly places, to us, that how we might be equipped to walk in a manner that pleases Him.

"Therefore, why is it that we abide, it is for the sole purpose that we might walk differently in this world, i.e. in a manner that fully pleases God. Those who hold to their physical temporal interpretation of mansions have need to go to the Father and ask for Spirit given understanding that they might see and know more profoundly the life that is in them, that they might dwell in Him."

With the above explanation in mind, honestly ask yourself what you are looking forward to. Is your main concern for wealth, health, security, peace, happiness, love, companionship, pleasure or lustful pursuits? After all, the world can be gained if a person is willing to sell their soul, but what profit is there in that? These are all carnal, temporary pursuits that have no resemblance or place in heaven. Jesus told us in *Matthew 6* how we are to live in this world, and to *"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof"* *Matthew 6:34*. The Word tells us what we need to focus our hearts and minds on: *"IF ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory"* *Colossians 3:1-4*. That "mansion" you may be looking forward to is your dwelling place in Christ. (See *Ephesians 2*.) *Colossians 1:12-14* tells us, *"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In Whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."*

Being human, we are naturally curious, easily disillusioned, often disappointed, but nevertheless still eager to push our way forward through emotional, physical and intellectual barriers to make new discoveries, forge new conclusions, and somehow survive in our own power. But through it all, whether in victory or defeat, stands one great, immovable, eternal beacon of glorious, radiant light, and that beacon

is the Cross of the LORD Jesus Christ. His coming and His kingdom is what we need to look forward to if we are to survive the onslaught of unspeakable evil, darkness, death and destruction this world is experiencing. Looking forward to saving our life, our lifestyle, and our self-serving cravings in this life will cloud our vision, weaken our faith, and overshadow our minds and hearts with the baseness of this world. If we are to survive spiritually, we must remain standing on the Rock, on His Word, and remember *Revelation 12:11*, *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*

As we begin another New Year, what are you looking forward to, the things of this world, or to the things which God has prepared? *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him"* *1 Corinthians 2:9*. †

DEADLY DOCTRINE

Why would Satan put false teachers in the church if there was no chance for believers to fall away and be eternally lost? If once saved always saved, he would be intelligent enough to know that all of his efforts to derail Christians would be a complete waste of time.

The deadly doctrine of Once Saved, Always Saved has weakened an entire generation of Christians. It is a doctrinal counterfeit invention, a spiritual gangrene, that has spread throughout the apostate church evidencing their ignorance of the true God. It is Satan's Masterpiece of deception designed to give false security to those who are in willful, unrepentant sin.

The winner of a race is not given their reward at the beginning of the race, neither does the winner get their reward during the race, but the winner of the race gets their reward after they have crossed the finish line having endured to the very end.

--Lynette Hughes

IS IT BIBLICAL TO DECLARE AND DECREE?

By Lynette Hughes

Romans 4:17 says that "...God ...calls the things that are not, as though they were." Those who promote the heretical 'little gods' doctrine has ushered in the 'declare and decree' movement. This is the false and unbiblical teaching that due to the divinity that a believer possesses, they can 'call things that are not as though they were' and speak into existence what only God can do.

The Hebrew word for declare is 'amar'. It means to say, to speak, or to utter. To "declare" is to make known or state (out loud) a fact, opinion, or truth; to "decree" is to issue an authoritative command having the force of law or a judicial order. We cannot decree something for ourselves or for others; only God knows those things which are not yet as though they already are. Being made in the image of God and being a partaker of God's divine nature [2 Peter 1:3-4] does not mean we are creators and can speak things into existence like God; God alone can speak things into existence for He alone is the Creator of all things. We are a partaker of God's divine nature by reflecting His moral nature and holy attributes. It does not mean we have the same creative abilities as God. Only the Creator of the universe can be "declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done" (Isaiah 46:10).

In Mark 11:23 Jesus speaks of moving a mountain by speaking to it, but there is no mention of speaking a new mountain into existence. Lamentations 3:37 asks the rhetorical question "Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it?" The answer, of course, is "no one." None of us has the power to speak and bring things to pass through the sheer force of our word. Only God has that power.

Where did God tell you that this is your year of success or greatness? That he will dismantle every obstacle in your life? That you will have a financial breakthrough in the next 24 hours? That He will rain down blessings this week on every FB friend? Where in Scripture has

God decreed these things? We must stop saying what God never said. There is nothing in the Lord's prayer that teaches us to use the declare and decree method, every part of the prayer has us relying on God for everything we need. God never taught us to declare and decree in his name. Rather, he taught us to ASK in his name. Jesus never taught his disciples to pray: "Our Father in Heaven, I decree and declare that thou art in heaven. I speak forth your kingdom on earth and decree that thy will be done. I decree and declare that our daily bread is abundantly provided. I declare that we are forgiven and we release forgiveness to our debtors. I decree and declare that we are loosed from temptations and have been delivered from the evil one. Amen."

There is value in declaring biblical truths, and if by declaring and decreeing we mean speaking biblical truths and praying God's promises in faith that, in proper context, are applicable to us today, that is well and fine, but we can't just "claim" verses without adequately considering what they meant in their original context. Confessing [declaring] God's word and promises over our lives helps us destroy strongholds in our mind that are not in line with what God and His word says. It is a way to encourage ourselves and build up our faith. But faith is not responsible to BRING you everything you want in life; it is responsible to PREPARE you for what LIFE BRINGS YOU. Faith doesn't give you CONTROL OVER GOD; it gives God control OVER YOU.

We do not have the power to bring into existence what does not now exist. We need to get back to biblical declarations. When we pray and claim God's promises we know that we are praying for God's will. But most often we are praying for what we want, not for what God wants. Rather than declaring our own desires and what we want; we should be declaring the gospel of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. {Acts 20:21} †

Psalm 9:10

"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: For thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."

WISDOM OF A.W. TOZER

"The people therefore that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him." – John 12:29

When God spoke out of heaven to our Lord, self-centered men who heard it explained it by natural causes, saying, "It thundered." This habit of explaining the Voice by appeals to natural law is at the very root of modern science. In the living, breathing cosmos there is a mysterious Something, too wonderful, too awful for any mind to understand. The believing man does not claim to understand. He falls to his knees and whispers, "God." The man of earth kneels also, but not to worship. He kneels to examine, to search, to find the cause and the how of things. Just now we happen to be living in a secular age. Our thought habits are those of the scientist, not those of the worshiper. We are more likely to explain than to adore. "It thundered," we exclaim, and go our earthly way. But still the Voice sounds and searches. The order and life of the world depend upon that Voice, but men are mostly too busy or too stubborn to give attention.

REFLECTIONS

"The history of Israel and Judah points up a truth taught clearly enough by all history—that the masses are or soon will be what their leaders are. The kings set the moral pace for the people. Whatever sort of man the king turned out to be, the people were soon following his leadership. They followed David in the worship of Jehovah, Solomon in the building of the Temple, Jeroboam in the making of a calf, and Hezekiah in the restoration of the temple worship. It is not complimentary to the masses that they are so easily led, but we are not interested in praising or blaming; we are concerned for truth, and the truth is that for better or for worse religious people follow leaders. A good man may change the moral complexion of a whole nation, or a corrupt and worldly clergy may lead a nation into bondage. . . . The local church soon becomes like its pastor."

--A. W. Tozer

RAYOLA'S Q & A CORNER

Q: *What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth?*

A: The fact that Jesus went out of his way to answer the Samaritan woman's question in *John 4:19-26* about worship stipulates the importance of it. Keep in mind the Samaritan woman wanted to know the right place in which to worship the true God: Jerusalem or Gerizim?

Jesus pointed out some very important facts. The first one is that it will not matter about the place, the second one is that the Father seeks true worshippers, and finally the third point is what stipulates acceptable worship.

It is clear that people of Jesus' day considered a certain place as a determining factor in which acceptable worship could take place, but Jesus pointed out that the place would not matter. We know what does matter is where worship originates. It must come from the heart according to *Matthew 15:8-9*, "*This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips: but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*"

The second thing is the Father seeks those who know how to truly worship Him. Man was created to worship God because He is worthy of such recognition from His creation, but worship can be done in three different arenas. It can be done emotionally which is soulish and pagan and it can be done in the mental arena where there is acknowledgment, but it is carnal and idolatrous. God is spirit and the two arenas mentioned will prove strange and unacceptable to Him. This is why the Father seeks those who truly know how to worship Him. Real worship steps above the emotional arena and graduates from the mental arena into the spiritual realm. It is worship that breaks the barriers of man's best, reaches beyond his superstition and will not accept the world's idea of God that becomes a precious fragrance that will prove to be pleasing to Him.

Clearly, a Christian must get beyond the soulish and mental realms to present worship that is acceptable to the true God. After all, God has no part in soulish, fleshly worship and the real

ingredients of worship will be absent in man. It is for this reason, Jesus stated that those who worship God must worship Him with the right combination.

The ingredients missing in true worship are one 1) the right Spirit and 2) ignorance or superstition about God. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that she did not know who she worshipped. Our worship will be influenced by our knowledge of God and if we know the right God, it will create an environment of worship where there is reverence, awe, humility, and child-like faith.

It is important to understand that it is only the Spirit of God that can lead us to all truth about who He is. He is the one who gives us revelation that will lift us above unbridled emotions that can't begin to reach to the heights of God and misconceived notions that end up becoming a mere image or idol of God.

The worship I have seen in some churches is more about an emotional high than lifting the Lord on high with thankfulness, praise, and adoration. It is more about people who are caught up with their idea of God instead of seeking to know and discover God in greater measure in order to love, serve, and worship Him in a pleasing way.

It is clear there are different ways of worship, different types of worship, and different ideas about it. The one thing I can say is that if a person fails to worship God in the way He is able to accept it, it is soulish, worldly, and vain worship.

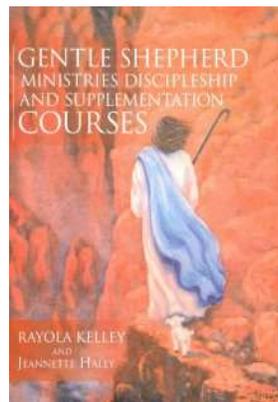
If you are not sure how to worship God, take the example of the Samaritan woman who asked Jesus about true worship with a sincere heart. He will be faithful to reveal it through His Word or through examples of those who know how to touch the throne and heart of God with their worship. †

GOD ABANDONS THE WICKED

By Lynette Hughes

Romans 1:18 tells us that "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness". Verse 24 says that "...God ABANDONED THEM to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired.." Verse 26 again tells us that "...God ABANDONED THEM to their shameful desires...." and in verse 28 we are told God "...ABANDONED THEM to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done." In verse 18 Apostle Paul tells us God's wrath is being revealed towards sinners at this present time. He doesn't say the wrath of God is TO BE revealed, rather, he writes in the present tense and says it is even NOW being revealed.

God judges men's wicked unrepentant behaviors by abandoning them to their lustful, perverted sexual desires. When men forsake God, He will abandon them and remove His protection; He will withdraw His hand and give them over to the power and authority of Satan to reap the consequences of their sin. We are mistaken when we think that it is God's mercy or kindness that allows man to continue in unrepentant sin; it is actually His wrath which allows them to go on destroying themselves with sin.



Included in this book are the Gentle Shepherd Ministries Discipleship Course that has been requested and used by people throughout the world, along with Bible Studies, excerpts from sermons, and articles. Every bit of material in this resource of information has been compiled with one goal in mind, and that is to build up and nurture the life of Christ in the members of His Body, the Church. The information and challenges put forth in this book will not only nurture the serious disciple of Jesus, but it will bring a well-rounded understanding as to the fundamental beliefs that make up the Christian faith.