“Moneychangers in the Temple …”

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(i) “The Triumphal Entry …”

As Jesus stands at the door of the city, about to “enter in.” So too, He stands at the door of our own hearts desiring to enter in, and share what treasures are contained within His!

God our Father delights to see the traits of His Only Begotten Son, The Nature and The Character, the little quirks of God’s Beloved made manifest in each of His sons and daughters!

How often do we see “The Triumphal Entry” of Jesus into Jerusalem as one event, and one event only. Yet, Scripture gives clear indication, that Jesus entered the city three times on three separate occasions, and what’s more, by the three separate author’s of three of The Gospels.

Matthew 21 Verses7-11;
Mark 11 Verses 11-19; 27-33;
Luke 19 Verses 29-38

Just what is the significance of this? Just what are the implications directed toward our lives by these actions?
The First day; 1st Entry.

Mark 11 Verse 11 “And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when He had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, He went out unto Bethany with the twelve.”

The city was the hub and the centre of all things. The focal point of community at this time of the year, was “The Temple” and the celebration of “Passover.”

All of Israel were assembled at Jerusalem for “the feast of Passover.” There can be no coincidence in the gathering together at that “Time” of the year.

The servant King, God’s unblemished Lamb was about to lay His Life down, a sacrifice, once for the many … for the sins of the whole world: The Pharisees, had rightly perceived Him in the midst of their “religious paranoia!”

John 12 Verse 19(b)
“… behold, the world is gone after Him.”
Have you ever taken to wonder as to why the masses meet with Royalty by “rolling out the red carpet?” There is no proof, but an immediate suggestion that perhaps even a pagan acknowledges the Royal pulse that is revealed in The Blood Red of God’s Unblemished Lamb!!!

God’s Kingdom, is located in His Presence: God, is The Eternal One, He inhabits Eternity and to our finite understanding, “Eternity, is forever.” God’s Kingdom, is a Kingdom of established and continuous Blessing.

Scripture states,

Psalm 16 Verse 11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: … in Thy Presence [is] fulness of joy; at Thy Right Hand [there are] pleasures for evermore.”

Commentators and historians, believe that the population of Jerusalem had swollen to at least two million people beyond that of the normal population of the city and its surrounding suburbs.

Expectation, fills the air something, was about to happen, especially when the entire population of a city focuses upon God and the celebration of worship!
Luke writes of Jesus’ approach as He rides in, Matthew and Mark comment only that, “He went into the city,” Mark adds the statement that He,

Mark 11 Verse 11(b)
“… looked round about upon all things, … ”

Mark 11 Verse 11(c)
“… and now the eventide was come, He went out unto Bethany with the twelve.”

Jesus then left “The Temple” and departed “The City.” All the ceremony of worship, would have been in motion, but Jesus disturbed nothing. Jesus entered “The City of The King,” as King, and proceeded to the centre of national life, “The House of God:” Jesus looked, observed, then turned His back and left, “Yes, actions do often speak louder than words!!!” Can’t you hear those solemn words echo?

“I must be about

my Father’s business!!!”

Quite often, its ordinary people, the people in the street, that recognise and rejoice in the fact of “Who,” is in their company. Often, people bound by their own “self-righteousness,” fail to recognise,

“Christ in the midst of them … ”

No “money changers,” would have been in The Temple on this day. But this was about to change, as the dialogue unfolds.

The second day; 2nd Entry.

Mark 11 Verses 15-19 “And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;” (16) “And would not suffer that any man should carry [any] vessel through the temple.” (17) “And He taught, saying unto them,
Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.” (18) “And the scribes and chief priests heard [it], and sought how they might destroy Him: for they feared Him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.”

(19) “And when even was come, He went out of the city.”

The second day, the day that we now call, “Sunday,” the day after “The Sabbath.” Holding God’s House sacred to corporate worship, Jesus enters “The Father’s House,” But does not find it a consecrated place of prayer.

Instead, the flow of worship and prayer, is stifled by these “Temple traffickers and money changers.” Who’s only concern, is that God’s place of communion, has become nothing less than a place of gain and employ!

Many people today use their church friends and acquaintances and the church itself as the focus for transacting and developing business networks.
Linked to “a spirit of greed,” Canaan speaks of “trade or trafficking.”

I believe this is what Jesus found when He cleansed the temple and drove out the moneychangers, we need to note this when dealing with “the Canaanite spirit of greed.”

God told the Israelites that if they did not completely get rid of the Canaanites then they would be to them as a thorn in their side. This is an example of the working of both “greed and merchandising.”

Numbers 33 Verse 55 “But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them [shall be] pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.”

When Jesus entered the Temple, the moneychangers knew that He had every right to be there, and every right to react to their arrogance.

Sin, is sin and no religious cover will hide this fact.
They were found out, this “den of robbers”
their trade was little more than “vice, hiding
under the cloak of maliciousness!”

Jesus bought instruction to both the hearts and
minds of all His disciples. Even before they’d
reached the streets of Jerusalem, Bethany’s road
echoed to the hands on touch of “God’s Great
Love.”
(ii) “Fruitless Fig trees …”

Matthew 21 Verses 19-22 “And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.”

(20) “And when the disciples saw [it], they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!” (21) “Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have Faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this [which is done] to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.” (22) “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”

This certainly was not a lesson in “How to curse unfruitful fig trees.”

“Have Faith in God,” was the lesson of “Fruitless discipleship,” which only leads to dry barren branches.

“Fruitlessness,” always leads to destruction for branches where the sap has stopped her “Life giving flow:”
“Life,” is God-given, and like the touch of water, it always wets what it touches! Problem is that with religion, “seeds cannot produce fruit in a white-washed tomb.”

God at Creation, made tree, each bearing fruit after its own kind ... “good to eat.” But the fruit, also produced seeds, seeds to reproduce, seeds to multiply after its own kind and continue further production. Those trees, that don’t produce, die! Religion and the bondage of its orthodoxy, kills the very life and the tree withers from the roots up!

This is the lesson of the barren fruit tree, the lesson of the fig. Jesus found no “Fruit of Faith,” instead He found leaves with no fruit. But Jesus gave the instruction, to make the destruction of this tree unnecessary ...

“Have Faith in God!”

“Life,” is both “God-given” and “sustained” but “Faith,” must be added to “Faith,” as “Grace to Grace,” “Mercy to Mercy,” and “Truth to Truth.” All Gifted and supported in “Love ... God, is Love;”
John 6 Verse 53 “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no Life in you.”

God, is a God of the second chance, that this the role and the function of “Mercy and Grace.” I can recall another incident that Jesus used to teach concerning that of “Fig trees,”

Luke 13 Verses 6-10 “He spake also this parable; A certain [man] had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.” (7) “Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?” (8) “And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung [it]:” (9) “And if it bear fruit, [well]: and if not, [then] after that thou shalt cut it down.” (10) And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.”

These men to whom Jesus was about to confront, these “moneychangers,” do you think that they didn’t know “Who” was in their midst? They most certainly did!
Historical comment, says that these men, these “moneychangers,” were wicked, immoral men ... as “guilty as sin, rotten to the core.”

They were, “Graceless, hardhearted and unrepentant:” And Jesus, had to pass through their midst to enter The Father’s House!!!

This motley crew were so conniving and evil, that their witness and testimony were never to be submitted to a court of law.

Yet at the same time, they were in the employ of the temple priests. Their job, was to gather coin but only the Hebrew currency which was the only coin permitted for their “Temple tax!”

John 2 Verses 18-21 “Then answered the Jews and said unto Him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou dost these things?” (19) Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” (20) “Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?” (21) But He spake of The Temple of His body.”
Jesus cause great controversy, yes, even violent reaction when He declared before the Pharisees:

“… Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

In the second chapter of John’s Gospel, John records,

John 2 Verses 13(b)-17 “… Jesus went up to Jerusalem,” (14) “And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting;” (15) “And when He had made a scourge of small cords, He drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables;” (16) “And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not My Father’s house an house of merchandise.” (17) “And His disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.”

Jesus had just finished driving out the “moneychangers,” and overturning their tables and chairs.

Birds must have been flying everywhere with both the coins and the tables … the sheep were fleeing into the streets right along with the cattle.
What a ruckus, what a stampede! This was no Saturday afternoon picnic, where someone had knocked over a table and spilt some drinks!!!??

This was literal pandemonium, then He yelled at them,

“My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.”

And latter,

“… Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Righteous indignation fills The Heart of God’s King Priest, these traffickers of mammon, are driven from The Temple. This, the first day of the week, is meant to be a time of freshness in The Presence of God.

John 2 Verses 20-25 “Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?” (21) But He spake of The Temple of His body.”
(22) “When therefore He was risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and The Word which Jesus had said.”
(23) “Now when He was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast [day], many believed in His Name, when they saw the miracles which He did.”
(24) “But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because He knew all [men],” (25) “And needed not that any should testify of man: for He knew what was in man.”

Have you ever asked yourself, “Why were these “moneychangers” there in the first place?”

“Why were they there in the outer courts of The Temple?” “Why was there a need to change money at all?”

Surely God, is only interested in our souls, not our savings; after all, all that one would ever have in regard to possessions or capital, would come from His Hand of Blessing anyway!

I’ll answer that question, with a question; “Have you ever been asked by someone in Church if they have change of a twenty dollar note? I have! I also can remember once when I was a very little boy; putting my hand in the plate, and taking the change!
Don’t worry, I’ve long since repented! (How about yourself???) Long ago, I learned that our Saviour is more interested in your soul than the bottom of your pockets! O’ miserable one!

In cleansing the Temple, Jesus reveals to us two acts that are in themselves prophetic indicators as to what Jesus “is doing,” and “will do” in regard to His return:

Firstly, as judgement begins in the House of God, He is and will purify His Temple. That is both individually and corporately.

Secondly, He will sit down with us, at “The Marriage Supper!” “Cleansing, and Fellowship,” go hand in hand, our Lord, has always operated on the basis of “Face to Face” relationship. You always wash your hands before you eat, don’t you???

When Jesus came into the Temple He found the Gentile courts with cattle in them. The outer courts, were available to all non-Jewish worshippers.

God’s ideal for the Hebrew, was no less than that for all Christians today. You and I, are meant to be beacons that point the way toward Christ.
The outer courtyards were called in the Hebrew “Hieron,” and were therefore consecrated for non-Jews to gather for worship.

Here Jesus finds sheep, cattle and doves along with the changers of money, trading Roman coins for Hebrew. No coin with the figure of the Emperor could be offered within the Temple courts, not for any purpose!

To the religious, it was sacrilege; but for a percentage, their money could be changed for what they deemed acceptable in their hypocrisy.

Jesus saw His Father’s House desecrated by the traffic of men.

Matthew 6 Verse 24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

No effort could be spared for making a profit. Everything was arranged for convenience. These “moneychangers, and sellers of beasts,” were there to make religion easy. But a religion that’s not of the heart, is devitalised!
It’s as dead as the stayed formalism of liturgical worship … “Sit down, stand up, repeat after me!” Any wonder they were about to feel the wrath of The Lamb!

Jesus picked up the cords that lay on the ground. They were very likely the same cords that were used to tether the cattle in the courtyard. He plaited a whip of cords, and went into action:

John 2 Verse (16) “And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father’s House an house of merchandise.”

This word “Merchandise,” comes from the Greek word, “Emporia,” meaning “commerce, trade or business ventures.”

It is also the root from which we get the word “Emporium,” meaning, “a house of trade or business where traders haggle and barter.” Christ Himself swept out the unholy traffic, “The wrath of The Lamb” gave a glimpse of “The Lion” to come. He saw the courts, the places where men gathered to draw near to God as desecrated.
When consuming passion arises from deep within, we realise, that “actions do speak louder than words!!!”

Ecclesiastes 5 Verse 1 “Keep thy foot when thou goest to The House of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.”

“Don’t short change, the Tabernacle of The Heart!”

Distractive thoughts tend to fly in and out of our minds, like doves on the wing they coo, and fly off. “Here one second, and gone the next!”

Matthew 6 Verses 31-34 “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?” (32) “(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.” (33) “But seek ye first The Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (34) “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.”
Let your heart and your mind for that, be set on Jesus, not birds of the air flying in and out to distract away from what’s happening inside.

How often do the hearts of mere men act like that of grazing beasts? They try their hand to extend the good favours of community business in the Household of The Church when they should be about their “Father’s business.”

Some folk, are at times like “mindless sheep,” they move about a fellowship nattering their gossip, with little or no thought for their Lord!

Yes, sheep still suffer from “foot in mouth,” moments that distract and cause profanity in The Tabernacle of the Heart!

You and I, are “Temples on two legs,” God’s injunction for His House, is for a House of both “communion and communication.”

As such, His desire surely is that His abode is there to reverence His company in The Holy communication called, “Prayer:”

“Adam, where are you !!!??”
Judgement, begins and ends with The House of God. He “casts out,” but He indeed “builds up!” He, “overthrows, but He takes in!”

We are called to,

Isaiah 51 Verse 1 “Hearken to Me, ye that follow after Righteousness, ye that seek The LORD: look unto The Rock [whence] ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit [whence] ye are digged.”

Never mind looking at anyone else, we all know deep within the heart just how much Christ disapproves of the irreverent behaviour that we can and do gather within!

This, is what The Word of God has to say about it,

Proverbs 23 Verse 7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart [is] not with thee.”

There is every reason here to suspect that the priests were also receiving their fair share of this profit taking venture. One of the quickest ways to distract away from the issue at hand, was to ask for a sign. Strange how people ask for a distraction to verify The Truth!
2 Peter 2 Verse 19 “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

Jesus, had given a very physical sign of God’s displeasure when He cast them out of the Temple courts. And yet, they cried,

John 2 Verse 18(b) “… What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?”

You can almost hear the words echo around the walls of the Temple courts,

Matthew 12 Verses 39-41 “But He answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:” (40) “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall The Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” (41) “The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas [is] here.”
Instead Jesus cried out to them,

John 2 Verse 19(b)
“… Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Nobody did understand, John tells us that it was after the third day when Jesus was Resurrected, that they remembered and so understood.

John 2 Verse 22 “When therefore He was risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and The Word which Jesus had said.”

The sign was, “Seed is good for nothing if it is stored away in a tomb!”

Matthew 12 Verses 39(b)-40 “… there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:”
(40) “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall The Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
The sign, was later to be uttered from the lips of the Centurion at the foot of The Cross of Calvary.

Matthew 27 Verses 51-54 “And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;” (52) “And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,” (53) “And came out of the graves after His Resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.” (54) “Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was The Son of God.”

“…Truly this was The Son of God.”

First, the veil of the Temple was torn in two! Secondly, there was a massive earthquake! Thirdly, rocks broke open! Fourth, the graves were opened! Fifth, many bodies of the saints arose! Sixth, they came out of their graves and went into Jerusalem and appeared to many!
Seven, The Centurion and those that were with him saw the earthquake and the things that were done. They feared greatly, then they declared! Eight, saying, Truly this was The Son of God.”

What more of a sign could you ask for? “The Cross and The Resurrection!”

John 2 Verses 23-25 “Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast [day], many believed in His Name, when they saw the miracles which He did.” (24) “But Jesus did not commit Himself unto them, because He knew all [men],” (25) “And needed not that any should testify of man: for He knew what was in man.”

His sign, produced a belief, but belief based on the spectacular, is always shallow and lacking. Could anyone commit to such a feeble response, a response that gives it’s loyalty begrudgingly?

Their commitment lay rather toward their religion and the building complex of the Temple that they so vehemently defended!
Matthew 23 Verses 16-22 “Woe unto you, [ye] blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!”
(17) “[Ye] fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?”
(18) “And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.” (19) “[Ye] fools and blind: for whether [is] greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?” (20) “Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon.” (21) “And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein.” (22) “And he that shall swear by Heaven, sweareth by The Throne of God, and by Him that sitteth thereon.”

John 2 Verses 20-21 “Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?”
(21) “But He spake of The Temple of His Body.”

But, there was a man of the Pharisees to whom Jesus did commit Himself. Nicodemus, was one who had that deep “knowing” deep within his heart. “Time” had parted it’s door and he could taste “Eternity” on the wind:
John 3 Verses 1-2 “There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:” (2) “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”

Drawn with the cords of God’s Great Love, both Joseph of Aramathea and Nicodemus, were labelled as “secret disciples.” Both men of mature years, they showed that there is more courage in quiet determination than the noise and impetus behaviour of youth.

John 2 Verse 25(b) 
“… He knew what was in man.”

There was nothing hidden from Jesus, remember Peter was undone by a glance.

Ephesians 1 Verse 18(a) 
“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know … ”

There is nothing mystical in that, so don’t go there. Don’t try to weave in that which is glaringly obvious, you and I, are both undone in the company of our King!
Isaiah 6 Verse 5 “Then said I, Woe [is] me! for I am undone; because I [am] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen The King, The LORD of Hosts.”

Nicodemus, was drawn to Jesus Himself, heart attracts heart, like attracts like. Nicodemus, was so tired of legalism and formal religion. Now was his chance to hear direct from Heaven, “Face to face,” with God’s Own Son!

John 3 Verse 3 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee,

Except a man be born again,

… he cannot see …

The Kingdom of God.”

The illustration of Jesus, came as a breath of “New Life,” he desired to sail with “The Wind of God.”

John 3 Verse 8 “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth:

so is every one that

is born of The Spirit.”
Can’t you just hear the sounds of “Living stones” being cut out of the quarry??

What a marvellous thing, a man could begin all over again. Here I am, a result of the processes I have hopefully grown through.

How I develop, is the result of a whole raft of experiences even those of an hour ago have contributed to how I am now!

More’s to the point, they reflect as to “Who’s I am!” All the past of my past, I carry before you and into the present and together through what lies ahead in the future! All reflect and reveal the Truth of my inward Character and make-up:

John 3 Verse 6 “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of The Spirit is spirit.”

We are not to confuse flesh, with Spirit;

John 3 Verse 8(a) “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: …”
We cannot see the wind, but we can gauge which direction it came from and follow to where it’s going to ... But it is impossible for us to contain it! We can obey the wind and go with it to our advantage and use it for the benefit of all. We need to “go with the flow.”

If we obey the direction of The Spirit of Grace, we will both know and understand that God, is a God of “order and balance,” Who has a plan and a purpose for our good and the benefit of all! His desire, is to dwell or Tabernacle with men in the Temple of their hearts, and corporately in The Body of His Church with believers as “Living Stones” abiding and residing in Christ Jesus on “The Rock of His Foundation!”

John 3 Verse 7 “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”


“The Gospel according to John.”
God has given “The Life,” that has come through “The Gift.”

John 3 Verse 16 “For God so Loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life.”

“For God so Loved the world, (that is, every part of His Creation and the Created) that He gave His Only Begotten Son, (Full of Grace and Truth, God from God. Begotten, not made, One in Being with The Father) that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life.”

The true Christian, desires fruit that may be pleasant and pleasurable to The Father. He has nothing to hide under fig leaves, his desire is for his Lord … what’s yours???

Cleansed of “moneychangers and traders,” God’s Great High-Priest gathers the sick into The Temple courts and heals them to the sound of children singing songs of praise and adoration to God.
Once again, The Temple is cleansed and restored, now once again, Israel can enjoy the tranquillity of worship before,

“The Living God, Hosanna, in The Highest!”

Luke’s Gospel, only gives a brief encounter of this second day and its events, but now, Jesus enters again, the third day, as

“God’s Prophet.”

The Third day; 3rd Entry.

Mark takes up the dialogue,

Mark 11 Verses 27-33 “And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to Him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders,” (28) “And say unto Him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things?” (29) “And Jesus answered and said unto them, I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.” (30) “The baptism of John, was [it] from Heaven, or of men? answer Me.”
(31) “And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From Heaven; He will say, Why then did ye not believe Him?” (32) “But if we shall say, Of men; they feared the people: for all [men] counted John, that he was a prophet indeed.” (33) “And they answered and said unto Jesus, We cannot tell. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

This day, Jesus sits to teach, yes, man can be taught out of deception: But it’s a matter of choice as to whether he will receive the correction!

These, the rulers that commanded Jesus to tell the crowd and His disciples “to be quiet!” These were about to hear the reality of what Jesus replied, that is, that if His disciples held their peace,

Luke 19 Verse 40(b)
“ … I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”

Now, in His Presence, the very stones of “The Temple,” and it’s foundations groan because of “Salvation in their midst!”
This, the hour of His rejection and Jesus knew full well,

Matthew 13 Verse 57(b)
“… Jesus said unto them,

A prophet is not without honour,
save in his own country,
and in his own house.”

The nation, was in the process of rejecting Him, in His own land, and in the abode of
“His Father’s House.”

So Jesus corrected their arguments in favour of
The Father’s Good Will, Purpose and Good Pleasure! As Prophet-Priest, Jesus knew full well the cry that would soon come from the city’s own lips.

Matthew 27 Verse 25
“Then answered all the people, and said,

His Blood [be] on us, and on our children.”
This was the sign of the fig tree that died from the roots!

“… His Blood [be] on us, … ”

And it was, Jesus God’s Christ, “no victim, but Victor!”
The first entry, was as “King,”
The second, He came as “Priest,”
The third, He stands as “Prophet.”

Thus, the office is forefilled,
    God’s Divinity veiled in the flesh,
    Jesus God’s Christ,
    “Prophet,”
    “Priest,”
    and “King!”

Does Jesus Christ rule and reign within your heart? The question can now only be directed toward the “heart of hearts.” God’s Word states,

1 Corinthians 3 Verse 16
“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

Firstly, He stands and knocks to enter, when He comes into “The Temple of your heart,” He looks to assess the heart condition.

Secondly, He comes to cleanse and purify.

Thirdly, He comes to reside as KING!
“Won’t you now invite Him in!!!??”

What do the foundation stones of your heart cry? “All Hail King Jesus!” or I will continue to rule via “self,” and “self” alone.

Habakkuk 2 Verse 11 “For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.”

You see, that’s the problem, “self,” does rule, but very much alone. “Self,” and “selfishness,” are so isolating that you are literally cut off from the power of potential that God desires to birth within.

That is why The Lord, desires “The Temple,” of your heart, the habitation not built with hands.

What is the cry of your heart, does it join with the “Hosanna of the saved!!!??”
Luke 19 Verses 41-42 “And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it,”
(42) “Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things [which belong] unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.”

Even the stony cold hearts at Calvary cried out at God’s Perfect Sacrifice;

Matthew 27 Verse 54(b)
“ … saying, Truly this was the Son of God.”

If men did not rejoice at Christ’s advent,

“ … the stones would immediately cry out.”

When God’s Glory begins to move in our midst, religion always pleads for quiet!

Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, called public attention to His undeniable arrival. Jesus knew their “stony hearts,”

“And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it, …”
The character of Jerusalem’s inhabitants were known to Him, each man and every woman. He knew their cruelty, their stubborn self-righteousness, their obstinate and prideful hearts.

To the self-righteous, “Hosanna,” became an accolade of public display, it was attention seeking at it’s best because everybody else was crying it out! **Nothing of reality comes from a “self-seeking heart!”**

When my wife Nicola and I were in class at Bible college in Brisbane Australia, one evening a student, from Tanzania Africa called Vitalis rose to give testimony during a discussion about this very subject,

“… if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”

Much to the surprise of all present, he told of an actual event that took place in his own village in the early nineties. The entire class of fifty were held with intrigue as the story unfolded.

“Don’t think that just because you haven’t been there and seen it happen … that it can’t!”
“I have, and it frightened not only me and my family, but our entire village:”

“Admittedly, it was the work of an occultic spirit, but it happened just the same by the hand of the local witchdoctor.”

“The stone of the path that lead to his hut cried out a warning of impending danger it this man’s peace was interfered with!”

“For those that refused to listen, an even worse fate waited for those who would not comply with his demands!”

Both Nicola and I know and have heard this wonderful Brother in Christ preach and teach and have no reason to doubt his testimony nor that of his family. For their Love and Faith in The Lord Jesus Christ, there can be no doubt!

So we have no problem believing that what they bore witness to, was fact, and relayed accurately in truth:

We know, that what The Bible say’s, is True, John 3 Verses 19-21 “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”
(20) “For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.” (21) “But he that doeth Truth cometh to The Light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

There, is nothing that is done in darkness, that shall not be bought into the Light. Often men Praise God with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him!

This is the message that Jesus was conveying to these Pharisee’s that,

If men did not rejoice at His arrival, then these inanimate, cold dead stones would rise to match the hardness of their hearts and cry out for joy!

At His Advent, His arrival by birth, the Angels of Heaven, cried out in Worship,

“Peace on the earth, and Good will toward all men!”

The Peace that floods Heaven, has now touched that of earth now all men can join the rejoicing throng,

“Glory in The Highest:”
(iii) “The Doves and The Blood …”

It is rather interesting to see that according to Old Testament statutes, a pair of doves was acceptable from the poor, for “a sin offering” in relation to temple sacrifice!

Well you may ask, what has the selling of doves for sacrifice in the Temple to do with these changers of money and their profanity within God’s House?

Mark 11 Verse 15(b) & (c)

“ … overthrew the tables … and the seats of them that sold doves;”

John 2 Verse 16 “And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise.”

Do you see Jesus whispering this? No, I don’t, either; He must have yelled at them! Did Jesus make a whip of cords? Yes! Did Jesus overturn tables and drive out the moneychangers, their sheep and cattle and turn over tables and scatter birds everywhere … yes He did!

If someone is standing in the path of a huge
truck, do you whisper a warning? No, you yell for their safety … don’t you!!!??

God has given the victory into the hand of our Christ, through the power of His shed Blood. Earthly existence has become then in reality our “Faith boot camp” … the training ground.

Out of the foolishness of the Cross comes the unsearchable wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1 Verse 18 “For the preaching of The Cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is The Power of God.”

1 Corinthians 3 Verse 18 “Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.”

Between us and God’s Wisdom is the “valley of humility,” where we have to lay aside worldly wisdom. We have to become fools in the eyes of the world that we may really enter into God’s Wisdom.

“Some things may be taught with
the mouth, but the majority of what God says, is caught in the heart!”

1 Corinthians 8 Verse 3 “But if any man love God, the same is known of Him.”

Ever seen two people in love, how they look into each other's eyes ... What do your eyes behold? Are your eyes, the eyes of one

“knowing ... One known?”

Song of Songs 1 Verse 15 “Behold, thou [art] fair, my love; behold, thou [art] fair; thou [hast] doves’ eyes.”

The eyes of a dove, hold a “fixed field of vision,” what the dove sees, it beholds in a concentrated view. The reason being, is that sight, is a major part of the defence of this “flighty bird.” The dove, is a skittish bird ... so much so, that it doesn’t take much to put it to flight. It will not stay where it is not wanted and has no real means of defence, other than to be ready to flee instantly from any imposing danger and it is for this reason that the powers of observation of the dove are so acute.

This gentle bird of the light, does not
skulk about in the shadows but lives its life constantly in the light of day.

"Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair ... "

There is so much need today for one to be fair, both in one’s dealings with our fellowman but more so to do with our “function and appearance.”

Darkness, usually indicates that one has something to hide, something to cover up. Twice the King has made the point to his beloved, that she is fair ... In the language of the day, this is quite a complement.

She is above reproach even in the sight of her peers. Just how “pure, transparent and fair” do we present ourselves not only to our fellowman, but also to our KING?

The world, so readily judges after the sight of its eyes on the basis of “what you see, is what you get!”

But praise God, that THE KING does not judge
... He instead, looks into yours.

Matthew 6 Verses 22-23 “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.” (23) “But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great [is] that darkness!”

Praise God, that His work begins on the “inside, to turn us ... inside out and right side up!”

2 Corinthians 3 Verse 18 “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of The Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by The Spirit of The Lord.”

We must ultimately ask ourselves the question, “Do we really look, or just glance, do we observe with the eyes of His Spirit,” or do we acknowledge what we see via limited understanding and what scripture says,

Eyes you have, but you do not see!”

God by His “Great Grace,” has
pulled us out of the wasteland of our sin, He by His Great Grace pulled me and you out of the miry pit and I for one refuse to allow the tongue of any accuser to try to put me back there, “YOU JUST DON’T HAVE THAT POWER!!!”

Deuteronomy 32 Verses 10-12 “He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; He led him about, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of his eye.” (11) “As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:” (12) “[So] The LORD alone did lead him, and [there was] no strange god with him.”

And once we are secure in Him, He keeps us as, “the apple of His eye!”

Psalm 14 Verse 6 “Evil doers frustrate the plans of the humble, but The Lord is their protection.” (Good News version.)

Isn’t it nice to know, that we are in fact the
focus of God’s attention.

“The apple of the eye,” is the Hebrew word “ishon,” meaning “manikin, in other words, the very pupil of the eye.”

Often, there are those times that we don’t feel like we are in the focus of His gaze, but rest assured, He is ever near.

There is a second word which we feel is pertinent here, and this is the word, “trumalia” literally rendered as,

“the eye of a needle!”

Zechariah 2 Verse 8(b)

“... for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of His eye.”

... And if they do, just watch out!!!

We have looked basically at the way that men received Jesus at His first Advent, now we shall see how this and the subject of “Doves and the Temple” relate. What was the offering required of Joseph and Mary at the dedication of baby Jesus? I wish, that ministers would read God’s Word,
then they would understand that this was in fact “infant dedication,” and NOT infant baptism which is in fact unscriptural.

Joseph and Mary as husband and wife bought the appropriate sacrifice of “two turtle doves, the Dove of God’s Love” pictured yet again for we blind folk to see!

Let’s read together, this exciting passage from the Gospel of Luke:

Luke 2 Verses 22-24 “And when the days of her purification according to The Law of Moses were accomplished, they brought Him to Jerusalem, to present [Him] to The Lord; (23) “(As it is written in The Law of The Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)” (24) “And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in The Law of The Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

All offerings that were made in the temple, were bought in peace. The intent being, the re-establishment and refreshment of communion in God’s Presence.

Hebrews 12 Verse 14 “Follow peace with all [men],
and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"

The doves that were offered, were offered after childbirth, after the days of purification. Interestingly, one dove was for “a burnt offering” ... which speaks of “The Refiners Fire.” The second, being for “a sin offering” as the priest makes atonement for Mary. The last words of,

Leviticus 12 Verse 8(b) state, “... then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean.”

Mary and Joseph were sinners, “just like us!!!” If this were not the case, why were the doves offered to fulfil scripture?

I also believe, that two doves, are representative of both the “Nature and the Character” of the One made manifest in their presence.

The Dove of God’s Love, The Holy Ghost, hovering over the innocence of The Christ Child with words to be echoed in time ... Luke 9 Verse 35 “And there came a voice out of the
cloud, saying,
... This is my beloved Son: hear him.”

Two Turtle doves, one dove showing the
“Nature of Holiness,” the other revealing the
“Character of Holiness” in The
Presence of The Child Jesus who is
Christ!

Luke 1 Verses 76 -79 “And Thou, Child, shalt be
called The Prophet of The Highest: for thou shalt go
before The Face of The Lord to prepare His Ways;”
(77) “To give knowledge of salvation unto His
people by the remission of their sins,” (78) “Through
the tender Mercy of our God; whereby the
dayspring from on High hath visited us,” (79) “To
give light to them that sit in darkness and [in] the
shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of
peace.”

I am of the firm conviction, that there is no such
thing as “blind Faith,” however, there is such a
thing as

“the blind leading the blind …”
Only those that are prone to being suicidal, take those “blind leaps” in the dark without first counting the cost!

“Faith looks facts in the face ... do you really believe that what God has promised, He is able to perform??!!”

Matthew 10 Verse 16 (b)
“… wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

“Cunning as a serpent, but with the gentleness of The Dove of God’s Love!” “Wisdom” knows, that “The Fear of The Lord, is just Wisdom’s Beginning.”

Ever seen a dove gain great height, she does this, to travel great distance. As she soars and glides back to earth. But, the dove will only take flight, if there is no sign or threat from her enemies.

The word “Wise” as presented here, does not relate to “cunning craftiness” but instead, it means to us the simplicity of “one that is without flaw or fault.”
It is unharmful, it is “Wisdom” that builds character.

It does not tear down; it builds both “strength and character, because it pulses with the very breath of God’s Own Life!”

A serpent’s wisdom, comes to a rapid end the very second it strikes out and becomes vicious: The doves’ wisdom on the other hand, ends the very second that she becomes “careless!”

Our authority, is in Christ Jesus, and proceeds out of His Heart Passion for those that are the lost.

Our service, is given willingly, not grudgingly but out of “gratitude.” Our attitude, does determine our altitude, either we are seated with Christ in Heavenly places, or we are not:

If we are not, our wisdom, is “the wisdom that proceedeth not from above … ” (it is in fact wisdom that is of the wrong heart motive) … it is earthly, it is sensual (fleshly wisdom) it is devilish in its cunning and manipulative wiles.
1 Corinthians 10 Verse 15
“I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.”

John 3 Verses 29-33 “He that hath The Bride is The Bridegroom: but the friend of The Bridegroom, which standeth and heareth Him, rejoiceth greatly because of The Bridegroom’s Voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.” (30) “He must increase, but I [must] decrease.” (31) “He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.” (32) “And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. (33) “He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.”

Sin, was (and is) compared directly to that of the cancerous effects of leprosy, and God's treatment of its contagion.

You cannot even begin to discuss the subject of God’s Forgiveness, without talking about the Blood of Jesus Christ.

There are two things, that are glaringly obvious, the fact that both “Remission and Forgiveness” are inseparably linked.

The Power of “The Blood,” means that my sins are remitted.
The price has been paid by a cost that is ... WITHOUT MEASURE!

THE SPOTLESS BLOOD OF GOD’S OWN SON!

What happens to that which was shed? Surely, the answer in all logic is that it must be appropriated by action.

1 Peter 1 Verses 2-5 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God The Father, through sanctification of The Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of The Blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”
(3) “Blessed [be] The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant Mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”
(4) “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you,”
(5) “Who are kept by The Power of God through Faith unto Salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
Yes, actions do speak louder than words ... The Blood must be applied! That which was firstly “shed,” is now secondly to be “applied,” it has to be sprinkled:

Psalm 51 Verse 7 “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

The Blood of Jesus is absolute security from Almighty God’s judgement toward sin ... but only when accompanied by a heart of obedience. No man nor angel, can perform the task of both “acceptance and application for you ... it is a personal thing; a transaction if you like, between Holy God and sinful you!”

Isaiah 1 Verse 18 “Come now, and let us reason together, saith The LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

Our obedience, can neither add nor take anything away from the fact of our “hope in Jesus’ Precious Blood!”

But, it is by your obedience, that you show the value of His sacrifice for you!!!
It in fact verifies that you value its security and “Blessed Hope in its Atoning Power.”

Leviticus 14 Verse 4 “Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive [and] clean, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop:”

The priests could not heal them, but as with those tainted by sin today, we as ministers must readily avail ourselves to those who return in true penitence to the “sheepfold.”

Isaiah 1 Verse 16 “Wash you, make you clean; ... put away ... the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;” (distinctions mine.)

This, “putting away,” constituted an act of obedience on the part of the one being cleansed. The method by which this took place involved cleansing by a native herb called “Hyssop,” which is by nature, a herb of cleansing.

“Hyssop,” is referred to as an astringent and as such, has antiseptic qualities. The aroma, is similar to another very close relative, “Marjoram” (Origanum) the fragrant scent covering the odour of leprosy, that of rotting flesh.
By being both antiseptic and cleansing, we can see the value of its God-given properties.

The “Hyssop” applied to our lives, can be likened to the cleansing touch of “The Spirit of Grace” ... which prepares the heart, for “The Bloods cleansing flow:”

The general reference to its botanical name, is “Hyssopus Officinalis.” And scripture gives various indications of its uses in the role of both cleansing and purification.

Indigenous to the Northern African and Western Asian regions, this plant of the ‘Labiate’ family readily demonstrates its aromatic and detergent properties.

As it was not only used with water to clean the house of a man affected by leprosy. It also was used as a cleansing agent to purge a tent, a person or a vessel which was polluted by the touch of a dead body.

Readily at hand, this wilderness “Hyssop,” was to provide the cleansing touch to be used by the priest after The Lord had healed them.
For us today, the significance of The Blood and The Water testifies as to the like-type of Christ Jesus who came by Water and Blood.

1 John 5 Verses 6-12 “This is He that came by Water and Blood, [even] Jesus Christ; not by Water only, but by Water and Blood. And it is The Spirit that beareth witness, because The Spirit is Truth.” (7) “For there are three that bear record in Heaven, The Father, The Word, and The Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” (8) “And there are three that bear witness in earth, The Spirit, and the Water, and The Blood: and these three agree in one.” (9) “If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which He hath testified of His Son.” (10) “He that believeth on The Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son.” (11) “And this is the record, that God hath given to us Eternal Life, and this Life is in His Son.” (12) “He that hath The Son hath Life; [and] he that hath not The Son of God hath not Life.” (distinctions mine.)
If the leper, was found to be healed by The Lord, the priest was informed and the declaration of cleanliness was preceded by the leper taking two birds, (two turtle doves), one killed and bled into an earthen vessel over flowing with clean water.

The priest, did not kill the bird, because it was not in itself a sacrifice. But because it was a testimony declaring “cleansing or purging” by The Hand of The Lord. The declaration was then announced by the supportive priest testifying of the leper cleansed from disease.

Matthew 10 Verses 32-33 “Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in Heaven.”
(33) “But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in Heaven.”

Of the two birds, one was representative of Jesus dying for our sins, His Precious, Sinless Blood shed once for the many. The other bird representing rising again, pure and clean:

Matthew 26 Verse 28 “For this is My Blood of The New Testament, which is shed for many for ... the remission of sins.”
The word, “Remission” Gk, aphesis; pronounced (af'-es-is) is rendered as, “forgiveness, deliverance, and liberty.”

1) “Release from bondage or imprisonment.”
2) “Forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), showing full remission or payment of the penalty.”

Mark 1 Verse 4 “John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”

Luke 1 Verse 77 “To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,”

Romans 3 Verse 25 “Whom God hath set forth [to be] a propitiation through Faith in His Blood, to declare His Righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”
The “Hyssop,” was tied to the end of a cedar stick, to fashion a kind of brush. This live bird, had its wings tied along the stick of cedar, with “the scarlet thread,” Scarlet is a color used especially in clothing, often designating royal honour.

Cedar symbolized “growth and strength,” the cedar trees owed their existence to God, who had planted them. The wood played a still-unknown role in the purification rites of Israel. Kings used cedar for building, it signified both “royal power and wealth.”

Just as that bird was bound to the strength of the cedar stick, it had to “rest” in the fact that the crimson cord would hold it firm. So to do we in direct parallel need to rely on the safety of “His everloving arms” ... He is our sure hope!

The second bird dipped into the blood of the first till all its feathers were dripping. Seven times, the “Hyssop and Cedar brush” was dipped into the mixture of the blood of the slain bird and the water in the earthen vessel. Then held aloft, the cord was cut and the live bird released ... dripping, ascending, flapping off into the freedom of release.
A very expressive picture of Christ Jesus slain, yet risen and ascending victorious. Scattering the drops of His Atoning Blood ... rising to place it before The Father’s Throne, the one Perfect sacrifice for ALL!

Every Christian knows full well, that in himself, there is absolutely no reason as to why he should be cleansed. The action of the cross, does not save us, till Christ’s Blood is sprinkled on our conscience ... but there stands “The Great High-Priest, the Son of God.”

He offered His Own Blood for us, He who offered it applies it also to the conscience. “But therein lies the parallel, The Blood, was not shed to cover sin ... it was shed to obliterate it!”

Hebrews 10 Verse 22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of Faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

After the leper was cleansed, he arose to be presented, then once released, what was done by him, was then done by a cleansed man ... one who was no longer tainted!
There will be no cleansing from evil habits, until there is cleansing by “The Blood,” First “The Blood, then the water.” And once the nature is cleansed the new nature within, will begin to rise and guilt, is put away.

Romans 8 Verse 1 “[There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit enables you “to do” ... because of your “inability, you need to take on the ability of Christ Jesus,” through the life which God has put into you.

“Washings, by The Water of The Word” follow naturally, as the “endurement of Power from on high” helps you to “follow peace with all men and holiness;” In the purity of Christ’s Nature ... the Character of His Life birthed within.
(iv) “The Frozen Chosen . . .”

When God restored the communion that had been broken by man due to “the fall.” God spoke directly to men like Noah and Moses; but He etched “His Word” in “Stone:”

God was saying by His actions, “Though your hearts are as stone toward me, yet, I will again free up the dust in your veins and give you a heart of flesh that will desire to commune with Me!”

Ezekiel 36 Verses 25-28 “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.”

(26) “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” (27) “And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My Statutes, and ye shall keep My Judgments, and do [them].”

(28) “And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God.”
Christ alone, kept “The Law” perfectly, He is the Perfect example of a heart that “beats hard in obedient determination toward The Will of God!”

The courts of the Temple, were courts of stone. But these stones were encased with silver. And silver, speaks to us of “Redemption.”

The beams of cedar in both the inner and the outer courts were overlaid with gold.

Gold speaks to us of “Righteousness,” Christ’s “Right/Wise/Ness,” the incorrupt, sinless Royal Priest, Jesus, our Great HighPriest.

Though the stone was hewn from the quarries of the world, hearts of stone, were transformed into hearts of flesh. And cold hearts instead, became “Living Stones.”

Yes, “The Life, is in The Blood,” once the sinless Blood of Jesus was shed, cold Temple courts now pulsed with The Life that flowed from Calvary’s hill ...

“Once, for all men, everywhere!”
“Only believe, only receive!”
Revelation 21 Verse 3 “And I heard a great voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, The Tabernacle of God [is] with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, [and be] their God.”

When a heart has grown cold from this contemptuous thing called “familiarity,” you can rest assured that “a cold hard heart, will affect the entire body.”

It was Shakespeare that wrote, “No wind blows as cold, as the cold wind of ingratitude!”

When individuals in a Church become cold, they become numb and the first thing to go, is fellowship and friendship. People begin to get “frozen out,” and the fellowship begins to loose both it’s “passion and compassion.”

They very quickly set themselves on a path of deception to become cold hearted legalists. The ability to serve one another becomes the task of the “selective elective,” the “chosen few.”
And they unfortunately view service as a means to an end. To pacify the whims of leadership so long as they appear to be going through the motions, they maintain the status quo.

In reality, they have only gained “frost bite,” from frozen hands and feet. They themselves, have become desensitised and are unable to discern that they have become fruitless and impotent and unable to reproduce!

The only real remedy to reverse the frost bite of this frozen company, is to gather around them to rally and encourage with the warmth of true fellowship and give a good heart meal of God’s Word, to warm them up on the inside:

The problem being, is that the longer the exposure to those frozen out, the less chance there is of reversal. Where “familiarity breeds contempt, denial becomes a numbing agent.”

Once the heart is closed off, “ingratitude, renders that dear heart cold and indifferent.” The following result, is that “ingratitude,” will suffocate the Life right out of that person.
Ever found some people that you feel good just talking with? They have that natural warmth of Holy Ghost zeal pumping through their veins. They have that inner fire that builds the response of “gladness,” simply because they are “grateful” for what Jesus has done.

Ten years, twenty years, thirty years on in Christ, their “first Love for Jesus never waxes cold!” Their lives shine with “Gold bars of gratitude,” and like the disciples before them,

Acts 2 Verses 46-47 “And they, continuing daily with one accord in The Temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,” (47) “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And The Lord added to The Church daily such as should be saved.”

This, is often where we overlook what is written,

“… with gladness and singleness of heart,”

Their lives shine with “Gold bars of gratitude.”
Often when my wife and I are out walking, we meet folk who we know and we greet them. Often we ask how their family are and it seems natural for us ask how their fellowship is.

We are interested in not only their kin and kind, but their Church family as well. We see the family, as a whole, not just an isolated part kept just for Sunday.

We asked the same of a young sister in Christ recently, and to our shock, this was her astonishing reply.

“I don’t go anymore, Church has become a waste of “Time” to me!” “I have my relationship directly with The Lord, and I don’t need anyone else!”

My reply to her was one of shock,

“But we need you!!!??”

The Bible puts it like this,

1 Corinthians 12 Verses 15-22 “If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?” (16) “And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?”
(17) “If the whole body [were] an eye, where [were] the hearing? If the whole [were] hearing, where [were] the smelling?” (18) “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him.” (19) “And if they were all one member, where [were] the body?” (20) “But now [are they] many members, yet but one body.” (21) “And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.” (22) “Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:”

Trying hard to justify her stance, she became abrasive and bleated out …

“Church has become like MacDonald’s drive through to me!” “If I want takeaway, I go to Macca’s or Burger king!”

Well, I’m sorry for her, I’d rather sit at The Feet of our King … Jesus, The Lord, our Christ!

Salvation, is more than a fleeting moment, Salvation, is not a fashionable life-style with the hope of Eternal gain! Salvation, is The Style of Life that portrays The Nature and The Character of The Love from Him who draws from within!
“Hypocrisy” lifts hands in worship to God, yet refuses to reach our those same hands for God!!! Such pretence at worship, is mere vanity!

“The Life,” is in “The Blood,” and the only place that blood can flow, is a body.

If you don’t feel The Pulse of His Life, it’s because the relationship to The Body has been severed, and “The Life” no longer continues to flow. Just in case you have somehow forgotten, we do not belong to a headless body.

Christ, is “The Head” of “The Body!” Headless bodies, cease to function, there is no Life, no communication, without connection to “The Head!” His, or yours, there is really no difference; don’t lose your head over stupid attitudes or differences of opinion. It must be remembered, that we have entered into a “Time,” when we are seeing many who are cutting themselves off from other members of Christ’s Corporate Body.

But God has children, who become in themselves,
“Trees of Righteousness, not tumble weeds!”

We are in that sense Trees of Righteousness, planted by streams of “Living Water,” Not stagnant smelly ponds: A tree that is planted by “Living Water,” is a well hydrated structure. It is vibrant, well shaped, strong and continually producing fruit:

Because it is well saturated, it is clean and fresh even to look at. The condition of the outside, reveals the condition that lies within. You know, trees that are constantly transplanted and being uprooted, will never grow, and they rarely produce fruit!

The Life’s Blood, is like sap flowing through the branches of these “Tree of Righteousness,” if it flows, it grows!

“Trees,” plural, that means, “a cluster, a group and they together go to make up the woods.” Problem being is that many “cannot see the wood for the trees!”
A forest, isn’t a single tree: Trees protect one another in the most intense of storms! They are not infallible, but they do offer a greater degree of protection together!

I can remember a gigantic cedar of Lebanon that grew on the slopes of Razorback ridge outside of Picton New South Wales, West of Sydney Australia. This tree, was planted by the founder of Anthony Horden the owner of a landmark department store in Sydney.

The motto of the store, was the cedar of Lebanon and the catch phrase of, “Whilst I live, I’ll grow!” That was, till some kind soul poisoned the tree!

And we wonder why many are not being healed and made whole when we set examples that folk will just not be draw too!

Many, are not being draw to “the ambassadors” of Him who is meant to be within. I think that it needs to be said, that for “Virtue” to flow from “The Head,” “The Body,” has to be connected for there to be “a heart.” “The Head” and “The Heart,” need each other!
2 Timothy 2 Verses 19 & 21 “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth The Name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

Verse 21 “If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for The Master’s use, [and] prepared unto every good work.”

Let us not be weary of doing well,

Galatians 6 Verses 6-10 “Let him that is taught in The Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.” (7) “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” (8) “For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to The Spirit shall of The Spirit reap Life Everlasting.”
(9) “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (10) “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all [men], especially unto them who are of The Household of Faith.”

Proverbs 30 Verse 12 “[There is] a generation [that are] pure in their own eyes, and [yet] is not washed from their filthiness.”
We would do well to heed the warnings that are contained within God’s Word. If you don’t see Christ in the vessel, then there is only “… a form.”

2 Timothy 3 Verses 1-5 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”
(2) “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,”
(3) “Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,”
(4) “Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;”
(5) “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

God wants reality in His people, He’s calling for people that have genuine hearts toward Him, not their own agendas.

Romans 10 Verse 3 “For they being ignorant of God’s Righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”

I think, that we would all do well, to have at least some discernment in regard to the type of friend and associates that we keep and leave the rest to The Lord, He is big enough to sort us all out after all we are His Children:
(v) “Nebucadnezzar’s nightmare …”

To round off this dialogue in regard to our theme “On Time and Eternity,” we need to look for a while in closing at the lives of several prominent individuals.

What did John The Baptist, Abraham, Moses, King David and King Nebucadnezzar have that connected them to the person of The Lord Jesus Christ?

The answer, is not a trick question, or a complicated one for that! The answer is simply the word, “Stones,” Yes, “Stones,” God Himself raising up the stones of the ground to become children:

Luke 3 Verses 6-9 “And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” (7) “Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (8) “Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to [our] father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”
“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”

“The Rock,” that provided for “water.”

“The five smooth stones, the giant killers!” “The Rock” that came from Heaven and smashed the idol, the image of the King.

And “stones that cry out in Praise and Worship” as The King comes to the Temple and proceeds to drive out “The Moneychangers,” and those that profane His Father’s House!

From the warnings of John for the religious viper’s to

“… flee from the wrath to come!”

To prophetic warnings that came in a dream for an ancient King to come to repentance: Jesus, God’s Christ, is the common thread.

“The stone that the builder’s rejected, “The Rock, of our Salvation,” Jesus Christ, is Lord!
Why is the religious world so intent on denying the existence of Moses and Christ? They even want to deny the existence of King David and the Temple!

The spiritual “Rock,” that followed Israel in the desert, was none other than Christ Himself: Moses, was commanded of The Lord, to speak to “The Rock,” and receive “Water” so that they could live.

Numbers 20 Verse 8 “Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.”

But he disobeyed, when he struck it! He struck “The Rock,” out of frustration, he struck it not once, but twice!

Numbers 20 Verses 9-13 “And Moses took the rod from before The LORD, as He commanded him.” (10) “And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before The Rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this Rock?”
(11) “And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote The Rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts [also].”
(12) “And The LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed Me not, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.”
(13) “This [is] the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with The LORD, and He was sanctified in them.”

What a payment to have to undergo through disobedience! Men may enjoy the same spiritual meat and drink in this life, but come short of the mark in the next.

Sure, Moses was a child of God and as such, he went into the Presence of The Lord in Heaven at his physical death.

After all, if we remember, it was Moses and Elijah that appeared with Jesus on The Mount of Transfiguration in the company of a very excited Peter: If this were not so, then it would never have been mentioned!
Problem being, is “us,” we can always hinder the potential of things to come if we allow “frustration, anger and unforgiveness” to block our access.

1 Corinthians 10 Verses 4-7 “And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.” (5) “But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.” (6) “Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.” (7) “Neither be ye idolaters, as [were] some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”

Many rest on their laurels, many presume they have arrived, when really, they haven’t started yet!

Moses, was instructed to, speak to The Rock, Numbers 20 Verse 8(b)

“… speak ye unto The Rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of The Rock: …”
But he took the rod and spoke to the assembly of the people instead of “The Rock,” we should always speak first and foremost to “The Rock Christ Jesus” all else, is simply what follows. Mose’s action is an action of “unbelief.”

**Numbers 20 Verse 12(b)**

“… Because ye believed Me not, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.”

God’s Way, was “… speak” first,

**Numbers 20 Verse 8(a)**

“Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, …”

Hold in your hand, the staff of your authority, and with your brother Aaron by your side as a witness to the testimony, gather the assembly of the congregation and

**Numbers 20 Verse 8(c)**

“… and speak ye unto The Rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.”
Moses then struck “The Rock;” though water still came forth, God’s Way, was speak first, then do! Not the other way round:

The direct opposite of “Faith,” is “Faithlessness.” It is from the seed bed of “disobedience,” if “disobedience” is the daughter, then “rebellion” is the mother!

Why did Miriam the sister of Moses die? She was hung by her own tongue! Even her name gives us a clue, “Miriam,” (4805) is the Hebrew name meaning, “rebelliously.” “Murmuring, disobedient and speaking out against God’s ordained order of leadership!”

Numbers 20 Verse 13
“This [is] the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with The LORD, and He was sanctified in them.”

In the wilderness they had no water, at Marah they had water, but it was bitter; so that they could not drink it. So, Israel, must have remembered “the bitter waters of Marah.”
They learned their lesson well, because they never ceased to grumble. So God called the waters of this place “Meribah” which means “water of strife,” meaning a place of “quarrelling and blame shifting contention.”

A place where folk banded together to frustrate and provoke even the very purposes of God!

It doesn’t matter which way we travel in life, either way, we are face with choice

“How either we get better,
or we remain bitter.”

James puts it this way,

James 3 Verses 8-11 “But the tongue can no man tame; [it is] an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” (9) “Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.” (10) “Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.” (11) “Doth a fountain send forth at the
same place sweet [water] and bitter?"

Numbers 20 Verses 1-3 “Then came the children of Israel, [even] the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.”

(2) “And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.”

(3) “And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before The LORD!”

“Chode,” is the same as the English word for “Chide” or “chastise.” And really, this type of belittling, is so disrespectful for an elder to have to endure.

God can take the bitter from us, but it does involve choice. True comfort, can only be had in Him, not the promise from the wilderness of this world:

In this distress the people fretted, and
quarreled with Moses. Many showed their hypocrisy, they appeared to be earnest, but in the time of distress, many fell away.

Many who are true believers, will show in seasons of sharp trial, who they really put their trust in! Are the first to fret and show distrust, and murmur? In every trial we should cast our care upon The Lord, and pour out our hearts before Him.

Moses did what the people had neglected to do; he cried unto the Lord. And God provided graciously for them. He directed Moses to a tree which he cast into the water, then, at once, the water was made sweet.

This tree typifies of “the cross of Christ,” which sweetens the toxic effects of sin and affliction for all the Faithful, and enables them to rejoice in the fact of sins forgiven.

At Elim they had good water, and enough of it, though God may, for a time, order his people to camp by the bitter waters of Marah, that shall not always be their lot. He will see us through “the Time” of tribulations and be our ever present help in “Time” of need:

Of this you can be sure, He will never leave
you, nor forsake you. He will never take you into a circumstance or situation that He will not give you the Grace to endure it!

There’s your answer, God’s Patriarch Moses had more going for him than that! We ourselves, would do well to listen, then obey from a “Faith filled heart.” The only alternative, is to be distracted by “a program of lies birthed in a seedbed of toxic weeds called, disobedience and rebellion!”

God never does anything, without guiding you through it and at the same “Time,” giving warning to impending danger and distraction that may lay ahead. If you lead men, you can expect be seeing opposition in some form.

When Moses moved to a place called “Rephidim,” he had Amalek come out to fight against him. Amalek, speaks to us of anything and everything to do with “the flesh and it’s carnal nature:”

Exodus 17 Verses 1&7-8 “And all the congregation
of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of The LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and [there was] no water for the people to drink.”

Verses 7-8 “And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted The LORD, saying, Is The LORD among us, or not?” (8)“Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.”

God provided for the people, by the hand of Moses twice in their journeying,

“Food from Heaven,
and Water from The Rock.”

At the beginning of their “wilderness wanderings,” and at the end; both these references are found in Exodus 17: 1-7 and Numbers 20: 2-13.

Many perished in the sands of the desert, which is no different to the waste lands of this world. But there is a dry and howling place that you can remain in for both “Time and Eternity:”

In every instance in Scripture, “grumbling,
moaning and complaining” bring discipline. “yet another march around the last sand hill!”

Hell, is a waste place, littered with “lifeless corpses,” whilst the soul moans with unspeakable grief.

“If only I’d listened, if only I’d acted on what I’d heard!” “My heart just knew it was right, but my head landed me in hell!!!”

“If only …!”
“Would be …!”
“Could be …!”
“If, but … may be …!”

“When all it takes, is YES AND A-MEN!”
“Let your YES, BE YES, AND YOUR NO BE NO!!!”

Remember the “Time,” when it was
previously written?

Exodus 32 Verse 26(a) “Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said,

Who [is] on The LORD’S side? [let him come] unto me …”

There comes that “Time” in every man’s life when he is faced with the question that he baulks to answer!

People always moan and grumble when dissatisfaction rears it’s ugly head: “Oh, we’ve always done it this way, don’t rock the boat!”

Every stop to think, that the boat does need rocking to shake you out of your complacency?

The more they complained, the more their unsettling, as “The Water” dried up, so did their peace: They continued to complain, so “The Water” turned sour.

Many have sat as hearers of “The Word,” they have been continually washed by it for years; done nothing about it.

Put none of what they have heard into action,
then “moaned and complained” as it dried up and they turned “bitter and sour.”

God’s Word calls the one who “hunger and thirsts” after His Righteousness as Blessed:

Matthew 5 Verse 6
“Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after Righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

Every where that God moved His people too, He supplied for them. Everywhere that the people moved, God supplied water. But one thing that they could not escape from was that everywhere they went, this “Rock” was there!

Strange? Not so, when you realise that nothing is impossible with God:
“Our Rock, The Rock Christ Jesus, The Stone that the builders rejected.”

Jesus follows everywhere in our lives, He said, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you.” And He above all, lives up to His Word, because He is “The Word.”
He has this habit, of turning up, especially
when you call on Him. So, why not be in constant communication, most friends do. Be washed and refreshed by “The Water that flows from The Rock!”

Scripture tells us, that

Psalm 16 Verse 11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy Presence [is] fulness of joy; at Thy Right Hand [there are] pleasures for evermore.”

Elsewhere, it is also written, that there are “Times,” of refreshing in The Presence of The Lord.

Acts 3 Verse 19 “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the Times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”

If we are truly in communion with The Lord, of one thing you can be certain, there will be “Joy,” and there will be “refreshing,” as we are washed by “The Water” from “The Rock.”

Cleansed and bathed by “the washings of

Jesus said,

Matthew 21 Verses 42-46 “Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?” (43) “Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.” (44) “And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.” (45) “And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard His parables, they perceived that He spake of them.” (46) “But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitude, because they took Him for a prophet.”

Notice Jesus said, “Scriptures,” plural, well that hints to us that there are perhaps more than the one passage of reference.

Psalm 118 Verses 22-23 “The stone [which] the
builders refused is become the head [stone] of the corner.” (23) “This is The LORD’S doing; it [is] marvellous in our eyes.”

And then,

Isaiah 8 Verses 14-15 “And He shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.” (15) “And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.”

Now, this is where the wisdom of being a “wise-master builder” kicks in. As Israel were meant to be building the structure of The Messiah’s abode. Jesus was laying their hearts bear before them as a solemn warning that “The Church” today would do well to heed!

“The stone [which] the builders refused is become the head [stone] of the corner.”

He was saying, you are the builders and the one who can support the whole dwelling place of
God stands before you as a set example. “The Rock” of offence, The Head of the corner, the one on whom the weight of salvation rests.

You would do well, to “fall on The Rock in repentance, before you are crushed to pieces by the weight it is impossible for you to bear!”

“The Rock,” can be the only “sin bearer.” You builders are blind to this fact … why? Because you don’t like the shape of The Stone?

Fall on “The Rock,” and be healed or be ground to dust, where there is no chance of healing: Surely, healing is “Mercy’s Touch!!!” You only have to touch the hem of His Robe, and The Virtue flows!

John 1 Verses 12-14 “But as many as received Him, to them gave He Power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on His Name:”
(13) “Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

(14) “And The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His Glory, The Glory as
of The Only Begotten of The Father,) full of Grace and Truth."

Strange situation, when joint-heirs, co-labourers and fellow builders become little more than character assassins, slanders, liars and murders.

Not so strange when you think that He came to save us from these very things. He came to save us from ourselves …

Sin does have a self-destruct button, trouble is, the one who keeps pushing it is not satisfied, till he jumps on it and destroys all: That’s why unqualified builders, are nothing more than a wrecking crew!

Isaiah 10 Verse 15 “Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? [or] shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake [itself] against them that lift it up, [or] as if the staff should lift up [itself, as if it were] no wood.”

What has all this got to do with a nightmarish dream had by an ancient King, well, if you just give me “Time,” I’m getting to that:

We as Christians are meant to have our feet
well and truly planted on “The Rock of our Salvation” The Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Scripture tells us, “How lovely are the feet of him that spreads good news.” That’s the job of The Church, the last part of Christ’s Body to be nailed to The Cross.

The image of the Kings dream, was destroyed by “The Rock,” that came from Heaven and struck it in the legs which were made of iron and clay.

You cannot stand on your feet, once your legs are destroyed, they are useless ... The whole image, crumbled to destruction.

Daniel 2 Verses 31-35 “Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness [was] excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof [was] terrible.” (32) This image’s head [was] of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,” (33) “His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.” (34) “Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet [that were] of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.”

(35) “Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the
silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.”

That my friend is what will happen to all who build towers of iron and clay, based on the arm of the flesh. All Babel’s that tower for a while and seem to succeed, will only crumble and fall at the slightest tap from “The Rock of Heaven!”

Yes, “The wise man builds his house upon The Rock … Christ Jesus!” “Iron,” speaks of human strength, the arm of the flesh, speaks of mans effort, not God’s!

“Clay,” speaks of human effort, we are made of the dust of the ground, formed as clay. Remember, Jesus once used spittle and clay to “restore” the sight of the blind!

Just like the treasures of a kingdom cannot buy you health and length of days, God reminds this king who troubled Israel … Trouble Mine, and I trouble you!

Where’s “the peace” that you cannot buy or
conquer? Where’s “the rest” that you cannot ever consider to buy? Where is “the sleep” that your troubled mind cannot ever hope to demand?

If I had a dream like that one, I’m sure that it would also wake me in a cold sweat too!!!

There is a “God given Gift” that is placed in the soul of even kings, to both “guide and correct.” It’s called, “Conscience.”

The only influence that a man can ever have over this thing called “Conscience,” is to ignore it’s “wee small voice:” But in so doing, we harden our hearts toward it’s promptings.

Sad fact remains, that we can “choose to loose!” Though prince or pauper, all are on equal footing. If we “harden our hearts,” our conscience will become “seared.” “Searing,” means an open wound, is fused closed. If an open wound is seared closed, it usually takes a hot iron to stem the flow of blood.

If we harden our hearts, eventually, we stem the flow of “Redeeming Blood,” to our
conscience and it will be impossible to \textit{“repent”} because of the hardness of our own heart!

If this is a hard lesson to swallow, well then good! Better to loose out on a little than to loose the whole of your life for all of \textit{“Eternity.”}

God’s Kingdom, is an Everlasting Kingdom, He shall reign forever and ever:

\textbf{Matthew 21 Verse 44} And whosoever shall fall on \textbf{This Stone} shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”

I really don’t think that you could get much clearer than that! Many are the hearers, but few are the doers of The Word. There are many hearers in many Churches, who are in the same state as these miserable wretched souls.

Like the chief priests and the rulers, they have been convicted by their own conscience, but fact remains that they love their sin … more than their \textit{“Redeemer!”}

Oh, the dream of this king left undone when he was supposed to be at rest, never loose your peace over the delusions and fantasies of the flesh.
Iron and clay, do have their limits. They will only stand for a short while them when The Hand of The Lord Touches, all will fall to dust!

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Vine, W.E

About the authors.

By way of introduction, the only heart desire of “The Dalton family,” is to see more folk, coming out of themselves, and going deeper into personal relationship with the person of our Lord and Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ:

Bob & Nikki, have compiled and published materials helpful for growth and development in regards to their vision of being an available resource to assist folk to be schooled and skilled in basic foundational doctrine ...

Our only desire before God is to honour and serve the Lord as a family. We love The Lord Jesus Christ and our Father God with all our hearts and are so grateful for the ever faithful ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

_Psalm 40 Verse 8_

“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law [is] within my heart.”

Our injunction to you is therefore ... Let us join together to,

“Church the Un-Churched, Teach the Un-Taught,” and most of all, “Reach the Un-Reached ... for Jesus!”

“Go Ye ... !”
“Speak Ye ... !”
“Do Ye ... !”

Copy-right ... personal observations.
To those Brethren, that have laboured long and hard in The Word of our God ... we take time to bless them publically for their endeavours to pass on that Holy Ghost inspired Word throughout His Church ...

Hebrews 6 Verse 10 “For God [is] not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

Therefore, edify The Body of Christ, encourage and exhort; but remember, if you are tempted to call the work of another your own, you are the one that will in the end be held responsible for your actions. “The Spirit of Grace,” gave the work to the hand of “the scribe,” who faithfully put pen to paper. Plagiarism, is not only illegal, it is immoral; above all, we must ...

Romans 12 Verse 10

“[Be] kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;”

So we exhort you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, to feel quite free to use the material with which the Lord has so blessed us and those before us, bearing in mind that the pre-eminence belongs to

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself ...

Your brother and sister in Christ’s service,

Bob & Nikki Dalton.

Matthew 10 Verse 8(b) “... freely ye have received, freely give.”
Series, “Discovering Discipleship … ”

1. “What is Sin?”
2. “The squeeze of Temptation.”
3. “Taming the tongue … ”
4. The “how to,” called Repentance:
5. The “can do,” Faith from God:
6. “Baptism … the waters.”
8. “The Laying on of Hands:”
10. “Resurrection of the dead.”
11. “The Eternal Godhead:”

The first of a three part series of Bible Studies, these lay the foundation teachings of our Faith based on Hebrews 6 Verses 1-2. Good for young disciples, each lesson is prepared so it can be used as private, group or classroom study material.
Series, “Growing Discipleship …”

1. “Salt, Light and Perfect Sight!”
2. “Living in Submission.”
5. The law of Love.
6. “Prayer and fasting.”
7. “Giants in the land.”
10. “Entering into rest.”

This second of a three part series of Bible studies, are designed to help understand the practical aspects of our Christian walk and Faith in our Church life and day to day walk.

These lessons work well alongside another study titled “The Beatitudes” which covers the topics of Matthew Chapter 5 and the development of our Christian Character.
Series, “Discipleship that Overcomes … ”

1. “Forgiveness, the rest of Canaan.”
3. “Jesus, the Great High Priest …”
6. “Zadok and Sons.”
7. “Gold Thread, White Garments,
   (the Virgins and the Marriage.”)
8. “Bridal Love.”

   The third in a three part series of Bible Study, these lessons cover the deeper truths of God’s Word called in Hebrews Chapter 5 “strong meat.” The topics chosen, speak on Jesus’ Heavenly ministry, covering His role as our Great High Priest and His function in that role. And our role as priests and kings in His Kingdom.

   A good preliminary study series that works alongside this is “Three Strong Nails,” covering The Blood, The Cross and The Work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This will remind us of Christ’s work on earth before beginning to tackle the topics of His Heavenly ministry.
Series, “New Beginnings …”

1. “Incline Your Ear … ”
2. “Apply thine (Your) Heart.”
3. “Search for Hid Treasures … ”
   (Wisdom’s Beginning)
5. “The Knowledge of God … ”

Series, “Three Strong Nails …”


Commentary Studies of The Bible …

- Prison Epistles.
- Pastoral Epistles.
- I & II Thessalonians.
- The Epistle to the Hebrews.
- The Epistle of James.
- II Corinthians.
- The Pentateuch.
- The Epistles of John.
- Revelation & Eschatology.
- Philemon, “The Gospel of Reconcile.”
- “An Open Heaven.”
- A Son became … “Prodigal:”
- “Little Foxes, Big Vineyard …”
- “Except your Righteousness exceeds …”

- “Children of the Dust …”
- “Abraham’s Seed …”
- “Bottleneck Fruits …”
- The Be-Attitudes of Christ.”
- “The Mountain or the Mediocre.”
- “Ripened Husks.”
- “The Armoury.”
- “The Whole Armour of God.”
- “The Family and the Fabric.”
- “Where is thy Sting … Death?”
- “Five Smooth Stones.”
- “On Time and Eternity.”
- “Moneychangers in the Temple.”
- “The Religion of Cain.”
- “The Doves and The Blood.”
1 Timothy 1 Verse 5 (Amp Version.)

“Whereas the object and purpose of our instruction and charge is Love, which springs from a pure Heart and a Good (clear) Conscience and Sincere (unfeigned) Faith:”
“The stronger the foundation, 
The brighter the future!”

1 Corinthians 3 Verse 11
“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, ...
which is Jesus Christ.”