



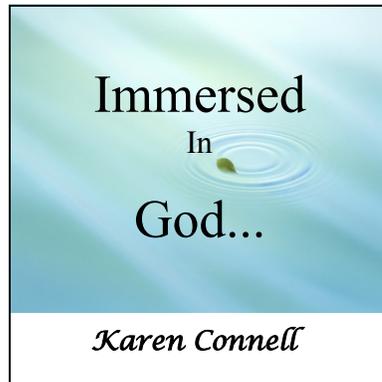
Trumpet Sounds

He that has an ear, let him hear

July 2014



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What Are We Immersed In?

Karen E. Connell

(James 5:3, 5).

Your greedy luxuries are a cancer in your gut, destroying your life from within.

You thought you were piling up wealth. What you've piled up is judgment. (TMB) ... You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. (NKJV)

Spring for many people is a time to do some “spring cleaning” and for me it usually means getting rid of a lot of clutter that seems to fill every corner of my house and garage. It seems as I get older, I find that all the “stuff” I once thought was so important to own—is not only no longer important, but a burden that needs to be gotten rid of. When I think of all of the money that was spent on my “stuff” that is now being pitched in the garbage or donated to some resale shop, I cringe with remorse! It is like throwing money in the garbage that could have been used for God’s kingdom work! For years the Lord has been convicting me of the *materialistic mindset* that we as American Christians have embraced that keeps us from being able to distinguish between a *want* and a *need*. This world’s systems have taught and trained us to believe that... “if **I want it**—I won’t be **happy** unless I get it—therefore **I need it!**” After all, isn’t the pursuit of happiness a God-given Constitutional right?”

How many of us would be “happy” (satisfied) with and even thankful for—having just the *bare necessities in life*, such as one (small) closet of clothes (containing all of our summer and winter outfits and shoes)? Or having a house that would meet only our basic *needs* (for sleeping and eating and providing shelter from the elements)? How many of us are willing to only pay cash for what we purchase even if it means we must *wait* and save up for what we buy? Lust and greed demand immediate gratification, and these sins push us into pursuing lives of luxury. A luxury is simply something *we can survive without!* When greed and lust are not exposed, confessed as sin, renounced and repented of in our lives we will live in self-indulgence—great delusion and constantly fall prey to spirits of seduction. When this is the case God’s judgments are needed in order to break the hold these sins have upon us. Lust and greed lead us into



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idolatry (which is spiritual adultery) by becoming friends with the world and enemies of God!

You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with this world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy this world, you can't be a friend of God... What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the Holy Spirit, whom God has placed within us, jealously longs for us to be faithful? ...He gives us more and more strength to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God sets himself against the proud, but he shows favor to the humble." ...So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you... Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you hypocrites... Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy (James 4:4-9) NLT.

Often God will speak to our hearts in His *still small voice*, about things that offend Him, but because we want what we want—we ignore what God is speaking to us. Pride will cause us to resist the truth and the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. When this happens we are on our way to losing the *fear of God*. When we no longer fear offending God (especially when He has spoken to us about something)—we have chosen to follow a path that will lead us into Satan's territory of darkness and deception.



Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love for the Father in you... For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world... And this world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever (1 John 2:15-17) NLT.

The Fear of the Lord

How many Christians really have *eternity* as a daily reality? Our priorities might be very different if we knew we only had one year left to live in this world before facing God in eternity. As far as that goes—any of us could face death at any moment, but that fact doesn't seem to be a reality for the majority of people—Christians included. It is an awesome thought to realize that after we die we will stand before God and give an account of our how we have lived our lives here on earth... **For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ... For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." ...So then each of us shall give account of himself to God (Rom 14:10-12) NKJV.**

As Christians we must never forget that this material world is ever changing and all that we have and all our cares and affairs in this life are only *temporary*. When this is not our reality—we will love this world and the things of this world *more* than we love our heavenly Father. When our love for God is usurped by our love for the things of this life (people—places or things), we lose our fear of offending God. When Christians say they love God but still make the things of this life their priority, they are only fooling themselves. They are serving (worshipping) themselves and not the true and living God. It is a fearful thing to know that there are those who call themselves by the name of Christ—and who will be shocked when they stand before the judgment seat of Christ to hear they were deceived into thinking they loved and served God—when in truth they only lived to please themselves... **For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ... Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite (their wants)... and all they think about is this life here on earth... But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior (Phil 3:18-20) NLT.**

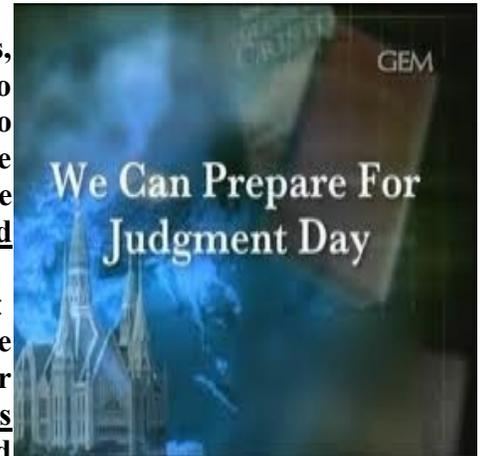
If the return of Jesus Christ is not a living reality to us it is because we mind the things of the flesh rather

than the things of the spirit—this means our focus is on natural things and not on spiritual things. The return of Christ is not just looking to be raptured out this world into a better world. His return means we will be rewarded with God's gift of eternal life and receive our crown of righteousness—but *only* if we remain faithful and have been true servants of God while we lived upon this earth. I do not subscribe to the false and convenient theory that God's people are going to be raptured out of the prophesied time of "great tribulation." The return of Jesus is definitely a time of judgment but it is also a time when *true believers* will be redeemed and made safe from what (Rev 15) calls the terrible burning wrath of God's final bowl judgments at the end of the great tribulation. This is a terrible time of judgment for those who reject Christ and a time of glorious redemption for His true followers—as illustrated in the parable of the wheat and tares.

...and at the time of harvest (rapture) I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them (God's tribulation wrath), but gather the wheat into my barn.... the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels (who release the bowl judgments)... Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age." (Matt 13:30, 39-40) NKJV.

This event is also depicted in the following text from the Book of Revelation:

And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." ...Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues (the final bowl judgments), for in them the wrath of God is complete (Rev 14:15; 15:1)NKJV.



It won't matter when Jesus returns if we loved and served the Lord for only one day as new believer, or for many years—our reward will be the same—which is our redemption from judgment and our inheritance of eternal life—as illustrated in the parable of the workers in the vineyard that Jesus taught in (Matt 20:1-16). Whether we are a brand new born again convert or a seasoned saint—we will all receive our promised inheritance of eternal life! May we also hear and heed what the Apostle Paul said to us at the end of his time here on earth—when he was about to die and stand before the Lord. In his last recorded words he wrote...

Preach the word of God. Be persistent, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage the people with good teaching... For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will follow their own desires (their wants) and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear... They will reject the truth and follow strange myths... But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at bringing others to Christ. Complete the ministry God has given you... As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near... I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful... And now the prize awaits me — the crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his glorious return (2 Tim 4:2-8) NLT.

When we offend God by loving this world and the natural things that are in this world we cannot with all honesty say that we have sincere love for our heavenly Father... "**when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love for the Father in you...**" (1 John 2:15). Genuine love for God is the foundation for our fear of God. When we do business the way the world does business and stray from God's standard of holiness, this means we love the world and we do not fear God—or when we raise our children according to the world's ways and standards—this means we love the world and we do not fear offending God, likewise when our attention and time are given to relationships with people and to our material possessions more than it is to God—this too means we love more what is natural or of the flesh than we do God—and we do not fear offending God. We will either love

and follow (God or the world)—no Christian can serve two masters. Yes, we must live in this world—but we are not to be entangled with the affairs and cares of this world or follow its ungodly ways and mindsets. Christians are here as ambassadors of God’s kingdom—sent into the world to be living demonstrations of God’s standard for His holiness and truth. Listen to what Jesus asked the heavenly Father for—concerning His true disciples... **I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one... They are not part of this world any more than I am... Make them pure and holy by teaching them your words of truth... As you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.** (John 17:15-18) NLT



When we don’t have an intimate relationship with God, all we really have is a *form of godliness*, which means we lack the reality of the fear of God in our lives. Those who don’t fear God—live to please themselves because they are lovers of self and not God. **For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God...Having a form of godliness...from such turn away.** (2 Tim 3:2-5) KJV

If we want to have a close relationship with God the Apostle James said we must ... Wash our hands—purify our hearts and stop being a hypocrite (James 4:8). The KJV uses the phrase *double minded* instead of *hypocrite*, but when we are double minded we are most definitely being a hypocrite. Because on one hand we say we love God but on the other hand we choose instead to please ourselves rather than God. The word *hands* (Strong’s 5495) literally refers to the *power* and *means* for *grasping*. When we become covetous, we worship ourselves by **greedily** grasping all we can by any means necessary—to satisfy our insatiable appetite for pleasure and comfort. This is why it is far too easy to buy something we really don’t need, rather than using that money for God’s kingdom work. When our hearts truly belong to God, only then will we truly fear offending Him and desire to please and honor Him by what we give our time, money and attention to. Every time we turn a deaf ear to that *still small voice* that lets us know we are giving our time, money or attention to something that is more of a priority than the things of God, or to what is not honoring Him (whom we say we love)—our hearts become a little more hardened by the *deceptive excuses* we embrace for our dishonor to Him and to our disobedience to His voice. This is how all people (including Christians) lose the fear of the Lord. Without the fear of the Lord we have nothing to restrain our fleshly lusts. This lack of restraint means we will continually lust for more—because Satan’s lusts can never be satisfied. In turn we become more and more discontented and miserable! When Christians do not live and move and have their being through following the Holy Spirit they will live move and have their being in this natural world and seek to fulfill the (natural) lusts of their flesh (fallen human nature). The Bible says this about those who do this: **“Wherever they go, destruction and misery follow them. They do not know what true peace is. They have no fear of God to restrain them”** (Romans 3:16-18, NLT).

The Fire of God

Multitudes of professing Christians need what the Israelites of old experienced—when they lost their fear of God because the surrounding pagan cultures were able to entice the Israelites into idolatry and into following false prophets. Elijah asked for the *fire of God* to fall so... **“that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again”** (1 Kings 18:37) NKJV.

The Hebrew phrase “turn back” is *“cabab”* (saw-bab). It means to **“change one’s mind and focus”** (CWSD Strong’s # 5437, #322). Many in the church need their minds and focus changed because they are in a backslidden state and on the broad road to destruction, and don’t even realize it! They live in a form of godliness without God’s power because they have lost their fear of the Lord. When the fire fell that Elijah prayed for, this supernatural demonstration put godly fear back into the hearts of God’s people. **“And when the people saw it (the fire), they fell on their faces and cried out, “The Lord is God! The Lord is God!”** (1 Kings 18:39, NLT).

In order to turn the hearts of professing Christians back to God—the church in America needs a good dose

of God's fire. His fire will bring the awesome reality and awareness of the presence of the true and living God into the lives of people. It is this reality of God's presence that brings conviction and true repentance which is a sign of true revival. The sin of self-indulgence has gone unchecked in many churches for a long time simply because there is no fire or real fear of God in people's lives.

When you read the account of God's fire falling during the confrontation with the false prophets of Baal, you will see that the fire of God brought *death to the false prophets* that the Israelites were following after (1 Kings 18:38). It also brought an end to the *drought* among God's people. When we as professing Christians are seduced into idolatry—we will experience a drought and become spiritually dry. The word *dry* is the Hebrew word (Strong's OT:3001 *yabesh* (yaw-bashe')); and it refers to *failure, shame, disappointment and confusion*.

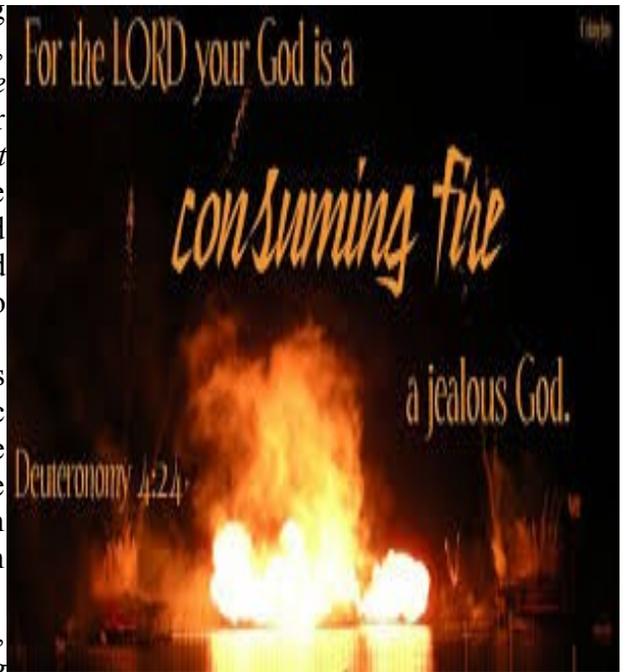
Our *failure* to live obediently according to God's Word—which includes listening to His true prophetic voices—will be ignored when we are living to please ourselves. This brings shame into our lives. When the painful reality of shame from idolatry is ignored, the pain and the pressure it produces is pushed down into the hidden *subconscious* part of our spirit being.

Even though we may not “consciously feel” shameful, the *unconscious pain* from shame produces a *defiling pressure within us* that causes us to feel *discontented*. This means our *temple* has become *defiled by idolatry*. **You are not straitened in (literally: feeling pressured by) us, but you are straitened in your own bowels... And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? (2 Cor 6:12, 16) KJV**

When we are discontented we fall prey to Satan's demonic irritation and anger that he superimposes upon us, which creates his ungodly lusts within us (Jn 8:44). Because Satan's lusts result in *failure* to bring us peace and satisfaction, we become disillusioned and *disappointed* with our lives, circumstances and people. We live in constant *confusion*—which opens us up to demonic *delusion*. When we are deluded and deceived, we tend to create God into our own image... wanting only to see Him as a God of love, mercy and grace and as a God who bestows great power, and blessings upon any who call themselves by His name (no matter their true spiritual condition).

When we become unfaithful to Him through our idolatry and false worship—God must bring His *all consuming fire* into our lives... **Take heed to yourselves... and do not make for yourselves any carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you... For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God (Deut 4:23-24)NKJV.**

Only those who are cleansed and sincerely committed to serving God (and not themselves), will be part of the end time remnant ministry of bringing deliverance to God's people in times of crisis. As the end of this final age nears its close—the clashing between darkness and light and of God's kingdom with the kingdoms of this present darkness are going to create perilous times of crisis. There will be no neutral ground, we will have to choose which side we are on. Just as it was with Elijah of old, it wasn't until the fire of God fell—that those who had been seduced into idolatry were awakened and responded to God's fire. **So Ahab summoned all the people and the prophets to Mount Carmel... Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, "How long are you going to waver between two opinions (be hypocrites)? If the LORD is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!" But the people were completely silent... Then Elijah called to the people,**



1 Our spirit being is also referred to as our bowels which consists of our *conscience* and our *subconscious*. For more on this subject see our THREEFOLD CORD Manual for Healing and Deliverance, © 2014, (pgs. 21-27), published by Extended Life Christian Training Ministry.



"Come over here!" They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been torn down... Immediately the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the ditch! ...And when the people saw it, they fell on their faces and cried out, "The LORD is God! The LORD is God!" (1 Kings 18:20-21; 30, 38-39) NLT.

In these end times until the fire of falls—God's true prophetic voices will—as it was with Elijah—be ignored. They will be viewed as troublemakers in those churches and among those professing Christians who are living lives of hypocrisy by serving themselves and believing they are also serving the true and living God. True prophetic voices are even now raising up a cry against the sin of idolatry and hypocrisy in these last days and they are being persecuted by professing Christians who falsely believe that no one has the right to *judge them*. This was the same reaction that Elijah got

when he confronted idolatry and the false prophets on Mt. Carmel. **So Obadiah went to tell Ahab that Elijah had come, and Ahab went out to meet him... "So it's you, is it — Israel's troublemaker?" Ahab asked when he saw him... "I have made no trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "You and your family are the troublemakers, for you have refused to obey the commands of the LORD and have worshiped the images of Baal instead (1 Kings 18:16-18) NLT.**

True End Times Ministry

Those who desire to be part of God's true ministry in these end times, can benefit from studying the life and character of Joseph. True ministry for the end times is a ministry of *deliverance*—especially for those experiencing spiritual famine and drought (disillusion—confusion—delusion) because of the lack of living water (the true prophetic word) in their lives and ministries. There is truly a famine of Gods word in our land!

Before Joseph could serve in his appointed deliverance ministry for his disillusioned, confused and deluded brethren—he had to be *matured and prepared* by many tests and trials. In order to remain faithful as true ministers of God, we too will face many trials and tests. Only those who really *know their God* will be part of the remnant that remain true to the faith. In order for this to be the case God's people must, like Joseph, experience the reality of their Heavenly father's *favor*. The robe Joseph was given as a young man represents being given *favor* and *authority* from the father. Those whom God favors are destined to be clothed with His divine authority. **Now Jacob loved Joseph more** (literally: he had more affection for Joseph) **than any of his other children... So one day he gave Joseph a special gift — a beautiful robe... But his brothers hated Joseph because of their father's partiality. They couldn't say a kind word to him (Gen 37:3-4) NLT.**

As a *parent*, God loves (or is concerned for and will do what is best for) all of His children—however, like Jacob, God has *more affection* for those of His children who bring Him great delight and pleasure because of their sincere desire to please and serve Him—than for those who are disobedient and self-serving. God's grace (favor and gifts) are given to those who are *humble*—which means those who are *teachable* and *correctable*... **for God resists the proud, and gives grace (favor and gifts) to the humble (1 Peter 5:5) NKJV.**

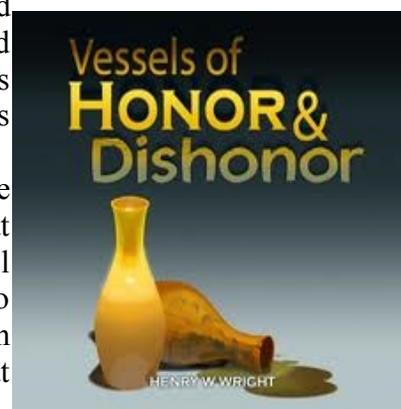
Of all of Jacob's children, Joseph gave him more pleasure and delight, which resulted in receiving greater favor than did his brothers—which caused them to greatly resent and mistreat Joseph. When you read the accounts given of the lives of Joseph's brothers, you will find that they were often characterized as proud, cruel and self-serving. Joseph also had a strong sense of right and wrong, which in his immaturity, only added fuel to the fire of his brothers anger and hatred towards him **...But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing (Gen 37:2) NLT.** Those with the heart of Joseph, can't help but see and be alarmed by the sin in their brethren, and feel the need to bring it to the attention of those in authority over them. When this happens in a family or a church, often the "Joseph's" will be come against by other family or body members and face the possibility of being rejected or cast out just as Joseph was. The true end time remnant will also like Joseph, operate in the prophetic gift and when they share their revelation with their self-serving brethren who are filled with pride,

resentment and jealousy—they should not be surprised that what they share is not be appreciated or received by them... **One night Joseph had a dream and promptly reported the details to his brothers, causing them to hate him even more (Gen 37:5) NLT.**

Joseph was not only rejected and betrayed by his self-serving brethren, he also faced injustice at the hands of the worlds ruling powers under which he lived. He was falsely accused and thrown into prison because he would not give in to the seduction of the powers around him that said “lie with me.” **And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."—But he refused ... (Gen 39:7-8) NKJV.**

In these end times seducing spirits are looking for those who are self-serving—for they are easy prey to seduction and delusion. Many professing Christians are hearing the call of seduction in these days, which is getting louder and louder. “Lie with me” is the seductive call of the spirit of this age that is enticing many into a self-seeking and self-indulgent life style. Whatever unhealed areas of vulnerability we as God’s people may have—is where we will hear this the wily seductive voice with its deceptive excuses, that says...“lie with me.” Like Joseph, the true remnant will also “refuse” to compromise—even if it means unjust treatment and great suffering. God’s people are committed to Him—even unto death. They are chosen and highly favored true vessels of honor and instruments of deliverance in these end times. They carry the message of *maturity* and *discipleship*, which requires death to self and carrying the cross of Christ daily and not just wearing it around their necks! Spiritual maturity requires a mind that is stayed upon the things from above and not the things of this earth, which enables them to become disciplined and say “no” to temptation whenever it comes.

Joseph was truly submitted to God—however, we don’t really know if we are truly submitted to God until like Joseph, we face the conflict of our will versus that of God’s will. Those who remain true and overcome the spirit of this age will fulfill the destiny given them by God. Like Joseph, we must always keep in mind that no matter what we go through—good or bad—God’s grace is upon us so that we can prosper or be successful representations of God’s mercy and grace no matter what comes...



Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison... But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison... And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing... The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper (Gen 39:20-23) NKJV.

When we face “hard or unpleasant times” are we mindful that God is with us? Or do we give in to the temptation to complain and curse God (get mad at him) and turn to the world and its ways to help us? Yes, God will let us walk through the fire in order to purify and mature us, but He will not allow us to be harmed, and He will let us be overwhelmed by floods that will carry away all we cherish—but He will not let us be drowned! God’s message is the same in all ages to those he takes delight in. Yes, we may fail, but if we remain humble (honest—teachable and correctable) God takes delight in us and will restore us! Often, just as with Joseph, God sets us up for what looks like to us a place of utter failure or ruin—only to position us in a place that He has chosen for us for His eternal purposes.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you... For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior... Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; (Isa 43:2-4) NKJV.

Joseph endured much to be put in the place where God had chosen him to be... the place where he could

extend mercy and grace to his very undeserving brethren—who had abused and hated him. Joseph represents Jesus Christ—and those He has anointed for true end time deliverance (salvation) ministry. Like Joseph the anointed, end time remnant will not look down upon their brethren with contempt because these Christ-like end time remnant servants of God understand that their brethren are suffering famine and drought (disillusion—confusion—delusion). Instead they like Joseph, will have compassion for them and weep as Joseph did at the sight of his brethren. Not all will respond to our ministry as Joseph's brothers did to him, but we must see them through God's eyes of compassion and minister to them in love, whether they receive our message or not. Joseph understood that God uses vessels of dishonor to achieve His purposes, even if it means His honorable vessels are mistreated or dishonored for a time. After all the hate and betrayal at the hands of His brethren Joseph, with Christ-like compassion ministered salvation to his brothers...

He wanted to be alone with his brothers when he told them who he was... Then he broke down and wept aloud. His sobs could be heard throughout the palace, and the news was quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace... "I am Joseph!" he said to his brothers. "Is my father still alive?" But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them... And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother whom you sold into Egypt (betrayed). But don't be angry with yourselves that you did this to me, for God did it. He sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives... These two years of famine will grow to seven, during which there will be neither plowing nor harvest... God has sent me here to keep you and your families alive so that you will become a great nation... Yes, it was God who sent me here, not you! And he has made me a counselor to Pharaoh — manager of his entire household and ruler over all Egypt (Gen 45:1-8) NLT.

We like Joseph must understand that our ministry is to bring salvation to our brethren so they can become a *great nation*. The body of Christ is to be the *glorious church*. Thus true end time ministers understand that they are here to perfect the body of Christ—to bring it to maturity through Joseph type leadership that has been prepared and tested for such a ministry as this. Those who are chosen as vessels of honor for true end time ministry will be changed from glory to glory by God's pattern for preparation. This pattern includes:

The Joseph Pattern

- **Revelation** ... Joseph's ministry began with prophetic revelation. God will prophetically reveal His purposes to us—just as He revealed them to Joseph through prophetic dreams. God's holy remnant will have His vision for His people to be delivered from their spiritual famine and drought. They will not just seek revelation from God only to benefit themselves and heap it upon their own lusts. They want revelation so God's purposes are fulfilled in His people.
- **Rejection** ... Revelation from God tends to puff us up, therefore God allows rejection to keep us humble—so we can be true ministers of truth and carriers of God's presence. This means we will become “living accusations” which will provoke and irritate those living under the spirit of this age who are carnal (brethren and unbelievers). Joseph was a carrier of the true voice of God—he endured rejection by those closest to him for speaking the revealed truth. Rejection will most certainly come to us from those who are offended by our standard for purity and truth in this sin soaked world. When we are mocked and falsely accused or treated unjustly for our Christian faith and for sharing the gospel of repentance and faith in Christ—will we shrink back in fear and be intimidated by the forces of evil? Or will we be willing to endure the sufferings of Christ and take whatever comes our way with humility and count it all joy to suffer for the cause of Christ?
- **Promotion**... Those who remain humble when being tried by rejection and persecution will fulfill their destiny to help equip and mature God's people. Like Joseph they will be in the world (Egypt) but not of the world—just as Joseph was in Egypt for the purpose of saving God's people—but never considered himself to be an Egyptian. He knew his spiritual identity and purpose. Our ultimate promotion will come as true



saints of God, when we finally inherit our glorified bodies ... we will all be transformed... It will happen in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, the Christians who have died will be raised with transformed bodies. And then we who are living will be transformed so that we will never die... For our perishable earthly bodies must be transformed into heavenly (glorified) bodies that will never die (1 Cor 15:51-53) NLT.

As He Is So Are We

Because this vile world lies under a curse—the people of this world who do not know and honor God are in a continual state of perishing. “...a curse, like a cancer, ravages the earth. Its people pay the price for their sacrilege. They dwindle away, dying out one by one” (Isa 24:6) TMB.

For this reason God brought forth a new creation upon this earth called His *Holy Nation*. We who are part of this nation are here to manifest who God is to a world who does not know Him. **For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us... For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God (Rom 8:18-19) NKJV.**

We must continually ask ourselves this question—if we sincerely desire to be a chosen vessels of honor for God... “Am I a true representation of who God is to *everyone* around me?” Jesus was the *first born among many brethren* in this Holy Nation and we are to be like Him and represent Him in this world. He has shown or made known to us that our heavenly Father is a God of love and those who do not know God need to have this revealed to them by how we act and react.

...And Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God... we have known (experienced) and believed (have faith in) the love that God has for us. God is love, and he that dwells in (continually experiences) love dwells in God, and God (is continually present) in him (who dwells in God)... Herein is our love (for God) made perfect (perfected by adding what is lacking so we can fully love God and others), that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world (1 John 4:15-17) KJV (Parenthesis mine).

The above text tells us that God’ love in us will cause our love for Him and for others to become “perfected” so that we do not have to fear being judged by God when we stand before Him. This is because *perfection* means we become “like Christ” and want to be pleasing to God our Father just as Jesus is—so are we to be in this world. In the first chapter of the book of Hebrews we get a glimpse of what it means to be as He is in this world...

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets... has in these last days spoken to us by (His) Son(s), whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds... who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high... having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they... For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? (Heb 1:1-5) NKJV

The above text reveals the following concerning who Jesus as God is and it also reveals who we are to be in this world:

- **God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by (His) Son(s).** The word *his* is not found in the original translation and can therefore also refer to *us* as God’s (begotten-born again) *sons* (children). As “sons” we are carriers of God’s word.
- **As sons: We are appointed heir of all things...** (Rom 8:16-17) *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 NKJV.* This means we are also heirs of all things that Christ is an heir to.
- **As sons: we also make the worlds...** The word *worlds* (Strong’s #165 literally refers to the different ages (time periods or dispensations). Jesus “made” (Strong’s #4160) brought about or produced God’s

purposes in each age or dispensation—we as God's sons are to also produce or bring about God's purposes in the age in which we live.

- **As sons we are also the express image of His (God's) person...** To be the *express image* (Strong's #5481) **CWSD:** is to be an exact copy or representation of God's *essence*; Whatever the divine essence (character) of God is, Jesus is said to be its perfect expression of it—thus as sons we are to express or represent the *reality* of God's *person* (Strong's #5287) or the reality of God's *nature*... which means we are to reveal the reality of God to those who do not know Him.
- **As sons we are to uphold all things by the word (rhema) of His power (dunamis)...** to *uphold* (Strong's #5342) is to bear and endure (just as Jesus did and continues to do) whoever or whatever comes our way, we do this by (hearing) the *rhema* word that gives us *dunamis* (*can do*) power. Jesus said He does nothing except what He hears from the Father (rhema). Speaking the rhema word is powerful... (*John 8:28-29*) *I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things... And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him KJV.*
- **As sons we have our sins purged, therefore we are seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high...** (*Eph 2:5-7*) *even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ ; by grace you have been saved... And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus... That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus...KJV.* This text is telling us that those who find salvation and son-ship in Jesus Christ have been given **three things** *because of their union with Jesus Christ ...*
 1. **We are made alive together with Christ** (vs. 5)—this is talking about our spirit coming alive—because it was dead (separated) from God by our sin. Our faith in Jesus brings us into a union together with Him, enabling us to commune with God because of our union with Christ.
 2. **We are raised up together with Christ** (vs. 6) because of our union together with Jesus Christ we become aware and conscious of spiritual truth from God's throne...
 3. **We sit together with Christ in heavenly places** (vs. 6) this means we are appointed to continue to abide, or dwell in the riches of His grace, from the heavenly places from God's throne, which is *shown* (or made to be seen) in us.
- **As sons we are become so much better than the angels...** Adam as a “natural” man was “created” by God from the dust of the earth, which means we as natural people are created a little lower than the angels... however, as “new born of God creations” we are now so much better than the angels (literally: more valuable, useful and serviceable).
- **As sons we by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they...** The word “name” literally refers to one's “character and authority.” As sons of God and as the Bride of Christ we are now called by His name because we are *one* with Christ, which also means we now have God's nature (His character and authority) dwelling in us. It is amazing to realize that God does not dwell within any other thing which He has created, including the angels, which is why we are higher than the angles.
- **For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son(s), Today I have begotten You"? "I will be to Him (and to us) a Father, And He -- (and we as sons) shall be to God a Son"?** When Jesus was born a human upon this earth He was the “only” human to ever be *begotten* (literally: to have God's life and nature generated within Him). When we are “born-again” we too become *begotten sons of God*—and Jesus was the first born (begotten son) among many brethren. (*Rom 8:2*) ... *his Son Jesus), that he might be the firstborn among many brethren KJV.*

May we never forget who we are as God's sons and what our ministry is here on earth, which is that of representing God and that of seeking to translate sinners from the kingdom of darkness into His kingdom —so we can help them to become mature and perfected saints of the Most High God. Time is running out—we don't have many days left to complete our mission here on earth. May these parting words of the beloved Apostle Paul echo always in our ears...

**Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at bringing others to Christ.
Complete the ministry God has given you!
(2 Tim 4:5) NLT**