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# Only REPENTANCE Can Save Kenya



**INSIDE**

Says Dr Owuor, and  
warns of drastic  
changes  
coming

By PETER MBAE  
MANAGING EDITOR

THE MIGHTY MARCH 26th, 2008  
VISION OF THE TEMPLE OF  
THE LORD IN HEAVEN



With horrendous escalating challenges facing hundreds of thousands of Internally Displaced Persons, in and out of the country, disease outbreaks, renewed violence and suspicion among political leaders, looming catastrophic **FAMINE**, and the creeping economic hardships, with the

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uncertainty in the nation, Dr. Owour now confirms that only a mighty national repentance can be able to salvage and save Kenya from total collapse.

Dr. Owuor reaffirmed, that it was unfortunate that the church and political leadership had refused to admit that the crisis in Kenya was spiritual, and choosing to ignore God Almighty, in their pursuit of man-made peace. The mighty Prophet who stunned Kenya, when he accurately predicted the earthquakes and the current mayhem, that has befallen the nation, now reconfirms that their efforts are doomed to miserably fail.

Dr. Owuor further reasserted, that the violence witnessed across this country was the judgement of the LORD, that he had warned would come after the country rejected the Nineveh-type of repentance God had commanded. Apparently, it is so fearful to note the brutal reality that Dr. Owuor had actually seen all the bloodflow and mayhem that this country is currently entangled in, as way back as 2005.

And speaking in Nairobi early this month he said, “The people of this country and its leadership must be told not to deceive themselves and comfort themselves just by signing a piece of paper and subsequent deals behind closed doors. There are no two ways about it. There must be a conscious effort by the fallen church of Christ in this land, to return to the LORD in deep and genuine repentance. Only then will the nation be able to identify and destroy its vices such as tribalism, corruption, the altars of oathings and other cultural practices across communities. This must then be followed by a sweeping and massive national repentance, in sackcloths, for a total spiritual deliverance for the healing of this nation, before any political agreements can hold water,” he said.

And if this is not done, Dr. Owour sternly warns of major and drastic changes to occur across this nation, changes that will greatly impact the entire socio-economic fabric of this ailing nation called Kenya.

“The LORD has spoken with me at greater length in the recent weeks, about tremendous moments that await Kenya in the event that she fails to repent and be healed by the peace of Christ the Messiah. Much as they want to build a cohesive country, these changes that the LORD has spoken to me about

will have deep repercussions, both in church, and the secular society.” The firebrand preacher whose prophecies must always come true, said without mincing words, that the LORD God has shown him both weeping and jubilation taking place in the country at the same time.

Kenya, I at times see you bitterly weeping, as when a newly wedded bride looses her husband, while at times I see you jubilating carrying green twigs all across the country.

The other group will celebrate with a jubilation that will almost reach heaven”.

The prophet has for the last three years been warning millions of Kenyans in over 200 huge public meetings across the country and through Radio and Television, saying God was very angry at the massive sexual immorality and idol worship in the country and that the church was defiled as a result of false prophecies, false doctrine, sexual sin, lying, witchcraft and love of and preaching of money and power politics by many gospel ministers in Kenya.

Speaking exclusively to The Eagle in February, Dr Owuor said the disputed poll results, tribalism or historical injustices like land issues in Rift Valley were only triggers of a deeper spiritual crisis in the country, and called on Church leaders to stop waiting for solutions from the world but instead come back and lead the country to do what God had intended them to do three years ago.

He insisted that all the pain, loss and anguish the country has gone through could have been avoided if the national leaders had heeded the call and convened repentance, preceded by three days of prayer.

“Even now, it has to be like Nineveh. Where the King heard the warning by the prophet and called for a three day of prayer and fasting across the land, the people repented, and God heard them, and healed the land”, he said.

Dr Owuor had cast doubt on the then peace talks that culminated to the signing of the Peace deal on 28th February 2008, saying that true and lasting peace in Kenya would only return when people go back to the ‘Prince of Peace’.

“It is Christ, the Prince of Peace who has elevated this country to be an island of peace in a sea of turmoil. He has removed that peace because of accumulated sins in the church and the nation. Importing mediators here is trying to use political means to solve a very deep spiritual crisis,”

said the former top doctor specialist, who has been to over 50 nations in person and reaching tens of others over Television to pass the message.

He reiterated that Kenya had a special place in the prophetic destiny of revival in Africa and the world, why God was eager to have her cleansed so that she could be used as the right instrument as the lighthouse of Africa and beacon of hope in the world.

He reiterated that God was still angry with the prosperity gospel being peddled in the churches, sexual sins, high level of deception in politics and due to the squandered opportunity by the church to repent by opting for quick fixes in attempting to form the coalition government.

He accused the church of forgetting the internally displaced persons and promoting tribalism by having ethnic churches ministered by ethnic church leaders.

He said while the killing of over 1,200 people, destruction of property worth billions of shillings and displacing of over 300,000 people was bad enough, the resultant effects borne by the internally displaced persons including poverty, disease attacks, lost opportunities, psychological trauma and sheer disillusionment are scars most of them will live by for the rest of their lives.

And at the camps, still hosting over 150,000 people in and out of the country, diseases and human degradation has taken it’s toll with poor living conditions now encouraging immorality and expected to fuel the HIV/AIDS spread, in and out of the camps.

And within, hatred and bitterness among feuding communities still rages and there is a limited possibility that even 20 per cent of the original displaced persons will go and settle back home, places they have invested in for as long as 30 years.

He said it was a mistake to assume that the sharing of power would satisfy everybody as others had grievances beyond mere power that needed to be addressed.

Indeed, the crisis has affected virtually every Kenyan, with disruptions in transport, agriculture, economy, with inflation that has now hit an all time high of 22% making a sharp increase of basic commodities, a slump of tourism industry and the projected famine in the country.

And as the IDP crisis deepness, it has turned to be a new industry

with emerging middlemen who are working in collusion with camp managers to divert and sell cheaply to retail outlets food and other items donated by well wishers.

The racket, which has been going on in all IDP camps in the country and involving officers working with some well known aid agencies, has a whole lot of people whose financial status has shot upwards at the expense of the innocent Kenyans at the camps.

And the new IDP industry has not spared Church leaders and organizations, some of whom have been filming IDPs and using their plight to get donations, mostly in cash, which they don’t channel to the IDPs or divert most of it.

### February 2008 Edition

In a story carried exclusively in our February 2008 edition, Kenya Under God’s judgement, Dr David Owuor, speaking on 8th October, 2005 at Gusii Stadium in Kisii, warned, “Kenya, now it is your turn. This time you shall know that the LORD, HE is GOD. You are next in the line. And great is your judgment. I have seen you running for your lives. I have seen you looking for your children. I have seen you looking for your husbands. I have seen you looking for your wives and you cannot find them anymore. I can see you running and I see deaths taking place. I see blood flowing on your land. Kenya, I see a lot of blood flowing on your land. I have seen you weeping until you cannot weep. I have seen you crying until no more tears can come out...”

And he added, “Kenya, if GOD does not touch you, if HE does not punish you for the things I said here today, then either HE changes the Bible or HE has to apologize to those two, Sodom and Gomorrah and New Orleans.”

And he further added, “God told me, don’t even pray for them because I will not even listen to your prayers. Kenya, all I can ask you to right now do, is to cry to GOD about you and your family. Don’t even cry about the land, about the people. Kenya, yours is so different.”

And speaking on 8th November 2005 in his KBC TV programme on, ‘Nature of the Lord that you have not known’ he had warned, “Something very strange is going to happen to you Kenya. I repeat this. I have seen you running for your lives Kenya. I have seen you in

large columns walking away, large columns Kenya. Walking to where you do not know. Carrying your things in one large less on your heads pulling your children along.

I see blood flowing over you. You will lose identity Kenya. You will become refugees in your own country. I see you lining up to register in refugee camps and queuing to receive food rations. I see you struggling to survive. You are going to die and you stink then He will come and resurrect you in revival. When you will begin to cry saying, all these things have happened to us because of our sins.

And in his KBC TV programme titled, The Judgement of the Lord unto Kenya’ on 12th February 2006, Dr Owuor had said, “I have seen blood, Kenya I have seen you running. You will run Kenya because you have annoyed the Most High God. I see blood flowing over your land. I will strip you naked before the nations of the world. In your pride, in your failure to come back to God, just like He did in USA and Mexico, I have seen your judgment. It is your turn Kenya. The judgment of the Lord coming to this land. And surely it will be known to this land that Jehovah He is God. When all these things come true, then they will know that a prophet was among them.”

### 800 Churches Burnt

Dr Owuor said incidences like burning of helpless people in a church (a total of over 800 churches were burnt during the violence), stealing church seats and iron sheets, churches closing down enmasse, butchering people to death in a ritualistic way, people cutting others’ arms and hanging them by the road as a warning to others, attacks and murder by gangs in broad daylight and dead bodies being eaten by hungry dogs in the bushes and others buried in mass graves were a clear sign of a nation under judgement.

And while speaking to The Eagle for the first time in February 2005, Dr Owuor had said God was angry at the massive sexual immorality in the country adding that the church altar in Kenya was broken as a result of sexual sin, lying, witchcraft and love of money and world power by most gospel ministers in the country.

“Because of this anger arising from defilement of the

church, including embracing false prophecies, false doctrine and lust for political power, God’s presence has left the church”.

And he had added, “Kenya is at a very critical crossroad. One road is the road of judgement full of blood. And in this regard God showed me a vision of a lot of blood flowing over the entire land of Kenya, in three separate nights. The other road leads to revival through repentance”.

He said God was angry that though He had given the country relative peace in the sea of turmoil compared to neighboring countries, the hearts of Kenyans had been stolen by evil, and called for Nineveh like repentance across the country to avert the impending disaster. “Not just a handful of Christians ‘standing

in the gap’ but full repentance by all Kenyans”, he said. If Kenyans resist, he had warned, this will be the beginning of the end for this country but if they heed and act, God will resurrect Kenya from its decay and will change the world from Kenya, thereby making Africa the continent of light.

And speaking during KBC TV programmes in 2005 and 2006, Dr Owuor had said, “As a church you are fond of manipulating God. You do not understand the nature of repentance and that is why you do formal rituals and keep defending yourselves that you have been repenting. Performing comedies in church in the name of true worship. You have brought in false prophets who create confusion between the

voice of God and the voice of the enemy to the sheep. They have lied, preaching peace and prosperity when there is none, but they tell you what you had wanted to hear.

And when I speak this way, many people say I am threatening you. But John the Baptist also spoke about the wrath of God.” According to official statistics, so far, the Kenyan genocide has claimed close to 1,300 lives and over 300,000 people displaced, some fleeing their homes for good.

However, according to independent research by The Eagle, the death toll is much higher, almost double, taking into account those who may have been killed and their bodies thrown into trenches, left in forests to be eaten by wild animals and those who were buried in shallow

mass graves at the heart of Rift Valley.

Dr Owuor said that though God was a God of love, peace, prosperity, blessings and slow to anger, the season had changed and God was calling for repentance. “God has been watching over this land but now he has taken away the protection because the season has changed. It is no longer business as usual with God”, he said, and accused some church leaders of even at this time, consoling themselves with peace sermons instead of admitting the cause of the crisis head on.

“This nation has no excuse for falling where she is now.” All was said in their eyes. The curse and the blessing. I faithfully went across the country sending a simple message of repentance. That God wanted

genuine repentance, Nineveh type of repentance to purify the altar that is Kenya. It was a remedy I was trying to put across as I helped Kenyans to do proper repentance.”

### Rwanda Genocide

In the February edition, Dr Owuor had said that Kenya’s genocide was just beginning and was likely to be worse than Rwanda’s, as God had been warning Kenya for a record three years. “Again, Rwanda had only two tribes. Here you have 42. Also, Kenya is very special to God and is being judged from a position of being a superpower. All you can pray for is speedy healing.” he said. Also see editorial Page 6.

# I Blame The Media For Manipulating The Truth

By PETER MBAE

Media has among very core roles to inform, educate and entertain the populace. And these roles oftentimes move from being mere roles but duties and obligations. Such that these are things the public expects from the media and to some extent, demand, from the media. There then exists an unwritten contract between the media and the public, that the media shall exercise due care and diligence and do all within its powers to present to the public information that is fair, factual, credible, up to date, and most important in its entirety, meaning, everything that is there to be known, without reserving anything. On the other hand, the public in the unwritten contract commits itself to pay for and consume the information.

And that is where I fault most of the Kenyans media houses. First, even before the commission to investigate how the media covered the 2007 General Elections, its common knowledge that media houses dangerously took sides, and lost clients from opposing sides.

And just as the dust attempted to settle, the whole country was gripped with a ‘peace’ fever and everything was peace, peace, peace. Literally all media houses cut off any voice other

# Restoration of the Church

## MIGHTY VISION OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

By Dr. Owuor

### Mighty Vision of the Temple of the LORD: On the 20th day of November, 2007

Humanity is still as much the object of heaven's solicitation, even to this very day. With such tenderest of regard for the human family, the Lord our God, in heaven, willingly presented Jesus as the Lamb of God, that was wrapped in swading clothes at Bethlehem. This whole plan was *lighted* up with the bright shinations of the *exaltless* theme that Jesus carried for the building of the Temple of the LORD. In this manner, the church of Christ was born with such a heredity to share in the sonship of God. Much as we still marvel at this act of *kindness*, heaven continues to long for when the sons of *righteousness* will begin to shine in the church, in order that they maybe a Temple of the indwelling of the Spirit of God. The LORD desires that the church would bring man to be the light of the world. More so, in these last days, the church is expected to impress the perishing world, with the *holiness* of God's requirements and their need of his perfect *righteousness*.

### Vision of the Temple

On the very early morning of November 20, 2007, the Lord spoke with me regarding the state of the Temple of God. In this mighty and very exceptional vision, as I was asleep, all of a sudden, the LORD appeared on my right-hand side. As this vision continued, I realized that the LORD was on my right-hand side, walking with me towards a place. As the LORD and I continued walking on this road, I began to hear his voice coming from the right. The voice of the LORD was essentially instructing me to watch out on the rocks that were on this road. It was amazing how much care the voice of the LORD took to guide me on this walk in order that I may not stumble on the rocks and fall. He instructed me to be careful of even the smallest of rocks along this road that we followed.

As this mighty walk with the LORD proceeded, suddenly we

came to an intersection. At this junction, I could see clearly that the road we had been following was now splitting into two paths. There was this particular path that diverged towards the left, and the other that veered to the right. At this point, the voice of the LORD at once, and assertively commanded me to take the path that reared to the right. Well, immediately I took this right turn, I realized that the LORD was still walking with me, on my right-hand side. What is most interesting about this particular path that we took, is the fact that it was not a straight path. It had bends and winds as we continued walking. Even as we went on this path, I noticed that the winds and the bends could not permit me to see ahead, or what was ahead. The LORD's voice accompanied by his mighty and tremendous presence on my right-hand side, continued to guide me on this path. The further we continued walking in this vision, the more I could not tell what was ahead. In this way, it became more of a walk of faith in which I totally relied on the voice of the LORD that was coming from my right-hand side. But, the feeling of *comfort*, *safety* and *total reliance* on him, is one that is completely indescribable. I mean, I cannot put it in words, how *comforting* it was, to realize that his voice and presence continued to navigate me. This is most so, because in this vision, the LORD made me realize that never had I been this way before.

However, when we reached the point at which this path veered a little bit to the right, the voice of the LORD suddenly said;

**“Look and see the Temple of the LORD.”**

And, when I just lifted up my head to observe, then all at once, right before me was the mighty Temple of the LORD. I could now clearly see the golden dome that crowns the Temple of the LORD, and the double-arched Temple door that was now directly facing

us. At this moment, in a sudden turn of events, I was greatly astonished to witness the mighty glory of the LORD come down from heaven, in a thick brilliant cloud and settle on top of the dome. This glory partially enveloped the dome, thereby allowing only a portion of it to be visible. Nevertheless, as the LORD continued drawing my attention to the dome of his Temple, I began to notice the three pieces of metal that held the dome on the roof of the Temple. These three vertical pieces of metal appeared to be the inner support and strength of the initial architecture that was meant to raise the dome above the roof of the Temple. At this juncture, it dawned on me that the Temple was damaged at the roof and the three pieces of metal that were presented, were just but mere remnant bars that still held the dome at the roof. These were the only scaffolding structures that continued to keep the dome on top of the roof.

Being completely absorbed and captivated by all this, I once again heard the mighty voice of the LORD, saying;

**“Let us enter into the Temple of the LORD.”**

At that point, following the voice of the LORD, the double-arched door immediately slammed wide open, and we entered into the house of the LORD. When we stepped into the Temple of the LORD, the voice of the LORD continued coming from my right-hand side, instructed me to walk towards the altar of the LORD. Now, upon setting foot at the area of the altar, the voice of the LORD, now coming from the altar said;

**“Look, this is the House of the LORD”.**

When I turned left, right before me, was the sanctuary of the LORD. I saw countless number of chairs in the sanctuary of the LORD. The chairs I saw were black with small arm-rests and I could not see how far they reached because they were so many. As I continued observing the sanctuary of the LORD, it then dawned on me that the sanctuary I was seeing was completely empty. No one was found sitting at any of

the chairs. Then the voice of the LORD said;

**“They used to worship here; But not anymore.”**

Apparently, in the process of observing the empty sanctuary of the LORD, immediately tall grass started growing between the chairs. This is a stunning event that started unfolding right before my eyes in this vision. The grass that was now beginning to grow between the chairs, grew more rapidly in thickness and height, thereby surpassing the height of the chairs. It is a new development that went on until it was virtually impossible to see the chairs anymore, as they had now been covered by this *weed*-like grass. Then the voice of the LORD said;

**“Go tell this people to repent and prepare for the coming of the LORD.”**

I then woke up to much shock at what the LORD had just shown me.

### What is the Revelation

By no means was this a pleasant portrayal of the house of the LORD, the church of Christ. In this visitation, what immediately comes out, is the eminent state of *grief* and *sadness* that is prevailing in the heart of God the Father. This *grief* is definitely arising from the excessive *defilement* of the church of Christ. It is also possible to read a *frustration* that God is going through in trying to re-orientate the church and fulfil prophecy.

### The Narrow Path

Biblical prophecy promised a few very critical events that the church has been looking forward to. These events include the critical need that would eventually arise in the last days, for the church to walk with the LORD, and be directed by his Spirit. Right from the onset of this conversation with the LORD, God is asserting without any ambiguity, on the greater need for the church to walk with the LORD in these end days. It comes out very clearly, that in the beginning of the vision, the LORD walking on my right-hand side, was able to navigate me, even when the road had to hit a junction. The astonishing revelation coming

out of this vision, is the fact that without the voice of the LORD, I wouldn't have known which way to detour. This places the voice of God through the Holy Spirit right at the centre of the christian walk. Following this visitation, every time I had the privilege to shrink from people for prayer, I have never stopped wondering as to what would have transpired if the voice of the LORD had not navigated me at the critical junction. It is a fear that has validated my spiritual understanding of the greater need for the Holy Spirit to guide the church. Men know it not, that walking under the guidance of the Holy Spirit is an absolute necessity in the body of Christ, if she is to enter into the *rapture*. Reviewing the manner in which the voice of God steered me towards the narrow path, a path that eventually led into the house of the LORD, leaves a lot to be desired. First and foremost, the road that leads to the Temple of God, is actually narrow and winding. This to me is a big surprise because it is not straight, contrary to popular belief. In fact, walking in it gives one no glimpse of what lies ahead thereby demanding the complete dependence of the voice of the LORD. The LORD, in this way, is stressing the importance of total dependence on the Holy Spirit in the Christian walk. This walk is a walk of faith because what lies in the next footsteps is solely governed by the mighty presence of the LORD. Man has no control of this path but God. The bends and turns the LORD subjected me into on this narrow path are reminiscent of the trials that are characteristic of the holy christian walk. This notwithstanding this path leads directly into *repentance*, *restoration* and the *rapture* (Matthew 7:13-14). The gravity of this revelation to the *rapture* of the church, rests on the solid testimony that Enoch walked with God and he was no more. Because of walking with God, Enoch did not see death and was hence *raptured* (Genesis 5:22-24).

He whose hand humbles in the dust is able to lift up the *penitent* in the church. The church the LORD showed me in this vision is actually today's church. And more than showing me the church, he as a matter of fact presented the defiled state of the church today. It is the pathetic state of fall that has permeated into the entire body of Christ. At this rate, the risk of fatal failure and eternal loss will perpetually remain looming over the church. If Christ the Messiah,

moved the church from an earthly sanctuary into a spiritual tabernacle, then it is so fearful that the LORD actually showed me the state of the heart of the church (Christians; Hebrews 9:1-10). The heart of God the Father, is troubled that today’s church is hushed into a state of deceit, self satisfaction and asleep in sin. Defilement in complete sin has gotten its way into the holy house of the LORD through the gospel of wealth transfer and prosperity, yet lacking in holiness. This state ofaffair is what the LORD presented to the church on that early November 20, 2007, its a condition that is gradually benumbing the spiritual perception of the christians, and lessening their sensibility to sin. And by presenting the house of the LORD in such a defiled state, the LORD sends out a startling message that is meant to cause the church to tremble because of her wickedness. This is important because, before seeking healing and restoration from Jesus, the church must first be awakened to the greater danger she risks from the wounds of sin. The gruesome picture of the church in this vision, is a very painful and a totally incomprehensible one, given that the Holy Spirit was released to help her. The LORD is surely laying a heavy burden upon the conscience of the christians by *piercing their hearts* with arrows of convictions. Upon conviction, then the church of Christ will be able to realize the miracle of Israel; when God released her from Egyptian bondage. Like Israel, the church seems to be on the *last night* of her bondage, when there appears to be no token of deliverance forthcoming in the horizon; but if she will earnestly hearken to the Holy Spirit, the LORD will release her for the *raapture*. The dispensation of her *last night* of bondage, has now set in but requires a repentance revival that will cleanse the weed off her heart to restore worship. That she is capable of worship, was fully ascertained by the voice of the LORD that said,

**“They used to worship here; But not anymore.”**

It is also debilitating to realize that in this voice of the LORD, is the underlying implication that however much today’s church may worship, the LORD seems not to hear her. He cannot see her. Her sacrifices have therefore become worthless before God, (Isaiah 66:3, Malachi 1:6-14).

### The Latter Glory

Seasonal changes have been a very critical dynamic for the spiritual survival of the church. As a matter of fact, *indifference* to the changing of seasons can tip the church off-track with the calendar of the Holy Spirit. Such *indifference* is symbolized by the failure of the church to heed the voice of the LORD, and it pervades not only the relationship between the church and the LORD, but also her very eternity. It thrilled all heaven, when Jesus lamented to the church on the issue of her unique ability to read the clouds in the sky, while failing to read the seasonality of the LORD’s spiritual calendar (Luke 12:54-56). The mighty vision of the house of the LORD, presented to me on November 20, 2007, attests to the growing impatience that now prevails in heaven concerning the church. The part to note in this vision, is when the path veered a little right, and I saw the glory of the LORD descend from heaven, only to finally settle on top of the rugged dome. With amazement, despite the errors and fables abound man’s history, God still seems to depend on man to effect certain important manoeuvres on the earth. It is this dependence on the faithfulness on man that easily runs into impatience with the church. Looking at the glory of the LORD rested on the Temple dome while inside the sanctuary much grass has colonized, bespeaks a state of despair. The message of this segment is that the LORD is ready to open the windows of heaven, in order to flood the church with his Spirit as prophesied in the bible. It appears at though this late in the day, the LORD has already opened the windows of heaven, and is ready to release his glory into the church. But the church has to get her act together, because as of now, she ain’t ready! It greatly shocked me to realize that the glory of the LORD is waiting at the top of the dome while desolation continues to bite deeper with such a sting of impunity. Out of sync becomes the word of the day. She is totally out of sync with the mind of GOD, to a point that she is not even aware that her present help is right nigh. It is right there and yet she cannot see! This is the desperation that bothers the entire heaven as the church stumbles into the dispensation that will bring the *raapture*.

For the LORD to release his glory, and yet not allow it to enter the church, implies that he has

rejected the sanctuary awaiting restoration. Deception has *beclouded* the vision of the church to a point that she is now extremely *myopic* of the glorious things of the LORD. No wonder today’s church cannot see that so much weed seed has now been sown inside the sanctuary to a point that God has left the house (Jeremiah 7:4-11; Jeremiah 8:4-8). Spiritual *myopia* has lured the church to believing that she is worshipping when he cannot hear. It is also a *short sightedness* that focuses the church on the *perishables* of the *now and here* when actually the mighty future glory is right at the top of the dome above her. The LORD surely sounded a tremendous wake-up call to the church on that November 20, 2007, because he seems to be pointing to the fact that the much awaited *Joel’s dispensation* is here (Joel 2:28-32). He is adamant and will not mix the latter glory with the broth of the church’s defilement that has characterized our time (John 2:1-11; Jeremiah 13:12; Malachi 1:10; Malachi 4:4-6).

Re-echoed in this vision, is the revelation that sends chills down the spine of the church. It is absolutely obvious that Christ Jesus is the head of the church hence represented with the golden dome that sits on top of the Temple. But one cannot help but wonder, “What could it be that the LORD was portraying by the three remnant scaffold metals, which stood in isolation as the only contact between the dome and the roof of the desolate house, in this vision?” It is clear that the servants of the LORD represent the roof and cover of the church while Christ is the overall head of the church. Does it mean that God is telling the church that she now maintains only a remnant rudimentary contact with Jesus, a contact symbolized by the three lonely metals above the church? Isn’t this something to worry and wait about at this eleventh hour prior to the *raapture*? My fear is that God Almighty may have just shown me how minimal a contact the church has maintained with Christ the Messiah! And if the roof is figuratively a presentation of the pastors that cover the church, then this becomes a very worrying revelation. Because it points directly to the fact that the priesthood has lost contact with Christ Jesus the head of the church! But for a moment, one may imagine that the church were in touch with the LORD, especially considering her complete engrossment into the so-called church practices of today. No wonder, I always knew, in the

manner in which the Holy Spirit has been speaking with me, that the church is headed for a fatal extinction, and not eternity. The enormous grass the LORD showed me growing in between the seats in this mighty vision, do represent the defilement that has entered into the church, in the name of compromise with the world. One sees it all across christian global television, and also in the very lives of the christians. This grass is the homosexuality, the wealth and health gospel, the post-modernism in the church, the disease of open lesbianism in the church, false prophecies and deception in the church, prostitution and slutty dressing in the church, the business enterprises that have been now launched in the church via global christian television, and compromised money-driven in-church preachings of today, witchcraft, the syndrome and sickness of interfaith covenants between the church and eastern religions of idolatry, pastors joining politics etc. Many more *defilements* have now been exposed through this *grass* in the sanctuary by the LORD (2 Timothy 3:1-10).

#### Erroneous Voices In Church

The rebirth of repentance revival, is meant to teach a great spiritual truth, a truth the church is slow to learn and ready to fast forget. This has been the chronology of revival in the church. But, when the voice of the LORD said, “They used to worship here; But not anymore”, it greatly hinted of a great departure by today’s church from not only worship, but also the favour of the LORD. It is as though day by day, the LORD saw their meaning more clearly when they engaged in falsehood. He observed their “*impressive rites*” of their *paschal* services that were entirely vain thereby not reaching his heart. These services have been converted into routine hollywood-like *showbiz*. So this voice of the LORD, that came from the altar area is a corrective voice that is intended to interrupt the erroneous utterances emanating from the altar of the LORD today. These utterances include the useless fires that are being lit in the church today, in the way of false prophecies; the evil gospel of wealth transfer and prosperity, a gospel that has no holiness; witchcraft in the church; sexual sin among the pastors, bishops, false prophets, evangelists, the so-called apostles of today who

called themselves into ministry, and not called by Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16); sexual sin in the congregations etc. This is the erroneous voice that the mighty voice of the LORD in the vision, interrupted on November 20th, 2007 when he said

**“They used to worship here; But not anymore”.**

It is synonymous with the voice of God that came down on the mountain of *transfiguration* and interrupted the voice of Peter. It is interesting that, that voice at the *transfiguration* summit came from the cloud of the LORD’s glory, while in this vision the cloud had also appeared on the dome as the voice lamented on the absence of worship. It points at the things to come in this dispensation of endtime revival, prior to the *raapture*. The thick darkness of defilement that has settled with *tempest*, in the church will now be *arched* by the *rainbow* of promise in the *raapture*. This will only happen if the church heeds the instruction of the LORD to return to repentance and holiness. To practice the sacred truths of God, the LORD is asking the church to shrink from constant contact with sin, lest she should loose the sense of exceeding sinfulness in the world. This *nervelessness* has already crept into the body of Christ causing the church to be numb to sin. The worship the LORD is grieving over, in today’s church, has come from a casual relationship with God, a relationship that does not centralize the fear of the LORD (Proverbs 9:10). In this November 20th, 2007 vision, the greatest revelation then becomes, that; all who would perfect holiness in the fear of God must learn the lesson of *temperance* and self control from *over-indulgence*. The church is *guilty* of this excessive *self-indulgence* in the sinful world, to make matter worse even in *politics*. It is not the church slot to dwell in politics, but in the Word of God. In other words, the Holy Spirit is saying that she should not be an actor in the world, but the *light* of the world. As a reformer, the Holy Spirit is pleading with the church, in a *Last Call*, prior to the *raapture*, that she should enter into an *abstemious* life in order to bear the authority to rebuke the excesses of this time. This excesses that the church has involved the private jets that today’s pastors’ buy, the huge luxury cars, the large luxury homes, the fat bank accounts, among others. The church should take choice to forego enjoyment, greed for wealth, love of luxury, display

and sensuous pleasure. This kind of sybaritic lifestyle has definitely led to physical disease, degeneracy and the benumbing of the spiritual perception and lessening sensibility to sin in the church. The church must come out of this and become sensitive to sin in order to be

## Mighty Vision of the House of the LORD: On the 8th day of April, 2008

By Dr. Owuor

It is astounding that, within a short interlude, the God of heaven can speak about the same thing, the *urgent* need for the *restoration* of the church. It is as though all heaven awaits the signal to declare the latter glory over all flesh. As in old times, though the silent hour of the church has been witnessed, an hour that brought in spiritual *drought*, making visions very rare, the dawn of her second and final *deliverance* has drawn close. The advent of the *raapture* has drawn near and the calendar events in heaven seems to have shifted in favour of the latter outpour into the church. And for the LORD, to speak on November 20, 2007, about the need for *reformation* in today’s church, and follow it up immediately, with the same conversation on April 8th, 2008, on the same issue, implies a great sense of urgency that borders on impatience.

In the days of old, the church can borrow from the time when God sent Joseph to the Pharaoh of Egypt, to interpret his dream. At that time, God had given the Pharaoh two dreams on the same issue. And when the Spirit of the LORD navigated Joseph to interpret the dream, he said that, the reason God had presented the dream in two forms (twice), is because the God of heaven had made up his mind about that matter, and that it had been *fimly* decided in heaven that it now had to happen, and very soon (Genesis 41:32). In the same context, God Almighty speaking to me twice, and in two forms, on the same matter, regarding the urgent need for the *restoration* of today’s church, implies that the matter has been *fimly* decided in heaven, that the latter glory will pour and the *raapture* happen very soon.

This is a sobering *Last Call* for the church to *disconnect* from the world, and to wake up in order to *prepare* for the wedding of the Lamb (Matthew 25:1-13). This is the moment

restored, see the endtime revival, endtime harvest, and hence the *raapture*. Furthermore, the voice of the LORD in this November 20th, 2007 vision, appears to have been directed out of the imperative need to rouse her to a holier life.

This part of the sanctuary was very highly elevated, close to the roof and appeared to be in regular use during church service for television recording of the church services. As I was still grappling with this, the Spirit of the LORD took me adrift again, to another section at which I saw a great many people, and an aspiring politician talking as they entered the *restaurant/bar*. Others were busy involved in a defiling act. Again, the Spirit of the LORD, lifted me and brought me to the main area of the sanctuary. At this place, I was now able to see a mobile church wall that was being rolled on what looked like built-in rails, and the *restaurant/bar* was now being dismantled to prepare for church service. At the same spot, seats were being arranged for the church service, an event that finally allowed me to have a complete view of what the sanctuary of the LORD looked like in the normal. The Spirit of the LORD, then drew me closer to the altar of the LORD. The altar I saw had a pulpit area, on which there was a special and tilted bible rack. But, the bible rack I saw, kept on rotating non-stop in the 360° circuit. This troubled me and prompted me to ask the LORD, what direction the altar faced. There however, was a triangular appendix on my right-hand side as I faced the altar, appended to the sanctuary and filled with seats. Immediately, I saw a great many people, some of whom I had seen in the *restaurant/bar*, coming into the sanctuary of the LORD to worship Jehovah God. At that point, the voice of the LORD coming from my right-hand side said;

### The Vision of the Church

It was in the wee hours of the morning of April 8th, 2008, in a mighty vision of God, when the Word of the God came to me regarding the house of the LORD. In that vision, the LORD He put me in the Spirit, and the voice said;

**“Look and see the house of the LORD.”**

At that moment, I looked around me and realized that God had brought me into the house of the LORD, today’s church. At the entrance to the house of the LORD, I saw many people, a great number of them who were talking and acting as though they were awaiting instruction from somebody. When I drew closer to them, I quickly gathered that they were waiting to go into what looked like a *restaurant/bar*. And then, the Spirit of the LORD immediately whisked me into the sanctuary of the LORD. But, when I looked around me, in the sanctuary, I noticed a very big departure from the norm. The sanctuary I saw, had been converted into a very *exquisite restaurant* and *bar* facility. And inside were young *couples*, *eating* and *drinking* not only *wine* but also other *alcoholic* drinks. The chairs they sat on, were tall enough that their heads could not be seen except that one approach the dining facility from the side. After a while, the Spirit of the LORD, took me to another part of this sanctuary, the part where the bible would normally be placed during church service. And I saw that it had been converted into a *bar* only facility. This part of the sanctuary, now had tall stools with people taking *alcoholic* drinks.

This part of the sanctuary was very highly elevated, close to the roof and appeared to be in regular use during church service for television recording of the church services. As I was still grappling with this, the Spirit of the LORD took me adrift again, to another section at which I saw a great many people, and an aspiring politician talking as they entered the *restaurant/bar*. Others were busy involved in a defiling act. Again, the Spirit of the LORD, lifted me and brought me to the main area of the sanctuary. At this place, I was now able to see a mobile church wall that was being rolled on what looked like built-in rails, and the *restaurant/bar* was now being dismantled to prepare for church service. At the same spot, seats were being arranged for the church service, an event that finally allowed me to have a complete view of what the sanctuary of the LORD looked like in the normal. The Spirit of the LORD, then drew me closer to the altar of the LORD. The altar I saw had a pulpit area, on which there was a special and tilted bible rack. But, the bible rack I saw, kept on rotating non-stop in the 360° circuit. This troubled me and prompted me to ask the LORD, what direction the altar faced. There however, was a triangular appendix on my right-hand side as I faced the altar, appended to the sanctuary and filled with seats. Immediately, I saw a great many people, some of whom I had seen in the *restaurant/bar*, coming into the sanctuary of the LORD to worship Jehovah God. At that point, the voice of the LORD coming from my right-hand side said;

**“This is the house of the LORD; Go tell this people to repent and prepare the way of the LORD.”**

I woke in great distress, only to realize that the LORD had spoken so mightily to the church again. Only that this time, I could read a sense of *disgust* emanating from the church’s delay to *restore*. The LORD also made my heart feel the haste with which he longs for the *restoration* of the church back to *holiness* and *righteousness*.

### What is the Revelation

Pathetic as it is, what is particularly even more painful, is the fact that from the time of the creation of man, until now, the church has not demonstrated any significant

departure from the *fall* that gripped Adam. Heaven and earth seem to be no wider apart today than, either when Adam *fell* to sin, or Israel *defiled* the holy name of Jehovah God. This is despite the fact that, the Blood of Jesus has been poured, and the Holy Spirit freely availed to the church. The state of anguish in the heart of Jehovah God is understandable. This is because the day of the wedding of the Lamb of God still stands out as the most important day in the calendar of the heart of Jehovah God, a day he cannot wait to see come to pass (Rev 19:6-9). It is as though today’s church were living at the brinks of a mighty Holy Ghost revival, a time similar to that prior to when Jehovah God released the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13). At that time, we can only imagine, the state of anguish that reigned in the heart of Jehovah God, in his urgent need to *release* the precious Holy Spirit, in order to help the church *accomplish* the mission she had just been given. The church had just been *commissioned* and lacked the power to perform the perfect, and holy righteous work of God on the earth. God in heaven desired to see the *fruitfulness* of the work of Christ through the *perfecting* of the mission of the church. Jesus had just set an example of *virtue*, *compassion*, *kindness*, *fidelity* and *honesty* that the church needed to maintain in her very life stream, in order to be the *light* of the world. But the maintenance of these heavenly values required the empowering *anointing* of the Holy Spirit in the church, hence the anguish to release the Holy Spirit.

In this April 08, 2008 vision, the jealous nature of God was fully revealed to today’s church (Exodus 20:5). It is obvious that, in all who submit to GOD’s power, the Spirit of the LORD will consume sin. It makes the portrayal of the house of the LORD as presented in this vision, a symbol of the gross disobedience that has settled at the altar of the house of the LORD. It is the *obedience* of the Holy Spirit of GOD that leads the church into the *holiness* and *righteousness* of God. This disobedience, unfortunately prevails in the church of Christ in Kenya, thereby hitting a peak in the church in the US, Canada, Spain, Europe, Asia, Australia, Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Russia, Uganda, Tanzania, Italy, France, Middle East, and all over the world, name it. In the bible, when the house of the LORD fell, it always attracted the resentment of the LORD. God often sends his messengers

not to flatter the sinners, but to *deliver* his message to *hull* the unsanctified into realizing the fatal human security that abounds their *counenance*. This kind of message is often intended by God, to create in the church, a welcome *escape* from society in which *suspicion*, *disbelief*, and *impurity* have become well-nigh-all-pervading.

Today’s church of Christ is a *classical* case in time, that the LORD presented in this mighty *visitation* of April 08, 2008. The *priesthood* in this modern church, is unfortunately *defiled* to an extent that church has become *business* enterprise for attracting *money* and *earthly wealth*. Unfortunately, this may not auger well with the spiritual dispensation that the LORD our God, has unveiled to the four corners of the earth, right now (Matthew 19:24). The *emptiness* within the church is incredible as the worship is running very dry, and the Spirit of the LORD is neither welcome, nor moving at all. It must be mentioned here, that the fear to embrace the Holy Spirit in the church of Christ, arises from the fact that the Spirit of the LORD explicitly and publicly *rebukes* sin, without any remorse. Regrettably, this is the case in the church, in the US, Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Angola, Mali, Paraguay, Morocco, Spain, Egypt, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, Slovakia, Portugal, Guatemala, Panama, Chile, Venezuela, Romania, Ukraine, Peru, Rwanda, Tanzania, and beyond.

When the house of the LORD turns into a *business premise* that is transacting *prosperity* with impunity, then very soon Jehovah God is always prompted to declare it a *den* of *robbers* and he immediately rejects such a house (Matthew 21:12-17; Jeremiah 7:3-29). And today’s church of Christ can be used for a beautiful case study as a perfect model for the *defiled* house of the LORD, across the globe. The spiritual *sickness* that has *infected* the worship of Jehovah God, *simulates* the case of Israel in her greatest prostitution. Yet, this abomination is todate widespread, and prevalent in many nations of the earth.

When Jesus found the vendors:
a) selling small doves (*fake anointing being sold in church and over christian television today, in small bottles of oil*);
b) Changing money (*preaching the gospel of prosperity and wealth transfer in today’s church*);

c) and doing other businesses (*miracle industry of sow-a-seed-get-a-miracle-here right now*); all these happening in the house of the LORD, then, the Lord became so furious that he *physically* turned the tables that vendors were standing on, while *transacting* (Matthew 21:12-17).

Essentially, what the LORD presented to the church, in this recent mighty vision of April 08, 2008, was surely a *classical* case of what goes on in the church of Christ today. The church of Christ, has become so much of a *business premise* to the extent that observing their preachings on television, or listening to their preachings on radio, or attending their inflated meetings; immediately presents a sad and an impeccable sense of *emptiness* in the lack of revelation of the Word. This lack of revelation corresponds to the absence of the much needed anointing of the Holy Spirit in the church. It is a drought that is currently biting deep into the church, to monumental proportions. The sting of which is the lack of *deliverance*, and *salvation* in the church. Christians are not getting saved in a manner that has a direct bearing to the heathen that are perishing in the dark streets of this world. One can read the deep sense of *disobedience* to the Holy Spirit, even as the pastors preach at the altar of the LORD. It is the *arrogance* with which they preach, that literary infuriate God himself. They openly exhibit the lack of humbleness (Isaiah 66:2-4). They are *playing god* in their churches when they say things like “You must *bring money* to the feet of the “*apostle*” to be blessed or for the “*apostle*” to *shake* your hands.” It has become the biggest *scam* and *shame* of our time, because even the heathen can *see it* and instantly *reject* it, thereby making the church virtually *mute*. She is not able to *bark* even when alarming sin *encroaches* and *establishes* in the house. Sad enough, all this is happening at such a time when the world is hungrily seeking solutions for their lives, and perishing in dark sin.

The take-home message from this vision of the LORD is that, spiritual *renewal* will not come to the church that has focused attention on her own life, because she will not be progressive by that standard. The church today may blame God for failing to deliver them from their troubles, and she may even get angry at God for failing to follow through on his promise of the *latter anointing*. But the truth is that, God never *fails* us, but we fail God. If it seems that God is not with us anymore, we

should honestly examine our lives to see where we might have sinned, asking God to show us the truth we may not be able to see. Once we *isolate* the area where we are out of God’s will, we can *confess* our sin, *redirect* our course, and ask God to help *change* us (restoration).

This is the message that Jehovah God presented in that mighty vision of the *defiled* house of the LORD, a vision which he presented in the wee hours of April 8th, 2008. It is a message of repentance in which he is asking the church to seek the Holy Spirit for *redirection*. Only repentance can redeem the church from this position of perpetual sin and *tempest* (John 14).

How about the strange dynamic errand that was assumed by the 360° rotating bible rack, at the altar of the LORD, in this vision? The fact that the Spirit of the LORD caused me to ask in this vision, what the orientation of the altar was, is literally alarming. God Almighty illustrated a very disturbing phenomenon in today’s church of Christ. The LORD is very concerned that his Word has not been correctly handled in the church. The dynamic, all direction changes that were taking place with the bible rack represent the *misorientation*, *misinterpretation*, *misunderstanding*, and *mishandling* of the Word of God by the pastors of today’s church. Observing it from the location at which the Holy Spirit placed me, what cannot escape ones attention is the gross disrespect, and dishonour, with which the invaluable Word of God has been treated in church. It is as though biblical history were repeating itself. In the time of Ezekiel, the prophet of the LORD, he was taken into the temple, and observed people that were sitting with their backs turned towards the altar of the LORD facing outside, and worshipping the sun. In this April 8th, 2008 vision of the LORD, I was gripped with anguish in trying to figure out, in what direction the altar faced since the rack rotated, at a very high speed, and in all directions (Ezekiel 8:16). It also speaks about the fact that the Word of God is not firmly established in today’s church. This is doom to the church if she does not reform, because the Word is supposed to be the foundation of the house of the LORD, especially in these last days. The Word is the sword with which the church is supposed to wage war against the adversary. But, for the Word to be mishandled, as portrayed in

this vision, becomes a manner of very grave consequence. This is most likely the root cause of church becoming a business enterprise, at which money laundering and commodity vending is thriving. What was even more revealing in this vision, is the small window that eventually opened after-hours, when the main door to the restaurant/bar was closed. Many who had missed the opening hours, I could still see them being served from the open window. In this way, the LORD is saying that the church is running a lucrative 24-hour business, geared at the accumulation of earthly wealth, at the expense of establishing the Word of God for the thirsty sheep (John 21:17; Ezekiel 34; Jeremiah 23; Isaiah 56:9-12). Such a message from the LORD is intended to destabilize the corrupt church that has loved the perishable earthly wealth of our time. It is meant to wake the church up to the onset of a new era.

### The Weed in the Church

Put together, the two mighty visions of the LORD, on the *defiled* state of today’s church rings a worrisome *bell* to the nations of the earth that are currently, at this eleventh hour, anticipating the advent of the *rapture*. The November 20th, 2007 vision, reveals the heart of God regarding the state of *sin* and *defilement* in the church. And, it portrays a painful disobedience, in every particular to the Word of God. However, the second vision of April 08, 2008, is actually an interpretation of the November 20th, 2007 visitation. Now, we can clearly see what Daniel the prophet of the LORD meant, when he said that Jehovah God showed him a vision, and then returned to give him the revelation on the vision. It is a case of an unchanging God whose ways are the same, then, and todate. In this particular vision of the *weed* that the LORD God sees as growing in the church of Christ, there seems to be a lot at stake, because of the endtime. This *weed* is planted by the devil, in an act that can only take place when the church of Christ falls asleep (Matthew 13:24-43). It is a *weed* that exposes the commercialization of the gospel, accompanied by the sexual sin, immorality, false prophecies, politics, drunkardness, witchcraft and all defilement that the LORD showed me as *plaguing* this modern church of Christ, right now.

The only remedy, however, is to remove the *weed* in a painful process of *weeding* the wheat before its too late

to separate them out. God desires that our lives be like the fruitful branches of a grapevine. The only way to remain fruitful, however, is to stay connected to Jesus, the *Vine* and to allow Jehovah God, the *Gardener*, to *prune* our lives in ways that will stimulate *growth*, and *fruitfulness*. It is God’s cultivating, weeding, and pruning of our lives that brings forth spiritual *fruit* to the church. Just as the *nutrient susbstrate* for the desired *fruit* comes through the vine, so fullness of life comes through *faith* in Christ Jesus. The church needs to stay close to God in Christ Jesus, the source of our spiritual growth and *fruitfulness*.

That means that, in these two mighty visions, the God of heaven is saying to the church, that she has virtually become barren and unfruitful because she is not faithfully *connected* to the true *vine* that is Christ Jesus (John 15:1-17). The weed often competes with the proper growth of the wheat. It is amazing that in the November 20th, 2007 vision, God presented the glory of the LORD, that settled on the dome. This golden dome that sat on top of the church, is symbolic of Christ Jesus, the head of the church. While this was happening, only three scaffolding remnant metal bars still remained on, miserably supporting the link between the dome and the church. It becomes a vision to worry about because never has God ever presented the church in such a pathetic state of disconnectedness from Christ.

Plainly put, God is asking the church to go up onto the mountains, get some timber and *build* up a house for him, that he may dwell among them (Haggai 1:5-11). This house is a spiritual house that encompasses the inner chambers of their hearts. God is saying that time is now over and out, for the false prophecies, the arrogant preachers of prosperity who do not display any fear of the



Kapkatet Repentance and Revival Meeting.



... The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few (Matthew 9:37).

LORD at all, the love of luxury, the gospels of wealth transfer, rumours of what God has said, or might say; the LORD is instructing that time has eventually come for him to speak *directly* to the church, in the holy of holies (Hebrew 9:1-10). It is a final call to a mighty repentance, that will purge the dross, and remove the church from the outer court area into the inner court. It is only within the inner court (holy of holies) that the ark of the new Covenant of the LORD is. Moreover, it is only on the Mercy Seat of the ark of the new covenant of the LORD, that the latter glory can settle, inside the house. For as long as the worship is still in the *outer court*, tainted with *weed* and *sin*, the glory will not enter the house. Jehovah God is awaiting that moment when the church will wake up from sleep, and begin worship in the holy of holies, then the glory of his presence will re-enter the house of the LORD. This event will yield an unmatched *restoration*, and develop a direct *contact* and *communication* with God himself. In that way, he will speak to them about his ways, and *requirements*, causing them to follow his decrees with every fibre of their hearts (Ezekiel 36:24-30; 1 Samuel 3:3-21).

These two visions surely presented a very *sad* and *pathetic* state that reigns in the church today as she grapples with issues of modernity, inclusiveness, and successful living. In summary, the most important take-home message that the LORD God *delivered* to the church in these two mighty visions, is that; repentance, repentance, repentance! To prepare the way. For the King is Coming! This stunning message comes through as a warning of the change in season that has already taken place in heaven. It is this change that the church is required to adjust her calendar in order to conform to. In that way the church will be in synchrony with the calendar of Jehovah God in heaven. This is particularly most crucial because of the mighty visions of the two wedding rings, and the golden 11:59pm clock in the sky (Covered in the last edition).



Nakuru Repentance and Revival Meeting.

## Mighty Vision of Temple of God in Heaven: On the 26th day of March, 2008

By Dr. Owuor

### God Reaching Out To Church

At the time that God Almighty in heaven decided to show Moses, the vision of the Temple of the LORD in heaven, Jehovah had intended that, from then henceforth, worship must be consecrated. It is this consecration of worship that was supposed to build the closest relationship between our holy God in heaven and the sinful church. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, they created a terrible rift in the relationship between God and the human race. But God has spent the centuries since then, reaching out to the church, seeking to heal and restore this relationship. God’s declaration that he would dwell among the Israelites in a tabernacle, was a step in this process of reconciliation (Exodus 25:1-40). God always wanted to live among his people, the church. The details of the pattern he laid out in the tabernacle, also show that God clearly sets boundaries within which he relates to the church (Exodus 26:1-37; Exodus 27:1-21; Exodus 28:1-43; Exodus 29:1-46; Exodus 30:1-38). When Jesus became man, God’s personal presence among the church, represented and highlighted an even more personal relationship between God and the church (John 1:1-14). This relationship was now to be centred around the spiritual Tabernacle of God. When Jeremiah, the prophet of God, was sent to speak judgment and desolation to the Temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, Israel did not comprehend that the utility of the physical tabernacle had run out. And it was now time for the LORD to build a more permanent, and higher-order spiritual sanctuary. The people of Israel did not realize that God had actually allowed Jeremiah, his prophet, to see the advent of Christ. Jesus was now coming to build up the spiritual tabernacle of God, because the dispensation in heaven had changed. The LORD was not going to put up any longer with the perpetual defilement of sin that had scourged the house in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 36:15-21).

showing me the tremendous glory of the LORD in the sky, I noticed that this glory had completely saturated even the ends of the horizon. As I got caught up in observing the glory of the LORD in the sky, then slowly and gradually, the LORD began to unveil and unwrap the Temple of God Almighty in heaven. It was such a mighty sight to behold, a sight that literally took my breath away in that vision. The manner in which the LORD unenveloped this precious centrepiece of heaven, slowly opened clouds of his glory to give me a glimpse of this mighty house of the God, is what shocked me beyond comprehension.

However, in all this astonishment, I realized that the

Temple of the LORD is pure gold. The glitter of pure gold on the preciousy adorned and finished dome, coming through the glory of the LORD, gave me a startling glance of a lifetime, one that can never be replicated on earth or in heaven.

### Golden Dome Of The Temple

In this vision, God’s instructive statement to the church, carries a dual message of gravity. Particularly, most shocking is the fact that God Almighty in heaven, seems to lay greater emphasis on pure gold, in such a manner that the church may not even understand, its depth therein. As I continued working around the clock, on April

9th, 2008, with the studio team in order to design the Mighty House of the LORD, that God had shown me in heaven, the LORD God in a subsequent vision, on the following day April 10th, 2008, he presented to me this Mighty Temple of God again, in the sky. This time he emphasized on the golden nature of the Temple. The initial gold that we had portrayed was lesser in the design, compared to what he was now showing me in the sky again.



It is a mighty and *classical* case of God writing his message with man, in such a manner that can only reminds the church of how the Holy Spirit wrote the holy bible in conjunction with man. Upon waking up that morning, I was frightened at

the perfection of God. The studio team had to revisit the golden design of the Temple of God in heaven, and hence enrich it with a greater tinge of richer, pure gold.

This reiterates on a constant and consistent basis, the greater weight that the LORD Almighty in heaven has placed on pure gold. God Almighty ensured that before this report went to press, the golden component of his glorious Temple in heaven, was well presented, sharp to the accuracy. It is a fearful place to be, as one begins to decipher through the message that is being presented here by Jehovah God.

Pure gold essentially represents the purified, consecrated and holy presence of God Almighty. In spite of the tremendous glory that enveloped the precious dome of the house of

a similar move on the earth. When God announced the building of an earthly worship sanctuary, through the vision of the Temple of God in heaven, a vision that he presented to Moses, he literally intended that a replica of the same be established on the earth (Exodus 25:1-40). God Almighty had seen that his people lacked a direction and sanctuary for worship. At one point, they had erected an idol to worship, thereby extremely grieving the heart of God Almighty. That conversation principally commanded Moses to erect for the LORD a house of worship in order that the defilement that had characterized the life of his people Israel, may be wiped off the face of the earth.

In the same way, the LORD Almighty, the holy One of Israel, is speaking to today’s church in such a magnificent way. The LORD most definitely has watched the defilements of idol worship in today’s church. And, such a defiled worship of idols in the church, appears to have now moved the otherwise compassionate heart of the LORD Almighty, to extreme grief, like it was during the time of Moses. In this 2008, the heart of the LORD must definitely be yearning for another relationship of worship and sacrifice with his people, the church. The characteristic worship of money that goes on, even in public global christian television right now, and through the gospel of wealth transfer and prosperity, a gospel that is centralizing the love of money in the house of God, this worship is hurting the LORD in these last days. Undoubtedly, when God presented his much treasured and hidden holy Temple in heaven, a Temple that only Moses and Ezekiel were privileged to sight, he must be telling the church of Christ today, that time has come for them to build for him a sanctuary that bear his holy name so he may dwell among them. God in heaven is openly saying in a plain language to the church that, like I have shown you, tell them to build me one.

Likewise, the spiritual renewal of the church (revival) and the sustainability of her holiness in these last days prior to the rapture, will have to be built in the same manner. The setting up of the Tabernacle of God began a new life of worship for sacrifice in Israel, while also terminating the idolatry of their past. In similar manner, by the LORD Almighty presenting this mighty vision of the Temple of Jehovah God in heaven, he is practically

telling the church that time has come for a new worship. The spiritual tabernacle that Jesus built for God Almighty, in the church, now requires a new breath of spiritual renewal. And our heavenly Father, is very grieved that even after the heavy price that Jesus paid on the cross, and the subsequent release of the Holy Spirit, the church has once again gone back to the mud. It is as though God is asking the church, and surely the nations of the earth, this question, “Where is the house you will build for me? (Isaiah 66:1-3). This house that is God is pleading with man to rebuild, is in the hearts of the believing christians.

At the time Moses was instructed to build the tabernacle, high expectation had consumed heaven, that glorious and acceptable worship and sacrifice would now reach God Almighty in heaven, from the house of Jacob. A brand new chapter in the relationship between Israel and Jehovah Adonai, was at this moment beginning to unfold. Expectations were very high. In examining the life of the church today, one realizes just how demanding God’s standards for righteous living are. Only the grace of God can help the church meet the holy standards of God. Because God is in the business of healing our relationship with him, in this mighty vision, Jehovah is saying to the church of Christ that a new dispensation has come, a season holiness and righteousness, and that he now expects very highly of the worship in the church. At the time of Moses, this level of high expectation that reigned in the heart of the Father and, as a matter of fact, surely bore the glory of God during the inner court worship.

It is a mighty blessing that the Tabernacle of Moses was completed following all God’s instructions to the letter (Exodus 39:32-43). Doing this had required a great deal of tedious work but all of it had been done God’s way. It was not through mere human perfectionism but rather through the melding of faith, commitment, perseverance, that Israel successfully built the Tabernacle of God on instruction. The meticulous construction of the Temple was greatly, and entirely dependent on Israel’s unique ability to strictly following the instructions of the LORD Almighty.

Likewise, God wants the church to follow his will for her life that he may now restore relationship with her, and pour in the latter anointing of the Holy Spirit. Let me be clear here, the will of God Almighty in

heaven for the church, is not the accumulation of earthly wealth, but that she may walk in his holy ways, and see the wedding of the Lamb of God (Rev 19:6-9). In the Word of God, Almighty, there is a scripture that warns against the wealth of the earth, as leading to eternal condemnation to hell. It says that it would be easier for a camel to enter heaven through the eye of a needle, than for a wealthy man to get his way into the kingdom of God. It is my prayer, within the context of this mighty vision of the LORD, that the church may not skip this scripture in her reading of the Word (Matthew 19:23-24). The precious indescribable golden Temple of the LORD in heaven, constantly emits the royalty and heavenly wealth that awaits the church (Matthew 6: 19-24). Human perfectionism that now dominates the church, cannot restore her back to the holy presence of the LORD. Only the Holy Spirit can.

### Purification Of The Church

That God desires to have a special kind of relationship with the church, is apparent, as he is now beckoning her from within the glory of his throne in heaven. This is clearly demonstrated in this March 26th, 2008 vision, when he presented glimpse of the glittering holy temple in heaven. When Jesus ascended to the Father in heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to live within the church. The Holy Spirit is the counsellor and ministe God’s compassion to the church thereby, bringing the mind of Christ Jesus, to guide the church in doing righteousness and the knowledge of all truth (John

14:26; John 15:26; John 16:5-15). However, for the church to receive the Holy Spirit, in the latter anointing, she must prepare a special place of honour for him. This can be seen in the strict instruction to which Moses and Ezekiel were subjected at the time when they were commanded to build the ark of the covenant of the LORD (Exodus 25:10-22). However, this instruction to Moses was split in two forms. When it came to the building of the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the covenant, God in heaven gave a specific and deliberate instruction on how it should be build (Exodus 25:17-22). Regarding the mercy seat, on top of the ark of the covenant, God now commanded Moses to use a slab made out of pure gold. This was to be the place at which

the glory of the LORD would sit. It is totally compelling to note that when the LORD presented the Mighty Temple of God in heaven, it is also made out of very pure gold. This is the residence of the glory of the LORD. The details of the pattern that the LORD laid out as his glory spurned and weaved and enveloped the precious dome of the Temple in heaven, shows that God, at this time, is setting boundaries on how he intends to relate with the church. Only the golden church of Christ, will be lavished in the enveloping glamour of the latter anointing of the Holy Spirit. This anointing is desperately required today in preparing the church for the mighty *rapture* (1 Cor 15:50-56; John 3:3-10). This means that God is asking the church to become heavenly in her behaviour and character by focusing up into the heavenlies where the glory saturates the sanctuary. The boundary that God is drawing in this new relationship with the church, is one that clearly stipulates the need for the church to be purified like gold. Only the purified church will see the latter glory of the LORD (Zechariah 13:7-9; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 3:11-12). The Temple of God with a beaming golden dome, also reminds the church of where the wedding supper of the Lamb of God will take place. This is intended to delude and disuade her from the excesses of this world, that are driven by self-indulgence in appetites and passions. These passions are the sensuous yeasts that corrupt the fellowship of worship between man and God Almighty in heaven. No yeast infested worship, of the kind found in today’s church will ever find its way into this glorious Temple of God Almighty in heaven. It is a rude wake-up shock that is rocking the church now, the today’s church where praise and worship has become hollywood-like showbiz. Even preachers today whether on christian television or other fora, have to entertain their audiences, at times of arrangements of rhyming words eg when they say things like, “your confession is your possession, “your conviction is your condition”. Preaching the uncompromising and purifying Word of God requires no physchological undertones. God is at this point longing for a truthful church that will preach the Word squarely as it stands in order to prepare a holy golden church that Jesus will snatch like a thief on the precious day of the rapture (Rev 16:15). Gold likes gold; the reason for which the wise men brought pure

gold at the birth of Jesus, and laid it down before his feet in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-12). Among the present were fragrant frankincense and bitter myrrh. The fragrance spice of frankincense explores the fragrance of worship that the royalty and purity of God, was now to bring in, into the church of Christ. The golden Temple of Jehovah God in heaven, resounds an unambigious call for purification in the today’s church of Christ.

It is vivid reminder of the mighty visitation of November 1st, 2006, when at 3:00am in the morning, the Lord presented the two mighty golden and glorious wedding rings in the sky.



The mighty vision that the LORD God presented to Dr. Owuor, on November 1st, 2006, at 3:00am. Jehovah presented these two mighty and glorious wedding rings, for the rapture of the church, in the sky. (See The February 2008 edition of The Eagle).

### The Temple & New Covenant

The ten commandments and the new law of the grace, were not given merely to restrict the life of the church, and strifle her fun, but they were intended by God Almighty to act as *guardrails* to keep the church from paths that lead to destruction and death. The Tabernacle of God Almighty in heaven, is the official residence of the ark of the new covenant of our LORD. The bible, as the uncompromising Word of God, is the invaluable vehicle of the new covenant of the LORD that was handed down to the church at Calvary. This new law of God, was purposed to give the church the criteria for taking moral inventory of her life on a daily basis. By prohibiting certain unacceptable practices and behaviours, this new covenant also exhorts the church to practice behaviour that brings life and joy to her. For instance, when the new law forbids idolatry, it at the same time tacitly promotes the worship of the true and living God who is far much greater than any created image. This is the reason for which God, showed Moses the vision of the Temple of the LORD Almighty in heaven, that humanity

may never fall to idol worship again, but now have a sanctuary built in the spiritual likeness of the House of God in heaven. By asking Moses to build a tabernacle on earth, exactly as the holy sanctuary shown to him in heaven, God was essentially instituting a new worship upon man. In this practice of worship that the God of heaven was now instituting on the earth, new guidelines had to be put in place to govern worship. This guidelines are today found in the new covenant of the LORD, the Word of God. So, when the new covenant forbids the church from coveting, it practically promotes contentment in God’s provision, giving the church confidence and

# The Golden Gate of Jerusalem UNVEILING HER ROLE IN RAPTURE

By Dr. Owuor

## JERUSALEM

Jerusalem is the name that was given by the Lord to the city of God. In its original Hebrew meaning, the name *Yerushalaym*, means the City of Peace (shalom). This city pays host to Mount Moriah, the mountain of God. This Temple Mount, also known as Mount Moriah, is the site that God selected for the establishment of his holy habitation and temple. This spot that is the holy dwelling of the Lord, is very conspicuously placed, whether viewed from the Mount of Olives, or from the Holy Sepulcher. The area is normally quite sedate and peacefully endowed with a unique park-like setting of a kind not seen anywhere on earth. In its simple and sometimes olden presentation, one would hardly guess that this small parcel of land, covering less than fifty acres, is actually the center of the earth. In fact, it is the most contested and hottest piece of real estate ever created anywhere on the planet earth.

Biblically, it is the most exciting point on earth, a place whose most important history lies yet ahead of the current dispensation. Notwithstanding, it is widely believed that it is at this very spot that the creation of the world by the Lord, began. Adam, the first man, is also known to have later brought his offering unto the Lord in this same location. Moreover, it was also here on Temple Mount that Abraham, the forefather of the nations, was commanded to bind up his son, Isaac, and offer him as sacrifice to God. A generation later, in a dream, Jacob perceived the Holy Temple of the Lord at this exact place.

From the very moment when Abraham climbed with Isaac to this place, and called it *Hashem Yireh* (God will provide), this spot was designated as a place for serving the Lord, the God of Israel. An intimate acquaintance with scripture, shows that hundreds of years later, King David diligently revealed this location to Israel, and hence built here an altar unto the Lord, the God of Israel. His son, King Solomon, would then later build the first Holy Temple at this spot. This became the centre for holy communings



Temple Mount & the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem (Golden Gate).

between Israel and Jehovah.

The wall surrounding the Temple Mount is also another very important very important spiritual artefact that speaks much to today’s church. Needless to say, its being burnt down at the wrath of God, and restoration by Nehemiah offer a very significant pathway that today’s church ought to follow. Briefly, this wall was built during the reign of King Solomon, and was raised to a height of about forty cubits. In this construction, the eastern side of the wall was deliberately built lower than the other sides. It was done so that the priests that sacrificed the red heifer unto the Lord, could be able to see over the wall, into the entrance to the *Heichal*, while he stood on the Mount of Olives. This arrangement unveils the greater spiritual significance attached to the eastern side of the Jerusalem wall. It is a most important, and living link that existed between the worship in the Temple of the Lord, and the Mount of Olives. During such celebrated high worship, as the high priest sacrificed the red heifer on the Mount of Olives, the glory of the Lord often came and filled the holy of holies in the Temple. This definitely makes the current impasse in which there is a portrayal of a “*protracted stand-off*” between the closed Eastern Gate facing the Mount of Olives, is a testament that foretold of the great *dysfunction* that would later afflict worship in the house of God. There is nothing quite like the worship fellowship that occurred between the Temple of the Lord and the sacrifice on the Mount of Olives. Yet now the Eastern Gate is closed with the Temple of the Lord

remaining inside there in absolute desolation with no visitation of the glory of the Lord.

This is a great act of God that symbolizes the endtime restoration that would be required of today’s modern and fallen church, through reconciliation with God. During the temple times, the Levites kept watch in watchtowers (sentry) that were situated on the sides of the wall. The *stoa* was a covered area that stood on pillars, and ran all along the wall, surrounding the Temple Mount. It gives a glimpse of what the God of Israel expects of the church of Christ today. The authoritative glory of the Lord used to visit this Temple Mount and yet Israel was still required to maintain watchful vigil on the house of the Lord. Evidently, this protective demeanour is a replica of the events that appear in heaven.

The cherubim of glory in the throneroom of God keep a constant watch over the *mercy seat* of the ark of the new covenant of the Lord. This is in spite of the heavy presence of the archangel, the numerous angels and heavenly hosts. It is in the backdrop of this heavy presence of heavenly hosts, that the cherubim still have to pay a constant vigil and watch over the surface of the mercy seat. In this divine act, they spread out their wings to protect the spot where the glory of the Lord sits on the ark of the new covenant of God.

Then, how much more does God expect today’s church to protect the altar of the Lord, a novel place at which the blood of Christ Jesus has been poured, and the latter glory is promised? How many times has the church carefully watched over the altar of the Lord where the latter and most authoritative glory is supposed to seat? An honest evaluation on the sluggish state of the watchfulness of the church towards the coming of the Lord, finds her really wanting in this area. In fact, rather than protect the altar from external defilement like Israel did at the watchtowers, the church has vehemently participated in defiling this holy place and enhanced the porousness of the wall to external insults. In this way, the church too must be willing to surrender her distracting routines and keep watch around the mountain of the Lord,

the church. The spiritual mountain of the Lord in the church is the altar of God where she is expected to be watchfully worshipping in anticipation for the *rapture* (Rev 16:15). Watchful worship allows the church to continually audit herself and keep in the way of holiness (Hebrews 12:14, 1 Peter 1:15, 1 John 3:3).

The subject of this celebrated wall that surrounds Jerusalem becomes even more intriguing and revealing to today’s church, when one examines the architectural design that the Holy Spirit laid down for its construction. In its design, this wall was deliberately punctuated and interrupted by gates at specific locations. It is interesting that from a geo-political stand point, at one point, even the leadership that reigned in Jerusalem appreciated the role of this wall in fortifying and protecting the people against the *marauding Bedouins* and *other vagabonds*. These *marauding Bedouins* and *other vagabonds* are symbolic of the different spiritual assaults that would later attack the church of Christ in the days prior to the *rapture*. It is a state that calls for maintaining vigil at the spiritual sentry towers of the house of the Lord. In the church today these *marauding Bedouins* and *other vagabonds* have gotten their way into the holy dwelling through the porous wall that marks her being. In so doing, these spiritual *marauding Bedouins* and *other vagabonds* have grossly interfered with worship in the Lord’s house, thereby leading to enormous distraction of attention into a state of mere survival. They have brought the world into the *perimeter* of the wall, thereby reducing the spiritual holy space in the house.

## EASTERN GATE PROPHECY: MESSAGE TO CHURCH

The Old City of Jerusalem is famous for its *mesmerizing* and *ageless* gates. Seven of these *antiquated* gates are open, and these being; Jaffa, Zion, Dung, Lions’, Herod’s, Damascus and New. These historic gates were carefully and systematically named by location. The Jaffa Gate faces west towards Tel Aviv and Joppa. The Damascus Gate is in the North wall where travellers would enter if they had come from Galilee, the Golan Heights and the greater Damascus region. The Zion Gate is located on Mt. Zion near the tomb of David and the noble site of the upper room of the Lord’s last supper. The Dung Gate on the other hand, faces south towards the Hinnom Valley where refuse from the city used to be dumped in temple times. The Sheep Gate was positioned facing the sheep market.

However, the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem is marvellously unique and distinct from the rest. It stands out as one of the most important and principle structures on the planet earth, that testifies to the bible as being the true and living word of God Almighty. This Gate, also known as the *Golden Gate*, is made out of pure gold, and consists of dual mega doors. This famous *Golden Gate* is the most important and most impressive gate in Jerusalem. The eastern Gate also prides itself as the only visible entrance to the city

streets of old Jerusalem today, still retains the original fascination that offers an *invaluable* and *endless* spiritual adventure of Nehemiah’s dispensation. These streets dissolves one, way back into the *sweet*, old and holy biblical days when the Lord God was feared as he visited in his glory. Currently, it goes without saying that the porous wall around the church (hearts of the saints) shamefully portrays a humiliating defeat she has suffered in the hands of the enemy. This is an *aberration* of the victory Jesus earned the church, and especially today’s endtime church. He is the same God that the church is worshipping. He demands that the wall of holiness be rebuilt around the spiritual mountain of the Lord, the church of Christ.

of Jerusalem from the East. This prestigious *Golden Gate* of Jerusalem, is in addition, the oldest of all the gates leading to this holy city, and speaks much to today’s church of Christ that is awaiting the *rapture*. A careful scrutiny of the monolithic stones in the *wall* just above the ground, take the construction architecture of this noble gateway back into the humble 6th-century BC masonry, from the dispensation of Prophet Nehemiah (Nehemiah 3). At the time *when* Nehemiah *was* commissioned by the Lord to repair the broken *wall* around Jerusalem, he assigned Shemaiah, son of Shecaniah, the guard at the Eastern Gate to effect its repairs (Nehemiah 3:29). It is absolutely fascinating, against all odds, that since the *Golden Gate* *was* walled up, it has remained closed for many centuries todate, just that it may fulfill bible prophecy.

If the church operated in a passion deep enough to win the affection of the Holy Spirit, she would have been revealed to much about this golden artefact. In ourselves, we are incapable of unveiling even the most minute of revelation surrounding this mysterious *Golden Gate*. However, through the favour of the Holy Spirit the church can be positioned in a posture to receive such hidden revelation. It is in this context that a careful excavation of the role played by this Gate in worship at the sanctuary, that its centrality to today’s church becomes eminent.

#### Its Golden Nature (Dhahabi)

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#### The Northern Arch (Tawba/Toba)

However, the *Golden Gate*, *Dhahabi*, todate still stands as a closed double Gate *with* both the *north* and *south* portals (arches). A further dig reveals that the Spirit of the Lord led Israel to crown the *north* portal with the name *Tawba*, *which* in its actual and original, oriental dialect means *Repentance*. Consistently, the generic off-shoot of oriental languages such as *swahili* call it *Toba* which directly implies *Repentance*, the *turning away*

*gold* permitted its being used as an exchange currency. Therefore, because the Temple of the Lord was the most treasured structure in Israel, they took pride in possessing it. But that, the *Golden Gate* of Jerusalem was the only Gate that led directly into the Temple courts, is a precious piece of revelation on the mighty spiritual purification that the people needed to go through as they entered the sanctuary of the Lord. This is derived from the fact that the process that produces *gold* often required the purification by fire to remove contaminating impurities (Zechariah 13:7-9, Isaiah 48:10; Ezekiel 36:24-30). Therefore, the Spirit of the Lord was signifying to the people on the importance of purification as one enters into intimate worship with the Lord. Now, this is the message that the Spirit of the Lord is directing to today’s modern church.

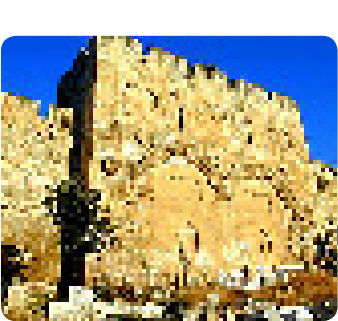
That she must seek purification on a continuous basis as she communes with the Lord in worship. It is this continued thirst for higher levels of purification that fractioned off the true ardent worshippers of Jehovah from *baalists*. The fact that all people that worshipped at the Temple went through the prerequisite of purification implies that the land lived under the fear of the Lord in those days. It is as though the Lord is using the monumental golden structure of *Dhahabi* to ask today’s modern church a very important question; In your worship have you bothered to purify yourselves prior to accessing the presence of God? Moreover, the Holy Spirit appears to be using this *Golden Gate*, *Dhahabi*/*Dhahabu*, to ask this last church; Do you possess the fear of the Lord? This are very pertinent and weighty questions that go down to the *bone-marrow* of today’s modern church that has gotten her mind completely *beclouded* with *post-modernism*.

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*from sin* in Christ Jesus. It therefore goes without saying, that this *north* portal (*Toba*) of the *Golden Gate* (*Dhahabi*), was essentially a living Gate, whose name functionally represented the *turning away from sin* as worshippers entered the Temple. This escalates the value with which the nomenclature of this Gate was attached. It gives greater weight and validates the name *Golden Gate* (*Dhahabi*) given to the main Gate since the *gold* it represents symbolizes the process of purification that all worshippers craved for, as they came from the *world* into the sanctuary presence of



The closed dual gates (Golden Gate).

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the Lord (Zechariah 13:7-9). And now it comes out even more clearly why the worshippers who went into the Temple for purification, had to enter through *Tawba* (*Toba*). It is a representation of the act of *repentance* they required in order to achieve purity as they fellowshiped with God in the Temple. It is astounding how hidden the *infinite* and *timeless* wisdom of the Lord can be! And what a mighty way in which the Lord is instructing this endtime church of today, on the gravity of *repentance*, *Tawba* (*toba*) to all who long to enter (*rapture*) into the spiritual sanctuary of God in heaven.

#### The Southern Arch (Rahma/Rehema)

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The southern portal of this double-arched *Golden Gate* of Jerusalem is called *Rahma*. In the Mediterranean near-Eastern Hebrew customs were closely knit with the Torah, and especially the five books of Moses, the Prophet of the Lord. It is as though even the system of naming important civil structures did not take place unless the five books of Moses were consulted. God was prominent in people’s day to day lives. As devout worshippers of Jehovah, Israel named the southern arch of this spiritually very important Gate *Rahma*. This name, *which* essentially means *Mercy*, stood for a very important aspect of their lives,

as they walked out of the Temple of the Lord. It represented the new mercies of God that endure forever, a mercy that is only achieved when we return to him through *repentance* (*toba*). This is big news to today’s church and if well harnessed can greatly enhance her understanding of the nature of the *Mercy* of God. Similarly, other refined oriental dialects translate *Rahma* into *Rehema*, which stands for the *Mercy* of the Lord, the God of Israel, through Christ Jesus. The fact that Israel in her worship demeanour entered the Temple Courts through the *northern arch* (*Toba*), and left the Temple area through the *southern arch* (*Rehema*), reveals much on the Grace of God that is directed towards the church of Christ. It is as though the Lord once more set up protocol on how he is to be approached and worshipped. The Lord had earlier given such instructions to Moses on worship. And now the Lord appears to emphasize the fact that the Grace that he

extended to the church, through Christ Jesus, cannot be abused. By this I mean that, the Lord is stressing on the cost and price of attaining the *Mercy* of God. The God of heaven is certainly emphasizing to the church that the price she needs to pay to attain his *Mercy* is *repentance*. And such *Mercy* is resident in the Blood of Jesus that was shed on the Cross at Calvary, the Blood that brought us *repentance* from sin. Going by this, it therefore becomes imperative for the church to vividly acknowledge and come to terms with the fact that *repentance* is part and parcel of the *Mercy* of God. And that in fact, only through *repentance* can the church receive *Mercy* from God. Well, because *repentance* practically means *turning away from sin* and the *return to holiness*, then it goes without saying that the *Mercy* of God can only be achieved when the church chooses to walk in the ordained *holiness* of God. In this protocol set by the God of Israel, he appears to be placing *repentance* central in worship. It is a process that boldly lays down *repentance* as the foundation of the gospel in the church. This definitely goes contrary to popular belief that has swept through today’s modern church, a belief system which erroneously asserts that the *Grace* of God is endless and once achieved stays on and on forever at no price. No wonder, the gospel that is being preached in today’s modern church is devoid of *repentance*, when God himself is centralizing *repentance* prior

to *Mercy*, and not vice versa.

*Rahma/Rehema* the Gate of *Mercy*, was in the Temple times used as an exit from the sanctuary into the world. This denoted the spiritual transformation that had occurred in the lives of the Temple worshippers. They entered the Temple through *Tawba*/*Toba*/*Repentance* and left through *Rahma/Rehema/Mercy*. It is incredible that during worship the glory of the Lord’s presence manifested into the sanctuary and transformed their lives before they left. As they left it was a rule of protocol that they passed through *Rehema* and they lived a reformed life having attained the *Mercy* of God. This *Mercy* brought the *Grace* of God into their lives as they started living towards the church of Christ. It is as though the Lord once more set up protocol on how he is to be approached and worshipped. The Lord had earlier given such instructions to Moses on worship. And now the Lord appears to emphasize the fact that the Grace that he

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The Southern Arch (Rahma/Rehema)

#### JESUS & THE GOLDEN GATE Revealing The Messiah

This mightily revealing aspect of the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem, now becomes even much more *overwhelming* than initially perceived! A revelation that now underscores the greater inexhaustible spiritual potency of this mysterious Eastern *Golden Gate* of Jerusalem. A closer deliberation onto its *double-arched* nature, brings out a greater spiritual significance to the church of Christ. The message that is embedded in this humble Gate reveals the nature of Jesus Christ, the Messiah himself. It begins with the fact that this Gate is the only one through *which* when accessed would lead and permit a direct entry into the Temple Courts. The dual and mosaic identity of *repentance* and *mercy* that mark the *Golden Gate*, essentially describe the Holy name of Jesus. It is as though when the Spirit of the Lord allowed King Solomon to build the Temple, God intended to establish an earthly sanctuary that would not only be the mirror image of the Temple in heaven, but also a transition Temple that reflected the spiritual tabernacle that was to come. In this way the worship at the Temple in Jerusalem also hinted on the things to come when Jesus would appear. Of course, the life span of the Temple would end with her utility in worship. And the priesthood would then have to change when the spiritual tabernacle is instituted. This priesthood that would be required to transition, not only Israel, but the entire mankind from an earthly into a spiritual tabernacle would have to be Jesus the Messiah and High Priest. Because the Jerusalem Temple was physical, with the fixed life span, a shift into a spiritual and eternal sanctuary would require a high priest that would reign forever and ever. This High Priest would have to operate in the order of Melchizedek, the King of Jerusalem, the King of Salem (Hebrew 7).

By such means, the dual-arched Eastern Gate of Jerusalem essentially revealed Christ as early as the Temple dispensation. This is because it is only by *repentance* through Christ Jesus, that the church (nations) can enter into the house of the Lord our God. This entry will eventually hit a finality at the *rapture* of the church (1 Thess 4:16-17; 1 Cor 13:50-56). Likewise, only through the mighty resurrecting power of the

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Lord Jesus can the church be able to finally access the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on the Day of the Lord during the second coming. But the mercy of God was only attained for mankind through Christ Jesus, who reconciled sinful man with God, by his Blood through repentance. This gives a new definition to the much celebrated *Grace* of God. It imputes the *Grace* of God as being directly embedded on the *Mercy*-giving Blood of Jesus, which is *Repentance*. But we surely know that *repentance* is the complete *turning away from sin*, and the *return to holiness*. This availeth a totally new dimension in the understanding of the *Grace* of God, because through this *Golden Gate*, God is now telling the church that the *Grace* of our Lord Jesus though which *Mercy* was attained for man, **ONLY** comes through *holiness* and nothing else. It becomes a direct link between holy living and the *Grace* of God. No wonder, the Bible comes out very clearly without any ambiguity, that no one can abuse the *Grace* of God (Hebrews 6:4-6; Hebrews 10:26-31; 2 Peter 2:19-21; Numbers 15: 27-31). In such manner, as now coming through, the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem surely talks of Jesus *who* is the *one and only way* for accessing the house of the Father in heaven. And this *accessing* is *repentance* through the Blood of Jesus, The Perfect Passover Lamb of God. Built then in the time of King Solomon, this Gate truly talked about the Messiah, and the subsequent future of today’s church.

Considering that Christ Jesus is the royalty of God, then the *Golden* identity marker presented by the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem essentially reveals the Messiah. This notwithstanding that the Messiah would stand at this *Golden Gate* on the day of the last judgment. Moreover, greater light is now shed on why upon the birth of Christ, the Magi from the East brought among other gifts, *gold* (Matthew 2:11-13). The Gold they presented unto the Lord Jesus in Bethlehem, relays a clear message on the royalty and purity of God that was resident in him. It is the same language that the Golden Gate speaks to the church, when it figuratively represents Christ Jesus, the one and only entrance into the Father’s house (John 14:6). Most importantly, the recent vision of the Lord in which he presented the two golden wedding rings in the sky, greatly articulate on the importance of Holy Communion with Jesus to achieve entry into the kingdom of God. This Holy Communion is

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the spiritual wedding of the Lamb of God, and actually completes the loop that links the last supper to the wedding supper of the Lamb of God (Rev 19:9). This is the blessing into which the Lord our God called the church. It is an eternal blessing that transcends beyond the physical cars, homes, private jets, large tracks of land, health and wealth gospel that the church is currently indulged in (1 Cor 15:50-56). These simple and perishable earthly inheritance can in no way be compared to, the eternal invaluable blessing that will accrue unto the church during the wedding supper of the Lamb of God. At this time, her cup will overflow and run over. The Eastern *Golden Gate* of Jerusalem then becomes a sobering reality and an awakening that the church must embrace to be restored. The fact that this revelation is trickling through from the treasure rooms of wisdom in the throne of God, implies that time is running out and the promised revelation is at hand for the church to restore.

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#### ... ALSO CALLED BEAUTIFUL And Anointed With Grace

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In the bible, it is this same famous ancient Eastern Gate to Jerusalem that is referred to as the *Beautiful Gate* (Acts 3:2; Acts 3:10). Its existence has also long interested the church, as the place of the *last judgment* of God (Joel 3:2; Joel 3:12). This is because historically, the *Lord’s judgments* were always rendered in the gates of the city (Genesis 19:1; Genesis 23:10). Since the Messiah is to come from the east (Matthew 24:27), it is *now* accepted as common biblical understanding that he *will* judge the nations of the earth at the gate, and this Gate being the *Golden Gate*. This has many times been misinterpreted, and is the reason for the many graves that *now* litter on the eastern slopes of the Temple Mount, including in the Kidron Valley, and on the *western* slopes of the Mount of Olives. This double-arched *Golden Gate* of Jerusalem is therefore the main centre piece in the events that *will* be marked on the day of the Second Coming of the Lord (Luke 19:35-38). Christ the Messiah, the King of Israel *will* return to Jerusalem from the summit of the Mount of Olives and then surely proceed into Jerusalem from the East, in the direction of the *Golden Gate* (Zechariah 14:4-5).

It is this very Gate that Ezekiel the prophet of the Lord described

and ordered to be closed until the return of the Messiah (Ezekiel 44:1-3). The portals of the Eastern Gate lead into a magnificent entrance that is beautifully decorated and adorned *with* unusually intricate carvings of *acanthus* leaves. These carvings when *viewed* from a distance appear to be moving. This *Golden Gate* of Jerusalem is also equipped with a gate room, *which* is carefully constructed as a hall with six domes supported by costly huge marble pillars. The interior corridors of the *Golden Gate* are exceptionally beautiful and *well*-built, with the noble timeless architecture. On the east side of the hall are *two* gateways, *now* blocked up, gorgeously embellished on the outside. Even though these original pillars cannot be seen on the surface, they lie beneath this Gate due to the passage of that time. The stunning pillars that glamorize the *Golden Gate* are knoen to have been special gifts from the Queen of Sheba unto King Solomon as a sign of respect to the God of Israel *who* had anointed King Solomon *with* such immense wisdom and splendour (2 Chronicles 9:9).

Moreover, through these double-arched Gates, the Holy Spirit is relaying a deeper insight into the nature and person of Christ, the Messiah. A further and careful observation of the spiritual embodiment of these double Gates of *Repentance* and *Mercy*, appears to sharply contrast the *law* and the *Grace*. It is a revelation and a vivid reminder to today’s modern church that God is just (*justice*), but his *Mercy* triumphs over judgment, when people *repent* and *return to holiness* (James 2:13). This is yet another opportunity *when* the God of Israel is revealing to the church, privileged nuggets about his candid nature through these *dual Gates*. They display the Holy One of Israel *who* is just, and must judge the *world* with equity and impartiality, and *whose Mercy* endures forever upon entrance into *Repentance* (*Toba*). In this *way*, the double-arched Gates reveal Jehovah *whose Mercy* through Christ Jesus stands out as a greater and much higher attribute even in the face of judgment. He is ready to forgive all *who* genuinely *repent* through Christ Jesus and *who* pass through this Gate by seeking him in *holiness*, and to them his *Mercy* abounds. For that reason, the Eastern Gate is the only entrance that goes straight into the Temple Courts. And worshippers to the Temple, entering the courts through the *northern* portal of *Repentance* could seek the *forgiveness*

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from sin by sacrifice and petition, and would have to leave by the *southern* portal having obtained *Mercy* and *Grace*. Surely, the *Golden Gate* is a wonderful piece of article that bears a reminder of the unchanging character of God. Ultimately, the *Golden Gate* of Jerusalem, in its dual carriage nature becomes the physical attestation of the scripture;

*Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.*

*Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the king of Glory may come in.* (Psalm 24:7; Psalm 24:9)

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*Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.” Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, “The LORD will surely separate me from his people”; and let not the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.”*

*For thus says the LORD: “To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which shall not be cut off. “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, every one who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.* (Isaiah 56:1-7)

In this scripture, the Lord *was* speaking to the church about the relationship between the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem and the *rapture* of the church. He *allowed* Isaiah, the prophet of the Lord to see endtime events that would transpire at the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem *when* Jesus the Messiah would return *with the raptured* saints. This is the church that is separated out from the world by the Holy Spirit and referred to *as the elect of the Lord*. Their complete separation from the *world* (*sinful desires of the flesh*) prior to the *rapture* is *what* the Lord refers to, and he seems to be completely fond of the *eunuchs*.

During the *rapture* of the church, there *will* be great shock *within* today’s church because Jesus, the Chief Bridegroom *will* appear like a *thief* and *steal away* the holy, *righteous* and *glorious* church that has completely separated from the dynamics of this sinful and dark world (Rev 15:16). In itself, the *rapture* foretells of the major events of judgment that *will* transpire at the

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Eastern Gate of Jerusalem. This is due to the fact that at *rapture*, two women will be grinding at a hand mill, one will be taken and the other will be left. Likewise, two men will be working in the field, one will be taken and the other left (Matthew 24:40-41). For those who will be *raptured*, the God of the bible has already laid down an eternal promise that they will eat the wedding dinner of the Lamb of God (Rev 19:9). This appointed elect church, after seven years from the day of the *rapture*, will then proceed towards the Mount of Olives and the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem, being led by Christ Jesus, the Messiah (Rev 1:7). It will be a momentous occasion that is heavy on the side of joy for these *elect*, in the midst of horrendous pain, sorrow and mourning, that will grip the nations of the earth. For this reason, Isaiah the prophet of God spoke about the double-arched portals of the Eastern Gates of Jerusalem. Surely, arrival at this Gate will spark off a myriad of *new* second-order events of historic proportions, events both heaven and the earth have never yet experienced, in the entire history of creation.

The entire Temple Mount as well as the Temple itself depict a very sacred place, set aside by the Holy Spirit in a divine way for the service of the Holy One of Israel. This implies that the Lord God has evidently been, over the many centuries, seriously offended by the many grievous defilements sported in this area. These include cemeteries, tombs and burial places as well as idolatrous shrines that litter this entire zone. Considering that these defilements are positioned proximate to the entrance of the Eastern Gate, then it is clearly inappropriate that they take such precedence in the vicinity of this holy Temple Mount. Apparently, the Lord himself makes it *known* to the church, his feelings about this gross defilement at the entrance. In this context, the Lord commands that all these graves, defilements, idolatries, harlotries, prostitutions, and abominations must be removed as the Messiah comes to the Eastern Gate (Ezekiel 43:1-9). These abominations that currently parade and block the entrance are more spiritual than physical, and represent the defilements that currently block the entrance of the heart of the church of Christ. This kind of blockade has kept the Holy Spirit out of the church and must hence be removed for any realistic transformation to occur in church.

<sup>1</sup> *Then the man brought me to the gate facing east,* <sup>2</sup> *and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory.* <sup>3</sup> *The vision I saw was like the vision I had seen when he [a] came to destroy the city and like the visions I had seen by the Kobar River, and I fell facedown.* <sup>4</sup> *The glory of the LORD entered the temple through the gate facing east.* <sup>5</sup> *Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.* <sup>6</sup> *While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me from inside the temple.* <sup>7</sup> *He said: “Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever. The house of Israel will never again defile my holy name—neither they nor their kings—by their prostitution [b] and the lifeless idols [c] of their kings at their high places.* <sup>8</sup> *When they placed their threshold next to my threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them, they defiled my holy name by their detestable practices. So I destroyed them in my anger.* <sup>9</sup> *Now let them put away from me their prostitution and the lifeless idols of their kings, and I will live among them forever* (Ezekiel 44:1-3).

### THE VISION OF THE EASTERN GATE The Mighty July 2006 Visitation Of The LORD

God’s honesty is obvious as he reveals everything to the church. Hozever, the channelling of the Lord’s unchanging and ever timely revelation of this time, requires a faithful vessel that is available. Such a conduit must be a church that *walks* in devout alignment *with* the Holy Spirit. It is in this order that such a vessel can be usable unto the Lord. *Holiness* has always been, and continues to be the yardstick of this hallmark.

In a mighty vision of the Lord, on July 13, 2006, the Lord lifted me up and took me on the top of the Mount of Olives and immediately heaven opened above the eastern slopes of the Mount of Olives. At that instance, the enormous and tremendous glory of the Lord came beaming from heaven, and headed towards the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem. As the glory of the Lord approached this monumental Gate, it ploughed its *way* through and cleared the *way* in *what* became like a huge fume of dust mixed *with* the glory of the Lord. This fuming glory mixed with dust, continued to plough its way towards the Eastern Gate. After that, I then *saw* the Eastern Gate *with* its double-

arched Gates slammed open by the tremendous power of the glory of the Lord. The glory of the Lord then went straight through the Golden Gate, into the inner court of the Temple of the Lord. Upon waking up, I immediately realized that the Lord had just spoken mightily to the church and that he had apparently shown me the same conversation he had with Ezekiel, the Prophet of God. However, in this case, the Lord was presenting this vision on the events of the second coming, having previously just given me revelation about the *rapture* of the church. On November 1st, 2006, at 3:00am in the morning, the Lord had shown me the vision of the wedding rings in the sky (See chapters above).

For the Lord to have engaged this follow-up conversation *with* me on the endtime church, he definitely must have been emphasizing on two critical issues.

Firstly, that the Lord is greatly concerned about the disparity that currently exists between the preparatory events in heaven, and those in the church, concerning the wedding of the Lamb of God. This is a revelation that urges the church to *switch gears*, change focus, and move faster because the dispensation has changed. It urgently stresses the time aspect of preparing the *way* for the wedding of the Lamb. It is as though the Lord has shifted attention into two most critical end events;

- a) the preparing of the way by ploughing through the defilement in church
- b) by presenting the post-*rapture* second coming of the Lord.

This shift seems to count the *rapture* events as already marked and determined as to when they will occur. It is a shift that places the church of Christ face to face in conversation with God the Father of Christ, the One and only One that knows the day of the wedding of the Lamb.

And because the glory of the Lord that comes *down* over the Mount of Olives, into the Temple of the Lord, through the Eastern Gate, is a very mighty post-*rapture* event, then this draws a very urgent concern. The concern here is that the Lord is already pondering on the post-*rapture* events *while* the church is not yet even ready for the *rapture* event. This is the classical display of a spiritual misslink in the prophetic time line that the church is pursuing, a calendar that has placed her out of sync with the Holy Spirit events

accruing *within* the throneroom of God in heaven. The magnitude and gravity of this concern is further heightened by the fact that on the May 3rd, 2007 and at about 5:38am, the Lord in a mighty vision on the *rapture*, he presented a golden clock that was 11:59pm in the sky. And considering that it is this late in the day, then the church cannot afford to sit idol in a spiritual misslink that is out of sync with the preparatory events in heaven.

Secondly, that the Lord is telling the church, right now, to prepare in *righteousness* and *holiness* of absolute zero tolerance to sin. It is a gracious plea to the church that she may shift positions from her current casual stance towards the coming of the Lamb of God. In this kind of spiritual posture, the church may not be able to tap onto the spiritual message that the Holy Spirit is busy beaming to the earth regarding the wedding of the Lamb of God. The Lord is instructing the church to get out of being docile, and be transformed into a fire-brand, vibrant vessel for endtime revival. The bumper harvest of souls is at hand and the workers are few. Going by this, the massive glory, in the vision, that ploughed through the tombs and the great defilements that overshadow the holy entrance (Eastern Gate), is symbolic of the massive latter glory of the Lord that comes to the church to clean her up from her current abominations. These abominations include sexual sin, the gospel of prosperity, false prophecies, among others, that have brought death at her door and marked her *with* a great defilement and harlotry of these end days.

It is this latter glory that *was* symbolized by the cloud of his glory that visited the mountain of **transfiguration** and interrupted the erroneous voice of Peter. This event was symbolic of the restoration of the church as the voice of the Lord from the cloud directs the church to *listen to* Jesus the Messiah. For that reason, during the temple times, every time the high priest offered sacrifice unto Jehovah, the Shekinah glory would *always* come down from heaven and settle at this very Eastern Gate. To the church, the Lord is basically saying that he longs to be called *Immanuel*, hence asking for an undefined dwelling place in her heart (Isaiah 7:14).

#### THE CLOSED GATE Prophecy To The Church

The *Golden Gate* of Jerusalem is a generous, and serious spiritual bridge between Israel and the church. The total closure of the precincts of the house of the Lord by this gate, exhibits a tremendous act of biblical prophecy to the church. The sealing of this Gate has become a centre piece in bible prophecy and hinges directly on the endtime church prior to the *rapture*. At the time, Ezekiel the prophet of God foretold of this closure and the complete sealing of this Gate (Ezekiel 44:1-3). By this, the Holy Spirit is speaking about the fact that this Gate would be finally and entirely reserved for the Messiah and his remnant bride after the *rapture*. This remnant bride is the church that would become sensitive enough to prepare for the wedding of the Lamb of God. This sensitivity is expected to translate into the receiving of the Holy Spirit in today’s church, and the birthing out of a massive endtime *holiness* and *repentance* revival. Only the Holy Spirit of the Lord has the authority and capability to transform the church of Christ from *where* she is today into the glorious remnant spiritual bride of Christ. This demands that the church *walk* in complete *holiness* however unpopular it may be in the world of today. Undergoing this kind of suffering in her spiritual walk can serve to refine and strengthen the church as she *waits* on the *rapture*.

The current closure of this Eastern Gate of Jerusalem denotes a state of desolation in the house of the Lord, and actually narrates the story of today’s modern church. When Ezekiel, the prophet of the Lord spoke closure to the *Golden Gate*, it is awesome to note that it came to pass, even across the different regimes that reigned in the holy land. The big miracle, *however*, is the *way* a strict observance *was* effected on this closure across different regimes that ruled the land of the bible. This stretches from the Byzantine rule all the *way* into the earliest Arab conquest, and all of them sealed this mighty Gate.

In an inescapable certainty in the fulfilment of the word of God, this Gate remained sealed even during the most crucial 1967 six-day *war* in Israel. It can be remembered that in this *war*, Israel *was* confronted *with* a very difficult choice between allowing the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) to storm the *Golden Gate* or use a more difficult and risky route to

recapture Jerusalem. The Jordanian army *was* camped right by the Eastern Gate and storming the Eastern Gate would have been the more humanly rational approach. Such an approach is known world over to be consistent with the Israeli war tactic of pre-emptive surprise attacks on the enemy, when they least expect. Such an approach had worked very well against the Egyptian army, when Israel pre-emptively surprised them and crushed the Egyptian air force at their bases before take-off. It is however, astounding that in this six-day war, Israel chose to depart from its routine tact, and took the risk thereby leaving the Eastern Gate sealed and intact. The Orthodox Jewish IDF commanders could not allow that Jerusalem be recaptured by storming open the Eastern Gate. This religious Jewish commanders *knew* that only the Messiah can, and will, open this Golden Eastern Gate of Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit allowed Jerusalem to be beautifully and fully recaptured back to Israel in this historic war. When God’s *word* is faithfully proclaimed, as it *was* by Ezekiel, then the message is vindicated when the *declarations* and *proclamation* fully come to pass. Then the Lord is glorified.

Notwithstanding, the fact that from the farthest east, this highly acclaimed *Golden Gate* of Jerusalem is the only one that leads directly into the inner courts of the Temple, shows that there is more to this Golden Gate than man can unveil. Even the bible clearly elaborates that,

...as lightening that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man... (Matthew 24:27).

It is a deliberate design of the Holy Spirit that makes this ancient Gate a very exceptional and special entrance into this City of God. This phraseology was intended to hint on the events to come after the *rapture* (Second Coming). Since this Golden Gate symbolizes the identity of our Lord Jesus, *Repentance* and *Mercy*, as the only *way* to the Father, then it equally also ascertains of the *new* Jerusalem (John 14:1-3). The *new* Jerusalem that comes after this dispensation *will* be the home of the righteous and Jesus is the one and only *way* into that glamorous city of God (2 Peter 3:10-13). It is no wonder, that the Lord clearly and categorically separates out this Eastern Golden Gate, and comprehensively talks to it, addressing it directly on a one-on-one basis. In this phraseology,

the Lord is reminding the church about the spiritual Jerusalem and the conditions by which the church can qualify into that noble citizenry. The take home phrase is;

... *since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live Holy and godly lives as you look forward.* . . . (2 Peter 3:10-13).

The Lord directly commands this Gate by saying;

*Be lifted up you ancient doors that the king of Glory may come in...*(Psalm 24:7).

What is even more bewildering is that all these conversations the Lord is having *with* the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem, are in relation to the endtime events in the church. In other words, the Lord is indirectly talking to the modern church of today. By looking at this ancient Gate and listening to *what* the Lord is saying in the bible, two things come out very clearly. Firstly, that the Lord appears to be telling the church to recognize that this ancient Gate portrays a picture of the first primitive church that bears the image of Christ, and is the faithful spiritual bride of the Lamb.

#### Desolation in the Church Foretold . . .

Secondly, the *desolation* and *loneliness* pronounced by this *Golden Gate* of Jerusalem and the deserted Temple, suggest a mighty prophecy on the abandonment of the house the Lord, that fails to recognize her hour of Holy Spirit visitation. It foretells from time then todate, of the great need for *restoration* that would arise in today’s endtime church. It is common knowledge that Jerusalem and specifically the Temple of the Lord, rejected the mighty visitation of the Holy Spirit when Jesus walked in. This visitation occurred as Jesus desperately attempted severally to revive her, but she refused and was *unwilling* (Matthew 23:37). At that time Jerusalem *was* so engrossed in her routine practices that were being run by the highly learned theologians and teachers of the *Law*. These academics constitute the modern day eloquent doctorates and theologians that have currently overcrowded today’s modern church of Christ. And the absurdity and irony is that a careful scrutiny of the practices and daily routine of these highly learned Pastors and

theologians of the day in Jerusalem, reveals that they were actually busy and preoccupied with praying for the Messiah to come. They *were* essentially fully engaged in pleading with God and asking him to urgently send them the Messiah, in order that he may restore Israel. While this *was* going on inside the dark Temple, Christ the Messiah was, as a matter of fact, outside at the Temple Courts, riding on a humble colt (Mark 11:1-11). They succeeded in failing to identify him. From this platform, the Lord is appealing to today’s modern church not to be like *desolate* Jerusalem, but to be *sensitive* unto her moment of endtime Holy Spirit outpour/visitation (Joel 2:28-32). It is this endtime *outpour* that must *deliver* the church from the gallows of death (*world*) into the *holy rapture*.

#### The Restoration At Transfiguration

The urgent need for a second *deliverance* that has all of a sudden arisen in today’s modern church, vividly calls to mind the closing events of the **transfiguration**. Despite walking with Jesus for sometime, the *elect disciples* (remnant church) at **transfiguration** woke up to the sobering reality that they had actually not perceived the Christ. This *misconception* was accurately diagnosed as the spiritual symptom of failure to *listen* to Christ. Not knowing that this failure to *listen* would later turn out to be the biggest fall in the church prior to *rapture*. It was a condition that precisely foretold of today’s church that confesses being born again, and yet not being able to perceive the reality of the Christ in their lives. Knowing the person of Christ is pivotal to walking with him. No wonder, Peter in his human mind, could afford to talk about raising three tents, in a clear reflection of the failure to exalt the Christ. Keeping in mind that at **transfiguration**, had it not been for the timely latter cloud of the Lord’s glory that suddenly interrupted Peter’s voice, a sad perception of Jesus was looming. He can in no way be equalized to man. However, this was a well orchestrated *dialogue* between God and the church, a *colloquy* that foretold of the urgent and timely need for a latter visitation, that would arise in today’s church. That this latter glory at **transfiguration** also enveloped the *two* servants, carrying them towards the open entrance to heaven, is a mighty revelation that today’s church cannot afford to ignore. This directly ties the latter

restorative glory to the *rapture* of the church. Put in other words, the restoration of the church and *rapture* are linked. The memory of these events are at this time revived because of the greater need for reformation in the church. There is so much assault waged upon her from the *erroneous voice* emanating from the wealth and health gospel, love of money, false prophecy, false prophets, lies, deception, sexual sin, witchcraft, to mention a few. At the **transfiguration** summit this *erroneous voice*, coming from Peter, was thoroughly rebuked to sobriety by the Lord God himself. God said,

*“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased, **listen** to him...*” (Matthew 16:17)

It is very sad that in today’s church, this *erroneous voice* has reigned utterly unchecked thereby leading to a state of spiritual anarchy. Whilst the sheep are desperately longing for the latter visitation of God *himself*, that will, without mercy, downrightly rebuke for them this *erroneous voice* that has for sometime now, plagued their christian walk. In most cases, the congregations in today’s church are helpless as the pastors re-enact the “Peters” at today’s summit. It is a situation that one would wish was temporary nightmare when unfortunately it is real. The urgency of this *distress call* (thirst) in the congregants is further heightened by the knowledge that the latter glory is the one that subsequently assumes a *vehicular function* as it transforms into the *rapture* vessel. At **transfiguration** this same glory upon correcting Peter’s voice, quickly enveloped the two servants and lifted off, through the open entrance, into heaven. Therefore, this much awaited latter visitation into the church, is surely intended by the Lord God to transform the church for *rapture*.

By the way, it is a matter of life or death as she grapples with choices (1 Cor 15:50-56). In the event that this visitation is not realized, it spells oblivion to her as the tribulation sets in for her (2 Thess 2:9-11). She must do all that it takes to ensure a visitation. This might involve such radical measures like discarding today’s seductive sensational entertainment in church, in favour of *true worship* in spirit and in truth (John 4:23). This may prove very bitter in the short run, only to turn out to be very fruitful and rewarding in the long run. A church that makes such seemingly bitter choices can

never go wrong as she finds herself right in the footprints of the Lord, following the glorious footsteps of Jesus. It is such a church that the King depends on (John 15:1-17).

#### Thus saith The LORD: "Listen To Him..."

The Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem had earlier on *witnessed* mighty visitations of the glory of God. He had lavished them with such a great disposition of love as to even attract envy from the surrounding nations. At that time, the cloud of incense with prayers of Israel ascended before God hence he greeted them with joyful assurance. Because the Jewish nation became “*the delight of his eyes*”, the Lord had intended to use Israel as the *yardstick* across the nations of the earth. He loved them so much that when the house finally fell *out of order* with God, the elders of Israel sat down to reflect. They desperately longed for the good old days when the God of Israel visited them physically. However, in the midst of this *desolation*, the true moment of reality hit when they recollected the mighty episodes when the glory of the Lord descended into the house. It was these memorable episodes, against the ugly *desolation* that had now dawned on the house, that Israel realized that God had abandoned them. This created an obvious state of vanity that greatly grieved the elders to the point that they fell face down and publicly *wept* in abject bitterness!

This was now happening to them because of their disobedience and defilements. And, likewise today’s church suffers a great abandonment and *desolation* because she has drifted away from the original will of God. The will of God for the church is embedded in the last supper of the Lord, when he said “*Do this in remembrance of me* (1 Cor 11: 24). The Lord expected a fragrant incense to ascend into his throneroom from worship in today’s church. But this not been the case. This has costed the church the glory of the Lord that used to visit the house at the first faithful altar of the Lord. This is the time *when* the apostles *walked* in the complete fear of the Lord and listened to the Lord. Learning *to listen* to the Word of God is the only *way* in *which* the church can be restored back to the line of promise (Haggai 2:6-9; Joel 2:28-32).

Right now the glory has left the house, and the Lord God yearns for a holy church. It is a situation that is

synonymous with the great despair that consumed the house of the Lord during the disobedient priesthood of Eli (1 Samuel 2:12-36). The glory of the Lord that has left today’s church of Christ, can only be illustrated by the final act of Eli’s daughter-in-law who used her final words to name her baby *Ichabod*, which means ‘*the glory has departed*’ (1 Samuel 4:21-22) At that time, the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel and death had begun to sting. Today’s modern church also has lost the glory of the Lord because of the enticing abominations of the world.

However, for the church, this is more tragic because she should at the moment be looking forward to, in anticipation of the holy *rapture*. It will take great awakening and self-outrage at this situation for the church to change course and return to holiness. When the church begins the pursuit of holiness, then the Word that promised a mightier latter glory will be accomplished in her. Then the sun of righteousness shall begin to shine in the church like at noonday. (Haggai 2:6-9). Otherwise, heaven and church are no wider apart today than they were when Israel sinned against Jehovah. To the restored repentant church that walks in common faith (unity of faith), heaven will be very near. And such a restored church is one that has received today’s revelation on the risk of failure and eternal loss due to sin.

Therefore, when the Lord showed me the mighty glory that went ahead and cleaned up the defilements at the entrance of the Eastern Gate, he surely spoke much to the church. In this way, He was telling her the dispensation to receive the glory and be cleaned up has inevitably set in. This means that she would urgently need to catch the thunder of this moment, before it slips by her. It marvels to realize that the *erroneous voice* of Peter



# Bethany & The Rapture

## WHERE JESUS WAS RAPTURED

By Dr. Owuor  
The Place Jesus Called Home

When Jesus calls a place *home*, the church would most definitely, and desperately seek to know everything about that place, for it to attract such *favour* from God Almighty. Such is the *favour* that unexpectedly befell a small village place called *Bethany*. And assuredly, today’s church that is anticipating the *rapture*, is highly justified to inquisitively inquire about this locality, with all the tenderest of her heart. This is because, the same place Jesus called *home*, turned out to also be the noble spot at which he chose to be *raptured* from, into heaven. Such a place, the church must eagerly long to know about and strive to be like.

Surprisingly, *Bethany* is a little hill country town that is strategically located on the eastern slopes of the Mount of Olives. Tracing its original Hebrew meaning, reveals that the word *Beth-any*, primarily stands for *house of the broken* or *house of the humble* or *house of poverty* or *house of humility* or *house of the hurting* or *house of mourning*. It takes revelation of the Holy Spirit, to appreciate the hidden spiritual treasure that was accruing in this rural poverty-sticken *Bethany*. Apparently, it is this *abstruse* spiritual treasure at *Bethany*, that Jesus saw, hence endearing her. The spiritual virtue and compassion that *Bethany* commanded has everything to do with her being the *house of the broken*.

Through this brokenness, little *Bethany* must have captivated the Lord God, as to even allow Jesus to call it *home*, and become the chosen site for his most glorious ascension. The secret of *Bethany*, as a community of the *broken*, lies in the fact that they were in so much hurt that caused them to desperately need Jesus. It is a condition that made them open their homes (hearts) totally to him (Luke 10:38). This became the *caveat* that curved out *Bethany* from the lot. Nonetheless, that *brokenness* can be directly correlated with the *rapture*, becomes such a shock that should actually send out *jolts* of fear, in multiple *ripples*, into today’s body of Christ that has in essence not embraced *brokenness*. With awed, yet exultant hearts, the church in *Bethany* received Jesus in such a manner that



The Dome of Ascension stands at the heart of little Bethany and remains as a milestone of the great love Jesus gave back to this village when she opened her doors to him. At this point, heaven opened and he was raptured as they witnessed. Likewise at this point his feet will touch down when he returns with the church that makes it into the rapture. Therefore, it goes without saying that

earned her revelation on the Person of the Messiah. Such a revelation was extremely lacking in Jerusalem, where hearts were not opened to the Lord. A spiritual drought reigned in Jerusalem, with visions being very rare even among the highly learned theologians and teachers of the law. In fact, it is the brokenness at *Bethany* that served as the primordial platform for the massive revival that was later to consume *Bethany*. Since they opened their homes to him, from this point on, the Holy Spirit permitted Jesus to operate from *Bethany*, returning there for evening rest every subsequent day (Luke 19:37; Mark 11:1-18). The Lord opened heaven and established a mighty *portal* into heaven, over *Bethany*. This spiritual portal has a direct bearing into the life and revival of today’s church.

## Unveiling Bethany

### CAN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST SIMULATE

The spiritual drought in today’s modern church of Christ, has created a persistent *thirst* for a *Bethany* kind of visitation. The church today surely longs for the *Bethany* kind of favour so that a portal may be opened for her into heaven. But, before this restoration can take place in the church, she must *beguiled* her spiritual journey with the same *songs* as did *Bethany*. In order to received

the much needed *Bethany-visitation* in today’s church, it is absolutely pivotal to explore what character *Bethany* carried, to cause the Lord to purge away her *dross* (Isaiah 4:4; Isaiah 1:25). Currently, this *dross* has clogged up the communication channels of today’s church, and there is urgent need to clean out. Moreover, to experience the *Bethany-visitation*, it is important that the church examine the baby steps, *Bethany* employed to win the heart of Jesus. The proceeding section presents the image of *Bethany* that today’s church ought to mirror, to win the heart of the Lord.

In the ancient of days, the quiet small humble town of *Bethany* was mainly inhabited by a close-knit community that lived in great warmth and novel intimacy. This lowly town is beautifully situated less than two miles from Jerusalem, and sits at a critical edge of the wilderness of *Judea* and the barren hills that descend eastwards towards the Dead Sea. The area and its immediate vicinity is parched with a strong touch of aridity and rocky sub terrain that acts as a reminder of the close proximity it enjoys to the peeping Judean desert. The rocky characteristic that identifies this mountain location testifies to the aged endurance and longevity of *seasoning* that the Mount of Olives has lived to see. Perennial forces have washed away any loose substratum, leaving only the remnant impervious core that has persisted on, over time.



The Mount of Olives.

The prophet Isaiah’s rapt portrayal of the Messiah as the covert from the tempest and the shadow of the great rock in a weary land befits the symbolic image that the rocky Mount of Olives presents to Jerusalem. This is because the

rocky Mount of Olives on whose slopes *Bethany* sits, faces the *sealed Eastern Gate* of Jerusalem. For this reason, the Mount of Olives is considered the monumental *spiritual landmark* that symbolizes the “*Cornerstone of Zion*” and “*Rock of Ages*” that Israel rejected. It can be remembered vividly clear, that Jerusalem blatantly rejected Jesus, the *Cornerstone of Zion*, while *Bethany* greatly embraced him. This sad calamity occurred on the one and only exceptional day of their *visitation* (Matthew 23:37-38).

Today’s church cannot but see that her expectation in regard to the teachings on wealth transfer and prosperity cannot be sustained by prophecy; but yet she cannot renounce these theologies that have flattered her ambitions. For that reason, the ornate mount of Olives on which *Bethany* is located, bespeaks a mighty prophecy to today’s endtime church. It forewarned of the great fall that would hold the church *hostage*, in the days just before the *rapture*.

The Mount of Olives, to which Jesus was fond of retreating for prayer, then becomes a stern admonition to today’s church. It is a spiritual monument that warns the body of Christ on the grim dangers of failing to recognize her most treasured hour of Holy Spirit visitation. And by the way, that hour of visitation has arrived and dispensed in the church now. This is a double-edged prophecy that promises today’s church a *Bethany* kind of *visitation* or a Jerusalem kind of *desolation*. The Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, todate remains *miserably desolate* as a result of their catastrophic failure to recognise Jesus, at the moment of their *visitation*. Jesus had called on Jerusalem to awaken her and validate her on the fact that his coming had changed the *season*, and it was now time to build the spiritual tabernacle of the Lord. The utility of the physical temple that they were *ardently glued* to, had now expired. But to the *demise* of Jerusalem, she was *insensitive* to this otherwise most-treasured *visitation*. Ever since then, neither has she seen peace, nor exalted worship. It is a resounding warning to the modern church of today, that is equally *ardently glued* to her church services that have *greatly degenerated* into ritual *formalism* without *fire*. This is definitely not the mirror image of *Bethany* that was, at the time, experiencing the *fire* of revival. Only as they were willing to be purged from sin, could they

fellowship with Jesus. This made the revival at *Bethany* to be strongly driven by *repentance* from sin. It must be remembered that Jerusalem strongly resented *repentance* lest they should be led to reveal the secrets of their lives in public. A deadly mirror image of Jerusalem is right now rolling out in our eyes, in the church, because despite the fact that the season for *repentance* has come, the church is not willing to repent and be cleansed from sin. This is not the image the church would want to wear now, as revival draws proximate. In this way, the Holy Spirit is using the monumental Mount of Olives to awaken today’s church on the fact that if she continues plying the same path Jerusalem followed, she could easily miss the *rapture*, and walk straight into the *desolate* and dreadful *tribulation*. Accordingly, facing the western slopes of the Mount of Olives, and overlooking across the Kidron Valley, the sealed *Golden Gate* is surely a crucial spiritual artefact for the life of today’s church. It speaks of the eminent closure of the *portals* of heaven in the event that she does not embrace this season of *repentance* revival.

This sobering revelation brings into question, whether today’s church is open in the direction facing east. The church must remember that revival, the *rapture* of the Lord Jesus, and his return, all must come from the east (Matthew 24:27). By every human measure, the spiritual Eastern Gate of the church right now appears to be closed and sealed off, in the direction facing east, i.e. the *visitation* of the Lord. Moreover, the Eastern Gate of the hearts of the christians seems to have become dusty, rusty, ancient, and *desolate* in today’s church. In the continued rehearsal of her meaningless prayer *rituals*, the church has gradually permitted *desolation* to infiltrate into her inner courts. This permeation of the hearts of the christians, has deluded them to believe the age-old falsehood of the devil. A falsehood that champions gross disobedience towards the word of God, thereby compromising into a defiling amalgamation of the world into their lives. A quick look at the preachers of *wealth* and *health* on global christian television, reveals this very sad countenance that the church has now taken up. God is terribly grieving because they don’t preach the holiness of the church. It is for this reason, the gospel of *wealth transfer* and *prosperity*, love of money, homosexuality, lies, false

prophecies, witchcraft, idolatry, prostitution, have surpassed holiness, and so badly afflicted the church. These *abominations* have overcrowded the spiritual ‘*Eastern Gate*’ of her heart thereby rendering it totally *sealed* off and virtually being inaccessible and unavailable to the Lord. In her greatest moment of despair, the church appears to have returned to the world (Egypt) for help. This scenario prevailed in Israel whenever she was in deep trouble and her leaders often turned to Egypt for help (Ezekiel 29:2-16). The over dependence on Egypt was always, however, in vain because Egypt always lacked the power necessary to bring about true and permanent deliverance to her. The church seems to often make the same mistake when faced with terrible problems arising from sin. She has regularly turned to strategies that only provide temporary respite (Jeremiah 6:13-14). These have provided her with temporary relief of euphoria through the gospel that is itching to the ears without solving the root cause of the real problem (2 Timothy 4:3-4). The problem the church faces lies in the manner of her *worship*. It will therefore take the *crushing* might of the endtime *outpouring*, for this ancient door to be cracked open, so that the heart of the Christians may be accessed for *restoration*. This is the *restoration of worship* in the spirit and in truth, in the church that matures to full stature of reformation, for the mighty *rapture*. The Lord will take only the mature and fully restored church (Ephesians 5:25-27).

## Bethany Today

The *Bethany* of the bible is a very humble, meek and sometimes poor village by any standard. It is a description that automatically creates curiosity as to whether her reknown impervious and incorruptible social domains that were laid down during the Near-East Hebrew era, have persisted on or been eroded off by modernity. It is this kind of inquisitiveness that has generated the urge to know what *Bethany Today* looks like in the year 2008. It is indeed a refreshing and pleasant surprise to note that *Bethany* hasn’t changed much, and veritably does not show much departure from the original ancient biblical little village. This is despite the surge in both the Jewish and Arab neighbourhoods around this town. She has still maintained



When Jesus resurrected Lazarus at Bethany, it sparked off a huge revival into the church. This dome testifies to the four corners of the earth that Jesus surely is the Resurrection and the Life. This prophetic act was directed at today’s church that she may know that Jesus is able to resurrect her from her fall, and fully revive her before the rapture takes place. This can only happen if she opens her doors unto him that was, is and is to come (Rev 3:20).

her original name, being very closely related to the historic biblical revival events that accrued then when Jesus physically walked there. Right now, this village is called *El-Azariya* (*Eizariya*) which is an Arabic name that means the *village of Lazarus*’ (precisely *El-azar*). The primary foundation of this name *El-azar* is derived right from the bible and ties this village very closely to the ancient biblical events of the time. For such an important town to maintain and adorn old biblical structures as symbols of her identity, there must be a message it is relaying to the gospel audience. Jesus loved this town and called it home, and until today it is possible to look at the Dome of Ascension and the empty Tomb of Lazarus and realize the heart of Christ in this village. By revelation, as one looks at how the heart of the Lord loved this lowly *Bethany*, what immediately springs out to the church of Christ is that the heart of Christ is longing for his first faithful and



primitive church. That church at *Bethany* needed Christ in her poverty, lowliness, and brokenness, a state that made Jesus needed there.

By looking at the preservation of the primitive holiness and the fear of God embodied in the remnant structures at Bethany, it is also possible to envisage the character of the remnant church of Christ. In this way, the Holy Spirit is reminding the modern church of today that the bride of Christ that will qualify for

the wedding of the Lamb (*rapture*), must maintain a primitive holiness. This is the exact opposite of where the church is headed to right now. Unknowingly, the church is currently headed for cyber modernization and hence self demise, because missing the *rapture* will be catastrophic to her.

What is even more shocking is the fact that this little village has still maintained a small population approximating about 2,200 people. It is located along the co-ordinates of 31°53’N and 34°55’E and due to its proximity to Jerusalem, this village falls within the District of Jerusalem. It is still located on the eastern slopes of the Mount of Olives at an altitude of 660m/2,165ft above sea level. To *Bethany* (*El-azar*), faithfulness unto the Lord Jesus, seems to mean maintaining the original fingerprints of her old true nature as a revival town. It is no wonder that to this end, she has kept the *Dome of the Ascension* as an original, and a true to type structure which reminds her of the sight at which Jesus stood, blessed his disciples and was taken up by a cloud. Here is where heaven opened (Acts 1:9). This open channel into heaven traverses time and man because it is the same gateway through which the Messiah will return on the day of the Lord. Furthermore, for *Bethany* to continue sporting a dome at the empty tomb of Lazarus, she is essentially preaching it on the roof- and mountain-tops, that Jesus is the Messiah. This she is doing in Israel to Jewish community because the gospel must be preached to the Jews first and then to the gentiles. The resurrection of Lazarus brought in the first massive revival into the Hebrew church when multitudes of Jews received Jesus and followed him all the way into Jerusalem.

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(Bethany/Eastern Gate)  
Moreover, without losing her connate nature, the piece of property around *Bethany* still presented scanty patches of vegetation that became prime spots for the grazing of sheep. The failure of other vegetation to adapt to and colonize the unique climatic experience which *was* accruing at *Bethany* resulted into the over-dominance of olive tree-growing as the main cultural activity. It is an attribute that blended *well* with sheep grazing because the olive trees afforded the sheep the much needed shade and down-time from the raging desert heat. For this reason, a quick glance at *Bethany* on a normal sunny day, would almost immediately bring out a magnificent picturesque sight of sheep grazing among the short grass, with their shepherds simultaneously rearing tender flock, being spotted recuperating under the olive tree shades. As this happened, the altitudal elevation of *Bethany* on the eastern slopes of the Mount of Olives permitted an occasional, refreshing and most *welcome* evening breeze that swept across this snuggled ancient community.

An excursion beyond the limits of this cosy ancient Near-Eastern town of *Bethany* would instantly array a countryside characterized by vast stretches of land that calmly rolled out beyond the far-eastern slopes into an open rugged terrain. However, connecting from Jerusalem to *Bethany* was greatly facilitated by the famous Roman road that wound its way up and climbed steeply onto the fabulous crest of the Mount of Olives. As this road approached *Bethany*, it quickly picked up an adjacent minor, but biblically well mentioned town called Bethphage. And because of its strategic position, in the outlier bounds of Jerusalem, *Bethany* greatly enjoyed an occasional unique tranquillity that engulfed the entire graceful summit of the Mount of Olives. From this bearing, now *Bethany* afforded a spectacular panoramic view of the historic Judean desert to the east, and Jerusalem from across the Kidron valley to the *west*. This strategical location, coupled with the easy connectivity to the main cities of Israel, greatly emphasized the vital eminence of *Bethany* on the map. As a result of this, *Bethany* earned herself prestigious importance in governance and commerce during this ancient era. Notably, the town

of *Bethany* also paid host to a very uncommon transient trading centre that occasionally experienced a thriving economic activity in the region. This seasonal alien economic activity that attempted to transform *Bethany* mainly arose from the fact that the two main feeder roads leading to Jerusalem, intersected right at the heart of the market square. One of these roads however, acted as the portal vein that channelled merchandise from the bustling city of Jericho, while the other road served as the principle arterial highway for commodity trade from mystical Dead Sea and beyond. The Dead Sea is the lowest point on earth. Therefore, by this way, *Bethany* slowly emerged as an important transectional town that gave birth to the cardinal jugular gateway that fed the greater Jerusalem. Such a position allowed little *Bethany* to enjoy an unmatched status as a Hebrew cultural and information centre within the region. Nevertheless, there still remained a hidden secret in *Bethany*, a secret that *was* sustained by the fact that the corrupting false economic boom imposed upon her by the passer-bys, did not infiltrate the layers of harmonious social structure that became reminiscent of *Bethany*. It was an incorruptible and admirable trait of *Bethany*, a character that actually allowed her to continue revelling in her close-knit community. This town was built on the foundation of brokenness, caring for one another, while still remaining open to outsiders. This inimitable humility prevailing at *Bethany* at the time raised the spiritual foundation for a massive revival that would later sweep the whole region, beginning with the Jews first (Romans 1:16). Now, this incomparable eminence that *Bethany* delighted in, was further enhanced by the fact that large numbers of people who went to worship at the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, also always passed through *Bethany*. Such a g~~ra~~ttant favour made her an important stop-over centre from the East, since to the travellers, arriving at *Bethany* meant that Jerusalem was now just a mere stone throw away. For that matter, it is no coincidence that the road from *Bethany* to Jerusalem was the only road that went straight from the Mount of Olives into the temple courts through the Eastern Gate. Jerusalem had other Gates which did not approach the temple courts directly.

Consequently, little *Bethany* evidently flourished and relished in

importance as a Hebrew cultural hub that *was* typically punctuated with a unique humility. The sparkle and tinge of the hustle and bustle of ancient commercial lifestyle that attempted to invade *Bethany*, also helped to enrich the effervence of spiritual life in this lowly town without robbing them of their primary essence. For example, a typical market day in *Bethany* came with sunrise, and went, when the noisy merchants finally left the little town towards Jerusalem. This exit from *Bethany* often occurred as the sun downer thereby paving way for the placid atmosphere that slowly restored calm in this lowly community.

Nevertheless, what constituted a real miracle in this scenario, is the fact that despite the perpetual intrusion of *Bethany* by merchants, her noble culture as a home for the poor virtually undistorted at the end of the day.

At this juncture, it therefore becomes plausible and expedient to characterize the inflation and purported economic boom that imposed itself on *Bethany* as a hoax that only profited the transients on their trade routes. The local people still largely lived in an abject and humbling poverty. This kind of humility enabled her to take even outcasts such as lepers who were also able to find a home in *Bethany*. Lepers were largely rejected and considered unclean across this ancient Near eastern society. No one would be allowed to associate with them lest they too would be declared unclean. It is however, that this unswerving humility gave *Bethany* a heart. It subsequently became a blessing in disguise, because in his greatest rejection by man, Jesus was warmly welcomed into *Bethany* when they opened their homes unto him (Luke 10:38-42). At this time, Simon the outcast leper too, was now able to invite the Lord Jesus into his *Bethany* home without being castigated. This would later become the greatest and historic landmark that would eventually send out the most powerful message to the endtime church. It is a message on how to prepare for the *rapture*. Simon the leper is one of the ten lepers that were healed by Jesus. And him inviting Jesus into his house became, and still continues to be, the most important point of transition to today’s church of Christ as she prepares for the wedding of the Lamb. The spiritual events described here at *Bethany*, have never become so crucial, a lesson to

today’s church as they do now.

## Bethany

THE HOME OF REVIVAL

*Bethany* was the home to a group of people that Jesus referred to as his special friends. These were Lazarus, Mary and Martha, the only ones who opened their home to Jesus. This made *Bethany* become a home unto the Lord too (Luke 10:38-42). It is at *Bethany* that Jesus performed one of the most outstanding miracle of his ministry when he raised Lazarus from the dead. When Lazarus fell sick, his sisters sent an urgent message to Jesus in the Jordan valley where he was, that he may rush to *Bethany* to heal Lazarus. But Jesus refused and delayed his coming until four days after the death of Lazarus. This he did in order to remove the doubt from the Jews when he resurrects Lazarus. He wanted to demonstrate to them his identity as the Messiah and the resurrection power of the Lord, he had been entrusted with by God in heaven. For that matter, he delayed by four days, so it could be absolutely clear and certain to them that Lazarus had died and been buried in a tomb. In this way, resurrecting him from the dead would have a formidable impact onto their faith. And sure enough, when Lazarus was resurrected a huge revival hit the home town of *Bethany* because a lot of Jews received the Lord and a multitude of them began to follow the Jesus of Nazareth (John 11: 1-45). The little town of *Bethany* now also became a highly prominent focus for spiritual healing and the most powerful place at which the Jews began to receive Jesus. The strategic prominence of *Bethany* as the exchange centre, as discussed above, derived its roots from this spiritual landmark that was orchestrated by the Lord Jesus.

What’s more, her strategic proximity to Jerusalem scored more points because it accentuated the rapid dissemination of this mighty rumour on the resurrection of Lazarus right into the dead centre of the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. This holy rumour came to the attention of the high priest and the Sanhedrins and greatly riled their anger because it, all of a sudden, just dawned on them that the Jesus of Nazareth whose influence they had deliberately tried to diminish, was now gaining ground (John 12:19). *Bethany* became

the launching pad from which Jesus confronted the orthodox priesthood in the temple of the Lord. The reason Jesus opted to operate from *Bethany*, and not Jerusalem, was because the house of the Lord in Jerusalem had fallen out of the order of God, being mainly driven by human wisdom, philosophy, programs and idolatry.

Besides, when the time came for Jesus to fulfil the greatest prophecy of his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, he launched it from the little home town of *Bethany* (Zechariah 9:9). Having been witness to the great resurrection power of Jesus when Lazarus raised from the dead, a word began to go around saying that Jesus was now headed for Jerusalem. Then a multitude of Jews that had received him began to follow him enroute to Jerusalem. With the advent of the colt, they began to break palms and were heard saying “Hossana to the highest”, and “Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord”. This they said as they laid down palm branches when Jesus was approaching the popular Gate that was called beautiful (the eastern Gate of Jerusalem) (Mark 11:1-11). On this occasion, when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he entered through the eastern Gate and went straight into the temple courts and looked around after which he returned to the home town of *Bethany*. In this triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus literary performed the greatest prophetic act of his time to the church. He in effect demonstrated what the second coming of the Lord would look like, a demonstration that came from *Bethany*. In this way, *Bethany* becomes a prime spiritual landmark for the church of Christ. This made *Bethany* his home ground from which he launched his final missions, because his heart had fallen in love with the lowly village town, the house of the hurting. On the contrary, he rebuked Jerusalem over her idolatry and failure to recognise her most critical hour of her visitation. *Bethany* had received Jesus and become the house of repentance and revival, while Jerusalem had rejected Jesus. This led him to cry out aloud saying,

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you*

*say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”* (Matthew 23:37-38),

The Lord Jesus found genuine acceptance and consolation in *Bethany*, a place of healing for the hurting. While revival was thriving in the simple home town, desolation was looming in Jerusalem, a state that would consume her to date. This explains why after the triumphal entry into Jerusalem he decided to simply return to *Bethany* (Matthese 21:17; Mark 11:11-12).

Even when Jesus decided to go clean up the abominable defilement that had plagued the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, he launched this mission of restoration from the little hill town of Bethany (Matthew 21:17). At the time, he went straight into the temple courts and found the great idolatry claiming precedence and cleaned the house of the Lord.

## Rapture Lesson

AT POOR BETHANY

Ascension: When time came for Jesus to give the most crucial lesson about the *rapture* of the church, it is no wonder that he gave this teaching from *Bethany*. At this time, he talked about the translation of the living and the resurrection of the dead and their subsequent *rapture*. He categorically came out by saying “I am the resurrection and the life...” implying the resurrection of the dead and the translation of the living on the mighty day of the *rapture* (John 11:25-26). As Jesus approached the tomb in which Lazarus had been buried, he again spoke an intense message to the church regarding the *rapture*. In the clear view of all, in the public and in the open broad daylight, he commanded the stones to be rolled from the tomb and called out aloud “...Lazarus, come out.” This was then to become the classical and most urgent statement that the Lord Jesus released to the church regarding the wedding of the lamb of God. But what was this statement? It is common knowledge that in the cemetery where Lazarus was buried, there were many people that had died buried there. To make matters worse there must have been quite a few dead people buried in that same cemetery that had the name Lazarus. In fact, Lazarus was a very popular Hebrew name among the Jews at that time. And so when the Lord shouted out “Lazarus, Come out”, the shout was loud enough but only one Lazarus,

the one that he intended to resurrect came out of the tomb. It speaks about the extreme seriousness and gravity that the Lord tagged to the Holy Spirit as the ultimate helper of the church into the wedding of the lamb. And in this way, he implied that only those whose spiritual ears will be opened, are the ones who will hear the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God, thereby being caught up in the glory of the Lord. Only Lazarus the brother to Mary and Martha heard the voice of the Lord and surely was resurrected from the dead in an act that was meant to demonstrate the things to come. This phenomenon is well articulated in the holy bible, and this voice is the voice of the Holy Spirit, a voice that urges the church not to harden her heart when she hears it (John 5:24-28). The same voice that stands at the door of the heart of the church and knocks, that if anyone hears and opens he would come in and eat with that church (Hebrews 3:7; Revelation 3:20). What’s more, this is the shepherd’s voice that the sheep are able to recognise and listen to thereby leading them to quiet waters (John 10:3; Psalm 23). The importance of this voice was for the first time highlighted during the resurrection of Lazarus and in this noble town of *Bethany*. In other words, the Lord spoke mightily to the church about the *rapture* from *Bethany*.

It therefore appears like Jesus deliberately pitched camp at this little home town of *Bethany* and did these things on the final leg of his mission on earth. No wonder, after these *Bethany*-based missions, he went straight to the cross and redeemed the church. Additionally, after his suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection, the Lord again headed to this historic little home town of *Bethany*.

*When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praise God.* (Luke 24:50-53)

Surely, this was a very significant message that the Lord Jesus gave to the church that is his remnant bride, regarding the *rapture*. He leaves from the humble town of *Bethany* and performs the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, speaking about the second coming,

and returns to *Bethany* to rest for the night. As though this were not enough, he again leaves *Bethany* headed to Jerusalem and cleans up the temple of the Lord. In which process he drops the most important name to the house of the Lord by saying “This house shall be a house of prayer for all the nations”, and walks straight back to *Bethany* to rest for the evening. At this very juncture, he instantly grafts in all the nations of the earth into house of the God. It even gets bigger when he finally leaves this little home town in which his heart has found genuine acceptance, and goes right to the cross to save the nations. Even after his glorious resurrection he still returns to *Bethany* underscoring the monumental value of this little village town and the fact that this little village town surely sat at the centre of his heart. It is at this village town of the hurting that he actually met his bride the remnant church. Speaking the final blessings to the church, with hands lifted up, he was then taken up from *Bethany* by the mighty glorious cloud into the throne room of God in heaven and placed on the right-hand side. At this critical juncture, two men dressed in white set foot at *Bethany* and ministered to the church of Christ. In their ministry, they said

*“Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”* (Act 1:9-12)

The disciples standing at this little town of poverty and humility were afforded a very good view of the actual lift-off of the Lord Jesus by the mighty cloud. An act that will take place on the day of the *rapture* of the church, when she too will be lifted up by the mighty cloud. The implication here being that today’s church of Christ has to get herself quickly to *Bethany* if she is to be part of this celebrated lift-off called the *rapture*. Time is running out and the spiritual maps are currently over networked predisposing the vulnerability of the church to getting the right bearing towards this novel town of the rejected and hurting. The only bone of contention here, being the fact that if one tries very hard through the treacherous and dreadful road, through the narrow road, it don’t matter where one is coming from, whether from Jericho or from the barren hills that stretched eastwards towards the Dead Sea or

from the overlooking Judean desert or from the Kidron valley that lays in a stone throw away or in a birds eye view, it surely don’t matter no more, because time is gone and the beauty is that with persistent trial all roads lead to *Bethany*. And it is at *Bethany* that the church will have her trodden and tired feet embrocated and soothed as she prepares for the final leg. At this point, Jerusalem is in her perfect view and Jerusalem worship will be the greatest desire of her heart because the road leading from *Bethany* to Jerusalem enters directly into the temple courts without much delay. When the disciples returned from *Bethany* to Jerusalem they were full of joy and they went straight into the temple of the Lord from where they praised God continually. It is this act for which the Lord is urging the church to arrive at because time is out and it is 11:59pm meaning that the new dispensation with God has come. And when she gets from *Bethany* into Jerusalem she will worship and praise God forever and ever, Amen.

As if that were not enough there is still more. The two men dressed in white who clearly witnessed the ascension of the Lord Jesus from *Bethany* straight into the throne room of God in heaven, these two men said something that leaves much to be desired. In their ministry to the church, they said that the same Jesus who left *Bethany* for heaven will come back in the same way. By such utterances, they plainly implied that during the second coming of the Lord when he will be fully revealed to the four corners of the earth, he actually will return to *Bethany*. This is a matter that cannot be treated lightly anymore. Because it actually hinges on the fact that on the very sky above *Bethany*, the point of exit of our Lord Jesus, above this humble town of the poor will be the entry point by which our Lord Jesus will return. And it gets heavier to even comprehend that the point at which his feet last stepped will be the point at which his feet will touch down again upon his return to the earth. That tells of the fact that there is an opening above little *Bethany* and another opening below this home town. It further underscores the fact that there is a portal which actually is a channel of communication and an open gate into heaven right above poor *Bethany*. To put it in lay man’s terms, it implies that the gate of heaven is open over *Bethany*. For which reason Jesus after resurrection had to get

to *Bethany* so he may pass through into the open gate into the throne room of God in heaven. And during his return, he will come through this gate that remains open for the mighty touch down, the pinnacle of the final melt-down. Therefore, the church needs to borrow from this and quickly rush to *Bethany*, her spiritual *Bethany*, where the gate of heaven is open so she may partake of these remarkable endtime heavenly events. A failure to get to *Bethany* in time, would speak bye bye to the church because she will basically miss the *rapture*. Even the secret to the endtime outpouring of the Holy Spirit is deeply embedded at this little village town called *Bethany*. She is the revival town of the church and when the church gets to her, she becomes a one-stop point enroute to Jerusalem. A place at which her feet will be embrocated, the death in her will be resurrected, and her revival town will harvest more and more into the kingdom of God, beginning with the Jew first, then the gentiles in the order that God ordained before the creation of the earth. Now, this is the spiritually righteous and respectful way to do things.

How about this opening that is beneath little *Bethany*? What is its role? Without asking much, what is its significance? On the Day of the Lord, when the second coming will take place, the Lord will come down with the heavenly armies and all the heavenly hosts, all of them dressed in white, fine linen, bright and clean and they will head to *Bethany*. And immediately, at that instant, when the feet of the Lord Jesus will touch down at *Bethany*, there will be a humongous earthquake that will shake the four corners of the earth, and split the Mount of Olives thereby releasing pure water from the valleys that will be created. And the eternal glory of the Lord will be released from *Bethany* straight towards the Golden Eastern Gate of Jerusalem, the gate that is called beautiful, and the glory of the Lord coupled with the thunderous earthquake will slam open the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem for the first time since Ezekiel walked Jerusalem, the mighty glory of Yahweh, the holy one of Israel, will enter into the temple courts conquering it and purifying it thereby finally restoring the house beyond her former glory. This latter glory will create an ambience of eternal worship and praise unto our God in heaven. This is the true meaning of the grand purchase of all the nations of the earth that Jesus did for our God in heaven.

Because on this day all the nations of the earth *will worship* the God of Israel. And likewise, on this day all the nations of the earth *will* be able to understand the centrality of little *Bethany* in their lives because from this poor village town, he *will* shake the four corners of the earth.

### Glamour of Bethany

It is now apparent to all that Bethany was a deliberate choice that the Lord greatly delighted in, and gave his heart to. When the bible says that Jerusalem is the centre of the earth, the holy book in fact and indirectly hints on the little village town of Bethany as the epicentre. For which reason, when the second coming takes place and his feet step at Bethany, he will cause a historic earthquake that has never been seen before to jolt the four corners of the earth from this poor village spot. Jerusalem too will shake as a result of the temblor that will resonate from Bethany as the epicentre. All this points to the great spiritual significance that little Bethany symbolizes to the church of Christ. And in order to understand this spiritual symbolism represented by the village home town of Bethany, it is imperative that Bethany be accorded a closer scrutiny. This directly requires that the church carefully discern the amazing nature of the heart of the Lord, even as he chose the house of the hurting at the expense of the cosmopolitan Jerusalem. It is in discerning this choice of the Lord, that the church of Christ will be able to understand, why Bethany?

There are a *few* traits that the little, humble home tozen of *Bethany* displays at first sight. And a close encounter *with* her *will* almost immediately reveal the *big heart* that poverty can generate in the church, and it is this *big heart* that the Lord Jesus admired of her. *Bethany* was desirable to the Lord because it was originally built as a small community of those *who were* hurting, broken and generally spiritually poor, thereby *wearing* the genuine humbleness that poverty brings. The spiritual hunger emanating from the desperate search for practical solutions to their perennial problems, generated a great thirst for spiritual nourishment. Considering the very mission for which the Lord Jesus came to earth, as coming to bind up the brokenhearted, preach the *good news* to the poor, and fill-up

the thirsty, then it is plausible to say that, he most definitely would have been attracted to this humbling level of meekness of little *Bethany* (Matthew 5:1-12; Isaiah 61:1; Isaiah 44:3; John 4:13). The Lord Jesus chose *Bethany* because she *was* open-hearted and opened her home to him and *allowed* him to come in and eat *with* her (Revelation 3:20; Mark 14:3-9). Due to the open-heartedness of humble *Bethany* the Lord found great faith among the people of this little community, a faith that opened up their lives more and more unto the Lord upon discovering *who* he *was*. Arising from their physical circumstance, the people of this hilly, village town of *Bethany*, found themselves in a situation *where* they needed Jesus and trusted Jesus and finally appreciated Jesus. This was a complete contrast to the flamboyant Jerusalem *who* looked at herself as being able to self-sustaining and needing no external help but to hurt the prophets. On the other hand, the more the people of *Bethany* came to the realization that they *were* not lavishly endowed *with* the *wealth and health* (prosperity) of the earth, the more they sought spiritual nourishment from the Lord Jesus. And to Jesus, finally he found the kind to *whom* he *was* sent, the very reason for him to go to the cross. No *where* is it *well* elaborated, than in the scriptures *when* the Lord said

*“I live in a high and holy place but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”* (Isaiah 57:15)

In this *way*, *Bethany* surpassed Jerusalem because Jerusalem had fallen out of order *with* the Lord and did not show any interest in receiving Jesus, one *who* had been sent to them. As Jesus made a triumphal entry into the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, he noticed that they had fallen so much out of order that they could not receive from the Lord anymore. This is *why* the Messiah *was* out on a colt, *while* they *were* inside the temple asking God to send them the Messiah. It is a pathetic state of fall that totally blinded Jerusalem so as not to see Jesus. The other very critical reason, for which Jesus endeared *Bethany*, is the fact that upon encountering Jesus, *Bethany* converted herself from being the *house of the broken* and the *hurting* to becoming the *house of repentance*. By *repentance* in Christ Jesus, now *Bethany* could breath a sigh of relief *when* the *new breeze* of revival visited this olive growing

locality. *Bethany* then became a little, cute town that *was* actually extremely strategic for the gospel of *repentance* and holiness, which gospel is the very vessel for revival (2 Chronicles 7:14). While this *was* going on in beautiful *Bethany*, Jerusalem *was* indulging herself in the gospel of prosperity (*wealth and health*). Having assumed the *repentance* posture, this little *Bethany* *was* able to fall at the *feet of Jesus* weeping in a demonstration of genuine *repentance*. Furthermore, she *was* now able to go back home and collect her earthly treasures and come pour it right before him. This *was* a mighty display from a small otherwise previously hurting community, a community that had been utterly rejected, despised, discarded and also labelled as a community of lepers. Lepers *were* discarded and secluded out from the rest of the society and nobody *was* permitted by Roman *law* to pay visit or associate in any *way* with them. It *was* considered a curse. It is for this reason that *Bethany* became home to Simon the leper, and he lived there in humble peace. With repentance taking hold of little *Bethany*, she quickly converted from the *house of poverty* into the house of revival. The fact that *Bethany* *was* able to repent publicly, endorsed her as the epicentre of not only the primitive revival but also the endtime revival. This lays a heavy burden on today’s church that has to get herself ready and head to *Bethany* because that is *where* her endtime promise is. The repentance revival witnessed in *Bethany* can only be compared to the repentance of Ezra, Nehemiah and Jonah which likewise *were* public repentance. It is no wonder, that *when* Lazarus died and time had come for the Lord to *resurrect* the dead church, the message found him in the Jordan valley, which is actually the cradle of repentance revival. John the Baptist also walked there speaking repentance and holiness to *prepare the way* for the king of repentance and holiness that is our Lord Jesus. Therefore, *Bethany* is not just a strategic little hill country in the physical realm but also and most importantly, a strategic city of repentance in the very heart of the Lord. This makes it mandatory for today’s church to finish up quickly *with* her preoccupations right *now* and head to *Bethany* *where* she *will* have a good view of the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, longing for Jerusalem worship and in the process being restored for the rapture. Once at *Bethany*, today’s church *will* then be able to discard the gospel of

prosperity and embrace the *Bethany gospel* which is the gospel of *repentance* through the blood of Jesus. This is the conduit for endtime revival and the ultimate vehicle for the rapture. Surely, *Bethany* is not only at the centre of the heart of the Lord but also at the spiritual centre of the earth and *repentance* makes her thrive. It is in the best interest of every Christian to get herself to that place of spiritual *Bethany*.

#### Sinful Woman At Bethany BREAKING THE ALABASTER

The *sinful woman* who tumbled onto the Lord Jesus at *Bethany*, with her *alabaster jar of very expensive* perfume in her hands, brings a totally *new* amplitude into the value of preparing for the *wedding* of the lamb. Castigated and rebuked for the act of *anointing* Jesus *with* this costly fragrance, this *woman* on the contrary teaches the church on *how* to prepare for the rapture. It may seem difficult to imagine *how* such a *sinful woman* within a little town could *weave* her *way* into such an esteemed dinner and gain access to the high table *where* the Lord *was* reclining. First of all, it defeats common logic that she could even be allowed entry into such a banished event of the town. What is easier to comprehend is that the sociology of such small towns require that people maintain very closely networked communities in which any event happening at one corner *would* have reached everyone’s ear before sunset. A *woman* of her reputation is generally *without* a doubt an item of immediate rejection at first sight, and more so at such an honourable event. It goes *without* saying that for her to *wind* her *way* through to Jesus in the eyes of all invited guests, must have been an exceedingly bold move that can only be staged by the Holy Spirit.

The Mediterranean customs that reigned around this region *were* very dominant and in the majority of cases absorbed any foreign traditions that infiltrated these structures through immigration. A careful scrutiny of their practices reveals that this *was* typically a pure Jewish-oriental culture that had as a matter of fact spiced itself up *with* little recipes here and there, from the adjacent communities, *while* still largely remaining affiliated with the *Torah*. It is this affiliation *with* the *Torah* that sustained it *with* a residual sense of the fear of God within this

otherwise very secular society. In this *way*, they still observed and strongly identified *with* certain old testament festivities, *without* really adhering to the orthodox requirements of the *law*. It is this peculiar association *with* the books of Moses that *was* a main source of esteem and is largely credited *with* the maintaining of a cohesive society at the time.

However, in this ancient Near-East Jewish culture festivities *were* great source of unity and utterly became part and parcel of their livelihood. These ancient Jewish festivities *were* highly commemorated *with* the feasts involving special meals, and certain customary practices. In these banquets the chief guest *was* highly honoured *with* certain actions, such as the *washing of his feet*, that conveyed respect and appreciation unto him. This *washing of the feet* *was* very critical because of the hot and dusty climatic conditions that prevailed in the Near-East regions. This *washing of the feet* can be traced *way* back from the time of Abraham *when* it *was* done as a sign of honour unto the guest, and to bring refreshment from the long and tiring journey (Genesis 18:3-10). However, if there *was* a covenant to be endorsed *with* the guest then the banquet had to include a special meal and *embrocation*. The act of preparing a special meal to a dignified guest seemed to have entered the depths of every fabric of the ancient Jewish setting because even Jacob and Laban upon making an oath, are seen sharing a covenant meal (Genesis 31:54). Furthermore, the sharing of a meal during the *sealing of a covenant* *was* not just something coined by man, but a deep biblical practice that the ancient *Jezus* inherited from Jehovah himself. At the dawn of the confirmation of covenant *between* Jehovah and Israel, Moses took Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy elders of Israel, up to the mountain of the Lord *where* they met God (Exodus 24:8-12). At this time, this delegation encountered Jehovah God and *saw* the sapphire that *was* at his feet. After this, the Lord sealed a covenant with Israel and it recorded that they then ate and drank at this auspicious occasion. An event of this magnitude really stresses the origin and depth of the practice of sharing a special meal at extraordinary occasions. It elevates the importance of this meal to a totally *new* perspective given that in this case the Lord himself provided the meal at the occasion. On his part, Gideon upon being visited by

the Lord, he too presented this very special meal on the rock and the fire of the Lord came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice *with* great appreciation. The fact that the Lord *was* able to *wait* for Gideon to set this meal before him goes a long *way* to underscore the importance he attaches to this covenant meal (Judges 6:18-24). When it *was* time for the Lord to bring his servant Samson, the angel of the Lord encountered Manoah and at the end of their conversation Manoah presented a meal on the rock to seal the covenant (Judges 13:15-20).

The significance of this meal that the ancient *Jews* shared at banquets *was* deeper than face value. The deeper value of this meal can clearly be seen in the visitation that Abraham had. In this particular case the messengers of the Lord delivered the message to Abraham and not until the sat down to have this meal, did Abraham receive revelation that one of them *was* actually the Lord. The more Abraham continued fellowshipping *with* them at this meal, the deeper they revealed to him about themselves. At this point, they *were* able to intimate to Abraham their secret mission to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. This goes a long *way* to underscore the mighty value that *was* embedded in the meal that Jesus *was* having *while* reclining at the banquet in *Bethany*.

## Alabaster Jar AT BETHANY

In addition to the celebrated meal, the ancient Jewish culture in the Near-East also involved *anointing* of the chief guest as a common custom at feasts. It is this act of *anointing* that actually marked the highlight of the event. And this is the noble deed that the *sinful woman* performed unto the Lord Jesus *when* he *was* having dinner *while* reclining at the house in *Bethany*. More importantly, is the symbolic value that *was* attached to the actual act of *anointing*. The gravity of this *was* expressed in many features such as the quality and purity of the fragrance used at this occasion, which spoke very loudly about the seriousness of the covenant being drawn.

An exploration into the origin of this custom of *anointing* a chief guest reveals a very deep message that the Holy Spirit is speaking to the endtime church of Christ. It is amazing that this entire event *was*

designed for *weddings* in that it would be an action of expression of surrendering ones life to her bridegroom and it expressed that she *was* completely devoted to him. This embraced the fact that she *would* be ready to surrender and spend her entire future *with* him. It *was* this *anointing* that the bride performed on her bridegroom *which* marked the peak culmination of the wedding banquet. For such an important event in the life of a woman, a lot of *weight* *was* attached to it and all her premarital life *was* essentially prepared and geared *towards* it. What is even more astonishing is the fact that this preparation for the climax even of the *wedding*, began very early in life *when* she *was* still of tender age. It is captivating to realise that *when* a little girl *was* growing up at a very tender age it *was* common practice in the Jewish culture for her to receive small gifts of coins (*shekels*) from visiting relatives, family friends at occasions. This gifting of little girls happened much more often during her birthday anniversaries and on other festivities commonly celebrated in the land. The mother on her part *was* entrusted *with* the duty of teaching the little girl, aspects of saving. In this regard, a mother purchased for her little daughter a coin box in *which* the little girl *would* be able to drop in her gift coins. And because the mother *was* also charged in bringing up her daughter *with* good morals, several families even recognised *when* a kid performed an act of good conduct by giving a helping hand to the family chores. To the little girl the coin collection box constituted the greatest treasures of her life *for which* reason she paid a lot of attention to this box throughout her life to the extent that the night before she *went* to bed she ensured she checked on it and that all *was* well. To her it surely became a matter of the heart. Some parents indeed evaluated the keenness of their daughter based on *how well* she *was* able to keep this first-line of savings in the family. Notwithstanding, this saving *was* not the end of the story because as the little girl *was* growing her mother *always* ensured that she took her daughter to the next level.

At the time, there existed different types of markets in this region, some seasonal, *while* others perennial, and others still mobile from one locality to the next. These markets attracted a lot of activity and caused many people to even travel very long distances in order to attend a market day. Among the

people attracted to the market the Syrian merchants *were* the most important and conspicuous in this arrangement. The Syrian *were* good businessmen as they *were* able to collect different items from different areas and re-brand them in a *way* that mirrors the modern day processing. This put a lot of value in the products the Syrian merchants brought into the market thereby making their arrival a key event of the market. In this *way* the Syrian merchants also ensured that their product lines *were* of higher quality and measured to the expectation of the people. These merchants travelled long distances from their home towns in groups to reach their target markets. The constitution of this merchant groups strongly depended on their origin and surely helped to protect them from any pirates that *would* probably be roaming the *wilderness* at such times. However, their routes often involved visiting *watering* points called oasis *which* marked the deserts and attracted conglomeration of human settlements. It is this settlements that served as resting points to the merchants enroute to the markets. But, this settlements on the *way* also acted as main stop-overs for them to sell some of their products before hitting the markets. And because not only one group of merchants passed by a settlement, there *was* certainly a need for product branding and labelling. Part of the product branding and labelling among the different groups of merchants, *was* bell-ringing *which* they did as they approached a settlement across the country-side. This ensured consumer loyalty even *en route* to the different markets. It is upon the hearing of these bells that different communities came out to meet the merchants by the road-side in order to purchase some goods and commodities.

This is the point at *which* a mother taught her little daughter from tender age to empty their coin boxes in order to purchase perfume from the merchants at the road-side. This *allowed* the little girl to take her heart-guarded savings to the next level at *which* she *was* now being taught to save very expensive perfume made out of *pure nard*. Because the perfumes made out of *pure* extract of *nard* *was* very costly, it took a very long time for the little girl to accumulate a reasonable level of this endeared fragrance. The mother also taught her *what* type of aromas she should go for as she collected this costly extract of *pure*

*nard*. Generally, the perfumes from Tyre and Lebanon as a whole, *were* of very highly assorted aromas hence costly. In so doing, the mother taught her little daughter to accumulate this perfume as a life-long event. However, it becomes even more interesting to realize that the mother taught her little daughter to collect this perfume in preparation and readiness for her wedding day. This infused into the perfume collection an expectancyary value, turning it into a major preoccupation of the young girl as she *grew* up *with* the hope that one day *when* she meets her bridegroom she *would* be able to *anoint* him. Furthermore, as the collection *grew*, this became her most valuable and treasured item of her life and *was* indeed tied to her life. As the girl *drew* closer to her marriage age, this perfume collection took another turn and became an even much more serious event that she paid keen attention to and would not allow anything go *wrong*.

By theaforegoing,itnowbecomes easier to perceive and comprehend *what* the *sinful woman* in *Bethany* did *when* she *anointed* the Lord *with* her life-long, well preserved and highly valued treasure. Furthermore, it is *now* easier to get a little glimpse of *what* this event meant in her life and future. From the above description it is not even sufficient to understand *what* this event meant to the depths of her heart and soul. Because to her this *was* an event she had *written* off and forgotten about and remained in prayer *with* the hope that some day a miracle *would* happen for her to live to see herself perform this task before a noble one. This is because as a prostitute all people in town *knew* about her and the word had circulated even in the neighbourhood of the little *Bethany*, in other words she faced bitter rejection from this little hilly town. To put it in other words, she rejected by all, *while* the perfume of her collection still lingers in her little room as a testimony of the love missed, of her life missed, the act of *anointing* the Lord Jesus to her *was* an ultimate deed of pouring her life before him. It is a deep demonstration of expression of total devotion of her heart and soul, *which* indeed is the deepest meaning of true worship. Faced *with* obvious opposition at this feast because of her defiled reputation for her this *was* the biggest breakthrough of her eternity. This *woman* spoke louder than words and *what* she said is;

*“I have finally found my bridegroom, the reason for which I ever lived and my life I pour before him that from now on I shall be never be lonely again and he should take care of me forever and ever amen.”*

This *woman* became the bride of Christ the reason for *which* he ever came. No wonder, after encountering her amidst such an appalling opposition he *now* says it is good for his burial and at this moment he *was* ready not to go to the cross. What this *woman* did is a monumental undertaking *whose* value the endtime church of Christ may never be able to perceive fully until she gets into the *wedding* supper of the lamb of God in heaven. This *woman*, she teaches the church the art and science of preparedness and she speaks an important word to the rapture church by saying “to be *raptured* is to be totally prepared”. This language is very alien to the today’s church because she emphasizes the fact that the church today that has been very much absorbed in collecting the treasures of the *world* and using them to build her life that time is out *now* and that since she is experiencing a lot of visitation like *Bethany* did, a one and only occasion of her lifetime that she should take all her life-long treasures *which* define the very entity of her life and take it as a whole and pour it right before the Lord Jesus in an act of utmost in-depth devotion unto him. And this is the heart of endtime worship. The practicality of this phenomenon that the *sinful woman* is introducing into the remnant bride of Christ is to empty her heart and become totally available unto the Holy Spirit. This *woman*, exhibiting such a daring behaviour in complete open view of the multitude that *was* gathered at the *Bethany* feast, in other words redefined to the true meaning of the word *repentance* because she poured all she ever had right before the Lord Jesus at his feet. This made her heart totally emptied instantaneously before the precious Lord Jesus and *now* *was* ready to be taken over, ruled over, reigned over and overwhelmed by the mighty one and only bridegroom that is Christ the Messiah. This is the art and beauty of public repentance, a repentance that touches the heart of the Lord Jesus, a king that gave his life in public for her. This *woman* in such a behaviour spoke a big prophecy of *what* *was* to come to she that *would want* to become the bride of Christ in these last days as

the days draw nearer by the second. In other *words*, she hinted on the events that *would* take place at the Father's table in heaven during the wedding supper of the lamb of God. This *woman* is such a mighty warrior who forcefully in the midst of the opposition deflected the attention of the bride of Christ from the earthly into the throne room of the father in heaven by imitating the events of the wedding supper of the lamb of God at the Father's table. This *woman* very much aware of the long and tiring journey that Jesus went through across the earth, did a performance of great honour, she did honour unto him *when* she went further by *wiping his feet* with her hair, an act that *was* only given to honourable guests of distinction and to also bring refreshment unto them, a refreshment that *was* brought to honourable guests from the hot and tiring journey of the hot and dusty roads. And for your attention, the Lord Jesus had just arrived from this long journey following the narrow, long, hot and dusty roads of this planet earth. No wonder, from this point on, everything *was* pointing towards the cross. The Lord himself declares that *what* she had done is *beautiful* and good for his burial because he had *now* found a reason for *which* he should go to the cross, he had found his bride.

## Crushing The ALABASTER JAR

The actions of this *sinful woman* have become of monumental value and represent a very powerful message to the endtime church of Christ that goes up into the rapture. For example, a careful examination of the content of the *alabaster jar* reveals much. In the ancient Jewish custom around the Near-East, an *alabaster jar* of this nature *was* a treasure whose content, the owner had spent her entire life collecting. And it *was* a very symbolic step to bring it out in the open for both *anointing* and *embrocating*. This particular *alabaster jar* contained a very expensive perfume made out of *pure nard*. Considering the process that *was* engaged at the time, to produce *pure nard* it becomes mesmerizing to envisage the total worth that *was* contained in this celebrated jar. No wonder, the public including the disciples grumbled when the *sinful woman* emptied the precious content of this jar onto the Lord Jesus.

Ancient Mediterranean Jewish

culture observed the *anointing* of esteemed guests of honour *while* they reclined at the dinner table. The worth of the occasion *was* strictly dependant on the excellence of the fragrance of the *anointing* and *how* far it permeated from the high table into the vicinity (Songs of songs 1:12). The practice of *anointing* became more pronounced during weddings and the power of the fragrance *was* related to the purity of the bride. *Pure nard* in this case, spoke a lot about purity, and preservation that the bride had exclusively reserved for her bridegroom. Therefore, the *pure nard* used by the *sinful woman* is symbolic of the purity that the church is commanded to bring unto the Lord as a covenant of faithfulness. An expedition into the ancient art of generating *pure nard* reveals a very intricate process that involved an assortment of fine spices whose excellence lay in the exudates that they yielded at processing. The value of *pure nard* is reflected in the selectivity *with* which the raw materials were assembled. In this regard, the garden from *which* the fragrant spices and plants *were* gathered, had to be one that *was* then referred to as *locked-up, enclosed* or *sealed*. It represented a virgin field that had not been defiled in any way of form, because her plants *were* considered *pure* and *virgin*. It is such original and natural orchards that contained pomegranates *with* choice fruits, *with henna* that actually also housed precious *nard*. And in most cases, the *nard* came *with saffron, calamus, cinnamon* and every kind of incense trees *with myrrh, aloes* plus all the finest spices (Songs of songs 4:12-15). *Pure nard*, derived from such a virgin field, *was* of premium value and hence very refreshing. This extremely high-valued commodity from the virgin fields *was* extracted through a process of skilful and persistent crushing and pressing. The process entailed releasing a very thin column of exudate that at times simply filtered out as exceptionally treasured droplets. These droplets *were* delicately collected for concentration thereby producing very expensive perfume made out of *pure nard*. It is this rich concentrate of aroma that the bride kept for all the days of her life until her wedding day *when* she *showered* it on her bridegroom. This is reminiscent *with* the purity that the bride *was* supposed to bring to the bridegroom.

Accordingly, *when* the *sinful woman* showed up *with* an *alabaster jar* that *was* sealed containing very

costly perfume made out of *pure nard*, this is the process that she essentially replicated. It is a very deep act of devotion and worship unto the Lord Jesus. The garden that is *locked-up, closed* and *sealed* represent a very mighty message unto the bride of Christ. It is an exposition of the virginity and purity that the endtime remnant bride of Christ is supposed to present unto the Lord Jesus. The *pure nard* does exude a pure and an unadulterated fragrance of purity and virginity that comes out of the perfect bride of Christ. In so doing, this symbolic *woman* demonstrated the righteous church of Christ. It is interesting to note that the *sealed* refers to virgin and that *when* it *was* time for the *sinful woman* to *anoint* Jesus at *Bethany*, she had to break and crush the *alabaster jar* and subsequently release its precious invaluable contents onto the Lord Jesus. It is interesting to note that this *alabaster jar* *was* long-necked and had to be broken for the precious fragrance to come out thereby referring to the pride and stiff-neckedness that the fallen church of Christ right now carries onto her shoulders, a pride that she has to break in order that she may become the precious perfect bride of Christ. In addition, this also signifies the *brokenness* *with* which the church is commanded to approach Christ the King. On that account, this *woman* talked volumes to this endtime church of Christ, in the area of conduct because she beautifully connected the dots between two important biblical scriptures *with* regard to the wedding of the lamb (Mark 14:1-11 & Isaiah 66:1-4). Here, the Lord says categorically clear that he only esteems those *who* are humble in heart and contrite in spirit. Taking a trip into the actual event at the exact moment *when* she *was* holding the *alabaster jar* in the *anointing* process, leaves much to desire. Immediately after just breaking the beautiful, tall, proud neck of the *alabaster jar* she then began to mysteriously crush the *alabaster*, compressing it as she released every little drop of the precious content that *was* accommodated in this amazing container. By doing this action in the broad view of all that *were* gathered, this *woman* spoke the true heart of sacrifice and worship. She literally demonstrated the importance of crushing the earthly beauty of the church, a beauty that has made her long and stiff-necked thereby not being able to bow down to the true practice of worship. On top of that, this *sinful*

*and health* in the name of prosperity. This precious *woman* in *Bethany* told the church “*please let go and you will have an everlasting inheritance.*” (Mark 14:9). What this *woman was* speaking is not alien to scripture because in this gathering she also did a prophetic action because she emulated the crushing that our Lord Jesus would have to go through in order to release the fragrance into the throne room of God in heaven. And this fragrance had to be a pure unadulterated and original aroma that God *would* be pleased *with* as an atonement for the sins of the world. No wonder, the Lord Jesus is the perfect passover lamb, *without* defect, and whose body *was* crushed on the cross in order to release the ultimate fragrance that is eternally pleasing to God (Isaiah 52:13-15; Isaiah 53:2-10).

### The Alabaster Jar & THE PRIESTHOOD

The action of breaking and crushing the beautiful long-necked *alabaster jar* at the *Bethany* dinner also exposed an exceedingly deep insight into the mind of the Lord regarding his *priesthood*. It is such a critical aspect in the church today, because the *priesthood* is the one charged with the responsibility of leading *worship* in the house. When the *woman* broke the long, gorgeous neck of the *alabaster jar* then immediately the fragrance began to permeate into the air around the high table. But *when* the emptying of this attractive *jar* commenced *with* the crushing *now* taking dominance, then the *whole* air in the room all at once became saturated *with* the fragrant aroma of *pure nard*. Prior to the process of *anointing*, the long neck of *the jar* stood out prominently thereby mimicking the scenario in which God sent Moses to *anoint* Aaron. At the time, Jehovah desired to raise a priesthood that *was* after his own heart and hence sent Moses to *call* Aaron. However, God gave Moses very strict instructions on how to prepare Aaron for this holy priesthood. Among other things, the Lord commanded Moses to take certain specific proportions of liquid *myrrh, fragrant cinnamon, calamus, cassia* and a *hin* of *olive oil* and mix into a fragrant blend for the occasion. This blend *was* supposed to be the today's equivalent of the perfect work of a compounding *pharmacist*, where quantitative specificity is defined to the micro grams. This creates an impression of the critical

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*thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie...*” (John 1:26-27).

He essentially hinted on the importance of the *washing of the feet* to the distinguished guest which in this case *was* the anointed one of the Lord.

By reason of the above in-depth conversation surrounding this rare custom of *washing of feet*, now it becomes even clearer to perceive the level of humility and honour it took for the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* to *wipe the feet of Jesus*. It is so startling to pick out that the two most important dots on the *washing of the feet of Jesus* were both imprinted at *Bethany*. The first dot *was* spoken by John the Baptist when he *was* baptizing and doing the works of the ministry that prepares the *way* for the coming of the Lord. On this dot, John the Baptist said he *was* not fit to even untie the thongs of the Lord’s sandals. By implication one *would* have to untie the thongs before dusting off the feet and eventually *washing* them. Which means that John *was* telling the multitude gathered in this wilderness that the *washing of the feet of Jesus* would be a very noble task of great honour to the church. It is noteworthy that John the Baptist said these things *while* at *Bethany* (John 1:27-28).

The second dot on the *washing of the Lord’s feet* is finally achieved by the *sinful woman* at *Bethany*. By connecting these two dots, one by John the Baptist and the other by the *sinful woman*, it *would* then appear like *Bethany* is actually not the little town she is known to have been. Instead she is such a mighty spiritual epicentre for the gospel of Christ the Messiah. Therefore, the sum of these two dots leaves a very powerful spiritual inscription in the sky, an inscription that delivers a very timely message to today’s church of Christ. This inscription strongly asserts that the secret for the church to make it into the *rapture* is embedded at the *feet of Jesus*. It is an awesome call which demands that the church quickly gets herself to the *feet of Jesus* in order to see the kingdom of God because time is fast running out.

## Message At The FEET OF JESUS

When John the Baptist said that among you stands one you do not know *it was* a very bold statement on the state of the church today. This is because the church is conducting her affairs as if she were not aware

of the holy nature of the Lord Jesus *who* stands next to her. This became a prototype proclamation that later on labelled the disciples *when* they walked *with* Jesus on a daily basis only to fail to recognise him yet *when* he appeared walking on water (Mark 6:49). The same proclamation fits today’s church in her fallen state. But *what* is even more interesting about this proclamation of John the Baptist is the fact that he said it in relation to the *washing of the feet of Jesus*. This directly implies that if today’s church had truly known the holy and righteous nature of the Lord Jesus, the one standing next to her, she *would* be at his feet *wiping his feet*.

The *sinful woman* at *Bethany* seemed to have received revelation of the Holy Spirit on whom the Lord Jesus actually is. Considering that she had preserved a full *alabaster* of very costly perfume made out of *pure nard*, broke the beautiful tall neck of the jar, anointed the Lord Jesus on his head, and on his feet. It all points to one fact that she communicated a deep act of complete devotion to the Lord Jesus. She literally worshipped him *with* all her heart in the public viewing of all. As she *wiped his feet*, she prefigured what today’s church ought to do in worshipping the Lord. One thing that stands out in the *way* the *sinful woman* from *Bethany* wiped the Lord’s feet is her ability and courage to use her hair to *wipe* the dust off the *feet of the Lord Jesus* while embrocating them *with* the precious *pure nard*. First of all, it *was* unheard of at that time for a Jewish *woman* to untie her hair in public. This is because *women* *were* always required to keep their hair covered in a presentation of modesty and decency of morality. This *was* because the woman’s hair *was* considered a very feminine part of her being and hence treated with a lot of respect. For example in the ultra Orthodox Jewish arrangement, a woman’s hair is not supposed to be seen in the public from childhood until the day of her wedding when she *would* then be able to *show* her hair to her husband in an act that expressed the fact that from that day onwards she *would* deeply devote her entire life to him. It *was* a *well* cherished tradition that from birth, a mother always ensured that as her daughter *grew* up she diligently taught her *how* to keep her hair, maintain it, and also preserve it for the day of her wedding. This makes it a very significant departure from the norm that the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* could untie her hair in the

public place. And yet, not only did this *sinful woman* at *Bethany* untie her hair in the public, but also used her hair to *wipe* the dust off the *feet of Jesus*.

To understand to another level the depth of worship that the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* offered when she met the Lord Jesus, it becomes absolutely necessary to reflect on the state of the affair surrounding today’s *woman* in 2008 and beyond. Today, it is *without* a speck of a doubt very clear that the modern *woman* surely devotes quite a reasonable amount of her time and money on the upkeep of her hair. In fact, the hair is a main source of attention and concern to the majority of the women in today’s modern society. It has even been coined among *women* today the phrase “she is having a bad hair day,” which says it all by portraying that based on the state of her hair it could make or break her day. In other circles, the hair industry for *women* has also grown to become a huge global booming business that does not only employ unimaginable number of people but also attracts colossal amounts of finances with the high turnover rate. In fact in some cities *when* it rains commentaries have been made into effect that *women* cover their hair with umbrellas and get totally engrossed and absorbed in ensuring that not even one drop of rain *water* touches their well serviced hair to the extent that they may be easily run over by traffic in the streets. This goes a long *way* to emphasize the weight today’s modern *woman* attaches to her hair and its upkeep. To some extent, this obsession has been equated to idolatry. Well, having seen the level of concern today’s *woman* places on her hair as a treasure, then it is easier to understand the significance of the act that the *woman* at *Bethany* displayed before the church of Christ. From the look of things it is possible to say that across time to date the *woman’s* hair nearly stands for her life. It did so in the ancient Near-East Jewish community and does so today. But for a *woman* to fall at the *feet of the Lord Jesus* and take her highly treasured hair, using it to *wipe* off the dust from his feet, she must have received revelation from the Holy Spirit. It is a *monumental* act that can only be equated to a *woman* pouring her entire life at the *feet of Jesus*. Very well remembering that this is the same *woman* that had just poured her entire life-long savings and treasures from the alabaster unto the Lord. Therefore, for her to

use her well-kept hair to *wipe* dust off the *feet of Jesus* *was* a memorable act of extreme humility that cannot be taken for granted.

Moreover, on this extraordinary Tuesday evening, the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* did not just end here. She *went* further on to use the costly perfume that she had preserved and made out of *pure nard* to embrocate the *feet of the Lord Jesus*. By *now*, it goes *without* saying that she must have acted from a point of spiritual superiority and revelation of the Lord. This precious *woman* must have been unveiled to the mystery and revelation about *whom* Jesus actually *was*. Furthermore, she must have gotten even deeper insight to be able to discern that the fact that the Lord Jesus had just arrived from a very long journey through the very narrow and tortuous path across the earth. And it *was now* time when his mission *was* coming to an end. In this *way*, this respectable *woman* at *Bethany* must have realised that the Lord’s feet needed to be embrocated, and healed as he reclined at the dinner table. This *woman* literally ministered unto the Lord Jesus *when* he *was* very tired and dusty. It can also be remembered that earlier on, on this day the Lord Jesus had gone through a day full of difficulty and controversy. The *woman* at *Bethany* in her worship fulfilled the scripture because she recognised that;

“Beautiful are the feet that bring the Good News.”

At the time in the Near-East custom, it *was* common practice for people to recognise the *beautiful feet* that bring the *good news*. This is because during this ancient period in the Near-East, many *wars* took place between different kingdoms and in the majority of cases the king *always waited* in the palace to hear the *good news* on the victory that *was* being scored at battle. In other words the king eagerly anticipated the *good news* of deliverance from *war*, the *good news* of peace coming from the battle lines. The messengers that *were* charged with carrying the *good news* of peace from the battle to the king *were* at this time mainly ran long distances barefooted. It *was* a very demanding task in this very hot climatic zone such that upon their arrival at the palace, they had to be well received and their feet dusted off, thorns removed, and the bruises embrocated with pure oil for healing as they reclined at dinner table with the king. Equally important *was* the messenger that brought *good news* to Israel when he

*was* in captivity. In the majority of cases and specifically Babylon, there *was* enormous distress emanating from the unbearable *wrath* of God that had befallen the land due to disobedience. This kind of distress caused a lot of humiliation and suffering hence there *was always* a dire need to receive a messenger with a different report. This type of messenger *would* bring a divine report from afar to the captives (slaves) at their most desperate time. It is for this reason that such messengers *were* well received, and especially due to the fact that they *were* sent of the prophets of the Lord, the God of Israel. Having travelled very long distances with such *weighty* and long overdue messages of *peace* at *last* these messengers *would* have their feet wiped off dust, embrocated, thorns removed and healed *with* pure aroma of olive oil. This happened while they reclined at the dinner table. It is also at this table that they delivered the *good news of peace*. This *would* be such an event of such magnitude to the extent that as the messenger of *good news* met *with* the elders of enslaved community, the rest of the entire community *would* be seated out in great multitudes *waiting* to hear “*what the Lord had said about their situation*.” Such a forum *would* also be the place at which the formula for return to Jerusalem *would* be spelt out in the hearing of all. For this reason, the practice of feet *wiping*, *washing*, and *embrocating* became a very significant tradition that never left their memories because it happened during the time of their deliverance from slavery.

But for this *woman* at *Bethany* to be able to link this noble practice of *feet washing* with the fact that the Lord Jesus had actually just brought to the world **THE ULTIMATE GOOD NEWS**, is a matter of utmost gravity that cannot be taken lightly at all. It is a revelation on the very nature of Christ the Messiah himself. This kind of revelation instils the fear of the Lord which is a necessary requisite that truly lacks in today’s church of Christ. The lack of the fear of the Lord in today’s church is surely the genesis of the grand fall in which *now* all manner of sin has creeped into the august house and even reaching to the extent of tainting the priesthood (Pastors).

## The Beautiful Feet & THE RAPTURE

The authoritative message that reverberates from *Bethany* to the remnant bride of Christ is one that directly compels her to fall at the *feet of Jesus*. It is a mighty spiritual discovery that infuses a new lease of life into the mainstream of the church of Christ in these last days even as the midnight hour draws closer. The historic events surrounding the little home town of *Bethany*, upon receiving the Lord Jesus, ought to be strongly manifested in the life of the church if she is to make it into the wedding of the lamb. It is a very high calling that is in actual fact supposed to *wake* her up from the slumber, and restore her towards the *rapture*. Transformation of this nature has long been predicted in scripture as being the pivot at which the church will see a turning point as she prepares for the *rapture*. It *will* only come from the church accepting to humble herself to the point of recognising and emulating the quality of worship that the *sinful woman* in *Bethany* offered unto the Lord Jesus. This must come to today’s church as a complete package that should include a genuine expression of all the good qualities she displayed at this worship. These have got to include her level of zealousness, faithfulness, humility, *brokenness*, commitment, selflessness and boldness among other spiritual qualities. In other words, this precious *sinful woman* is making a very powerful proclamation for the church today to return to her spiritual *Bethany*. This is *what will* validate the house of the Lord back to *walking* in step with the Holy Spirit. It is an exceedingly important process that *will* restore today’s church that must take precedence in the church and return her to true worship in the spirit. In this *way*, the restoration of the fallen tent of David *will* have commenced at the *beautiful feet of the Lord Jesus*. Therefore, the only *way* in which the perfect bride of Christ *will* partake of the *rapture*, is by her getting herself to the *holy feet of Jesus*. In these last days, this becomes an urgent matter that must be carefully addressed and given first priority in the house of the Lord. Briefly, the perfection of the sainthood in today’s modern church *will* only take place *when* she finally arrives at her *spiritual Bethany*.

The complexity in unravelling this super paradox on *the falling at the*

*feet of Jesus* is the fact that it is both a duty of extreme humility and yet also an act of great honour for the chosen few. The *sinful woman* at *Bethany* seemed to have discovered this remarkable secret that until *now* appears to be very hidden to the church of Christ. When she fell at the *feet of Jesus*, the *Bethany woman* must have recognized that the house of the Lord had fallen into spiritual captivity thereby being in dire need of an urgent deliverance. And to her, the arrival of Jesus into *Bethany* activated into life the true definition of the scripture that says “*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news*.” Because of the incredible fall in the land at this time, the urge to receive the *good news* had far outgrown the first yearning that *was* seen when Israel *was* under Babylonian captivity. And it is for this reason that she *wiped the feet* of the messenger of the *good news*, the Lord Jesus. However, little did she know that this *would* turn out to be the classic act that *would* so much speak to the current church that is awaiting the *rapture*. In these last days the Holy Spirit has released a complete awareness on the parallel between the physical captivity that Israel lived through and the spiritual captivity that today’s church finds herself in. It is such a bondage that has inflicted colossal casualty on the church in *which* case causing a desperate craving for deliverance. By falling at the *feet of the Lord Jesus* this *symbolic woman* at *Bethany* principally illustrated to the current church that true worship is at the *feet of Jesus*. It is a sobering message that calls for *brokenness*, the very feature that is lacking in the church today. It can be well remembered that Jesus himself *was* broken as he worshipped God. Indeed, the hidden mystery is that it *was* the deliberate will of the Father in heaven that Jesus be crushed and broken (Isaiah 52:13-15; Isaiah 53:2-10). Because the church is Christ’s ambassador on earth she naturally ought to be the mirror of Christ and this demands that if Jesus *was* broken at worship the church too must be broken at worship. It becomes the primary means of getting rid of the endemic pride that has killed the church today. Apparently, this pride stands in the way of worship through the exaltation of man and money, at the expense of the Lord. Such a counterfeit exaltation and worship is what has caused the acute short fall in holiness in the church. The tragedy here is that holiness is a basic benchmark that the Lord God

in heaven is not *willing* to *waiver* when it comes to the *rapture* of the church (Hebrews 12:14). In which case then it appears that *brokenness* with which the church is supposed to worship Jesus is also a very important instrument through *which* she can attain the favour of the Lord. Put together, this *woman* at *Bethany* did a very holy thing and taught the church the most important lesson on *worship*. The dynamics on *brokenness* that she portrays to the current church of Christ fundamentally first of all involved breaking the long beautiful neck of the antique like *alabaster jar* full of pure treasure (*nard*). The long gorgeous neck of the *alabaster jar* is surely the physical embodiment of the sin of pride and the flesh. This representation of this horrendous sin called pride can also be seen in *calamus* when God sent Moses to clean up Aaron and prepare him in humbleness for priesthood. It *was* a treacherous process that involved breaking down the pride and the flesh of the world in Aaron so that he may attain the stance of the humble priesthood of God (Exodus 30:22-38). It is no coincidence that the tall neck of the *alabaster jar* stands out as much like the *way* the tall neck of the *calamus* plant stands out above the *water*. Having said this, the intricate part of this *parallel* comes from the fact that *when* the neck of the *alabaster jar* *was* broken an immense fragrance saturated the room. Likewise, Moses realized the more he broke down the *calamus* plant the more fragrance it emitted hence saturating the air. It *was* about the fragrance of worship. It even gets better to realize that the more Jesus *was* broken on the cross the more *was* the fragrance of sweet smelling aroma that he emitted into the throne room of God saturating it to full capacity. This is the true act of worship that the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* saw and emulated. For the church this *will* be the gateway for her redemption into the wedding of the lamb. It is the gateway of broken worship. It is no *wonder*, that the scripture say that *when the sinful woman* at *Bethany* broke the long neck of the *alabaster jar* the entire room *was* saturated with the fragrant aroma of pure nard and the Lord Jesus *saw* said it *was* good for his burial in which case implying that *what* she did *was* a perfect reflection of *what* he *was* about to do on the cross and into the throne room of God. He *was* about to bring the pure and excellent fragrance of spiritual nard into the throne room

of God in heaven as a process that *would* then atone for the sins of man (John 19:3-8). It is even more bewildering to conceive the greater depth to which this *woman went* in order to speak to today’s church on the novelty of being broken at *worship*. At this *new* depth, *when* she broke the long neck of the jar, and crushed it to anoint the Lord, she as a matter of fact prefigured the crushed body of Christ that *would* hang on the cross as an act of worship. It is even more shocking to see that *when* Joseph and Nicodemus appeared at the cross to take the *broken and crushed* body of Jesus, they covered it *with* seventy-five pounds of pure bitter myrrh and the sweet smelling fragrance of aloe (John 19:38-40). Only the Holy Spirit of the Lord can explain *why* the conversation that Jesus had had with Nicodemus at night could not end until the broken body of the Lord had to be *lowered* on the cross. In that earlier conversation the Lord Jesus had intimated to Nicodemus that no man can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. As the conversation proceeded he also hinted to him one of the key secrets of the kingdom of heaven, a secret that relied on the fact that, that *which* is born of the flesh gives birth to the flesh and those born of the spirit will be born of the spirit. At this cross, the broken body of Christ had finally given *way* to the birth of the spirit in a dear act of worshipping unto God. Therefore, *when* the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* broke down at the *feet of Jesus* she essentially crushed her flesh and gave *way* to the spirit to be born in a dear act of worshipping God through Christ Jesus. This is the message she faithfully relayed to the current church of Christ that is anticipating the *rapture* at any moment from *now*. In other words, she informed the church on the need to break down and crush her pride at the *feet of Jesus*

so that the spiritual being of the endtime church could be born in her. This *lowly woman* at *Bethany* further intimated to the modern today’s church that the falling at the *feet of Jesus* is the true heart of worship. Hence, in this *way* the challenge she advances to the church is that it is that spiritual being birthed out in *brokenness* at the *feet of Jesus*, it is that spiritual being that acquires the glorious *wedding gown* and *will* ultimately *wear* the spiritual *wedding ring* of the lamb of God. This is the crucial role of the Holy Spirit in the endtime church of Christ, because this highly celebrated

spiritual birth permits her to hear the *spiritual voice* of the archangel and the *spiritual trumpet call* of God on the material day of the this *spiritual wedding (rapture)*. And *when* today’s modern church of Christ begins to worship in the spirit like this, then surely, she *will* have been restored and thence arrived at her *spiritual Bethany*. This is the moment of her life *when* Jerusalem *will* be within a bird’s eye view from her as she *worships* in *Bethany*. Such a spectacular *view* of Jerusalem *will* definitely captivate the heart of this *Bethany church* and she *will* long for the Jerusalem worship in the house of the Lord, and specifically on the Day of the Lord. The critical inferences emerging from the above deliberations on the role of *brokenness* in worship cannot be over-stressed. In reality this humble *woman* operating from *Bethany* in the Near-East ancient period, beautifully summarized the boundary of worship in the house. Her take-home message to the church today practically raises a placard that clearly announces a chilling and sobering notice that says “*it all begins and ends with brokenness*”. This is the perfect image of Christ the Messiah, *who* likewise entered *with brokenness* and left very brokenhearted in perfect *brokenness*. And until today it appears like *when* the Lord Jesus looks at the conduct of this modern church, he is obviously left with no choice but to ask;

“Where is the church for which I was so much broken and crushed at the cross, the church that I myself taught how to worship our Father in heaven, that church where is she, because only she is my bride.”

Whence, it is *now* possible to take stock on the extent of damage that the sin of pride has inflicted on today’s modern church of Christ, not only *within* the congregants but also and most importantly among the priesthood. And this horrendous sin of pride is the one that has fanned up the corrupt gospel of prosperity that edifies the flesh while throwing out holiness through the *window*. For this reason, the holy bible clearly gives a stern warning to the effect that the Lord Almighty has taken his time to prepare a day in store for all the proud and lofty and for all that is exalted and on this day they surely *will* be humbled

(Isaiah 2:12). Hence, for today’s modern church *who* is aspiring to *wed* Christ in the mighty *rapture*, this area of pride is assuredly supposed to have been a strictly no-go zone that is clearly demarcated out of bounds at any one time of her life.

### Highway Of Holiness SECRET OF DUSTY FEET

When Christ Jesus the son of the living God literally *walked* our dusty roads *with* his glorious feet, it became an everlasting milestone that has since then raised a *new* benchmark in the relationship between God and man. This standard then developed into a very deep mystery, *whose* secrets are embedded in the very *footprints* that the Lord Jesus left on this planet earth. Mysterious and incomprehensible as these footprints may be, they chart out the path that *winds* its *way* and leads to entry into the inexplicable *wedding* of the lamb of God. Interpreting this pattern encoded *within* the path that Jesus mapped out, has *always* been an uphill task for the church, thereby rendering all human *wisdom* bare. Intricately though, experience has it that everytime mankind begins to *tow* this noble path a great unravelling takes place ushers man into a dispensation of unmatched *wisdom* a thing can only be catalogued as an out of this planet encounter. This attests to the fact that the *bedrock* of footprints that Jesus left on this planet are alive and therefore being capable of transmitting life to the pedestrians on this *way*. Interestingly enough, it is at this moment along the *way* that mankind begins to receive revelation on *walking with* Jesus. In *what* would be referred to in modern times as an on the road training, it has *now* become clear that the more man *walks* along this path the more he receives revelation on *how* to decode the secrets embedded *within* these glorious *footprints*. This phenomenon that modern man may describe as an out of this planet encounter is actually the celebrated anointing of the Holy Spirit for those *who walk* in this *way*. At this juncture the mystery of John the Baptist can be resolved because he talked about this *way*. Isaiah also strongly advance this *way* by describing those that walk in this way, a way that he called the *highway of holmess* (Isaiah 35:8). As a matter of fact, it is the feet that *walk* this *highway* which are referred to as the *beautiful feet* and in

dusty *way*, *would* have to equally carry same dust and affliction. In this manner, this *highway* *will* most certainly *always* lead to *Bethany* like it did the Lord. This was the revelation that the *sinful woman* from *Bethany* received.

### Sending The Church SANDALED DUSTY FEET

#### Washing of the Feet

Upon arrival from walking this long and narrow *highway* across the earth, the Lord Jesus needed to be ministered to and be healed. This condition required a homely place at *which* he *would* be able to recline at dinner and rest for the evening. Since he did not have a house to call his own, Jesus found a home in *Bethany* where his *special friends* Simon the leper, Martha, Mary and Lazarus lived. It is documented that they opened their homes to him in a symbolic gesture that greatly challenges the church today (Luke 10:38). By his arrival at *Bethany*, Jesus teaches the church today the true meaning of the Christian walk along the *highway*. It is an extensive portrayal of the unconditional faithfulness abiding *within* the heart of the Lord Jesus. In this kind of fidelity, the Lord practically enacted the word *which* beholds the fact that, he is still standing at the door knocking and that *whoever* opens the door of his home to him, into that home Jesus would enter and dine *with* them. It is this dining *with* them that causes an everlasting transformation and revival into their hearts. So, *when* his *special friends* at *Bethany* opened the doors to their homes, it is essentially their hearts that opened up to Jesus in a manner that permitted Jesus to call *Bethany* his home too. It is for this reason that, *when* God sent Jesus and he accepted the call, upon completing the mission, tired and weak, the place at *which* to recline and *unwind* obviously became the little home *town* of *Bethany*. This expresses the deep sense of confidence the Lord Jesus had in *Bethany* because they needed him, *welcomed* him, loved him, and appreciated him. This sparked off a mighty revival among the *Jews* in *Bethany* and adorned the scripture that prophesied the gospel as being preached to the *Jews* first and then to the Gentiles.

## Wedding Supper Of The Lamb

The events at *Bethany* have since then represented a major conversation that is going on *between* the Lord Jesus and the church. The symbolic significance of the *washing of his feet* by the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* have since then been disclosed to the church by the Holy Spirit. As a result of this, a deeper insight on the reasons as to *why* the *woman* at *Bethany* *washed* the *Lord’s feet* and *how* this relates to the rapture of the church, have also been gradually unravelled. The Tuesday evening dinner at *Bethany* has such a valuable prophetic meaning that can only be understood by examining the proceeding events that followed after this visit. While the following day, on Wednesday, appears to have been a relatively inert day *without* much activity. It is not possible to preclude some minor events that may have taken course. Such events must have, most probably, included the necessary preparations for the mighty Thursday evening. On this Thursday evening, the Lord Jesus had the last supper *with* the church in an *auspicious occasion* that *would* eventually seal a historic and an everlasting covenant of faithfulness between himself and his bride. It is at this last supper that the real spiritual meaning of *what* the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* did, by *wiping* the *Lord’s feet*, came out. In *what* would have appeared as a departure from the normal tradition at the time, the Lord Jesus all of a sudden, took *water* in a basin and began to *wash* the *feet* of his disciples, this time not *when* they had just arrived, but in the middle of the dinner (John 13:5). In so doing, the Lord spoke so mightily to the church that he is sending even today, because this *washing of their feet* was more of a symbolism than a fulfilment of custom. Firstly, in this *way*, the Lord *was* giving the church that is sent her job description. This are the boundaries that he expects the church to have operated in. And *within* these bounds he *was* essentially telling the today’s church that *dusty* are the *feet* that bring the *good news*. It was a very mighty act that the church has not understood for some time, because in this *washing* of their *feet* he *was* actually telling them to take the *good news* from Jerusalem, into Judea, across into Samaria, then to the ends of the earth. It is a fully loaded message he *was* relaying through this process of the *washing of their feet*. At this point, today’s church, that is his bride to be, *was* basically represented by the

disciples at this dinner table. While everything regarding this dinner may not accessible to the church, *what* clearly stands out is the fact that the Lord *was* principally telling the today’s church that she is being sent, but if she agrees to go, her *sandaled feet* would have to get dusty and dirty. What the Holy Spirit *was* saying here is that it *would* eventually boil down to the possession of these *dusty, sandaled feet* for the church to qualify for the wedding of the lamb. The identity marker thereof, of the acceptance to take up the call, coupled *with* the actual going *would* be the *dusty, sandaled feet*. It tells us that on the day the Lord meets the church he *will* focus on her feet. If she *will* be found in possession of the genuine *tired, dusty and dirty, sandaled feet*, then *now* *we* know that the Lord *will* then have been certain that this church has been busy *working* in the vineyard along this *highway*. This has a very *new* dimension and a deep correlation to *what* the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* did into the kingdom of God. This is a mighty revelation that opens a *new* expanse into the *wisdom* and *ways* of God that are *otherwise* hidden unto this perishing world. Because *when* the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* anointed the head of our Lord Jesus and *embrocated* his feet *with* very costly *pure nard* the people at the time rebuked her and cursed her but little did they know that not only *was* she speaking about the church of Christ that is sent but also the fact that this church *will* qualify into the wedding supper of the lamb of God (Luke 22:7-13). This humble and highly despised *woman* at *Bethany* essentially enacted the events at the wedding supper of the Lamb of God. No *wonder, now* at the last supper the Lord is telling today’s church that on the day of the wedding supper of the lamb, he *will* focus on the *dusty, sandaled feet*. It makes a lot of spiritual sense because only *when* the church is in possession of the *dirty, sandaled feet* does she quality for the *washing, wiping* and *embrocation* of her *feet*. Surely, on this day of the last supper the Lord he spoke so mightily about the nature of the feet the church ought to possesses in these last days of the endtime. In fact, right *now* even as this journey *draws* to a close *with* the midnight hour ticking even much closer, her feet ought to be the *dirty, lapidated* and *dusty, sandaled feet*. This thereby causes her to need an urgent embrocation as she reclines *with* left hand resting on the elbow, *while* propping up the head *with* her feet folded backwards.

It is at the wedding supper of

the lamb of God that the church in possession of the *dusty, sandaled feet* *will* be received, restored and healed by the Lord God in heaven. This is the dignified conversation that the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* was trying to have *with* today’s church but she still does not seem to hear *this woman*. Eventually, *when* Jesus *was* sending the church at the last supper while nursing her feet, he spoke about the things to come on the day of the wedding supper of the lamb of God. In reference to the *dusty feet*, Jesus actually implied that if today’s church *were* to accept the calling and go to the ends of the earth, she definitely would have to walk along this long and narrow *highway*. This *highway* *we* have seen that is located *within* a lonely stretch that passes through the extreme aridity in the wilderness of repentance. Hence, just out of the conditions of this *highway* alone, by all means, the church that is sent and *walks* there must definitely possess the *dusty, sandaled feet*. Having mentioned the fact that the church *which* is sent, is supposed to *tow* the long and narrow *highway*, it is also important to mention here that there are lots of spiritual battles taking place this way. This battles have an inevitable presence *within* the wilderness of repentance, thereby requiring the mighty cloud of the Lord that guides her by the day and protects her by the night as she heads to the promised land, the wedding supper of the lamb of God. This is the context *within* which God *showed* David the day of the wedding supper of the lamb of God. This is the day *when* David *saw* a mighty table prepared before him on the presence of his enemies (Psalms 23:5). At the same time, he experienced the anointing oil flowing on his head *while* the cup of his drink *was* overflowing. It is a direct correlation to the events that *will* transpire at the wedding supper of lamb of God, *which* events the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* tried to prefigure to today’s church, but until *now* all this effort has been in vain. Seeing it through the eyes of David, the Holy Spirit *was* speaking to the remnant bride of Christ about God, *who* is the heavenly shepherd at his table as the Father *who* protects the church as she *walks* along this lonely and narrow *highway of holiness*. In *which* case, the church that *will* be in possession of the *beautiful, dusty, sandaled feet* at rapture *will* have essentially defeated her enemy of sin and consequently overcoming death. Likewise *when* the Lord opened Isaiah’s eyes, he *was* able to

see the demeanour of the *few* that *walked* along this *way* and the mighty protective hand of God over their lives (Isaiah 35:8). Just like it *was* in the ancient Near-East, *when* covenants used to be sealed by a meal that expressed the bond of friendship, so *will* it be at the wedding supper of the lamb of God in heaven. At this supper, the mighty eternal covenant of marriage between Christ and the church *will* be concluded by the historic meal, as a bond of eternal friendship in the presence of God the Father. In a marriage there is a honeymoon period *when* the bride is eager to please her *new* spouse and happy to have waited for him in faithfulness till the wedding day. The church also ought to be enthusiastic in anticipation of the holy honeymoon period in her relationship *with* God. For that matter, today’s church is right *now* expected to be very eager to please Christ her bridegroom, patiently focusing on him as she *awaits* for the rapture. This is *what* the Lord God *was* *showing* the church *when* he caused the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* to *anointed* the *feet of the Lord Jesus*. She as a matter of fact spoke much to today’s church which is expected to be anticipating the coming of the Lord in the rapture. This *woman* at *Bethany* emphasized the eagerness *with* which the church should be looking *forward* *towards* the wedding supper of the lamb of God, at *which* her cup *will* overflow and her head *will* be anointed *with* oil of gladness. The level of devotion that this *sinful woman* at *Bethany* expressed to Jesus, and in a public forum is an example that the church must incaleate into her every fibre. In this message on devotion, this woman reiterated the fact that today’s modern church ought to take time daily to seek God and surrender to him. In this *way*, she *will* be able to keep her love relationship *with* the Lord Jesus *growing* and temptation *will* loose their power to divert her as she surrenders her life daily to the Holy Spirit. But the scenario exhibited in the modern church of today, is one of an ever increasing level of temptation that seems to have successfully and completely diverted her from being totally devoted to the Christ Jesus, her bridegroom. The modern church of today has been totally diverted from delivering the quality of true worship that the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* exemplified. The bottom line is that she has been deflected from true worship at the *feet of Jesus*, into the worship of idols of power, wealth, comfort, prestige

and possessions. She *now* tends to devote most of her time in building and protecting these idols *within* her life. However, the emptiness that she experiences despite acquiring these idols is because they do not satisfy her inherent nature *which* is created by God. And this kind emptiness is manifested in the lack of depth in christian life today, *which* essentially is being propelled by lack of revelation, and God uses this to show her that something is *wrong* in her worship. At this point it is important to mention that those Christians *who* *will* truly worship God in complete devotion like the *sinful woman* at *Bethany*, *will* find complete satisfaction in their lives.

## Falling At His Feet

Jesus gave the church a model *way* of approaching God’s throne of grace in heaven, *when* he encountered the church at *Bethany*. The inexplicable method that the *Bethany* community employed for drawing near to Jesus, lays a durable foundation on *how* today’s church ought to worship. The *Bethany* community *was* given the ambitious task and privilege of sharing the message of the Messiah to the ends of the earth having discovered him. This is a task they took very seriously no wonder Jesus said wherever this gospel *will* be preached in the four corner of the earth this community too *will* be preach. But in their message to the church, the *Bethany* community is reiterating over and over again that the secret to catching the attention of the Lord, is none other than the humble *falling at the feet of Jesus*. Many a time the modern church of today has spent a lot of resources and effort looking for *wisdom* on *how* to approach the Lord Jesus. She has been aggressively engaged in conferences, workshops, seminars, retreats, theological enrichment courses, training on worship, group fellowships, home bible education programme, book club inspired days of purpose-driven activities, couples breakfasts, singles fellowship, Pastors fellowships, Pastors association among other commitments. This kind of hot pursuit that has of late characterized her life has pushed her to corner such that she *now* operates on a very tight schedule to accomplish these activities *with* the one and only purpose of getting favour at the throne of grace of the Lord God. This is a classic case of *how* far she detoured from the *highway* and followed the broad road that flashes all the different types

of counterfeit prosperity gospels, the big cars, *wealth*, health, status, spiritual stardom. It is disturbing that in all this she is still believes in somehow ending up in the kingdom of God in this pathetic condition. The invaluable *word* of God is firmly established in heaven, defining the path that bears the footprints of Jesus. This is the one and only path that leads into the eternal kingdom of God. It is an awakening situation that is actually meant to disarm the church and cause her to lay *down* the above the modern activities of engagements and return her to the *way of holiness*.

The mandate given to the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* to educate the modern church of today arose from one qualification, that she *always* fell at the *feet of Jesus*. Looking back at the time *when* Jesus first approached Bethany, this *sinful woman* began by first opening her home to the Lord (Luke 10:38-42). It is a universal lesson that if well considered, actually ends up questioning the very salvation that is being propagated in the modern church of today. The universality of this *sinful woman’s* lesson to the church articulates from the fact that salvation in Christ Jesus is meant to begin *with* the unconditional total opening of the heart unto the Lord Jesus. This translates into a welcome note for Jesus to enter into the heart of the church, changing it forever by making it his home. No *wonder, when* this Bethany community opened their home to Jesus he too called it home, a place to recline, dine and rest for the evening, because tomorrow is another day. Notice *how* Jesus even launched his final missions from Bethany on a daily basis, going to Jerusalem and returning to Bethany for the evening. It is a loud call to the modern church of today, a call that stresses the fact that the Lord Jesus is still *waiting* for her to totally and unconditionally open her heart to him, so that he can launch his endtime mission from her home. The Lord is desperately looking for a place to call his home so he can fill it *with* the Holy Spirit and then use to bring the salvation of God to the perishing. The days are evil and there is an absolute urgent to redeem the time.

### Opening The Door

Because of her strength of character the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* did not allow herself to be stopped by the pundits of the day, at this mere first stage of opening the door unto the

Lord Jesus. Instead she took this worship a step further *with* a lot of boldness of character. This *sinful woman* at *Bethany* had earlier on lived a life that was a complete disaster, as an embarrassing social outcast in this society. Then, considering that she publicly came out to worship the Lord Jesus, then her boldness of character came out as a very handy attribute, for her to receive deliverance. This expression of boldness that she displayed came in the midst of the fact that the Pharisees at the time had such an attitude that often hindered true spiritual growth. This bold account of the *sinful woman* at *Bethany*, brings home a very central message to the modern church of today. It basically educates the church on the great need to step out of the bounds set by human community and boldly stand *with* Jesus in an act of public worship. Of course, *when* the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* did this she encountered opposition. By extrapolation, the Holy Spirit is plainly telling the church that *when* she chooses to stand *with* the Lord in the *way* of righteousness she *will* most definitely meet opposition, rejection and ridicule. In this outfit, the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* taught the modern church of Christ to embrace rejection as a means to the kingdom of God.

Looking at her from afar it is very easy to dismiss her because of the label the society had branded her *with*. While some called her Mary, others still persisted on the *sinful woman* at *Bethany*. To *walk* around such a closely-knit community *while* brandishing this type of identity marker generates an irreparable stigma on ones person and in most cases leads to the killing of any little potential they may be in possession of. And for her to be teaching the sophisticated today’s modern church such a principle lesson of the kingdom of God, it must have taken the miracle of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, the church must remember that the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* operated *without* any reknowned theological degree or doctorate in divinity from a well recognised university or any basic qualification. And for her to still be able to thoroughly educate the highly sophisticated and learned modern church of today, is an absolutely shocking and shameful situation to behold. The *sinful woman* at *Bethany* in essence ashamed the *wisdom* of man embedded in human intellectualism. In her continuing lesson to the church, the

*sinful woman* at *Bethany* is currently ministering to the modern church on the art and science of *humility*. This she is doing as a solution-based approach to the current spiritual stalemate in today’s church *where* no significant progress is being made in the area of worship. The chapter of *worship* that this *sinful woman* at *Bethany* is introducing to the church, is not alien to scripture. What *would* take one’s breath *away*, is the simplicity *with* which she introduces this topic to her gospel audience in today’s modern church. Yet she gracefully does this *without* getting her audience into a *wild* wind reading episode, that *would* otherwise have mirrored a fishing spree for a lost needle in a haystack. Instead she opts to quickly *narrow* down to the fact that the answer is at the *feet* of *Jesus*. In this context, the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* does not preach *water* while drinking wine, a hypocritical scenario that has infested and consumed the modern church of today. A short excursion into her impressive *exposition* of *worship*, immediately pulls out the fact that *when* she opened her home to Jesus, she right *away* fell at his feet (Luke 10:38-42). This is the place at which Jesus *was* then able to teach her, and she too *was* then able to get the tranquility and calmest that facilitate and enhanced listening to the Lord. It is an immediate fix solution that *would* have saved today’s church from having to spend lots of time and resources in running around trying to seek some formula-based solutions of worship. This unsophisticated nature of the *worship* being advanced to the church of today by the *sinful woman* at *Bethany*, is a one-step-solution that is quite easy to implement and greatly admirable. Many times, it is common to hear today’s church complaining and grumbling of the fact that most of their prayers have gone entirely *unanswered*. This can be very frustrating especially *with* the *awareness* that the church is praying to the living God, *who* in an attempt to reach her, sent his one and only son Jesus, to *walk* the earth (John 3:16). It is indeed a self-defeated condition because God in heaven has made every attempt to get close to man, *how* then can the church be praying *without* receiving answers. It does not match the order of God and as a matter of seriousness falls out of God’s order. The divine order of God has it that by his very nature, he loves to *answer* the prayers of his children (the church). The *prognosis* of this underlying situation in the

church, directly points at the fact that the channels of communication the church is using to reach God are actually blocked thereby making no prayers to permeate into the throneroom of God. But, being very much aware that Jesus forever established the direct portal as the main channel of communication between man and God, then this situation that currently prevails in the church in a complete *abberation*. This means that from the moment when she *was* delivered by Jesus at the cross, and *shown* the right *way*, she experienced a *parallax error* and her chose the *wrong way* to go, thereby detouring her from the *highway of holiness* (Isaiah 35:8). It is no wonder that the church today finds herself in a *wrong* place *where* there is no open channels of communication with God (1 Samuel 3:1; Jeremiah 2:7; Romans 3:23). Yet it is all *known* too well that in this lesson, the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* is repeatedly beckoning her to return to the right place *where* the portal of communication is open. This portal is eternally open at the *beautiful feet* of *Jesus*. The most crucial message of the day that being advanced to the modern church in this segment is that *where* there *was* no answer to prayer, *now* there *will* be answered prayer *when* she humbles herself at the *feet* of *Jesus*. On the same note, *where* listening to the voice of God *was* difficult and not perceiveable *within* the hustle and bustle of today’s modern society, *now* she can enjoy the privilege of hearing directly from God *when* she falls at the *feet* of *Jesus* (2 Chronicles 7:14; 1 Samuel 3:4). Therefore, the *feet* of *Jesus* is at the ark of the new covenant of the Lord *where* the precious blood of Jesus is poured as a perfect sacrifice, and the lamp of God never goes out. At that place the channels of communication are *wide* open through one main *portal* that is Jesus. In *view* of the foregoing, *it will* surely take an unusual level of humility for this sophisticated modern church of today to fall at the *feet* of *Jesus*. The flip-side of the message being resounded here today has a bitter taste that says pride comes before the final fall (Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 29:23). Missing the rapture is a mighty fall that leads directly to the pits of the post-rapture tribulation.

**The Fall In The Church & Restoration**  
It *would* have been beneficial if the church *were* to look at her current

fallen state in the context of a training session in *which* she *would* learn lessons never to repeat. This *would* have marked the beginning and essence in her spiritual life *towards* restoration and the rapture. Undergoing such suffering as she is in her spiritual *walk*, could then have served to refine and strengthen her in this last days. The modern church of today *would* have then been restored as promised, and looked back at *when* she stumbled and the Lord restored her. She *would* have also positively said to herself that if she *were* not to have fallen she *wouldnt* have received training enough to qualify into the rapture. It is like an athlete *who* lifts weights to develop their muscles for the final competition. If the athlete does not stumble at one given piece of *weight* then the drive to strive higher *would* have been there and they *would* have nbeen comfortable *with* the mediocre level. This analogy to the churuch implies that the greater need for renourishment created by the current scarcity in her life becomes a powerful resource that she can tap on. This is the exact resource that the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* tapped on thereby causing her to refuse to remain at the same level until she *was* delivered into the inheritance. No *wonder*, the Lord said that in these last days, he *would* return and restore David’s fallen tent by rebuilding it from the ruins to *where* it used to be. This process of rebuilding must begin *with* the modern church falling at the *feet* of *Jesus* with a repentant heart. For the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* the prefix to her name is *sinful* in an obvious condition that makes *known* the fact that *when* she looks at her *sinful* past all she sees is a distress that provoked her to refuse the *status-quo* to an extent of coming out in a public forum. The creator of the heaven and the earth himself promised the church that *when* she *would* seek him diligently *with* all heart, he *would* be found by her (Jeremiah 29:13-14). It crowns this discussion on a very hopeful note because it qualifies the fact that the current drought in the modern, elegant and sophisticated church of today, can be a valuable spiritual resource to tap on in order to bring repentance, restoration and revival to the august house. This must take place soon because the midnight hour is at hand.

## Restoration Of The Church REVIVING WORSHIP

A classic case of spiritual contemporarism that advances knowledge *would* highly benefit from the conversation that the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* has plugged the church into. This *woman* at *Bethany* seems to have tapped into a limitless pool of *wisdom* from the Holy Spirit thereby making her an invaluable resource to the church. Drawing from this limitless pool, this *sinful woman* does not only end here *with* her lesson to the church, but advances a second order paradigm to the church. This second order paradigm being advanced to the church is much more superior than the one she is pursuing right *now* and *powerfully* based on *resurrection*. This is not to say that the model system *which* the church is *following* right *now* is outdated and falls out of place, but to say that there is another level. The level at *which* the church has operated until *now* is the minimal level that cannot bring her into the *wedding* of the lamb, except that she upgrades her *worship* in *what* can be classified as a major paradigm shift of her lifetime. The modern church of today must move from the death and desolation that characterises her, at the moment, to the massive endtime outpouring of the Holy Spirit *which would* prepares her for the rapture. The *sinful woman* at *Bethany* is therefore advancing to the church today, *the resurrection of Lazarus*. When the community in *Bethany* learned of the death of Lazarus, they *were* suddenly gripped *with* a sense of great grief, sadness, fear and hopelessness. This came at a time when this little *lowly* community had just opened their homes to the Lord Jesus and the *news* had spread far and *wide* that they had openly identified *with* him. It also posed a very serious challenge to their faith especially *when* they asked as to *why* he *who* can make the blind eyes see could not be able to resurrect his friend (John 11:37). This stand-off *with* death went on for four good days and the more time that passed the *worse* the stalemate became. At this point, the special friends of Jesus in Bethany knew that, for sure, nothing short of a major miracle *would* ever deliver them from this ugly quagmire. However, *when* Jesus finally appeared, and the *sinful woman* at *Bethany*, ran falling at his feet, this became a historic landmark that

established the *overwhelming* defeat of death in the church of Christ. It is not the defeat of death *per se* in this little *town* that steals the thunder, but it is the dynamic of the process that dents a permanent mark for the sophisticated modern church of today to see and learn from (John 11:32). This *sinful woman* at *Bethany* again bursts into the scene to demonstrate to the church, the place at *which* she ought to be *when* death creeps in. This mighty place of miracle at *which* Bethany finally conquers death, is invariably and shockingly at the same humble *feet* of *Jesus*. This is a humongous schooling to *which* today’s church has been subjected to by this poor *woman* of no reputation at Bethany. In this lesson she has once again pointed right at the *feet* of *Jesus*. The *sinful woman* at *Bethany* in this case, is requesting the church to shift her paradigm into seeking God as the only refuge and protection. The *sinful woman* at *Bethany* does not end here but strongs advices today’s church to eagerly seek God and surrender her life to him in these last days *when* death has crept into the house. But the place at *which* the church is being instructed to go and surrender the strongholds of her life if none other than at the *beautiful feet* of *Jesus*. This is the refuge at *which* the church in *Bethany* got a breather and relief from the quagmire of death that had otherwise scourged her. The impact the Lord Jesus unleashed on death *was* so heavy that it caused him to make a universal statement saying “*I am the resurrection and the life...*” (John 11:25). The gravity of these statement even as it came down from heaven has continually to jolt *temblors* onto the kingdom of darkness, a statement that has far reaching implications right into the rapture of the church. In this case the *resurrection* that the Lord talks about here, is the *resurrection* of the holy dead under the dust of the earth on the day of the rapture. While the life that he mentions here at this Bethany event refers to the *translation* of the living and holy Christians, an irretrievable event that *will* take place on the mighty day of the wedding of the lamb of God. Astonishingly, Jesus released this *power* of the Messiah as a result of being moved in his heart by the *way* the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* threw herself at his feet *weeping* uncontrollably and refusing to be comforted. Such a level of humility goes *down* into records as having moved Jesus to the point of tears, the very impetus for unleashing the mighty *power* of the Messiah against

death. And surely examining the modern church today, it is very easy to see a mirror image of the tight regime of the death of Lazarus reigning despite her purported relationship *with* the saviour. In this *way*, the modern church of today is right *now*, caught up in the throes of death *which* has literally vanquished her to a point of complete desolation and abandonment. These throes of death have established a painful scene in *which* sin is *now* almost institutionalised in the church. Of these, sexual sin and HIV/AIDS appears to have shot-up and taken a lead role in pushing the church into a deadly rollercoaster ride *down* the path of self destruction. This is evidenced by the fact that in the church today, homosexuality is *now* openly being practiced, *widely* accepted, prostitution together *with* the accompanying sexual lusting and utter nudity becoming the order of the day. Lies and false prophecies have not made her situation any better but only *worsened* it to the point of near-oblivion. These spiritual maladies have *overwhelmed* the modern church of Christ thereby *allowing* death to have an uncontested field day. The absurdity of this situation is that there is no healing and deliverance being ministered in the church today, thereby pushing her condition to endemic proportions. This is the death that has cunningly creeped into the today’s modern church of Christ and calling for an urgent resurrection. It is this resurrection model that the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* is asking the church to shift to. When *Bethany was* gripped *with* this same state of death, the church at *Bethany* did not sit back, but relentlessly sought Jesus even though he appeared to have been far from them at the time. At the time, they only heard of his presense *down* in the Jordan valley of repentance. But *when* they called upon him he *was* able to come and speak resurrection life into their death. This is the *new* lesson that the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* is beginning in this new season of learning in the modern church of Christ. The healing of the church in Bethany did not come until she embraced repentance as a novel vehicle for revival (resurrection). The modern and sophisticated church of today is in such a dire need of resurrection revival. And again, as previously seen, the solution is found *no where* other than at that place *when* she *will* be able to *wake* up and

recognise that the ugly face of death has finally *showed* up in the house. Upon this realization, the church must quickly dash and throw herself bitterly at the *beautiful feet* of *Jesus* while at the same time refusing to be comforted until this death that has plagued her is crushed. For that matter, the life-long lesson that is finally trickle through from comes from little Bethany into the today’s modern, but actually dying, church is that it is all about the *beautiful feet* of *Jesus*. To bring *down* this curtain, it is now justifiable to say that for the church, it all happens only at the *feet* of *Jesus*. It is the place at *which* to surrender ones life in repentance and receive salvation, and yet it also remains to be the same place at *which* the latter glory of restoration falls. Therefore, the *concealed* script that is unread in this message from the *sinful woman*, is that every christian must get himself to the one and only, *spiritual Bethany*, a place at *which* humility overrides pride, thereby *allowing* them to finally fall at the *beautiful feet* of *Jesus*. Once at this *spiritual Bethany*, then today’s modern church can be able to access all the channels of communication into heaven through *the main portal* that is our Lord Jesus.

## Beautiful Feet & THE GOOD NEWS

God is high and holy, sinless and perfect; and the only *way* the church can approach him is through the grace he gave through Christ Jesus. In the old testament, seeking God *was* prescribed by definite procedures in which the high priest prayed on behalf of those who had sinned in ignorance. Because he is holy and separated from sin, God judged the people of Israel for their rebellion and disobedience towards him. God’s judgement has always been righteous and inevitable especially when the church refuses to repent from her sins. But because God loves the church he is willing to restore if she confesses her failures to him and asks for forgiveness. This is a trend that the Lord God repeated many times in the old testament everytime Israel fell and had to be restored. No matter how great the sins of the people were, God always opened a door of hope for restoration through repentance, and in so doing, he was giving an example to the church that he has zero tolerance to sin.

However, in the new testament,

when the time came for God to redeem the church from sin, he sent the Lord Jesus from glory down to the earth to walk its dusty roads. By his nature, God longs to redeem the church and transform her, but what hinders him from doing so is the hardened heart of rebellion, which keeps man from surrendering his life totally unto him. It is for this reason that the Lord Jesus was sent with the GOOD NEWS of the salvation of man from sin and death. God wanted the church to receive the GOOD NEWS through repentance in Christ Jesus so that she may evade his wrath that comes on the final day of judgement. Bringing this GOOD NEWS to the church demanded that Jesus walk on the highway of holiness across the earth. And because this was a tough walk in the wilderness, and in the extremely hot arid conditions, it was just inevitable that he would possess the dusty sandaled feet. The spiritual aridity that Jesus walked through was perpetuated by persecution, opposition, rejection and ridicule. It is these dusty sandaled feet, that the sinful woman at Bethany saw, leading her to wipe them with her hair and anointed them with pure nard. At first glance, it would be very difficult to discern the treasure that is embedded within the dusty sandaled feet that Jesus wore, but by looking back at the last supper, then it becomes easier to see this treasure. During the last supper the Lord had washed the dusty feet of the disciples in a symbolic act of humility and service with which he was commissioning the church to go. Because Jesus came to redeem the church from death and to show her the way into the kingdom of God, the church ought to have walked in his footsteps. These are the footsteps that are supposed to have brought the GOOD NEWS of the Lord Jesus to the perishing world. As the Lord Jesus commissioned the church to take the GOOD NEWS from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth, it is evident that upon his departure the primitive church faithfully executed the call. The likes of Peter, John and Paul, walked long distances on foot to bring the GOOD NEWS about the Jesus of Nazareth who was now risen thereby doing immeasurable exploits for the kingdom of God. In this way, a closer look at their feet revealed the beautiful, dusty sandaled feet. It is these dusty sandaled feet that are labeled beautiful, dusty sandaled feet because they bring the GOOD NEWS from afar (Romans 10:13).

But as time went on the church transformed herself into a modern entity and refused to take up the calling and deliver the GOOD NEWS to the perishing. This is a pathetic situation that has brought darkness not only into the church but also into the ends of the earth. As a result of this refusal multitudes across the nations of the earth are facing eminent destruction because they have not even heard GOOD NEWS. How can these perishing nations call on the one they have not belived in? And how can they believe in the one they have not seen? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? For it is written how beautiful are the feet of those who bring the GOOD NEWS (Romans 10:15). When the modern church of today chose to go her own way, she essentially sent herself and was not sent by the Holy Spirit. She nullified the commissioning that the Lord bestowed upon her and sent herself with a different gospel along the broad road that is full of prosperity and the pleasures of this *world*. This is the reason the gospel of prosperity that is void of holiness, is very popular in the modern church of today. It is a gospel that lays its finger on the flesh to feel through sensation *how* the flesh feels and preaches that *which* glorifies and edifies that very flesh. It is a gospel that is itching to the flesh (ear) *sweet* and sensational and focusses on earthly relationships, possessions because it is a horizontal gospel. The priesthood of this gospel runs a parallel kingdom of man in *which* there is spiritual stardom, and celebrity status.

## Vision Of The Shiny Feet SENDING THE CHURCH

In the old testament, the priests and the levites had to be consecrated and purified in order that they may lead Israel before the Lord. The purpose of the consecration *was* intended to disconnect the priesthood from the ordinary society in order that they may live a separated life, a life devoted to God. The legitimacy of the sacrifice brought before the Lord God by the priesthood in the old testament *was* often confirmed *when* the glory of the Lord appeared in the temple. This acted as a seal of approval that the priesthood *was* walking in the *highway of holiness*. Many times *when* the priesthood

fell out of the favour of the Lord, then the sacrifice being offered at the altar became defiled, detestable and unacceptable to God. The fall of the priesthood *always* took *away* the favour of the Lord from the house of the Lord, in such a *way* that it demanded the rebuilding and restoration of the temple. Serving the Lord at the altar *was* a sacred duty to *which* the priesthood committed themselves from *twenty-five* to *fifty-five* years of age and constituted their acceptance to be sent.

*Likewise* in the *new* testament *when* Jesus appeared and redeemed the church, he essentially restored the sacrifice being offered at the altar of the Lord. And this sacrifice is the ultimate sacrifice that is the precious blood of Jesus. However, things have recently changed and the priesthood in the church has not adhered to the basic principles that *were* laid down at Calvary and on the cross. This has greatly affected the commission that the Lord bestowed on the church thereby demanding a complete restoration.

In October 2003, in a mighty vision of the Lord, the Lord he lifted me up above the ground, and *showed* me a red carpet that *was* prepared for big prayer meeting. All the seats *were* well arranged and the invited guests appeared to have already taken up their seats in their specific locations. The *weather* *was* not sunny but appeared like a gloomy day, a suspicious day in *which* one *would* think it is coming to rain and yet in actual fact it *was* not going to rain. There *was* a buzz of activity *with* journalists, cameramen, and TV crew pacing left and right across the base of the pavilion in *what* appeared like last minute rush to get set to receive the guest of honour. In this vision the Lord specifically *drew* my attention to the red carpet that *was* well laid out from the main entrance of this venue, all the *way* towards the VIP pavilion. As I began to pay specific attention to the red carpet event, the Holy Spirit brought my attention to the *shiny shoes* that had lined-up on both sides of the red carpet, as these people *waited* to receive the guest of honour. It is only at this point tht the Holy Spirit by voice said that these people *who* lined-up on both sides of the red carpet *were* bishops and pastors. Following this revelation and still *within* this vision, then I began to pay even *greater*e attention to *what* the Lord *was* showing me. A careful scrutiny *within* this vision revealed one outstanding feature that seemed

to typify all these people tht *now* the Holy Spirit had said are pastors and bishops. They conspicuously had all worn very *shiny shoes* that were glittering and reflective, even on this gloomy day. As I continued paying attention to the shiny shoes that the Lord *wanted* me to see, all of a sudden the guest of honour arrived and it is theses pastors and bishops that received *with* handshakes as he *walked* on the red carpet. Then the voice of the Lord said “Look, I used to be king of their hearts, but not anymore. Tell these people to repent in Christ Jesus.” This is *when* I woke up and jumped up from this mighty dream. Within the very first *few* minutes of *waking* up, I felt very tired and confused even as I sought to really understand *what* this vision *was* trying to convey to me. To make matters *worse*, I *knew* that this *was* a very mighty visitation of the Holy Spirit *with* an important message to the church of Christ. For that matter, the burden *was* upon me to make sure I decipher the message very clearly and relay it to the church of Christ. It took quite sometime *with* serious prayer for me to discern through and comprehend the message the Lord *was* relaying through the red carpet event. From that point on I started preaching about the *shiny shoes* that I *was* seeing lined-up on both sides of the red carpet at several repentance meeting as time *went* by. It *was* only until much later that the Holy Spirit eventually revealed to me the meaning of this vision. The Holy Spirit *was* saying to the church, and specifically to the priesthood that “Look, I sent you, and you did not go. No *wonder*, you are *wearing shiny and glittering shoes* at this crucial time.” In other *words*, the Holy Spirit *was* asking the church and specifically the priesthood “Where are your *dusty sandaled feet*? And *why* are you not *wearing the beautiful dusty sandaled feet*? Because the *dusty sandaled feet* are the *beautiful feet* that bring the good news (Isaiah 52:7).

Surely in this mighty October 2003 vision, the Lord poured out the pain the saddness that has for a long time filled his heart as he looks at the modern church of today. It is a heart-wrenching and a tremendously heart-breaking situation that has consumed the church. The shock waves that ripple from this vision directly point at that the church has defied the order of God and refused to heed the commission that Jesus placed in her hands. The *shiny shoes* that the priesthood of today’s church wears is the saddest testimony of

the grand fall in the church. And inspite of the constant reminder in the holy bible, on the *ways* of God, the level of continued blindness that has dominated this modern church is absolutely stunning. Inspite of the fact that people are going to church every Sunday, the Lord seems to be saying the contrary. The cry coming out of the Lord’s heart *towards* the church is even more alarming because the clock in heaven says that it is 11:59pm. At such a late hour, the feet of the church ought to be the very *dusty dirty sandaled feet*. This is the time *when* the harvest is ripe and the *workers* are *few* and yet the church is busy adorning her *shiny glittering shoes* receiving the chief guest at the VIP pavilion. The modern church of today definitely needs a healing miracle, because she is lame and has become disabled so her feet cannot *walk*, that is *why* she *was* sent and she did not go. But the problem is that time is running out for her and she may never know unless she repents. Pride is her biggest enemy the very cause for her *shiny shoes* and causes her to refuse to see the truth. By doing so, she fails to admit the seriousness of her problem and her failures in *which* case making her not able to perceive the need of God in her life, and yet she is the church. In the scriptures, feet have been a major spiritual representation of ministry. Therefore, *when* feet develop problems, they affect the ability to *walk* and go thereby needing healing from the Lord. King Asa is a classic case in the bible because he developed serious problems *with* his feet. However, instead of seeking a healing solution from the Lord, he searched for a human solution and his situation became *worse* till he died (2 Chronicles 16:12-13). The Lord God *was* using this to speak to the church of Christ *whose* feet right *now*, need a healing miracle. In other *words*, the Lord is telling the church to seek for a solution from the Holy Spirit and not the human solution to avert death. It must be remembered that only the *dirty dusty sandaled feet* will enter into the *wedding* of the lamb of God. And her failure to *wear* this *dusty sandaled feet* at this eleventh hour, coupled *with* the continued adorning of her lame feet, in *shiny glittering shoes*, is a pathetic state that leads to the post-rapture tribulation. No wonder, the church did not go *when* she *was* sent, because she could not. The solution to this problem in the church is obedience and humilty at the *beautiful dusty sandaled feet* of *Jesus*.

#### Dusty Sandaled Feet SERVICE TO THE LORD

God remains faithfully forever. He made all things and cares about all creation even the down trodden, feeding the hungry, and liberates the captives. When Jesus *washed the feet* of his disciples during the last supper, it *was* a mighty act of service and care extended to the church by God in heaven. It is an act of service that *was* very symbolic because it happened in the middle of dinner and not at the beginning *when* guests arrive. The *weight* of this symbolic gesture may never be understood until during the fulfilment of the end of history *when* Christ return. But meanwhile, it has remained as a reminder of the great act of service the church ought to offer to the world as a mirror image of Christ. The very basic tenents of the teachings of the Lord Jesus *were* based on service other than leadership (John 13:3). An honest reflection of the specific *works* of Jesus reveals a humble notice that he raised as a banner right before the church. From an upper room in Jerusalem on a historic Thursday evening, the Lord Jesus laid bare that in the house of the Lord the one that serves is the greatest (Luke 22:27). For the church it is a great shame to reaize that such an important duty like service, has remained an untapped resource. After overcoming every conceivable kind of evil opposition, the Lord Jesus still presented himself to the church as a *lowly* servant *with* an unmatched level of humility. This is despite being in very nature God, *with* the glory that he commands. As God’s people the church has been called to a particular *way* of life, of honesty, integrity, refusing to lie and most importantly to build up God’s people. It makes service the centrepiece at the altar of the Lord (Phillipians 2:5-11). Jesus died for the church on the cross in order to serve God in heaven and consequently demonstrate the true definition of servanthood (Matthew 20:26-28). This selfless model of servanthood is the one to *which* the church has been called. The Lord Jesus did not succumb to the pressure of the Pharisee in order to live a celebrated life, but chose to demonstrate his ability to deliver people from demons, afflictions, sicknesses, sorrow, death, captivity, among others. In doing this things he taught that the church should present service upfront instead of

clamouring for human glory. At the bottom of his heart, Jesus valued service so much that *when* he *was* sending his disciples, he *washed their feet* and requested them to go to the ends of the earth *washing the feet of* the church (John 13:14-15). It is very disapointing that this, *which* is so dear to the heart of the Lord, has not taken place in the church. By asking the church to go on *washing feet* until the day of his return, the Lord Jesus *was* basically ordaining the church to build up disciples. The primary quality and intention of this ordination *was* eventually meant as a command for the church to engage in serious discipling. These resulting multitudes of disciples would then be carriers of the good news from Jerusalem, unto the ends of the earth. Preaching this gospel of the good news of the salvation from sin *was* expected to endow these multitudes of disciples *with* the *dirty dusty sandaled feet*. For this reason, these disciples would need their *feet washed* upon returning from the *highway of holiness*. Since these *dusty feet* would carry the good news along *the highway*, then it is obvious that they *would* also be the carriers of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and *would* bring deliverance from demons, opening of blind eyes, setting the captives free. It is a very critical clinching junction, *whose* interpretation has become extremely tricky, for the modern church to comprehend. This misunderstanding has become the very dead centre for the grand fall in the church. If the church had *well* interpreted *what* the Lord said

*when* he commanded continued *washing of feet* till he comes, then the church *would* have known that Jesus *was* actually talking about a non-stop process of discipling in church. These endtime disciples *would* have to learn, grow and mature in a process that eventually allowes them to practice *what* they have learned. In so doing, a mature church *would* build up, a church that *was* supposed to evangelize the Jesus of Nazareth on *dusty sandaled feet*. The feet of these endtime disciples *would* have been beautifully adorned and fitted *with* the gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:14-15). The peace embodied in this good news of the Jesus of Nazareth, comes from the awesome reconciliation that was born on the cross at Calvary (Romans 5:1). For this matter now the church can be called the children of God.The complete four dimensions of this peace that the good news brings to the church can never be enumerated

nor described because this peace did not just reconcile the church *with* God but also has a capacity to prepare her as a blemishless, spotless, *wrinkleless* and glorious bride of Christ (Colossians 1:21). This peace surely surpasses all human understanding because it has the capacity and *power* to present the church as a radiant bride unto the Lord Jesus on the day of the wedding of the lamb. Therefore, the *dusty sandaled feet* that bring this peace are a powerful instrument of the rapture. The Holy Spirit, having sent Jesus to show *the way*, must have really depended on the *dusty sandaled feet* in order to advance the kingdom of God. God laid out his plan in this *way*, with the *dusty sandaled feet* as the blueprint for endtime revival and for that reason he gave these endtime disciples enormous authority to take over the land (Joshua 1:3).

*But the question is, when one looks at today’s modern church, is one able to see her in possession of these beautiful dusty, sandaled feet?*

*During this event in the little hill country of Bethany, this woman with the alabaster covered even for the widows offering when the poor widow put in two very small copper coins her very livelihood (Mark 12:41-44).*

To explore it further,

*During this event in the little hill country of Bethany, this woman with the alabaster covered even for the widows offering when the poor widow put in two very small copper coins her very livelihood (Mark 12:41-44).*

When the *sinful woman* at *Bethany* anointed the Lord, it *was* a *monumental act* whose significance the church is yet to comprehend. In doing this it *was* an expression of her complete devotion to the Lord Jesus and hence an action of deep and sincere *worship*.

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Little did the church know that the Holy Spirit *was* using this to emphasize the gravity of total preparedness for this august day of the *wedding* of the lamb. This act of *showering* the most expensive perfume onto a distinguished person traces its roots *way* back into the Mediterranean custom of the time. This custom encompass the tradition of the people around Samaria, Judea, the Jordan valley, Lebanon and all across Syria into Damascus (**Damascus gate**). The culture and the customs of the people around the Mediterranean strongly revolved around the main markets that flourished at the time. In fact the lives of the people *were* tailored to these markets to such an extent that their routine practices depended on the market seasons. Even the foods presented at tables and during festivities strongly reflected, the season at the markets.

Surely this markets *were* a source of livelihood *towards* the Mediterranean and the entire region. It is interesting to note that *within* the market structures, there *were* perennial and seasonal markets and it is these seasonal markets that tended to be cherished.

*During this event in the little hill country of Bethany, this woman with the alabaster covered even for the widows offering when the poor widow put in two very small copper coins her very livelihood (Mark 12:41-44).*

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# WILDERNESS & RAPTURE

## THE PURIFICATION OF TODAY'S CHURCH

By Dr. Owuor

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*Bethany* is located in a very strategic position on the eastern slopes of the Mount of Olives. It presents therefore, a spectacular view of the main landmark features around Jerusalem. One of the main magnificent panorama that humble *Bethany* parades is the impressive bird's eye-view of the wilderness of Judea. The wonder is that while presenting such a fierce expanse, she can still afford to offer a pacifying perspective of the Kidron valley to the west. Beyond this beautiful scenery, is the inevitable reality that the daily Jerusalem traveller had to constantly encounter. This is the humongous and cruel Judean wilderness in their sight. Nevertheless, there was a need for people to continually reach the house of the Lord in Jerusalem for worship. A routine of this kind left an imprint of the harsh Judean wilderness in their minds as though they lived this wilderness on a daily basis.

Despite being portrayed as harsh, the dreadful Judean desert sits right at the heart of the church of Christ. It is into this wilderness that the Lord Jesus was led, in order that he may be tested for forty days and nights. It all occurred upon his baptism by John the Baptist, and the subsequent anointing of the Holy Spirit. As a matter of fact, it is the anointing of the Holy Spirit, coming down like a dove and lighting on Jesus, that made him immediately ready for the wilderness. The Spirit of the Lord led Jesus into this harsh, brutal and sometimes very cruel Judean wilderness to be tested. This buffeting became the most crucial foundation and rate-determining stage of his preparation for the kind of ministry that God had laid upon his precious life. Coming to take the devil head-on demanded that Jesus wears a ferocious character that would be totally uncompromising with evil and sin. A fighter of this cadre demanded that Jesus wear a ferocious character, a stance that was achieved by passage through the Judean wilderness. After emerging from this wilderness, Jesus, the *Lion of the Tribe of Judah* aggressively entered the house of the Lord and declared his mission to set the captives free (Isaiah 61:1-3). Of all the tribes that

received inheritance the greatest amount of information concerning any tribe's inheritance was recorded for Judah. The importance of the tribe of Judah accounted for this phenomenon. It was a reservoir of promises the Lord had kept with Judah, promises that needed to be birthed out. Clearly, the wilderness of Judea was now able to sharpen the ferocious Judah. Judah was chosen to be the son from which future kings of Israel would arise and through his lineage the Messiah would come (Genesis 49:10). The wilderness of Judea becomes a living testimony of how God uses difficult circumstances for his glory, because the *Lion of the Tribe*, is the only one that redeemed the church from death. He surely is very central in the life of the church. All these things happened by God's design that the church may have a living template upon which to learn the ways of God and hence enter into the wedding of the Lamb of God. The temptation that Jesus went through in the wilderness of Judea is especially significance to the church. This is so because it particularly happened at the outset of his ministry and can be best understood in terms of the mission for which the Messiah was set to come and accomplish. The passage through the wilderness of Judea that the Lord Jesus experienced is practically intended for purposes of leading today's modern church into the basic tenents of the purification that the Lord demands of her. Because in this wilderness, Jesus clearly demonstrated that he himself would not accomplish his mission by using his own powers except to depend on the Holy Spirit, then the wilderness of Judea became the foundational step that the church of Christ must emulate. It is during this wilderness experience in the land of Judea that the Lord Jesus was heavily tested by the tempter. This temptation was designed by God in a step-wise chronology so that it may become a classic lesson that has seismic potential to transform the church. These spiritually transforming ripples that send waves into the church can only be unveiled by giving the church an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus in the wilderness. The

church that enters the rapture must be purified through this wilderness experience.

The forty days and nights become the elementary point at which to begin this compulsory exploration through the wilderness of Judea. To begin with, to the church of Christ, the number 40 should immediately call into memory the experiences of Moses and Elijah (Exodus 24:18; Exodus 34:28; 1 Kings 19:8). The ways of God are always the same and the Holy Spirit is absolutely capable of navigating the church into these requirements. When time came for God to present the new covenant of the grace, he blessed the church with the transfiguration visitation. Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus at that transfiguration summit, regarding the blood of the Lamb and the rapture. It was a conversation that simulated the rapture of the church, and authoritatively ratified the words Jesus spoke at Bethany when he said *"I am the resurrection and the life..."*. Prior to this, and in the wilderness, Moses had to be purified for forty days and nights when he went up the mountain and entered into the thick cloud of the Lord (Exodus 24:18). Likewise, when time came for Elijah the prophet of God to be purified, he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by this food, Elijah travelled for forty days and nights until he got to Horeb, the mountain of God (1 Kings 19:8). The Holy Spirit of the Lord is using the forty days and nights of fasting to connect for the church the dots in the bible. These forty days and nights in the vicious wilderness are a basic standard by which God is using to purify the church. In other words, the wilderness experience becomes a prerequisite season that touches both Israel, the wife of Jehovah and the church, the bride of Christ. The revelation emerging out of here is that in every respect, there was a mighty visitation of the Holy Spirit that followed the forty days and night of purification in the wilderness. It surely is of great importance in so far as the killing the flesh is concerned. The Lord appears to be telling the church that the killing of the flesh in the wilderness is supposed to be the first step to be made in serving the God of Israel. Appropriately,

Israel too, had to pass through the forty years of wilderness purification before she could be delivered into the *Promised Land*. The truth of the matter is that in Israel's defiled state, there was no way Jehovah God could have allowed her to set foot onto the *Promised Land*. The forty years of purification through the wilderness brought with it a painful and horrendous cleansing that saw almost an entire generation wiped out by God. This is the generation that came out of Egypt and yet could not allow the Egypt to be removed from them. They had a strong voice of advocacy and demanded the return to Egypt. They grumbled and murmured all along the way to the point that it was detrimental to the whole mission. This group represents the church of today that is being delivered by the blood of Jesus (born-again) yet still deeply embedded in sin. The Lord is saying that the wilderness experience is so important to the church because it would be able to clean out the sinful addictions of her bondage. This implies that the wilderness is designed by the Lord to set the church free from the slavery of her sins (flesh). Therefore, the wilderness experience that Jesus went through has become the mighty act of God that hints to the church on the need to pass through the wilderness of repentance before she enters into the rapture. The voice of one calling the church to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord, always cries out only in the wilderness. And it is not in the central business districts of the city centres of the world. By this, it is possible to understand how fallen today's church is, because she is centred around the central business districts of the world's modern cities. These city centres symbolize the flesh of the world that the church has compromised with in this present age. It is refreshing to realize that John the Baptist preached repentance and the *prepare the way for the kingdom of God* in this very wilderness of Judea. And all these good (holy) works John the Baptist did at a place called *Bethany* beyond the river Jordan (John 1:28). In other words, the narrow road (Matthew 7:13) that leads to the rapture of the church is in the wilderness (Isaiah 40:3). By now, it common knowledge to the gospel audience that this way which leads into the rapture of the church is actually in the wilderness (Isaiah 40:3). To affirm this, it is even more astonishing to realize that for people to repent and prepare the way for the coming of the Lord, they

too have to step out into the spiritual wilderness. Truly, this spiritual wilderness experience must be holy unto the Lord and the church must pass through it. However, this entire issue of spiritual wilderness is not as simple as presented here, and actually cannot be resolved in a one step process. It is because, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, the Spirit of the Lord led him into the wilderness to be tempted (Matt 4:1). The God of heaven has since then raised it as the spiritual standard and ultimate litmus test for the whether the church has received the Holy Spirit or not. Hence, the real question is, how come today's church that is preparing for the rapture, has not been led into the wilderness to be purified? Has she really received the Holy Spirit? The holy bible is very clear on this matter and has laid it out plainly, without any ambiguity, that this purification of the church ought to be the most important chronological step towards the rapture. The church ought to have gone through this purification if she surely had the Holy Spirit. These good (holy) works Jesus did that the church may know the way to the rapture of the church!

Moreover, it is even more disturbing to realize that today's church has neither ventured into nor, has she any plans for the spiritual wilderness. The Lord is telling the church that this is the prophetic time for purification. Surely, the faithfulness of the Holy Spirit is impressing upon the church that making it into the rapture requires spiritual purification in the wilderness. This becomes the making of a new wineskin, a vessel that can carry and contain the most authoritative and glorious endtime anointing of the Holy Spirit (Mark 2:18-22). Indeed, fasting in the wilderness and the new wineskin are very much related, and part and parcel of the purification of the church.

When Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit of the Lord, he was immediately confronted with the first temptation. The Lord Jesus responded by refusing to compromise, in any way, with the tempter. In this historic response, Jesus chose to clarify to the accuser that *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"* (Matthew 4:4). By this, Jesus echoed the same words spoken by God, when he led Israel through the wilderness for forty years (Deuteronomy 8:1-3). To the church, this implies that for as long as she walks in fear of God, and trusts in him, he

would not forsake her too. When the accuser tried to tempt Jesus with worldly possessions, the Lord refused to comply. It was at this juncture that Jesus performed the biggest, most incontrovertible, and indisputable miracle when he responded *"It is written..."* (Matthew 4:4; Matthew 4:7; Matthew 4:10). He used the most powerful weapon, the word of God to perform this redeeming unchanging miracle. From this day on, the Holy Spirit was telling the church that the biggest miracle that can ever happen on earth, is for one to depend on the word of God which forms the essence and creates the basis of christian salvation. This is the mighty statement that the Lord made in the wilderness during the inauguration of his mission on earth.

In a classic response at this encounter, Jesus sends a resounding message that resonates with the importance of total dependence on God's word and not physical food. At this opportune moment the Lord Jesus steadfastly brought out fasting as a key element in the Christian walk. Jesus was being asked to turn stones into bread, when he rejected only to focus the church on the true and living bread. This bread is the invaluable spiritual bread that is the true word of God. The Lord is asserting to the church on the need to totally depend on his word for her lifeline, as her daily bread. God gave the Israelites *manna* from heaven in the wilderness in a supernatural way and on a daily basis.

So does he want to do with the church. It is a desirable state in which the church would have to depend on God's supply on a daily basis. It is exactly this dependence on the Holy Spirit that Jesus wanted the church to learn in his wilderness experience. This becomes the place at which the Lord would then use the cloud of his glory in the Holy Spirit to lead the church towards the *Promised Land* of the rapture. Today's church must therefore rely on God for her daily spiritual nourishment. Collecting it fresh every morning, and depending on it for her livelihood on a daily basis, without relying on yesterday's that is already stale (Deut 8:3).

Even though total dependence on God is the right way, today's church has not relied on the Lord in keeping with bible prophecy. This is because there would have to be a voice calling out in the wilderness to wake her up from slumber. Blatancy of this scripture against the state of the church is astonishing. It is because, unknowingly, she has for sometimes fed on *stale bread*, the

bread of yesterday. Such overdue messages are not in tune with the current prophetic season, a season that demands complete purification and a fresher anointing. The *stale bread* being mentioned here include church preachings that have been heavy on earthly prosperity while negating the very essence of the holiness of the church (1 Cor 13:50-56; Hebrews 12:14). As the Lord fed Israel on a daily basis and in the wilderness, he ordered her not to keep any for tomorrow but to collect fresh nourishment every morning. In the same way, God is telling the church that is aspiring to be the bride of Christ, to take in fresh living bread (word) on a daily basis for her well being. This fresh living word is the foundation cornerstone upon which the Lord releases the new prophetic revelation in keeping with the fresh and up-to-date bread. Inside this wilderness of the Judean desert, the Lord Jesus was hence telling the church that she must depend on the word of God for her livelihood on a daily basis. And it must remain so until the rapture.

The church must truly understand the complete span of the breadth width and depth of the power contained in this daily bread that Jesus depended on in the wilderness. This bread nourishes the life of the church in its dimensions and entirety and goes beyond mere intake. To get a little glimpse of the next level of this food from God, the food that is the word of God, Jesus said, *"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work"* (John 4:34). This paints a picture on the fact that upon engorging herself with the word, the church ought to go out there and do the will of God, the Father. In fact, that becomes the basis with which to gauge whether she is well nourished by God, the provider on a daily basis. On the basis of simple and elementary understanding, it goes without saying that if the word of God that is the daily food, says that the church needs to be holy then she ought to repent. But when she repents out of the word of God, then she ought to show the fruit of repentance. Now,

how are they expected to show the good (holy) fruit of repentance without receiving the Holy Spirit. This by implication, denotes that when Jesus said his food was to do the good (holy) works of he that sent him, he surely meant that he would produce the fruit of the Spirit to be light unto the dark world. To this end, the church too has been (Matthew 5:13-14).

*"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."*<sup>32</sup>*Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"*<sup>32,33</sup>*Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."*<sup>33</sup>*So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"*<sup>34</sup>*Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."*<sup>34</sup>

<sup>32</sup>*Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*<sup>34,35</sup>*"Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."*<sup>35</sup>*Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:27).*

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The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness was so important so that he could be able to experience the test that Israel went through in the desert. This testing of Jesus is the same one that the church would go through and hence allow him to become the merciful and faithful high priest (Hebrews 2:17). It was imperative that a high priest of this order empathizes on everything that the church would experience in order to atone for her sins. The resilience and faithfulness that Jesus maintained during temptation established a good example that the church should follow when tempted. No matter what kind and gravity of temptation the church faces, she is supposed to remain faithfully firm and focused on the word of the Lord, as did Jesus.

### REBUILDING THE HOUSE OF GOD

The Role Of Wilderness

God is high, holy, sinless and perfect in his ways and nature. Approaching him, therefore, can only occur when he graciously permits. In the old testament, God prescribed definite procedures that embodied sacrificial act of worship as a means of approaching him. However, in the new testament, the procedures changed thereby, setting new rules for meeting the Almighty. These new rules changed the tabernacle, priesthood, and the sacrifice, that was

now to be acceptable unto the Lord God. All these components of the house of the Lord became spiritual, thereby demanding spiritual building blocks for their construction. In doing so, purification by the Holy Spirit became very central in the way the church ought to approach the holy God of Israel. God has immensely used *wilderness purification* for generating the spiritual building blocks required to raise the new tabernacle of grace. This tabernacle is the Temple of the Holy Spirit in the church of Christ.

The role of wilderness experiences in moulding the spiritual building blocks of the church, can be best understood by examining the life of Jesus in Judea. Events that ensued as Jesus encountered the second wilderness temptation are of particular relevance here. When Jesus faced this second temptation, the accuser took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the Temple. Jesus refuted the accuser's claims and refused to comply with any of the demands. The accuser was asking Jesus to throw himself down in order to invoke the anointing of the Lord to save him. The accuser was attempting to abuse the anointing of the Lord. The Lord's response to this conflict serves as a wonderful demonstration to the church, that the anointing of the Holy Spirit is not meant for spectacular shows or personal glory. It is meant for doing the works that God has ordained in the church. In this episode, God presents to the church a very powerful pathway through the life of Jesus. Jesus had just faltered into his humanity, which inevitably must have exerted tremendous pressure on him to secure food, security, protection, significance, recognition, and would most likely do anything to attain. The Lord is using this to raise awareness that the accuser will always target at the most vulnerable and inexperienced stage. The main intention being to defile and ruin the future of the church right from onset. Jesus was confronted with the challenge to perform miracles to the world but he declined. This highlights the importance of the church not basing her achievements in human terms. It has become a routine pressure that many christians have yielded to and hence compromised their walk with the Lord. The church therefore, should console herself in the fact that Jesus

did not yield to such pressure. He, however, exuded overwhelming confidence because he rested his case on the fact that God in heaven approved of him as his beloved son.

In this conflict, Jesus was very much aware that the Temple the accuser brought him to had been built by Herod and had essentially lost the glory. This Temple had subsequently ceased to command relevance in the kingdom of God. On this note, Jesus affirmed that he is the head of the spiritual tabernacle that was just beginning to be unveiled and not of the physical tabernacle anymore. His authority was now centered upon the fact that he is the head of the spiritual tabernacle, the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 2:4-6; 1 Cor 6:19). It is in this spiritual house, that every christian is being moulded into, a building block, to offer sacrifice acceptable to the Father in heaven. Judging from the conflict between Christ and the accuser in this episode, it is possible to see that the accuser was aware that Christ is the head of the church. It is for this reason that he took Jesus on the top of the Temple. Jesus already knew that the Holy Spirit had sent him on earth for the changing of guard in the Temple of the Lord. Change of guard in the house of the Lord, would move the church from the earthly tabernacle into the spiritual sanctuary of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 9:1-11). This was meant to take place in the heart. And it is a process that commenced immediately Jesus was born in the manger, and was now becoming even more evident in the wilderness of Judea. This change of guard rendered the Jerusalem Temple virtually irrelevant in this dispensation that was gradually beginning to take shape in this wilderness. The accuser had all this information because it had been heavily spoken by many prophets, and hence was aware that the Temple was now a mere shell.

**When the fullness of the time had come for the Lord to fulfil his promise to Jacob, he raised his servant Moses to lead them into the Promised Land. As Moses led the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery, they inevitably had to pass through the wilderness. The Lord deliberately used this wilderness experience in order that he may purify Israel from her Egyptian desecration. Likewise, this is the reason for which Jesus unavoidably had to equally go through the same exigent wilderness ordeal in Judea, for the mission. By the same token,**

Elijah, the prophet of God, also had to be led into the wilderness to be purified for his mission. After the subsequent painstaking triumph over the tempter in the wilderness, Jesus emerged victorious as the ferocious *Lion of the Tribe of Judah*. It is following this victory that Jesus built the spiritual Temple of God in the heart of the church. Perceivably, the process of building this spiritual Temple, required that Jesus go into the wilderness to pick up the spiritual building blocks.

These are the same building blocks that King Solomon also had to go pick up from the quarry in Judean wilderness in order to build the original, first holy Temple of the Lord (1 Kings 6:7). The wilderness of Judea appears to represent the central quarry whose granites are acceptable to God, in raising for him a holy altar. Reminiscent of his holy nature, it is plausible to conceive that the building blocks emanating from this Judean quarry were totally undefiled. It is documented that during the construction of the highly celebrated Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the Temple site. From the onset to the completion of the construction, this regime was observed. The building blocks (stones) from the wilderness were not defiled with any iron tool, an effort from which God took great pleasure. Amazingly, these building blocks were very unique, being extremely brilliant white stones of a kind never seen anywhere else on earth. In all this, the builders were cognizant of the fact that brilliant white stands for the royalty, purity, presence and holiness of God. It has been advanced to the gospel audience, that it is the extraordinary effort of laying undefiled white stones, coupled with the interior gold plating that became the main welcoming factors unto the glory of the Lord. God visited this Temple in his glory in a mighty way on the day of dedication as a sign of approval and acceptance. All in all, King Solomon, in the construction of this holy Temple of the Lord, was actually used mightily by the Holy Spirit to relay a critical message to the church of Christ that is preparing for the rapture. The same brilliant white, that the builders of the Temple so much cherished, is the same brilliant white that the Lord uses to describe the perfect bride of Christ (Revelation 19:6-7). The power of the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem is an attribute that was very difficult to escape during the Temple times.

It is said that the brilliance of the white that clothed this house of the Lord in Jerusalem, made it able be spotted from very far. In fact, when Solomon was describing his bride as being *“like a Lily among thorns..”*, it is said that the Holy Spirit was describing the beautiful Temple of the Lord as it stood out among other structures in the land and across the nations of the earth (Songs of Songs 2:2). To God in heaven, he had finally found something for which to celebrate Israel, his wife. In the same context, the Holy Spirit describes how jubilation and felicitations will consume heaven on the day of the wedding of the Lamb of God because she will be dressed in fine linen, brilliant white and clean (Revelations 19:7-9). At this time, like Jehovah could spot out his brilliant Temple in Jerusalem, so will Christ be able to spot out his bride among men. King Solomon in his wisdom for the brilliant white building blocks from Judea. He surely spoke much to today’s church that is aspiring for the wedding of the Lamb of God. This is the reason that Jesus went back to the wilderness of Judea to direct the church to the original spiritual quarry from which to obtain the spiritual building blocks for building the Temple of the Lord. This Temple of the Lord that Jesus built is a spiritual temple, and essentially describes the heart of the Christian. And the wedding gown that the bride of Christ wears, is the heart of the christians that is dressed in brilliant white (holy) linen. Very much aware that the heart is the only thing, the Lord Jesus ever died for, on the cross. No wonder, Ezekiel is busy describing the restored Israel from slavery as wearing a new heart, not of stone but now of flesh. This new heart that Ezekiel was describing is filled with the Holy Spirit hence becoming the Temple of the Holy Spirit. The building blocks that Jesus used to build this spiritual Temple of the Holy Spirit are embedded in the word of God. And they are beautifully inscribed with *“It is written, it is written, it is written...”*, three times. These are building blocks that Jesus used to terminate the enemy while raising the holy and everlasting house of the Lord, hence being the moment when Jesus broken the back of the tempter. This same building blocks in the wilderness that Jesus used to overcome sin, are the same the church should use to overcome the temptations, the accuser is using on them.

This Temple of the Lord that

King Solomon built, was acceptable to the Lord. But when the Temple was destroyed, King Herod built another temple. Nevertheless, the Jerusalem Temple became obsolete and irrelevant when Jesus came. In the same way, the Temple of the Lord in the heart of the church, is also infected with pertinacious, excessive and rampant sin therefore consequently rendering it obsolete. This infection caused by sexual sin, lies, love of money, false gospel of prosperity, false prophecies and other innumerable sins, have inescapably caused the glory of the Lord to depart. As long as the Lord accepted the house, his glory dwelt in it. Nonetheless, when sexual sin creeped into the house, his glory left. Hence, the prophetic time for Jesus to come had arrived. And because the second Temple was built by a non Jew, King Herod, it had no consequence in the Kingdom of God. This same builder almost killed Jesus, making it unacceptable to God. The Holy Spirit was looking for another Temple having been disappointed by man’s physical temple which was temporry, useless and desecrated by man. Now Jesus came to build the spiritual, eternal Temple of the Lord.

- Moses built a tent in the wilderness
- Stones Moses built - nakedness exposed
- Jesus- Marked hearts

## Temptation & Rapture

The words of Jeremiah the prophet concerning the Temple of the Lord have been, to the most part, extremely intricate and very much concealed. The Holy Spirit appears to have made Jeremiah’s revelation regarding the rapture inaccessible awaiting the fulness of time at which all truth would be brought to light. Since the pronouncement against the accuser by the Lord in the garden of Eden, there has been a high sense of expectation on the coming of the Messiah. On that occasion the accuser had succeeded in using enticement and appetite to lure man into disobedience against the Lord. The enticement that the accuser was luring man into was essentially of the same kind that he used to approach Jesus in the wilderness.

This persuasion *was* designed to bring uncensored human comfort which creates a false security lulling the thought that all is well, when actually disaster is around the corner. The Lord Jesus *was aware* that by abandoning God’s purpose for his life, he *would* have equally abandoned God’s help for his mission. It is incredible that when the accuser approached Adam in Eden, Adam bought into the lie and disaster creeped into the human race. It is obvious that the tempter always appears at the outset of the pursuit in the mission that God has laid in ministry. For Adam, the tempter appeared immediately after creation, and *was* never shy to also appear immediately *when* the Lord Jesus had just stepped out to begin his mission. This means that even in the church, the tempter is *always* going to appear at this infant and vulnerable stage of God’s mission in the lives of the christians. And the *weapon* he invariably uses is *always* going to be fleshly enticement.

The conflict between the accuser and the Lord involved fleshly enticement. This fleshly enticement has a direct bearing on the lives of christians, and appears to recur over and over again. When anyone separates out from the evil circles of the world, in order to serve God, they must always encounter this attack from the accuser. Enticement of this kind, is the one that was used by the accuser to approach Jesus in the wilderness of Judea. It is this allurement that the church finds hardest to resist, thereby causing her to fall into sin. The evil of enticementnormally lures man through appetizing passion which then results into over-indulgence. This weapon, is the point of entry of death into the life of the church and was likewise directed at Jesus in the wilderness. Amazingly, it is at this point of entry of sin, that the Lord began his work when he blocked fleshly enticement to redeem the church. From *where* the beginning of sin *was*, is the same place at which Jesus ended it from. Adam in the garden of Eden, lucratively engaged in excessive indulgence of appetite and miserably fell, and so the crushing of fleshly appetite by fasting and the word of God is *how* Christ overcame sin. In the last days, this kind of unlimited and unchecked self indulgence through enticement of sensationalism, would be the greatest disease that would lead to extensive apostasy in church. The intensity of the *awareness* in the utility of enticement by the tempter, would increase in the last days. No wonder, the bible says, the end days would be like the times of Noah before the

floods, and the time of Sodom and Gommorah before the judgment. Deep anguish *would* grip the church through her additions.

However, through his mercy, God declared judgment against the accuser in Eden, a judgment that announced the coming of the Messiah. In this pronouncement, God declared that the Messiah would crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). This is *what* has sustained a very high sense of expectation from the time of Adam, all the way into the prophets. They all very well knew that the Deliverer *would* one day have to come, and redeem man from the evil jurisdiction that the accuser had instituted on earth. What is even more impeccable is that in both cases, at the garden of Eden and in the Judean wilderness, the accuser did not take chances but moved swiftly to capture ground.

However, in all this, the Lord Jesus did not need to prove his anointing to the tempter. The tempter *knew* quite well the authority that God in heaven had already bestowed on Jesus as the son of God, and it is this supremacy that the tempter *wanted* to contest. Approaching Jesus after forty days and nights of fasting, the tempter planned to assail Jesus at his *weakest* and most vulnerable point. At this time, Jesus *was* showing signs of extreme physical exhaustion and weakness, and therefore his humanity *was* shrunk. The Lord was *weak*, emaciated, *worn* and haggard *with* wretched mental agony. Jesus must have known of the conflict awaiting him. Consequently, his visage *was* beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond any human likeness (Isaiah 52:14). The accuser, therefore, attempted to take advantage of this, as an opportune moment to assault Jesus. But little did the tempter know, that this *was* also the moment at which Jesus *was* at his greatest spiritual strength in this wilderness. It implies that *when* the tempter *was* banished from heaven like lightening, it must have literally confounded his faculties, leading to loss of basic wisdom. Having been banished from heaven, the accuser was very much aware of the holy nature of God. The tempter was cognizant of the fact that God, in his holy nature, has no tolerance to sin, and would not in any way associate with sinful man. The tempter was compelled to heavily rely on this notion to build his kingdom of evil here on earth. In this *way*, he expected that the fall of man on earth would lead to the abandonment of man by God. This is the same scheme the tempter is using right now, at

the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem, by arraying several graves at the entrance, *with* knowledge that the Lord *would* not set foot on such a desecrated place. But thanks be to the Holy Spirit who goes ahead, to restore all things and clean them up before the coming of the Lord. The tempter has also heavily engaged this weapon at the entrance of the heart of the church today, thereby desecrating it and purportedly rendering it unavailable. The defilement of the heart of the church has come from rampant indulgence in sin which includes; sexual lust, sexual immorality, homosexuality, perversion; lies, love of money, idolatry, false gospel of prosperity, false prophets, among other abominations. But this situation in the church is false and a complete aberration of the truth because the latter anointing has been promised to her (Joel 2:28-32; Malachi 4:5-6).

For this reason, the accuser was very astonished at the appearance of Christ, the overall commander of heavenly hosts, setting foot on earth. Familiar with the dominion and jurisdiction that Christ commands, even as articulated by the words of God at Jesus’ baptism, the tempter was already worried at the scheme of events. The tempter could already perceive the gravity of the Lord’s appearing, thereby at this time choosing to take Jesus head on, by himself, on a one-on-one basis. In this conflict, the accuser realized that he must either conquer Jesus or be conquered. The issues of the conflict involved too much to send his confederate agents because there *was* so much at stake. He had to come personally to do the *warfare*. And as he came, he recruited all the weapons and forces of *apostasy*, and rallied them against Jesus, the son of God.

During the baptism of Jesus, *when* the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus, and the Lord God said *“This is my Son..in whom I am well pleased”* the tempter must have heard *what* God had said. The tempter *was* very much aware of the enormous authority in the kingdom of God and that God *was* literally downloading significant power unto Jesus on earth. It is for this reason that the accuser approached Jesus, *with* an enticing question *when* he said, *“If you are the son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”* By this malicious utterance, the accuser *was* trying to cause Jesus not to believe the *word* of God spoken at baptism, and create doubt and discord. This is the same *way* the accuser has employed to cause the church to doubt the *word* and the promises of God. Inspite of this, Jesus

maintained his calm and composure and was not provoked to enter into severe controversy with the accuser. This is because he was strengthened with the memory of the words that came from the Father in Heaven. The church too is being reminded not to be hyped up during temptation, but rest on the solid word of God. Jesus relied on the written word of God to be able to overcome the tempter. It is intriguing that at the garden of Eden, the tempter approached Adam and Eve using the same word that God had been spoken into their lives (Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 3:1-6). The only difference being that the tempter perverts the entire meaning and intended purpose of the word of God in order to inculcate a sense of distrust between man and the word of God. In Eden, the accuser asked *“Did God really say you must not eat from any tree in the garden?”* The same words spoken by God to Adam, except that at this time, the tempter raises a question around the word. The question raised creates doubt on the part of man’s comprehension of what God said and is intended to create mistrust between man and God’s word. This is the same platform that the accuser tried to employ upon Jesus to no avail. For that matter, in his first encounter with the adversary in the wilderness of Judea, the Holy Spirit conveyed a timely message to the church. The Holy Spirit was actually telling the church of today that the accuser’s attempts will always be feeble and futile for as long as the church stands on the word of God.

Secondly, the Spirit of the Lord was parleying to the church that the accuser is always well versed with the word of God, and yet uses it at all times to achieve his own ends. This creates the inevitable need for the church to operate under the discernment of the Holy Spirit in order to thwart these temptations. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit was raising a red flag for the church to be aware that the accuser is always very artfully prepared before he attacks and tends to use the very words of God. Only that the accuser profanes and perverts God’s word.

Beginning from Adam’s time todate, self indulgence has increased the appetite and indulgence though sensationalism. This has made man not to control him self thereby making sexual sin, overindulgence in food etc. The wilderness experience was meant to destroy the humanity, lies, sexual sin and also the humanism of homosexuality, lesbianism, racism and other sins.

When Moses produced snakes in

front of Pharaoh, the magicians too produced snakes. You may be in pain, or lost job or in any other kind of loss and that is the time that the tempter will assail you with the objective that you may not believe in God’s promise. The tempter, also known as accuser, always attacks at the weakest point. Moses also was attacked at the weakest point when he had reached at the River Jordan and had to cross the sea. Elijah too was attacked when after slaughtering the prophets ran from Ahab. When Jesus was in the wilderness, he was so hungry and the stones looked like loaves of bread. The sustenance of the pastors in their full service to the Lord would come from believing in the word of God, but they doubt the sustenance of the Lord and they usually go back to their old jobs. The accuser creates doubt in the hearts of the Christians so as not to believe in God’s promises.

The tempter wanted to proof to Adam that God wasn’t fair and just. His sole purpose of enticement is to build disobedience between God and man. Christ came so as to redeem and restore man. That is why Jesus is referred to as the second Adam. Jesus came to restore and he stood in complete strength of the Holy Spirit. Jesus possessed perfect manhood, vigour in body and mind and was perfect and complete in his humanity. Christ Jesus by overcoming the accuser in the wilderness, took upon himself the infirmity of degeneration of humanity and only through this could he be able to rescue the church from the lowest depth of its degeneration. It must be remembered that Jesus came to show the church the way into the kingdom of God and in so doing he took up the complete human nature with all the possibility of yielding into temptation and yet he overcame without yielding to any. The Lord Jesus came in purity and he left in purity. The church has nothing to go through that Jesus hasn’t already endured. It is possible to endure as Jesus endured and overcame.

This is a revelation that the Holy Spirit is unveiling to the church now, that she may not take it lightly when the accuser at the initial stages of her mission, arrays fleshly enticements to her. It is a matter of terminal death and life and surely is the most important moment that determines the subsequent quality of walk the church would command. It also points at a very serious undertaking that the accuser exploits, namely the claim of right and ownership. In which case, a fall at the onset of ministry allows the tempter to label the church with his identity marker. This is an aspect that the church has not taken seriously and yet

transcends right into the kingdom of God (Zechariah 3:1-9).

The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah concerning the coming of the Messiah and the subsequent rapture of the church, was embedded in the Temple of the Lord. At a time when Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem was heavily absorbed in malpractice, defilements and abomination, the Lord decided to send Jeremiah his servant to make a proclamation on the need for restoration. This restoration would only come through repentance. The way in which the Lord presented this message to Jeremiah had a lot to do with the nature and the content of the message to his people. God called on his servant Jeremiah to go down to the potter’s house, the one and only place at which he would then be able disclose this novel message to Jeremiah (Jeremiah 18:1-10). Because of the great defilement that had distorted worship at the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, the glory had left and Jeremiah had seen the wrath of God that was about befall, not only the Temple of the Lord, but also the entire palace and the kingdom. The Lord spoke to Jeremiah about the need for the potter to crush the current vessel and build *another* pot shaping it as it would seem best to him. Jeremiah was proclaiming a three-tier message that addressed the house of the Lord in the literal and spiritual contexts. In the literal, the servant of the Lord was sent to present the case against the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. A place of worship that had seen the tremendous outpour of the glory of the Lord, the Temple in Jerusalem had now turned into a house of defilement. This caused the glory of the Lord to leave the Temple. What is even more amazing, is the fact that Jeremiah was prophesying to this Temple that she had become obsolete and lost her relevance in the kingdom of God. An old vessel with a finite utility, meant to realign worship after the return from Egypt slavery, this Temple on Mount Moriah was now destined for destruction. The Lord was all of a sudden giving revelation on the need for the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple to give way to the new vessel that the potter was now coming to build. This is the coming of Christ the Messiah that Jeremiah was advancing and championing to Israel, an utterance they failed to recognise. The Holy Spirit was essentially talking about the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem and the coming of Christ

Jesus to build a new order in the house of the Lord. In this new order, a spiritual house would have to be constructed in the hearts of the people as the ultimate Temple of the Holy Spirit. There is no way two temples, one in Jerusalem and the other in the hearts of the people, could have co-existed in the advent of Christ. It is no wonder Jeremiah was talking about of destruction of the vessel in Jerusalem to pave way for the potter to now build a new vessel that is best suited for the Holy Spirit. This vessel would have to be designed by the chief architect, Jesus, in the hearts of the people. That is why Jeremiah was led by the Spirit of the Lord to give hope by emphasizing that when the church would seek the Lord with all her heart she would find the Lord.

## The Potter & THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE

In a hurried prophetic act, Israel was witness to Jeremiah buying a clay jar, gathering some of her elders and priests and pacing down the valley of Ben Hinnom. This became the talk of the day because of the words Jeremiah proclaimed in this valley. The duality of the Ben Hinnom valley events only became apparent to the church much later in life. In the first visit, Jeremiah the servant of the Lord, spoke to the the Temple of the Lord from Ben Hinnom Valley, asking her whether it would be possible for Jehovah to do with her like the potter does with clay. It became a big question that reigns even in the church today, the church that is preparing to partake of the rapture. The tone and accent employed by jerermiah at the valley of Hinnom all pointed at one thing; that the Father in heaven was looking for a new vessel that would be commensurate with the change in prophetic season. The talk about a new vessel coming from such a mighty prophet of the Lord, in no way eluded the centrality of the spiritual dynamic that was about to befall the church. This was a direct hint that not only God talking about the need for a new vessel, but he was as a matter of fact emphasizing the arrival of the new anointing unto the earth. Understanding the

nature, kind and magnitude of this *new* anointing required a thorough knowledge of *why* the *Potter* chose to deliver this novel speech in the Valley of Ben Hinnom.

# The Valley Of Ben Hinnom

The Valley of Ben Hinnom is one of the main vallies that demarcate the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It is located by the southern entrance facing the Potsherd Gate. This valley *was well known* as the main dumping ground for all the refuse that *was* being generated from the City of Jerusalem. It *was* a place of abhorable stench, resulting from the endless decomposition of dead animals *with* the relentless *worms* that never died. Because of the over*whelming* volumes of refuse that *was* coming from Jerusalem, Ben Hinnom Valley also became the place at *which* the fire never extinguished, in an attempt to cut *down* of the volume of refuse. In this valley, they had built the high places of Topeth, and sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire as burnt offerings contrary to the command of the Lord their God (Jeremiah 7:31-35).

The proclamation of this mighty *word* of the Lord, from such a heinous, and detestable valley of Ben Hinnon, left a permanent scar on the Temple in Jerusalem. There *was* no better *way* to express the level of desecration and decomposition that eaten into the Temple, than to send Jeremiah into the putrefied Ben Hinnom. This has become an *awful* scar on the house of the Lord, a scar that is *now known* to symbolize the rejection by the Lord, of any *worship* tainted *with* abomination. The Holy Spirit *was* speaking to the church of Christ that is preparing for the rapture. He *was* speaking about the grand fall that *would* moulder the church of Christ and corrupt *worship with* sexual immorality, including the homosexuality that has found its *way* in the church. The Holy Spirit *was* also speaking in the strongest terms possible, about the corrupt gospel of prosperity that *would* inventually infest the church and deny the Lord of the much deserved *worship* in the truth and the spirit. Jeremiah literally foretold of the catastrophic decay that *would wipe* out holiness from the endtime church. Without holiness no one gets to enter into

the kingdom of God or see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). This is the reason that *when* the Lord sent Jeremiah to prophesy against the Temple, according to him the Temple in her detestable state practically implied that she *was* in hell. And hence the church that does not uphold holiness is a dead church in hell. For this reason the great rot and decomposition that typified the going on in Ben Hinnom led to this valley to become known as the *valley of Gehennom*. *Gehenna* means hell in Hebrew.

- 1. Valley- the church -
- 2. Broken pots
- 3. Dry - need for *water*

Though hope *was* given, failure to repent *would* still give Israel the oportunity of going through the full course of the judgment of the Lord. And it is enroute to the slavery that Jeremiah portayed as a yoke on his neck, that the revelation about the coming of the Messiah *would* become vividly clear to mankind. The Lord allowed the king of Babylon to attack, loot and destroy the Temple in Jerusalem in an event that erased the ark of the old covenant. It disappeared on this day of invasion and the Holy Spirit has not allowed it to be found. The Lord took it *away*. As Israel *was* enroute to Babylon, all the people *who* had survived the carnage in the Temple *were* gathered at Ramah. From Ramah they left headed to Babylon and *were* no more in the land.

# The Voice Crying In Ramah

When the tempter confronted Jesus in the *wilderness with* the second temptation, he took Jesus to the top of the Temple of the Lord and asked him to *throw* himself *down*. This conflict is deeper that the church has *known*. The accuser *knew* that Jesus is the head of the church and the church has the authority of the Holy Spirit *who* overrules all *laws* of nature and performs miraculous signs and *wonders*. Bringing the Lord Jesus on top of the Temple implies that the tempter *was aware* that the Temple of the Lord had lost authority on Jesus' arrival. The Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem had fallen into uncontrolled indulgence and consequent disease and degredation. This became

a character of the Temple in Jerusalem and a state of complete defilement and abomination that ultimately *now* reflected on the lives of the people of Israel. The tempter had *wanted* to associate Jesus *with* this fallen Temple in Jerusalem, but thanks be to the Holy Spirit that Jesus refused to comply *with* the devil's demands. Jesus *knew* that his mission *was* the changing of the guard and the rebuilding of the Temple of the Lord. In this case, the Jerusalem Temple *was* immediately renderd irrelevant because Jesus had *now* come to build the spiritual Tabernacle of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the believers.