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HIS SHEEP SCATTERED

God Desperately Pleading With Pastors

WHY MOST BELIEVERS MAY MISS RAPTURE

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Today, it is absolutely obvious that desolation prevails in the church of Christ world over. It is a horrible state of spiritual despair that has not gone down well with today's church leaders, as they grapple with the hustle and bustle of life, at the expense of the noble SHEPHERDING that they were initially delegated. The current global economic crisis together with the looming hideous global famine, and the rocketing fuel prices, have not made things any better. If anything, these predicaments have literally grounded today's Pastors to living a mediocre life as usual with the multitudes. This has taken a tragic toll on the already vulnerable sheep of Christ, hence scattering them up the

barren mountain slopes, hills and on virtually every elevated place conceivable, in a desperate search for pastures. In this way, they have run into the adversary who has left many injured with rampant abortions, HIV/AIDS, pornography, prostitution, drug addiction, alcoholism, divorces, witchcraft, homosexuality, lies, falsehood, and all form of sin. Happening at such a critical juncture when the entire world is now clamouring for real solutions in life, this spiritual desolation has practically DESALTED the church, hence making her very tasteless in the land. No wonder, today's church has NOT CONVERTED the perishing sinners from the dark world, back to JESUS, when actually the advent of the rapture has drawn nigh.

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DR. OWUOR WARNING THE CHURCH TO BE WATCHFUL LEST THE RAPTURE CATCHES HER UNAWARE (SEE INSIDE STORY).

Consequently, a humongous void has today presented in the church of Christ, and robbed away her moral authority as the ROD OF GOD for correction and guidance in the land. The church of Christ in Kenya, is no exception to this spiritual deterioration that has lately engulfed the house of the LORD world over. Most Pastors and church leaders in Kenya have today become reknown for publicly confessing to not being faithful stewards of the LORD’S FLOCK. Moreover, the current increase in *hyper-corruption* that has entered into both the government and general Kenyan society, shows just how much the church has been derailed off-track and rendered practically *toothless*. The precarious fate of the IDPs within the borders of this nation, is a clear reflection of the fact that the church as the moral leader in society, has fallen out of order with God. Increased teenage pregnancies in high schools and universities, escalated rate of HIV/AIDS in institutions, the rampant abortions, widespread neglect of widows, orphans and destitutes; are *monuments* of a church that has RELINQUISHED her noble calling and duty. That women can go to maternity hospitals to deliver their babies and be detained there for more than three months, for failure to meet payment, without any moral voice of authority coming out to rebuke that despicable act, is yet another addition to the *putrefication* that has crippled the church leadership in Kenya. For the MUNGIKI CULT to even contemplate organising a national prayer at Uhuru Park and invite the church leadership, Pastors and Bishops of this land, it must have come as a result of a complete SPIRITUAL DEATH in the church that once prided herself as the *eloquent* voice of direction. To say that the church of Christ in Kenya has BACKSLIDEN,

would be just, but an understatement. For the rampant outbreak of famine in Pokot to result into the children of the LORD having to quickly resort to eating mice, to go without any prominent church leader coming out to call for a NATIONAL RE-EVALUATION, directly implies that the church has finally gone DEAF. These together with other horrendous episodes like the death of IDPs in refugee camps, the rampant rapes of women in IDP camps, the nudity of christians in the cities, and the widespread open prostitution in these cities, goes a long way to re-emphasize that not only has the church become MUTE, but also BLIND. The tongues of the Pastors and church leadership in Kenya appear to have become so weak that nobody ever dares to proclaim the truth about the on-going judgment of the LORD in the land, neither is there any Pastor with a strong enough tongue to call for a NATIONAL REPENTANCE. No church leader has the courage strong enough to rebuke the evil immoral movies that have infected the matatu industry, let alone lobby for a shut-down of filthy music that is corrupting the hearts of the youth of this land. No Bishop in this land can even ever dare to challenge the country into an all out NATIONAL REPENTANCE to avert the current relentless spate of the JUDGMENT OF GOD. With the looming famine notwithstanding, Kenyans have to again brace themselves for more difficult times ahead, because of the fall in the church leadership and the refusal to heed the VOICE OF THE LORD. It is as though God Almighty saw that the church had already ceased to emit the light of the world, and hence is PLEADING with today’s Pastors and Bishops for the sake of his SCATTERED SHEEP. Albeit, the current collapse in true worship and money-oriented sermons, appear to have drifted the church overboard, to the brinks of a

spiritual *abyss*. Such APOSTASY has only heightened a horrendous falsehood in the church, together with the chronic decay of sexual sin among christians and Pastors, alike. Even worse, this state of affair has indiscriminately flourished across denominations in the entire house of the LORD globally. Today, as the Anglican Church attests to what homosexuality can actually do to a giant church, the other denominations have continued to dig in deeper on the love of money, divination and false prophesies, to mention a few. Part of the present-day church leadership in Kenya, has also gotten involved in witchcraft, by physically visiting witchdoctors in order to attain some dark powers to perform evil miracles. With such a development accruing in church, the sheep have been totally abandoned as every word preached on christian television and radios now point at one thing, HOW TO GIVE. Still in Kenya, both the evangelical alliance and the National Council Of Churches in Kenya have in the recent past openly confessed the dreadful fall in the house of the LORD. It is in the backdrop of such circumstances that moral deterioration and evil have hence escalated in the land. In Kenya today, suspects have even been lynched in the public without being given the slightest chance to show remorse, *repent* or plead their case, whilst the church has gone NUMB in her sensory facets. Unfortunately, in this state of affair, the church has gotten deeply preoccupied with survival on rent, food, fare, clothes, politics, school fees, savings, buying land and cars, at the very expense of PREPARING FOR RAPTURE. This is the reason why God Almighty is PLEADING with Pastors to rise up to the occasion and re-gather todays spiritually SCATTERED FLOCK before it becomes too late to do so. The days are evil and time is very short!

Judgment Coming

The LORD of Hosts is still demanding from the nation of Kenya, a total NATIONAL REPENTANCE in which a SACRED ASSEMBLY is observed in honour unto his holy and mighty Name. That is the day when the LORD will be honoured in the land of Kenya. God Almighty is the King of heaven and earth. Hasn’t the LORD spoken with this nation, again and again on this matter of *repentance*? It is as though right now the LORD of Hosts is lamenting at the nation of Kenya saying:

“I gave you empty stomachs in every city and lack of bread in every town, yet you have not returned to me,” declares the LORD. People staggered from town to town for water but did not get enough to drink, yet you have not returned to me,” declares the LORD. “Many times I struck your gardens and vineyards, I struck them with blight and mildew. Locusts devoured your fig and olive trees, yet you have not returned to me,” declares the LORD. “I sent plagues among you as I did to Egypt. I killed your young men with the sword, along with your captured horses. I filled your nostrils with the stench of your camps, yet you have not returned to me,” declares the LORD. “I overthrew some of you as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. You were like a burning stick snatched from the fire, yet you have not returned to me,” declares the LORD. (Amos 4:6-11)

The empty stomachs the LORD is

referring to is essentially the current famine that is bound to devastate the nation. Already in Pokot, people have been reported to eat any dead carcass upto three days plus old and to roast mice in what may as well constitute the greatest abomination of our time. In the same way, they have gone ahead to collect any wild fruits to boil and eat, regardless of whether poisonous or not. Who is it that fills the bread basket of this nation at harvest time? He brings the rain in its appropriate seasons, and dresses the naked hills with green vegetation for their flock. And yet this nation of Kenya has not yet returned to Jehovah God. The drought and the current shortage of water in the cities are just but a testimony of what is to come in the event that this land defies *repentance*. Yes, the LORD indeed did strike the gardens and vineyards of Kenya with blight, mildew and locusts in the recent spate of blight that attacked the hectares of rice paddies at Mwea, and the recent army worm invasion that walked this land eating any form of green vegetation, and yet Kenya has still not returned to Jehovah in *repentance*. How much more shall the LORD *smitten* this land before she gets to know that his Word does not return to him void, except that it fulfils every purpose for which it is released forth. When the LORD says he filled their nostrils with stench in their camps, it leaves nothing for further information except to look at the stench and the horrendous flies that have plagued the IDP camps in this land. The Sword of the LORD has surely visited the land thereby making one wonder as to why Kenya has not called for an all out *national repentance* and self-evaluation in order to receive HEALING and PEACE that surpasses all human understanding? Hasn’t the LORD spoken with this land? THE JUDGMENT OF THE LORD IS COMING TO KENYA!

The Door to Rapture: LIKE IN THE DAYS OF NOAH!

By Dr. Owuor

The Beginning of birthpains: Capturing the hidden secret

The mount of Olives is a little more than a mile beyond the Kidron Valley east of Jerusalem. This mountain rises about 200 feet above the city of Jerusalem

offering a spectacular view of the Temple Mount. The sealed Eastern Gate of Jerusalem directly faces the western slopes of this mountain thereby acting as a deep significant

spiritual monument. It must be remembered that during the Second Coming, the Messiah will return from this eastern direction and enter by the currently sealed Eastern Gate of Jerusalem. It however will be the first time that this sealed gate opens, ever since the LORD commanded it *shut*. During his ministry the LORD Jesus was fond of the mount of Olives whenever it was his privilege

to step aside and pray. It was during one such opportunity that Jesus walked away from the Temple Courts towards the mount of Olives while saying that *no stone would be left unturned* (Matthew 24:2). Aware that Jesus was talking about the end of age, his disciples later approached him privately and pleaded with him to reveal to them the sign of his coming. Only upon arriving at the mount of Olives did Jesus finally disclose to them on the beginning of birth pains that would approach the earth prior to his coming. But what is most fascinating about this revelation is that as the LORD enlisted the earthquakes, pestilences, wars, floods, droughts, famines in the category of birth pains, he then

suddenly added “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death . . .” (Matthew 24:8-9). It appears as though Matthew 24:8 defines the beginning of birth pains while verse 9 talks about persecution and death which occur right inside the tribulation. Before the tribulation sets in, the most important spiritual event, the *rapture* takes place on earth. In here is encoded a spiritual wisdom nugget that presents a glimmer of hope to today’s church. When Jesus vehemently spoke about the birth pains, it becomes apparent that in between verse 8 and verse 9 of Matthew 24 is hidden the *rapture* (Revelation 16:15). This is because in this private discussion the LORD quickly came from talking about

tumultuous events that would mark the beginning of birth pains and jumping right into the persecution of the tribulation. It becomes the greatest secret that the church has ever needed to know in order to make it into *rapture*. The sign of the beginning of birth pains is already at hand on earth, with the record shattering Chinese earthquake, Mid west US historic floods, Myanmar cyclone, the Filipino Fensheng floods, looming food shortage, looming nuclear war coming to Iran, etc.

Revelation on Noah

In the days prior to the flood the LORD sent Noah to warn the people about the coming wrath of God. Noah preached a humble message of *repentance* and the return to righteousness to avert judgment. However, there was so much *darkness* of sin in those days to such an extent that Noah's warning went virtually unheeded. People were giving into marriage, merry-making, sexual sin and all form of sinful defilement, year-in year-out. This went on unabated until the day the wrath of God descended upon the earth. When finally the LORD opened the floodgates of heaven, and the floodwaters descended on the earth, Noah and his family and the animals entered into the ark to escape the rising waters. It is especially shocking to recognize that this is apparently synonymous with what is happening on earth today. Today, the message of *repentance* is not well received even by the church, the leadership inclusive. A great *darkness* has finally overshadowed the earth and taken hold of its people's lives to the extent that they have become spiritually mute to the gospel of righteousness. The same kind of merry-making, sexual sin, giving in to marriage, and sinful defilement of Noah's days appears to have resurfaced today, but this time with a greater intensity. The christians should desist from sinning with impunity, but learn the Noah's lesson on this occasion. Immediately heaven released the floodwaters, Noah and his family entered into the Ark for safety leaving behind multitudes. This specific moment corresponds to the beginning of birth pains that Jesus intimated to his disciples on the mount of Olives. But we can see that God Almighty commands Noah to enter into the Ark right from when floodwaters appeared, and especially before the full *fury* of the flood was unleashed on sinful man. This short span of grace between the onset of the floods and the unleashing of the full *fury* marks the narrow *door* into the *rapture* of the church. It is a make or break duration that every christian must be able to identify in order to make it into the *rapture*.

This lends semblance to when a woman comes close to the full term in her pregnancy, and begins to feel birth pains. The real moment of truth however does not arrive until the water has broken. When the water has broken then any moment then the baby will be birthed out. So it is with the *rapture* of the church.

The beginning of birth pains is currently raging on, across the earth and the water has broken. This broken water is the floods one sees today across the globe including the historic August 2007 floods in India and Indonesia, the catastrophic May 2008 killer-cyclone in Myanmar, the June 8, 2008 deadly floods in the US, the May 2008 monster Chinese earthquake, the dreadful August 29, 2005 hurricane Katrina, the horrendous December 26, 2004 Asian tsunami, the 2008 global oil crisis, the 2008 global economic recession, the devastating famine that is currently looming over the surface of the earth, and the upcoming nuclear war in Iran, to mention only a few. These are the beginning of birth pains that constitute the *breaking of the water*. It is amazing that when a woman is expectant, right before the baby is birthed out, the first thing the doctor will ask is, "Has the water broken?" Right now the spiritual water has broken across the globe and the holy church of Christ that is watchful, is about to get birthed out into the kingdom of God. Our LORD Jesus was the first born among all men, to be *birthed out* into the Kingdom of our God in heaven when he resurrected, blessed his disciples, and *raptured* (Colossians 1:13-18; Acts 1:9). However, what particularly stands out is the fact that during the time of Noah, when the water broke, God commanded Noah to immediately rush into the ark for safety. Likewise right now the LORD God Almighty is equally commanding the church to prepare and be spiritually ready to enter into the *door*.

VISION OF IMPENDING NUCLEAR WAR IN IRAN EXCERPT FROM 2006 RAPTURE MAGAZINE

The kingdom of Persia which constitutes the modern day Iran, is well mentioned in biblical prophecy as being very instrumental in the endtime events. In the book of Ezekiel chapter 38, this kingdom of Persia is presented as one of the main partners with whom Gog (Russia) is expected to join forces and *do battle* against Israel and her allies. This very unique role that Iran is to play towards the endtime events, has in the recent past began to shape up. It has been reflected in the bitter relationship between Iran and Israel over the years. These two are confessed arch enemies across time. In October 2005, while in a mighty

repentance meeting in a little border town of Tanzania called Mbeya, the LORD spoke with me regarding the horrendous nuclear war that is coming to Iran. In this vision, the Spirit of the LORD lifted me to Iran and I saw a facility that sat at the bottom of gigantic mountains. The facility I saw at the base of the mountain was a nuclear facility that spotted quite a bit of modern technology in an otherwise remote setting. Then all of a sudden, I saw two missiles shot and targeting this Iranian nuclear facility. The missiles I saw appeared to have been guided missiles because I could see their tails that are adorned with copper-like propellers. The first missile cruised through the skies followed seconds later by the second missile and shockingly, they hit their target with such a sharp precision that left me in complete awe in this vision. Immediately the missile stroke the Iranian nuclear facility, a huge explosion was sparked off that lit the sky with such a tremendous cascade of flames. The flames came from the earth and covered the entire expanse almost touching into the deep heaven. Within the entire flame that covered across the horizon, there were little flames that flickered and blazed with such rage as has never been seen since the earth was created. I hence then set out on a non-stop mission proclaiming the coming of this war onto the earth. This upcoming war will be a historic war that will change the very course of history of planet earth. In a follow-up vision, the LORD again lifted me in his Spirit and took me to Israel and I saw the Israeli army preparing its airforce and planning this war. In that dream, the LORD opened all things to me and I gained complete knowledge on the importance of this war. In this mighty follow-up vision, again I understood the spiritual relationship this war has, with the wedding of the Lamb of God in the *rapture*. After the second vision, the LORD again gave me a third follow-up vision in which I saw many *angry war planes* headed for this Iranian nuclear facility. It was such an incredible moment on planet earth as all the nations were stunned beyond belief. At that time, the LORD also intimated to me that his covenant with Israel is an everlasting covenant and he is the Holy One of Israel. After proclaiming this prophecy on the upcoming nuclear war to Iran for sometime, shockingly enough the global network news media began to report on a nuclear dispute between Iran and the west, (US, EU, UN and Israel). It was astounding and bewildering to hear the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, come on live television saying that he would delete Israel from the map of the world. At that moment, I clearly understood that this war is inevitable. The LORD God has shown me these two missiles coming to hit the Iranian

nuclear facility, and that this war is a very important spiritual landmark for the end of age. It is a war that will act as a catalyst that re-aligns the nations of the earth in which case Gog will consolidate her allies from the Arab world to fulfil Ezekiel's prophecy. *Put* which symbolizes Libya, will not be left out in this Gog alliance. Ezekiel the prophet pronounced a major storm that would come to Israel in the end of days. What is particularly stunning is the fact that the Iranian President

And I still repeat, "listen to me the nations of the earth, I see a nuclear war coming to the earth, there is a massive war coming to Iran whose flames begin from one horizon of the sky to the other and from the earth almost touching the heavens. Repent and prepare the way for the Coming of the LORD. The *rapture* is near and the beginning of birthpains are here. Every woman shall find no place to hide her children, and every man shall find no escape route. It is time to repent and return to the LORD."

has always been quoted across all media as using the vocabulary "the storm coming on Israel." The events shaping up around this war are a clear sign of the things to come in the fulfilment of Ezekiel's prophecy (Ezekiel 38: 5 - 11). "You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land." "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. You will say, "I will invade a land of unwallled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people — all of them living without walls and without gates and bars." By his voice, in a mighty vision of the LORD, the LORD said "everyone must now return to the LORD in *repentance*."

RAPTURE DOOR: The vision Isaiah saw

When Isaiah the prophet of the LORD saw the *rapture* of the church, among other things, he especially recognized the *door* that leads into heaven. In that vision Isaiah saw those holy ones who were asleep in the dust of the earth, resurrect into the glorious *rapture*. This is the same vision that Daniel the prophet of the LORD saw (Daniel 12:2-3). This vision prompted Isaiah to document

in the scriptures, saying:

But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead. ²⁰Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. ²¹ See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her; she will conceal her slain no longer (Isaiah 26:19-21).

When Isaiah the prophet made this proclamation "*Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by.*" he literally meant the entry into the *rapture* and the *shutting* of the RAPTURE DOOR. The wrath of God that consumes the earth starts at the beginning of birth pains and attains its height during the great tribulation when gross darkness will grip the earth. At that time it will be virtually impossible to evangelize the Jesus of Nazareth because of the great persecution attached to testimony. Here, Isaiah clearly emphasizes on the fact that at *rapture*, the night is over and the morning has come. Inside this scripture is concealed the most vital revelation regarding the *rapture* of the church. It is a revelation on the entrance to heaven that the LORD opened in the sky in the November 1, 2006 vision. In that vision the LORD opened heaven and presented two golden and glorious wedding rings for the *rapture* of the church, at the entrance to heaven.

THE MORNING DEW

Isaiah mentioning the onset of the *morning dew* during the *rapture* presents a very precious insight into what is expected of this hour in which the church lives. It is the eleventh and most critical hour right before the *rapture*. The *morning dew* categorically refers to the Holy Spirit who is finally able to pull the asleep from their tombs and provide them with glorious bodies for *rapture*. This was in greater emphasis of the tremendous pivotal role that the Holy Spirit would have to play on earth in these last days. Such a role is to be articulated in the church that is completely influenced by the Holy Spirit. It draws in the need for the Holy Spirit *surge* in these precious and historic last days. This *dew* is the vivid imagery depicting God's final control over the church through

the waters of life from heaven. This *water of life* feeds the rivers and streams of the earth to give spiritual life and health wherever they flow in the church. It is a symbol of the *waters of life* that flow from the temple of God Almighty in heaven (Revelation 22:1-2). The *river of life* that it yields is the river by which God Almighty brings forth the *rain* from the storeroom of his upper chambers. The latter rain that is long over due, and supposed to visit the church right now before the *rapture*, is this *morning dew* (Jeremiah 10:13). This mighty river that Isaiah saw appearing as the morning *dew* is meant to purify and humble the church so she may enter into the wedding of the Lamb. The LORD God esteems those who are humble at heart and contrite in spirit, and only them does he give the privilege to partake of the wedding supper of the Lamb (Isaiah 66:1-3; Obadiah 1:3-4). However, the purifying act that this *dew* is intended to bring into the church of Christ comes as a result of the complete purging off of sin that continues to menace this church. Such a revival event is intended by God, to take place in the church through the enormous wisdom of the LORD. Wisdom is supposed to exceedingly propel and bias the church in the latitude of the fear of the LORD (Proverbs 1:7). No wonder, the scripture says that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of all wisdom. This *dew* will cause the towers of pride and the pride of man that exalts itself above Christ, to fall on that day of *rapture*. Right now the church has raised up for herself several towers that mirror the Tower of Babel. And yet in this dispensation of the *morning dew*, every mountain will be brought down, hill and valley soaked by the streams of waters from the throneroom of God, to *prepare the way*. These spiritual idol towers of pride that reign inside today's church will have to be brought down by this *dew* from heaven.

On that day, it is noteworthy mentioned that no sin will go unnoticed at *rapture* (Isaiah 30:25). And for Isaiah to have seen the *dew* of the morning purge-up the holy dead from their graves, he must have equally seen the manner in which this *dew* gave life back to the asleep (resurrection). It is an event that takes place in the twinkling of an eye, in a flash of a second (1 Corinthians 15:50-56). This same *dew* purifies the righteous living church thereby translating the holy living christians into immortal bodies. No wonder, the LORD says that blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the *tree of life* and may go through the gate into the city of God (Revelation 22:14:). That washing of the robe before the *rapture* is accomplished by the *dew* that Isaiah saw, the *dew*

that streams right from the temple of God in heaven into the earth. Further, it is this *midnight* (morning) *dew* that sends wisdom to the few who chose *holiness* in order that they may be symbolic of the people of Sardis (Job 28:28). In this *morning dew* inspired wisdom such a church will not have soiled their clothes hence accorded with the blessing of walking with the LORD while dressed in *white* (holiness; Revelation 19:7-8). The LORD calls such a rapture-ready church worthy since they have overcome sin and are holy. Only Christ Jesus is worthy, thereby making the *rapture* church Christ-like, if she too becomes worthy. To all that overcome too, they will be like this church at spiritual *rapture*. In this category the church will never have her name blotted out from the book of life and the LORD will acknowledge their names unto the Father and his angels. After lavishing *his people* in this way, the LORD himself asks those who have ears to hear what the Spirit says, signifying to emulate this. In this way, the LORD greatly implied that the *morning dew* essentially opens the spiritual ears of the remnant holy church at *rapture*, that they may hear the trumpet call of God and the voice of the arch-angel. This happens to the five wise virgins when at the *midnight hour*, the vile of *sacred anointing oil* (*morning dew*) opens their ears and they are able to hear the voice of the Son of Man (Revelations 3:4-6; Matthew 17:1-13; Matthew 28:1-5; John 5:24-28). The church is a very important conduit for this life-giving Spirit of the LORD, to reach the whole known earth. The gate of heaven is the *door* that Isaiah saw the elect enter into. In his oracles about the *rapture door*, the prophet Isaiah further went on to elaborate on how the earth would fail to conceal both the *blood shed* on her and *her slain*. This becomes a significant import of our time that is directed towards the church. In other words, this scripture emphasizes that in the days prior and through into the *rapture*, no sin or evil will be hidden at all when the latter glory falls. The day of *rapture* marks the beginning of judgment as the LORD will separate the holy *raptured* saints from the disobedient majority. As the glory purifies the *raiment* of the church it also unveils the sins for a GLOBAL REPENTANCE REVIVAL. God on that day is also coming to avenge the oppression of his holy people through his divine judgment of tribulation. These holy elect he calls 'my people' (Zechariah 13:7-9; Ezekiel 11:19-20). God's people will have their names written in the Lambs book of life (Daniel 12:1). This elect that he calls my people must live a separated life in order to qualify to bear his holy Name. They are most separated from darkness, defilement, sin, and cannot yoke with

unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). Moreover, they are purified by the fire of the Holy Spirit to constitute a remnant of God. These holy elect will be very bold to rebuke the sin of today, regardless of persecution because divine protection arises from the LORD for them (Daniel 1:1-3).

SHUTTING THE DOOR

The prophet Isaiah heard the holy *raptured* saints being strictly instructed, “*enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you*”. It immediately raises a very red flag that warns of the impending shutting of the *door* at *rapture*. If there was anything that the church should dread in these last days prior to the *rapture*, it should be the shutting of the *door* to heaven at *rapture*. At *rapture* the entire global population, dead or alive, will be split into two camps. The *raptured* against the *unraptured*. The LORD Jesus himself promised the church that he was going to his Father's house in heaven to prepare a place for the *raptured* church. In this promise, the LORD emphatically asserted that there are many rooms in his Father's house in heaven and that he would go to prepare the rooms for his elect. So when Isaiah saw the *raptured* elect being told to enter their rooms and shut the *doors* behind them for a little while, it was these mansions that Jesus went to prepare for the holy church. They are the rooms that will become a safe haven for the holy elect as the pain of tribulation engulfs the earth. In this way, the *raptured* church will escape the dreadful wrath of God that consumes the entire earth during tribulation. However, what the church needs to grasp in these last days, is that everytime the LORD closes this *door*, it is always SHUT FOREVER. This can be seen when the LORD Jesus himself spoke about the *rapture* using the parable of the five *wise* and five *foolish* virgins. Nonetheless, it is noteworthy to grasp that during the time of Noah such a *door* for *repentance* had also been opened by the LORD, FOR A WHILE. Then, there was so much abhorable sin in the land. However, the complete absorption of the people into their daily sinful lives is what blocked them from repenting when the *door* was still open. Regardless, when the fullness of time matured, the LORD himself *shut* this *door* of *repentance* and grace (Genesis 7:16). That means that the LORD God himself is the one who has the full authority and control over this *rapture door* that leads into heaven. He can hence shut it at his discretion. Everytime the *door* is *shut*, a severe judgment often befalls the earth killing people. That is exactly what transpired at Noah's time. But after floodwater receded and all the people and animals having been killed, the LORD

opened the same *door* and led man to a safer place. The wrath of God had now passed and Noah's family walked through this *door* to a saner, safer and holier earth. Sanity had now prevailed as sin had been wiped out. Peace began to reign on earth as Noah renewed the covenant of holy worship with God Almighty. This led Noah to raise an altar and offer a holy sacrifice of clean animals unto the LORD. It would then seem like when sacrifice is all defiled and there is *no more* hope, this *door* then leads to the restoration of worship. The LORD approved of this by affirming his covenant of worship in the rainbow that he arrayed across the sky. This episode exactly simulates what happens at *rapture*. Just before the *rapture* takes place, today the LORD is busy pleading with the nations of the earth to *repent* and prepare for the *rapture* to avoid the judgment of tribulation. This the LORD is doing as the beginning of birthpains rages on, symbolic of the *broken water*. But just as Noah's days were, people today are very disobedient to the voice of *repentance*. Even the church today does not embrace *repentance* for her restoration. And because of this only a remnant equivalent of the minute Noah's family will be able to enter into the safety of *rapture*. After the entry of the *raptured* saints into the wedding of the Lamb, the LORD will *shut* this *door* just like did he at Noah's time. Our LORD Jesus himself spoke very clearly on the *shutting* of this *door*. When he hinted on the *rapture* using the parable of the ten virgins, he asserted that the five *wise* virgins would enter into the kingdom of God. These *wise* go in to be with Jesus as the gross *darkness* of tribulation and persecution reigns on the earth. But what is particularly most awakening is that this *door* is permanently *shut* behind them to such an extent that when the five foolish virgins try to knock, their request is turned-down and they are literally denied entry. The same thing happened during the time of Noah when the floods came and the *door* was *shut* as people scrambled in the last minute rush to try to get into safety, but it was too late.

FOR A LITTLE WHILE . . .

After the *rapture*, the *door* to heaven will be *shut* for 'a little while' until his wrath passes by. This 'a little while' that Isaiah the prophet saw is exactly seven years during which the wrath of God consumes the face of the earth. It constitutes the dreadful tribulation and the horrendous great tribulation when no one will be allowed to testify on earth in the name of Jesus. The specific act of closing this *door* is what ought to be the mightiest awakening of this age. In one instance, the LORD exemplified

the act of closing this *door* as that event in which only the five *wise* virgins entered into the banquet with their lit lamps. The foolish virgins however, were *shut* out as this *door* was slammed closed by the LORD. But prior to the closure of this *door* was the trimming of the lamps by all the ten virgins. Then most importantly then, the *morning dew* that Isaiah saw is the one that replenishes the brand of light emitted from the lamps of the five *wise* virgins. It is this *morning dew*-empowered light that practically permitted the five *wise* virgins to be on the inside as this *door* closed. The *shutting* of the *rapture door* stops the flow of the river of life from the throneroom of God into the earth. Because of this, a serious spiritual drought ensues on earth like it was during the time of Eli, just before Samuel was born. This withdrawal of the Holy Spirit essentially takes away the season of grace and removes visions from the land as the false prophet begins to reign. During the time of Eli, such a drought had brought forth a severe scarcity of vision and an explosion of false prophesies until Samuel the prophet was born. However, at tribulation it will be worse as the false prophet takes authority.

“...In those days the Word of the Lord was rare; there were not many vision.” (1 Samuel 3:1).

The removal of the church from the earth in the *rapture*, and the severe restriction on evangelism, practically takes away the Word from the earth, making it very rare. This becomes similar to what happened during Eli's priesthood. At tribulation too, visions will become rare because the life-giving Spirit of the LORD will have been taken away with the *shutting* of the *door*. Principally, the *door* that is being *shut* is that *door* through which the river of life flows from God's temple into the earth. It is the reason the antichrist cannot take authority right now when he that holds him back, the Holy Spirit, still controls the four ends of the earth;

“For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. (2 Thessalonians 2:7).

The taking him (Holy Spirit) out of the way, is the *shutting* of the *door* that Isaiah saw for a little while.

ENTERING THROUGH THE RAPTURE DOOR

It is one thing to agree with the five *wise* virgins and long to be like them, while it is quite another to be like them and enter through the *door* to *rapture*. What exactly does the

church need to practically do in order to enter through this *rapture door* that stands open right now? Albeit the longing of the church to enter into the *rapture*, only the attainment of the true character of the five *wise* virgins will for sure earn the church a full entry through this *rapture door*, into heaven But again, one may wonder as to what the character of the five wise virgins would translate into, for their own individual day-to-day lives. This could be the only sure way that the christian would have to tell with absolute certainty, whether they will make it into *rapture* or be shut out by this *door*. First and foremost, if today’s church would like to partake of the *rapture*, she would have to realize that one of the most important attributes of the five wise virgins is that they lived under the fear of the LORD at all times (Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 14:16; Proverbs 15:33; Job 28:28). This wise church that can enter through the *rapture door* has also to live in total trust of the LORD, trusting him with all her life, and everything therein (Proverbs 3:5). A wise church must also be ever mindful of the LORD in all her routines and everything else that she does on the earth, minute-by-minute. In that way any minute the *rapture* happens she would be found not wanting, but fully ready to go. Such a christian that opts to live the life of the five wise virgins should also be cognizant of the fact that living wise will most definitely involve choosing the LORD’s ways and wisdom above all ways of man in the world (Proverbs 8:10-11; Proverbs 3:6; Proverbs 17:24). And if such a

church still continues to choose to live wise, that church must come face-to-face with the fact that the wise virgins lived in complete *submission* unto the LORD’s discipline (Proverbs 1:2-3; Proverbs 3:11). Though this comes at such a peak of gross disobedience in the church, and total failure of submission to God’s discipline, there is still a glimmer of hope in that *morning dew* that Isaiah saw. By this time it hopefully has become clearer on how difficult it is to live the life of the five wise virgins except that one loses their own lives, taking upon themselves the life of Christ Jesus. But only that *morning dew* that comes from the fountain of life in the temple of God in heaven can overcome the works of the flesh and bring the life of Christ into the church. This would perfectly translate the lives of the five wise virgins right into the heart of the church, as the *morning dew* takes charge, to transform the church. Moreover, the wise virgins lived a very repentant life that was full of the regular confessions of sins. By inference the wise christians who will enter through the *door* of *rapture* will also have to be ready to live a life of confessing their sins on a regular basis. This means that such a church must have a tender repentant heart in the midst of all that is happening around her today. The pain of embracing *repentance* in today’s church becomes a worrisome factor because the church today is not yet ready to take rebuke and face her sin (Proverbs 28:30). The church that emulates the wise virgins nevertheless, must also be concerned about the spiritual well

being of widows, orphans, prisoners, destitutes and those under-privileged of the society. In this way, such a wise church will constitute the *sheep* and not *goat* nation. The *goat* nations are shut out of the *rapture* by this *door* while the *sheep* nations are pleasantly welcomed into the *rapture* wedding banquet by the LORD’s warm hands. To the christians that did not care for the under privileged he will say, “*depart from me you who are cursed into eternal fire . . .*” (Matthew 25:41-46). Even as one tries to mirror the life of the five wise virgins whom Jesus welcomes through the *rapture door*, the church must still understand that these five virgins were entirely *teachable* and *not intractable*. What is particularly most disturbing right now is that when one closely examines today’s church, one finds a church that is mostly intractable, and resistant to the teachings of *holiness*. The present-day church is not yet ready to reform back to *righteousness*. Whether in her dressing, or on the most contentious issue of her separation from this world, she is totally adamant. Today’s church is practically not yet willing to take instruction of the Holy Spirit our Counsellor, at this late hour. On the same note, the five wise virgins pleasantly received and loved instruction from the LORD (Proverbs 18:15; Proverbs 19:20). Notwithstanding, the christian that chooses to enter through this *rapture door* must still not forget that the five wise virgins lived their lives perpetually growing in the *wisdom* of the LORD. That implies that the holy remnant bride of Christ must grow in

the wisdom of the LORD, on a daily basis, and into full stature (Ephesians 4:11-16; Proverbs 1:5; Proverbs 9:9; Proverbs 10:14). But the caveat is that only holiness can mature the church, hence implying that that today’s church must embrace it. The edge that the five wise virgins enjoy over their foolish counterparts rests upon the fact that they were completely *righteous* and not *wicked*. Today’s church that would like to enter through *rapture door* must hence wear this celebrated *righteousness*. It is such a requirement that hinges directly on the foundation of her christian walk. This is because the LORD Jesus who is the chief bridegroom, is completely righteous. The five wise virgins also hated what is false and totally shunned evil (Proverbs 13:5; Proverbs 3:7; Proverbs 14:16; Proverbs 16:6). To be wise and enter through the *rapture door* will also require of the church that she take upon herself this very important character of the wise virgins. That wise church that enters the *rapture* is inevitably a *humble* and not a *proud* church (Proverbs 15:33). But this becomes a difficult one because today’s church is largely a very *proud* and *egoistic* but not a *humble* house of *repentance* it ought to be. Either proud in the amount of earthly wealth that she commands, or the physical beauty with which she walks, or the earthly well-connected friends that clamour around her. She calls them her inner circles of friends and they are entirely worldly by all spiritual standards (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). Such friends strictly base their value systems on what one has

or does, thereby constituting the eye, arm, and leg that Jesus said, the church should cut off if they would easily lead her into hell (Matthew 5:29-30; 1 John 2:15-17).

Do Not Love the World

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

However, considering the manner in which today’s church has loved and compromised with the world, this particular requirement off the lives of the five wise virgins becomes a serious hurdle. This hurdle she must jump over in order to see the privilege that the five wise virgins receive as they enter the *rapture door*. The wise church is also expected to be *self-controlled* and not *rush* in her temperament. She should wear the *calm* patient Holy Spirit with which she can forgive, and accommodate the long sessions with widows among other requirements (Proverbs 29:11; Proverbs 17:27). This will help her evade the schemes of the adversary. Such a wise church must also be *cautious* and not *hasty* thereby thinking of every spiritual implication before she acts. She also ought *think* very carefully in the Holy Spirit before she *speaks* (Proverbs 12:23; Proverbs 13:16; Proverbs 19:2; Proverbs

Scattered Sheep

VISION OF THE LORD’S SHEEP ACROSS THE DRY BARREN MOUNTAIN SLOPES

June 29th, 2008

By Dr. Owuor

Because He is the Father of all creation, God Almighty in heaven always tends the *sheep* of his flock with the kindest of heart, leading them to the *fountain* of fresh waters where the *green pastures* abound. With an outstretched arm, he protects them from danger by guiding them away from harm. However,

by presenting Christ to mankind, Jehovah God exalted Jesus to become the Everlasting Father of the human family. In that way, he handed Jesus the *Shepherd’s staff* in order that the Messiah would tend the *sheep* of his flock. The advent of the Holy Spirit equally bestowed the shepherding role unto the pastors in order that they may take care of the LORD’s *sheep* with the

kindness of the heart of Christ. It is for this reason that God Almighty pays particular attention to the manner in which the *sheep* of his flock are *tended*. He is often swift to restore shepherding whenever things go wrong. A case in time is when the LORD saw that King Saul was not shepherding his *sheep* right, and replaced him with David, the shepherd after God own heart.

The Mighty Vision

Come the early morning hours of June 29, 2008, I saw the visions of the LORD concerning the precious *sheep* of his flock. In that vision, the Spirit of the LORD lifted me up and right across some plains of very fertile and dark-green fields. In these fields I could see very tender and succulent dark-green pastures that were growing and enormously thriving as to cover the whole plain. The grass of these fields were apparently of uniform height and size thereby bringing out a unique beauty across the landscape. However, as the LORD continued to present this beautiful landscape, then came forth the mighty voice of the LORD saying,

“Look and see the sheep across the hills.”

In response, as I looked slightly ahead and upwards, I realized that this beautiful and healthy green vegetation that the LORD had shown me was as a matter of fact surrounded by an outstretched mountain. The mountain ran from the right hand-side all the way towards the end of the green vegetation, only to make a near right-angle turn thereby extending in wholesome length, towards the left. A continued look across the mountains that now stood in front at a distance, gradually disclosed that the slopes were spotted with *sheep*. The *sheep* were spread across the entire mountain stretch, beginning from the right all the way into the most extreme left. In this view, all the *sheep* were moving at the same time while fully focused on the ground as they *nibbled* the little grasses

and any kind of remnant vegetation that became available between the rocks, pebbles and small stones. There was so much *sheep* activity across the mountains as each tried to catch up with their day’s ration for survival. Whilst still focused on the *sheep*, I realized that they were white in colour, yet not pure white. But, at the bottom of the mountain where the green vegetation intersected with the mountain slopes, was a clean water point that seemed to support the flourishing of green pastures. At this juncture, the LORD made me aware in this vision, that the well held a reservoir of cool fresh waters. Immediately then, I woke up from this mighty vision of the LORD. It took approximately ten minutes for me to realize that the LORD had in fact showed me the *sheep* of his flock. The *sheep* that the LORD had shown me were actually his *scattered sheep* that now spot the mountain slopes in search of pastures. In this I understood that Jehovah God had not only presented the current condition of the church, but also the state of anguish in his heart regarding the shepherds.

Revelation

The above vision presents God’s view as he observes the happenings in the present-day church. The most immediate picture that springs forth is that of two apparent locations within one tremendous vision. The first location is of very green and healthy pastures while the other position is occupied by pebbles and rocks that avails not much pastures at all. It speaks of sharply contrasting positions of plenty versus extreme scarcity. It is true that this is a picture of what has happened in today’s church because they have forsaken the LORD who is the *fountain of living waters*. Up the mountain slopes there is extreme thirst as no cool fresh water points are available. However, the irony is that the *sheep* and the shepherds must have initially started off from the greener pastures of the plains, where cool fresh water pervades, only to drift away. The church knows is too well that God Almighty is the *fountain of living waters* who provided her initial anointing in order to receive Christ Jesus as LORD and Saviour. But, the shepherds appear to have drifted from the initial calling of tending the sheep with a Christ-like heart, and hence manhandled the flock with cruelty. It is this cruelty that must have scattered the *sheep* away from the cool fresher water points up the arid mountain slopes. The tragedy with the shepherds of today is that often upon receiving a little from the *fountain of living waters*, they normally *hew* for themselves *cisterns* that cannot hold

much water. These broken *cisterns* that today’s pastors have curved for themselves, can in no way replace the *fountain of living waters*. It is for this reason that the LORD laments in this vision over the state of *dilapidation* upon his flock. God Almighty greatly delights in tending his flock and it often pleases him to beget, nourish, bring up and protect the flock for himself. With his outstretched arms, God is able to re-gather the *sheep* of his flock from wandering the mountain slopes, back into the greener pastures of the plains. Unfortunately, by his own nature God Almighty does not force his will upon man, but gives him a choice of blessings or curse.

Taking broken cisterns

When the LORD bitterly lamented to Israel that the ox knows its master, the donkey his owners manger, and yet his people did not *understand*, it was a deep sense of anguish that had gripped the LORD’s heart (Isaiah 1:3). They had gone astray drifting further and further away from Jehovah their provider. Like Israel, this scripture has a direct bearing onto this June 29, 2008 vision of the scattered *sheep* that the LORD has presented across the mountains. It is as though the LORD is enlightening the church onto the fact that their drifting away into mountainous scatter, is as a result of lacking the *wisdom* and *understanding* about him. Otherwise if they did, they would have stayed within the precincts and vicinity of the *fountain of living waters*. The pastors of today are the ones that have scattered the *sheep* of the LORD’s flock up the hills and mountains at which no pastures are available. This has caused a great spiritual hunger and thirst within the LORD’s flock in today’s church. The fresh water reservoir that the LORD presented at the bottom of the mountain slopes is symbolic of the *living waters* that nourish the church. The spiritual disaster that has now befallen the present-day church of Christ arises from the greed of the pastors in acquiring a portion of this *living water* and then running away with it. This implies that they literally shepherded the *sheep* not only astray, but most importantly away from the LORD. Like Israel, again the shepherds have eaten their fill only to disobey the LORD. Jeshurun found himself in this scenario when he grew fat and kicked, being filled with food to the point of becoming heavy and sleek, only to abandon the God who made him thereby rejecting the Rock his Saviour (Deuteronomy 32:15). This very scenario has perfectly replayed itself in today’s church where the

pastors having been fed by the LORD, have gradually drifted away from the Rock. They got what *knowledge* they could from him into their own vessels that they set up for themselves. Such *cisterns* with which the shepherds have climbed up the mountains are lacking in the fresh bubblelings up of life that otherwise pervades the *fountain of living waters*. The *fountain of living waters* at the bottom of the mountain slopes is from whence their knowledge came. To such a disobedient priesthood the LORD has lamented on the lack of *knowledge* that propels them further and further away from himself (Jeremiah 2:8).

Fountain of Living Waters

The scattering of the *sheep* up the mountain slopes comes as a result of lack of *wisdom* and *understanding* of the LORD. It is the *fountain of living waters* that provides the eternal reservoir of *wisdom* and the *understanding* that the pastors urgently need. In Israel, the *well* from which a community drew water was a highly regarded haven that identified the tribe. It is for this reason that different communities often prided themselves from which they and their animals drunk. For example, the well of Jacob was so coined that it marked a symbol of identity that cut across several generations. Such wells had to be highly guarded in such a way that no settlement was ever established far away from the well. There was always a constant need for every household to access this fresh water point from which they would replenish their daily supply for their livelihood. Still, the capacity of a well to supply the needs of a community depended on the depth of such a well. It is for this reason that the process of well digging in that arid Near-Eastern Mediterranean climate always never stopped until the water table was hit. Upon striking the water table, the water often sprang out and bubbled up to fill the well. This water normally come from the rapidly flowing ground water aquifers which had first encounters the carbon-rich rocks that have highly charged surfaces. These rocks act as physical, chemical and biological filters that purify the water as it bubbles up to the surface of the well. The more the water was drawn from the well, the more the ground water aquifers replenished its fresh supplies. This is the reason that cool deep well waters were referred to as *living waters*. Living because they were constantly bubbling up with life. Like it is with this well, so it is in the spiritual with the church of Christ.

Today’s Church

current scatter of the *sheep* across the mountain slopes a complete aberration from the will of God for the church. The *fountain of living waters* that the church requires for her sustenance is the life-giving Spirit of the LORD that flows from the throneroom of God in heaven into the four ends of the known wide world. This spiritual *living water* bubbles up with the life of Christ that is intended to gradually transform the life of the church. The current scatter can only mean one thing that the LORD of life whose presence flows, liveth not in them. Thence today’s pastors drew *nigh* to God through their lips but their hearts are far from him. This means that exceedingly great has been the *apostasy* of this age. Yet previously, mighty was the appearance of God *inwardly*, in the people’s spirits in the first holy church. Then, at that time, mighty was the appearance of God *outwardly* in the nation. Because of this manifestation of God, many ways and great hopes were there for a thorough genuine reformation. But how suddenly has the pure Spirit of the LORD been forgotten and departed from, in this endtime church. Moreover, in the present-day church, God’s works have been overturned both within and without, *inwardly* in people’s spirits and *outwardly* in the nations, whose revolting has now become but a type of the *inward*. Oh! How has the Spirit of the LORD *bemoaned* after his *sheep* that are today scattered on the *dilapidated* mountain slopes. The LORD is longing to restore the *sheep* of his flock from these dry mountain slopes, back to the succulent green pastures using his most able *outstretched* arms. But, the tragedy is that everytime Jehovah tries to reprove today’s church for their backsliding, they have been as Israel of old, justifying themselves and complaining against the witnesses of God, as did Israel against his prophets, who from the LORD testified against their sins. It cannot be otherwise, for the *dead waters* in the church’s *hewn* cisterns will never agree with the sparkling waters of the *living fountain* of God, but will withstand their testimonies forever. The pastors of today’s church have gone ahead and *hewn* for themselves some temporary and leaky *cisterns*. With such *cisterns* they were able to initially draw from the *fountain of living waters*. After drawing, they did not remember to return to the *fountain* for replenishment. It is for this reason that their waters have lost the original sparkle of the bubbling *living waters*.

Through this June 29, 2008 vision of the LORD, Jehovah is mightily calling upon the shepherds to return the *sheep* of his flock back to the *fountain of living waters* at the bottom of the hill. Only the Holy Spirit that comes from this *living fountain* can quench the thirst of the *sheep*, this late in the day. Up the mountain slopes the pastors appear to have even forgotten the initial sparkle that marks *living waters*. They are drinking *dead water* from their stagnant *cisterns*. But, how then shall the *Churner* wisely churn these *cisterns* to make the *apostate* church hearken to his voice? I have not backslidden says one in one form, I have not backslidden says another in another form, I have not backslidden says one in one notion, I have not backslidden says another in another notion. Are they trying to make the Holy Spirit wrong and not right for the first time in the history of creation (1 John 1:10)? There must be one standard of *holiness* in the church of Christ across the globe, on earth and in heaven. Oh! Church of Christ, the royal bride, the branches of the reknown true royal Vine, the offspring of eternity, purchased by the Blood, Oh! Sons of God Almighty, the house that once did shine with beauty and the glory of life at Pentecost; *What has become of you?* How come you are now held captive to sin in the spiritual land of Babylon? How come you now lie *sullied* among the pots? And yet you were fully purchased and led to the *fountain of living waters* where the pastures are green and healthy? Where has that *nibbling* between the rocks for little remnant vegetation come from? *Oh! Church of Christ what has become of thee?* This is the question the LORD Almighty asked in the early hours of that June 29, 2008! The heart of God the Father is longing to gather back the *sheep* of his flock that they may not be plundered any more!

Today’s shepherds

The *fountain of living waters* that was *located* at the bottom of the mountain slopes, is the reason for the healthy green pastures that occupied its vicinity and the entire plains. This *fountain* is the River of life that the Holy Spirit avails to the church, flowing with spiritual *nourishment* all the way from the temple of God in heaven into the whole known earth. This River supplies the church with both the *wisdom* and *understanding* of the LORD. The pastures represent the food for the *sheep* hence the Word of God that they need for growth. It brings a totally new understanding to the April 2, 2004 visitation of the LORD in which he presented John the Baptist to

speak with me on my right-hand side. The four *White Horses* that the LORD disclosed in that 2004 vision, represent the four mighty gospels of our LORD Jesus. But as the glory of the LORD ushered in, these four *White Horses* began to glitter with the radiance of God's glory, beaming with flashes like lightning, in a state of impatience in readiness to go. This implies that the Holy Spirit is the only one charged with the authority and responsibility of empowering the gospel of our LORD Jesus making it glorious, with the very dazzling glory of God. It is no wonder, upon his resurrection our LORD Jesus instructed his disciples never to leave the upper room in Jerusalem, until they had received the promised authority from on high, to empower them. Only then were they able to be witnesses unto Christ into Samaria, Judea and to the four ends of the earth. This signifies that it is the Holy Spirit that empowers the glorious gospel of our LORD Jesus beaming them with flashes of glory like lightning while bringing light to the dark hearts of man, unto the four ends of the earth. The light emitted by the glorious gospel is the true testimony of our LORD Jesus that the church is supposed to evangelize in these last days. It is the reason why in this June 29, 2008 vision, the pastures that were proximate to the *fountain of living waters* presented a healthier and greener food for the *sheep*. The Holy Spirit brings revelation to the written Word of God as the true bread of life to the church. This is the point of departure at which the pastors abandoned their calling and took the *sheep* of God astray, scattering them onto the mountain tops. Tragically, on these mountain slopes there are caves between rocks, in which the beasts hide and devour the *sheep*.

The shepherds of today are squarely responsible for scattering the *sheep* of the LORD's flock. These shepherds have not fed the *sheep* well by straying with them up the mountains and further

away from the *fountain of living waters*. And because today's *sheep* have been starved by literally going without pasture, the *sheep* began to wander all across the mountain slopes looking for any form of green vegetation. Any hill and elevated place that the *sheep* have seen, they have run to with the hope of finding green pasture. In the process the *sheep* have fallen into the traps set by the wild beasts that have consequently devoured most of them.

Wisdom and understanding

And because the shepherds have not tapped on the *wisdom* and *understanding* of the LORD, they have in essence not returned the *sheep* to the *fountain of living waters*. Today, this can be seen in church as the christians starve in the absence of the true and holy Word of God. The pastors have preached the empty gospel of prosperity and wealth transfer hence leading the *sheep* out onto the arid spiritual mountain slopes of this world. It is for this reason that every time today's christians hear of an evangelist coming to town, or a 'prophet' visiting another church, or a modern-day 'apostle' coming to another stadium, they always run there with the expectation that they might find green pasture for their spiritual well being. But, as they have done this, they have fallen right into the traps of these false apostles and false prophets who have greedily devoured them. They have had to pay colossal sums of money for prayers, as some of them even hand in title deeds of their pieces of property, or even cases of sexual favours have been reported. They have at times been told to run with money and place at the feet of these false apostles. This is how bad and terrible things have been for the scattered sheep. These wild beasts have thoroughly devoured the scattered *sheep* of Christ, as the *sheep* search around for help. Today's christians are surely like *sheep* without

a shepherd, even as one watches their severe spiritual *malnourishment* and *emaciation*. Looking at the way christians are immorally dressed, loathful for money, visiting witchdoctors occasionally, basing their love for Christ on miracles of wealth and health, etc; one obviously sees underfed *sheep* without a shepherd. If they had a shepherd he would have led them to the *wisdom* and *understanding* of the LORD (Ezekiel 34:1-31). *Then why haven't the shepherds returned today's sheep of the LORD's flock back to him, if things are this bad?* The shepherds have run up and down across the globe in pastors' conferences, crusades, interfaith fellowships, seminars, christian universities for degrees and doctorates in theology, looking for *wisdom* and *understanding* (Daniel 12:4). But all these efforts in today's church don't seem to have yielded much *wisdom* and *understanding* of the LORD. Then the most important question becomes, where is this wisdom located that they may visit that place and bring the current quagmire to closure. This is what the Word itself says to shepherds and the *sheep* as to where they should run to find this otherwise today very scarce *wisdom* and *understanding*. But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living. The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me. It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies. The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold. Whence then cometh wisdom? And where is the place of understanding? Seeing it

is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air. Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears. God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven; To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure. When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder: Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out. And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding (Job 28:12-28). This is the *wisdom* and *understanding* that today's pastors urgently need in order to return the *sheep* back to *fountain* of the Holy Spirit for spiritual nourishment. It is the return to the fear of the LORD and the departure from evil, that constitute the *wisdom* and *understanding* of the LORD, respectively. Only spiritually well nourished sheep will grow to spiritual maturity. Likewise, only spiritually mature *sheep* will enter into the wedding of the Lamb of God (Ephesians 4:11-13). The LORD is using this June 29, 2008 vision to declare, "woe unto today's shepherds who are *destroying* and *scattering* the *sheep* of his pasture. The LORD also promises judgment to the shepherds who have not bestowed care on the *sheep* of his pasture by failing to strengthen the weak, nor healing the sick nor binding up the injured (Ezekiel 34:4). But in the process he also warns the over fattened sheep of judgment (Jeremiah 23:1-8; Isaiah 56: 9-12).

The sheep in the vision

Notably in this June 29, 2008 vision, the LORD showed me the *sheep* of his pasture up on the mountain slopes, but they were whitish in colour. Though they were whitish, they were not pure white.

The *white* in this vision represents the *holiness* and *righteousness* of the church. And because the *sheep* have been scattered away from the *fountain of living waters*, they haven't heard the privilege of being purged-off sin by the mighty Holy Spirit of God. It is the Holy Spirit that has been charged with the duty of preparing the radiant bride whose gown is spotless, without any wrinkle, blemish or stain. And this means that the LORD is stressing on the need for the *sheep* to be brought back to the *fountain of living waters* for cleansing. White in this vision also stands for the life of Christ in the christians. Only the Holy Spirit can spiritually transduce and reveal the person of Christ into the very lives of today's christians. In the absence of the manifestation of Christ Jesus in the lives of the christians, traces of death begin to show up in their countenance. This death will often appear as the wages of sin, and because their gowns are tainted with stains of sin as they wander across the mountain slopes, death will often claim them. The mere fact that the *sheep* I saw in this vision were white, though not pure white, means that they actually belong to Christ Jesus, the Living Water (John 4: 1-26). However, the LORD is emphasizing on the urgent need for their white *raiments* to be whitened as snow as no fuller on earth can whiten them. Only the Holy Spirit of Jehovah can glorify the gown that the church is wearing today in readiness for the wedding of the Lamb. For this reason the shepherds need to return the sheep to the Holy Spirit who reveals Christ Jesus the Living Water. And because Jesus mentioned this Living Water in him at the well of Jacob, in reference to worship, then surely in this mighty vision the LORD is asking the church to return to the worship in the spirit and in the truth. Only the Holy Spirit at the *fountain of living waters* can enable today's scattered *sheep* to return to this highly celebrated true worship in the spirit and in the truth.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE LORD ON CALIFORNIAN HOMOSEXUALITY: Endtime apostasy

By Dr. Owuor

Californian homosexuality:
Peak of endtime apostasy

Without examining the society around her, it would have been almost difficult to gauge the extent of *apostasy* in the church. When the church falls to sin, many things always go wrong and among the indicators of spiritual deterioration, *moral decay* in

the land tops the list. When the church of Christ in the US began to debate and tolerate this very contentious and contagious issue of homosexuality in the priesthood, it marked the height of her fall. The altar of the LORD was endowed with the complete authority to serve as the *rod of God* for

correction, redress, and guidance in the land. However, when sin enters into the altar of the LORD (church), there is absolutely no way such a church can purport to be a deliverer yet she herself has not been delivered. In such a *raw*

form, she becomes toothless thereby just gargling around and barking without much effect. When the heathen watched and saw how the church in the US had embraced homosexuality, in which case letting it to go scott-free and virtually unrebuked, to them that was a green signal that homosexuality could now be institutionalized, without shame. The key church leaders in the US let this abhorable abomination slip into the church of Christ in the pretext that their denominations were still intact and not affected by this abomination, and that gayism was just in other denominations. Little did they know that when such an abomination is reported anywhere in the land, it calls for a complete national *repentance* and rebuke to sin. While Eli was a God fearing man whose righteous standing



The LORD paints California totally black

with the LORD impressed many, his failure to rebuke sexual sin in the house of the LORD however, earned him eternal damnation. How then could California in the US publicly parade today’s most horrendous act of homosexual marriages without any leading church minister crying out for an all out national *repentance*? But it is exactly in the same way that the church leadership in the US did not cry out for an all out national *repentance* when openly gay homosexual bishops became anointed in that land. These homosexual leaders in church went further on to *flaunt* their abominable relationships on network news, alleging that it does not affect their service unto the LORD? Why then is the church in the US not reading from the scripture in Romans 1:24-32? The world is wondering as to which bible they may be reading from. How could we then expect the church leadership in the US to this time around come out and rebuke this detestable act? But the LORD has been watching (Jeremiah 7:11). The catch here is that the last time the LORD spoke with me about homosexuality in New Orleans, He

asked me to pronounce judgment to the effect that he would fail to tell the ocean where to stop in the event that they failed to repent. This, the LORD said would be for the express purpose of washing away their horrendous abomination. And sure enough, proclaimed on July 20, 2005, one month and nine days later, on August 29, 2005, God mightily came through with his Word when hurricane Katrina brought her angry waves right into their homes. And until today their lives in New Orleans have never been the same again, just like I had forewarned. This is perfectly consistent with when Sodom and Gomorrah engaged in this very abominable act of homosexuality, and got their rightful share of burning sulphur plus lightening that struck the place.

Judgment on California

On June 23, 2008 between 3:00-5:00pm the LORD spoke with me about the abhorrible abomination of homosexuality that has bloomed in California. On this day I saw the visions of the LORD regarding what

is about to befall California in the event that she fails to *repent*. In this vision of the LORD, he drew the map of the US in the sky, and he marked out the state of California on that map. After that, the LORD immediately painted the map of California completely *dark black*. And then I saw the next portion of this vision. At that moment the LORD presented small brown ants in their largest numbers that no man has ever seen nor comprehended. It was horrendous a sight. Immediately in that vision, the LORD brought me to my computer at which I was typing the warning to California on her homosexuality. But what was most astonishing is that as I typed on the keyboard, the letters I was typing on this article to warn California, were literally being composed by the same small brown ants that the LORD presented. As I typed, the ants constituted the entire text of the Californian article in a mighty vision of the LORD. Then I saw this entire article completed in this vision and as I sent it to the US, it brought forth a mighty judgment of the LORD in the state of California. The brown ants covered the entire state of California.

It is today common knowledge to mature Christians who operate in the Holy Spirit, that everytime the LORD presents ants, worms, locusts, bees, wasps, and the like, he implies an extreme judgment of the LORD coming to that land.

Repent California

The LORD has now asked me to warn the US to immediately call for a massive genuine uninterrupted national *repentance* and wailing. The God of Israel is at this time calling on the wailing woman in the US, if there is any at all, to come out of her closet covered with ashes on her hair and face, and bitterly wail unto the LORD, in her *sackcloth*. This, she should do until all the faces in the land are fully covered with tears and remorse. I have seen the judgment of the LORD coming to the US and California for her homosexuality. Even today as I write this, the LORD talked to me about the horrendous rain and floods coming right into the US homes. In this vision, he took me in the Spirit and upon entering their homes, it

rained on me heavily as though there was no roof. The rain I saw came with gusty winds and babies disappeared in the storms leaving parents in complete anguish, wailing and mourning. Mark you, when I warned Kenya in like manner, to *repent* and turn away from the abomination of her sins, Kenya’s failure to heed this Word and *repent*, earned her such a historic and most horrendous judgment of the LORD. Many nations of the earth were then able to watch rebellious Kenya struggling for survival. I had warned that if Kenyans would fail to *repent*, the judgment of the LORD would cause them to leave their homes, in large columns, and headed for the refugee camps of captivity. This together with the blood flow that I forewarned them about, was fulfilled to the letter. How about California? How great will be her judgment if she fails to *repent*? Remember, the same God that judged Sodom and Gomorrah and New Orleans must judge California, lest he be caused to *repent* to these two!

THE SWORD OF GOD COMING AGAINST TANZANIA

VISION OF MAY 12, 2008

Dr. Owuor

On May, 12, 2008 at about 5:00am, the LORD spoke with me about the nation of Tanzania. While in that land, the LORD of Hosts took me in the Spirit, thereby showing me the great abomination that has befallen that land. The LORD said, “Come and see what is happening in this land.” And when I looked, I saw vast stretches of land within the borders of the nation known as Tanzania. After that, I saw the daughters of that land who were in the detestable defiling act of prostitution. A great many of them went about in gross prostitution as a means of livelihood to such an extent that they spurred up the anger of the LORD. After that I saw a great number of people wearing the hats of eastern religions, and worshipping the defiled idol gods of the eastern religions. The LORD again took me to a place at which he showed me a great number of witchdoctors practising witchcraft on the precious children of Jehovah God in that land. After that Jehovah again presented a lot of children that had been defiled in that land. After that the LORD

showed me the tremendous fall in the church to the extent that the church had been reduced to a near laughing stock, with the church leadership now working for the *stomach* and not the *Kingdom*. After this the LORD took me to yet another place at which I saw international prostitutes going about their business, while there were many aliens to that land in their nudity at the beaches. The aliens I saw looked like tourists who had brought their detestable acts to the beaches of that land.

THE JUDGMENT

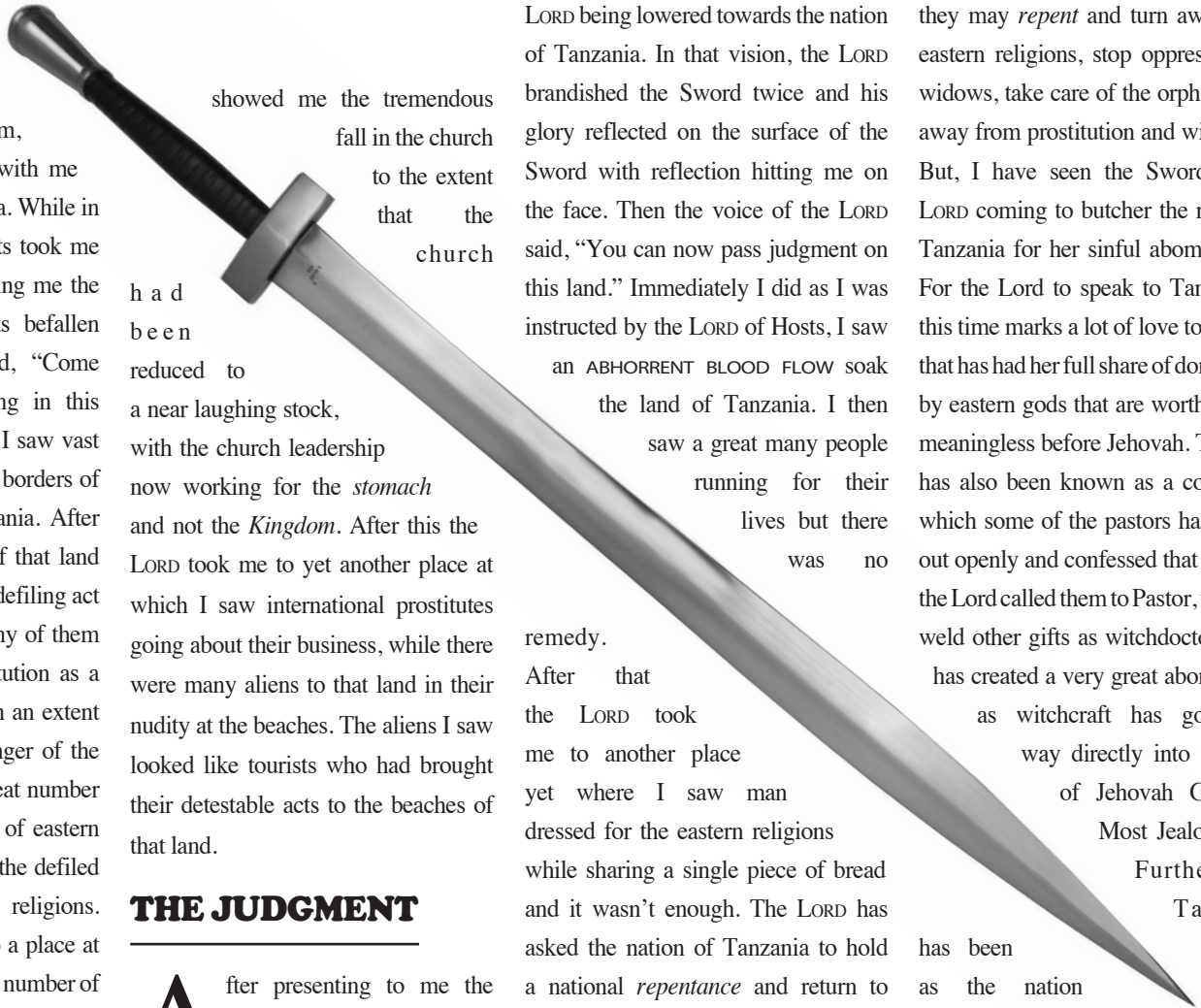
After presenting to me the abominable defilement that has absorbed the land of Tanzania, the LORD then asked me to look up in the sky and see what was about to befall that land of Tanzania.

As I looked up in the sky, I was stunned to see the sharp Sword of the LORD being lowered towards the nation of Tanzania. In that vision, the LORD brandished the Sword twice and his glory reflected on the surface of the Sword with reflection hitting me on the face. Then the voice of the LORD said, “You can now pass judgment on this land.” Immediately I did as I was instructed by the LORD of Hosts, I saw an ABHORRENT BLOOD FLOW soak the land of Tanzania. I then saw a great many people running for their lives but there was no

remedy. After that the LORD took me to another place yet where I saw man dressed for the eastern religions while sharing a single piece of bread and it wasn’t enough. The LORD has asked the nation of Tanzania to hold a national *repentance* and return to Jesus. After this mighty visitation of the LORD God, I met with the Bishops and Pastors of Tanzania and relayed this message of gravity to them. The Pastors and Bishops of Tanzania also

took me to their leadership, and I delivered this message unto them, that they may *repent* and turn away from eastern religions, stop oppressing the widows, take care of the orphans, turn away from prostitution and witchcraft. But, I have seen the Sword of the LORD coming to butcher the nation of Tanzania for her sinful abominations. For the Lord to speak to Tanzania at this time marks a lot of love to a nation that has had her full share of domination by eastern gods that are worthless and meaningless before Jehovah. Tanzania has also been known as a country in which some of the pastors have come out openly and confessed that much as the Lord called them to Pastor, they also weld other gifts as witchdoctors. This has created a very great abomination as witchcraft has gotten its way directly into the altar of Jehovah God, the Most Jealous God. Furthermore, Tanzania has been known as the nation to which some African Pastors and Bishops travel and upon arrival, they are said to often deposit their bibles with leading witchdoctors overnight and then return with those

bibles to their countries in order to attract richer people in their churches. Surely, it was just a matter of time before God would have to speak with that nation. The dressing of Christian women in Tanzania has obviously fallen short of the holiness of the LORD. This has particularly been a very pathetic state in the church as the eastern religions dress holier than the Christians that worship the true God. Albinos have been killed by witchdoctors for sacrifice and most recently a kid in Tanzania was reported across the media as feeding on human heads. It is a matter that shocked the church which that kid attended. Homosexuality is on the rampant while prominent people in Tanzania are considered the only ones that can afford bathing with the water that has been used to wash dead bodies. Surely, Tanzania needed to repent much earlier and return to the LORD. Now that the rapture of the church is near, the Lord has sanctioned repentance according to his Word (Malachi 4:6). The Messiah is coming! Tanzania repent and prepare the way of the LORD!



The Church At Bethany

WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO REVIVE TODAY'S CHURCH

By Dr. Owuor

House of the broken

Bethany was a little hill country town strategically located on the eastern slopes of the mount of Olives. In the ancient of days, it was a quiet small humble town that became mainly inhabited by a close-knit poor community that lived in great warmth and novel intimacy. Lowly Bethany was beautifully situated less than two miles from Jerusalem and sat at a critical edge of the wilderness

of Judea and the barren hills that descended eastwards towards the Dead Sea. The primary Hebrew meaning of the name *Beth-any* is, house of the *broken*, house of the *humble*, house of *poverty*, house of *humility*, house of the *hurting* or house of *mourning*. It is this particular *brokenness* of the *poor* people in Bethany that especially makes her such a spiritual icon for the present-day church to imitate, in order that Jesus may find a home in her. It will have to take the recognition of this hidden treasure of *brokenness* for one to pick out the key feature that drew Jesus to this little community of Bethany. It

is true that the church today has largely lost this initial *humble brokenness* that Jesus laid before her, thereby failing to attract the kindness of God's favour that Bethany enjoyed. It is noteworthy that for Jesus to call a place home, that place must have earned the complete blessing of the LORD God Almighty himself. Such was the *humbleness* at Bethany that brought the hearts of the people into a contrite faith in Jesus (Isaiah 66:1-3). Being largely a poor and broken community, Bethany desperately needed Jesus, as compared to flamboyant Jerusalem which did so well to extent that they did not seem to

have room for Jesus. Tragically, while Jerusalem lost her favour with the LORD, Bethany on the other hand grasped the moment of her visitation and warmly welcomed the King into their homes. Today's church too, appears to have taken up the character of Jerusalem in which *humbleness* is something of the past and *pride* reigning high. Perhaps it is this *haughtiness* that has blocked today's church from enjoying a fully fledged favour with the LORD thereby giving way to desolation. The *humbleness* that prevailed in this poor little village town of Bethany became a humongous spiritual asset

since it served as the primordial base for a massive revival that was later to consume this community (Luke 19:37). It is amazing that from this point on, Jesus always operated from Bethany, and returning there for evening rest on every subsequent day whenever he had the privilege to retract from the multitude (Mark 11:1-18). The church today needs to grasp the things that matter most to our LORD Jesus. We see here that *humility* and simple *receptiveness* by opening our hearts to the LORD Jesus, can go a long way in establishing for him an acceptable home in our lives. There are many things in this post-modern era that have barred the church from realizing this noble intimacy that Bethany enjoyed with Jesus.

IS TODAY'S CHURCH BUILT ON THE ROCK

What is particularly much more spiritually intriguing about Bethany, is the rocky subterrain on which she is built. The area and its immediate vicinity is parched with a strong touch of rocky subterrain that acts as a reminder of the close proximity to the peeping Judean desert. This desert is of great spiritual treasure to the church of Christ because it is the place out of which Jesus built the church through *prayer* and *fasting*. For the people of Bethany, this Judean wilderness was synonymous with the voice crying out in the wilderness while saying; "*Prepare the way of the Lord and make straight his highway.*" Even much more interesting is the fact that when Solomon built the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, he obtained the *building blocks* from this very wilderness. What must immediately have come to mind in the hearts of the people in Bethany, is the swading *humbleness* of John the Baptist presentation as he announced the coming of he whom they had welcomed. Perhaps if John the Baptist had presented a more sophisticated image, the people of Bethany would have shied away and felt unqualified to receive the King. But, the simplicity of John the Baptist as a *forerunner* must have most definitely opened the hearts

of the people in Bethany to the simple yet mighty King. Moreover, the hard rock that identifies this mountain slope testifies of the age-long *endurance* and seasoning that the mount of Olives has lived to see. Erosive forces had practically washed away any loose substratum on this mountain thereby leaving only an impervious rock that persisted on, year in year out. Because this mountain faces the closed Eastern Gate of Jerusalem, it is often referred to as a significant spiritual monument. That Jesus loved taking time out alone on the mount of Olives in order to pray to God the Father and get ministered to by the Holy Spirit, makes this mountain on which Bethany is located to be of great spiritual value and symbolism. To the church, there is a lot to learn from the disposition of Bethany at this location. This is because the spiritual testimonial that the Mount of Olives portrays, is the *Cornerstone of Zion* who is the *Rock of Ages* that Jerusalem rejected. The present-day church must remember that Jerusalem rejected Jesus, the *Cornerstone of Zion*, on the one and only exceptional day of their grand visitation (Matthew 23:37-38). If this is what the mount of Olives stood for spiritually, then it becomes vividly apparent that the little town of Bethany built herself on the *Rock of Ages*. With

such a firm foundation, then one can now understand why a massive revival hit this town and remained unshakable. Bethany was not built on sand but on the *Rock* that is Jesus (Matthew 7:24-27). By Bethany hearing the Word of the LORD and putting it into practice, this little humble community must have been a *wise* people who built their houses on the *Rock*. That means the *fear* of the LORD reigned in Bethany compared to Jerusalem that had no *fear* whatsoever of the LORD. The church of Christ today has tragically repeated the same Jerusalem mistake by lacking the *fear* of the LORD and hence taking him totally for granted. In today's church, there are lots of theologians that are propelling the different school of thought like did the learned Pharisees and Sadducees of Jerusalem. What makes matters worse is that some of these Sadducees did not believe in the Spirit of the LORD, an exact replica of what has resurfaced in the mega churches of today. In a nutshell, it is justified to say that the present-day church of Christ is still in Jerusalem and hence facing the great desolation. Only upon getting to her spiritual Bethany, will today's church see a massive revival. It must be remembered that Jerusalem built its house on sand and that is why the wind came and blew

it away. That Bethany built her house on the *Rock*, is not only still admirable today, but also greatly anticipating the mighty return of the LORD through this town. Furthermore, the failure of other vegetation to adapt to this unique climatic experience in Bethany, resulted into the over-dominance by Olive trees. The Olive tree has for a long time been the source of the *sacred anointing oil* with which the priesthood was sanctified. However, its over-dominance on the mount of Olives, relays the spiritual message of long endurance with which those who are anointed of the Holy Spirit are expected to serve God. Just like it takes so long for the Olive tree to establish, and much longer for it to yield the fruit, while even much more delayed is the ripening of her fruit, so it is with the building of a Holy Spirit-led christian walk. It is the slow but otherwise very steady process of spiritual growth that finally matures the christian across the hardships presented by this dark world. Upon achieving a steady christian growth, the church can then attain spiritual maturity at which she will then begin to yield the fruit of the Spirit. When the Olive fruit matures, it even takes longer for it to ripen, and requires much patience during the tedious crushing process that very

slowly begins to exude very little drops of the virgin olive oil. So it is with the church, that she may allow herself to patiently go through the spiritual ripening process, and permit her being crushed for the beautiful anointing of the LORD to exude throughout her life. Our LORD Jesus went through the long and tortuous process of bringing to Calvary maturity, the ministry that redeemed mankind. It is at Calvary that he allowed himself to be thoroughly crushed in order to exude the precious *sacred anointing oil* of worship that pleased the LORD God. The church too needs to emulate the *brokenness* that crushed Bethany to the extent that she acceptably and rightfully worshipped the LORD Jesus. Only the Holy Spirit can impart on today's church the Olive tree kind of spiritual *perseverance* with which she needs to establish her foundation on the *Rock* that is Jehovah God. Only this *Cornerstone of Zion* can offer stable enough foundation for today's church to stop wavering back and forth between the christian walk and the world. And when the present-day church of Christ will establish her foundation on the *Rock*, like Bethany, will she experience a mighty Revival.

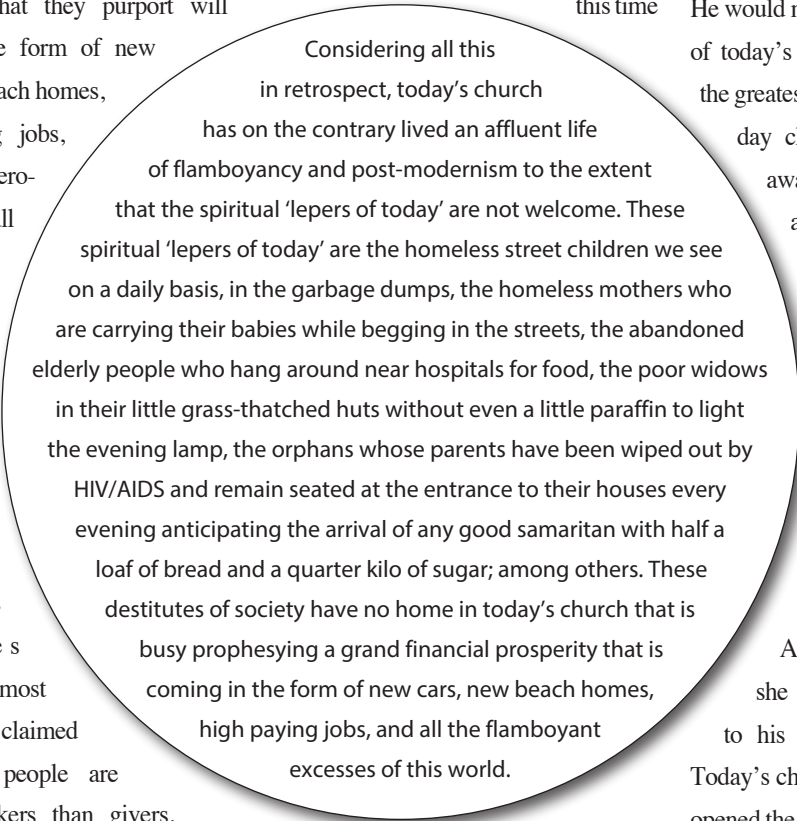
THE PLACE JESUS CALLED HOME:

Major lesson for today’s church

Little 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 (Luke 10:38-42). This kind of *humility* greatly instructs on the importance of opening ones home to the LORD as the main access into the unfailing favour of the LORD. The people of Bethany were reknown for being a very warm population who even opened their homes to lepers. By then, in the Hebrew society it was a taboo for anyone to gain contact, let alone living, with lepers. They were considered the most unclean in society hence no community welcomed them. But in Bethany, this rule had been *flouted* as lepers were both welcome and allowed to stay. In this way, Bethany was surely house of the *broken*. Such is the kind of this place that Jesus so

loved and called home. Considering all this in retrospect, today’s church has on the contrary lived an *affluent* life of *flamboyancy* and post-modernism to the extent that the ‘*lepers of today*’ are not welcome. The spiritual ‘*lepers of today*’ are the homeless street children seen on a daily basis in the garbage dumps, the homeless mothers who are carrying their babies while begging in the streets, the abandoned elderly people who hang around near hospitals for food, the poor widows in their little grass-thatched huts without even a little paraffin to light the evening lamp, the orphans whose parents have been wiped out by HIV/AIDS and remain seated at the entrance to their houses every evening praying for the miraculous arrival of any surprise good samaritan with half a loaf of bread and a quarter kilo of sugar; among others. These destitutes of society

have no home in today’s church that is busy prophesying a grand financial prosperity that they purport will come in the form of new cars, new beach homes, high paying jobs, private aero-planes and all the flam-b o y a n t excesses of this world . T h e y are not welcome in today’s c h u r c h e s because most Pastors have claimed that these people are more of takers than givers. Very well remembering that most Pastors today preach the message of giving. In majority of cases, these spiritual ‘*leper of today*’ would be considered as lowering the quality of the church where they are received. At times their pictures are taken by



Pastors for soliciting financial support from philanthropists abroad, and it is at this time that these destitutes can be afforded a photo meal. It is indeed so heart-breaking to see that, that which the LORD Jesus embraced is exactly what today’s church has rejected. The spiritual calamity though, is that, if Jesus came in the *rapture*

today, most definitely he would not have found his Bethany in this church. He would not find a home in the hearts of today’s modern christians. This is the greatest challenge that the present-day church must confront right away. Nevertheless, in spite of all the happenings in today’s church, she can still open her heart to these broken spiritual ‘*lepers of today*’ and equally provide a Bethany home unto the LORD. When the church does this, she will then be able to enjoy such favour from the LORD God Almighty himself, because she will have opened the door to his most beloved son, Jesus. Today’s church, as at now, has not yet opened the door to the ‘*lepers of today*’ (Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 3:20). Among the people that Jesus sat with while eating dinner at Bethany, was Simon the *leper*.

RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS

Message on the Rapture

It does not come as a surprise to recognize that it is at this little village town of Bethany, that Jesus performed one of the most outstanding miracles ever. In that miracle, the LORD Jesus greatly prefigured the *rapture* of the church, when he raised Lazarus from the dead. At the onset of this spiritually enriching episode, as Lazarus began to fall very ill, his sisters sent an urgent message to the LORD Jesus. Jesus was at that time far away in the Jordan valley, and upon receiving that urgent message, his disciples expected him to rush back to Bethany in order to heal Lazarus. However, the message that the church today ought to grasp is the delayed response with which Jesus countered this urgent call. It is most stunning that Jesus seemingly appeared to refuse to hurriedly respond to the Bethany S.O.S., hence delaying his return until a clear four days had elapsed. During that time lapse, Lazarus died and was eventually buried in a stone tomb. This was a deliberate set up by the LORD so as to stir up and win the otherwise petrous hearts of the Jews, unto himself. Such

a spiritual illustration was necessary at that time in order to remove any doubt from the hard hearts that the Jews bore towards him. Doubt would have to dissipate from the people’s hearts when Jesus performs this resurrection miracle four days after the burial of Lazarus. In other words, he wanted them to first be pretty sure that Lazarus was dead, before he could resurrect him. At this point, Jesus knew that the opportunity had availed itself for him to really demonstrate to them that he is the Messiah, they were waiting for. In that dispensation, the Jews were eagerly awaiting the Messiah to come and restore the kingdom of Israel. As they did this, they were very well aware of the marks that the Messiah would wear, one of them being the mighty power he would possess over death. Among other special qualities the Messiah was expected to bear, was the enormous resurrection power of God that he would wield. In this way, resurrecting Lazarus from the dead would have a formidable impact onto their faith in Jesus. And sure enough, when Lazarus was resurrected, a

huge revival hit the home town of Bethany and its precincts, because a lot of Jews received the LORD and a multitude of them began to follow the JESUS OF NAZARETH (John 11: 1-45). This marked the turning point in the lives of the people of Bethany and the surroundings of Jerusalem. The little town of Bethany then became a highly prominent focus for spiritual *healing* and *resurrection* in the entire region. It is this spiritual prominence that *transcends* right into today’s church of Christ. Because of this mighty miracle of resurrecting Lazarus, the Jews began to receive Jesus in multitudes. For it is said, the gospel will be preached to the Jew first then to the Gentiles. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (Romans 11:15).

ASLEEP IN THE DUST

In resurrecting Lazarus, the LORD Jesus taught the most powerful lesson on the *rapture* of the church. Assurance of life had now suddenly become real especially when

Jesus answered Martha saying; “I am the *resurrection* and the *life*...” (John 11:25). Jesus was talking in reference to the power of God over death during the *rapture* of the church. This *resurrection* that Jesus referred to, is the one that his glory brings on the day of *rapture* when the asleep in the dust of the earth will be awakened for the wedding of the Lamb. However, only the holy dead christians who are asleep in their tombs, will be awakened, glorified in the immortal bodies and then *raptured* to meet the LORD in the sky. That is the reason why when Jesus had made this eternal statement, he commanded; “*Take away the stone*”, despite the fear of bad odour among the congregants, the stone was rolled. At that moment Jesus retorted by saying, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God.” The LORD then immediately said “*Lazarus, Come out!*” And the dead man walked out (John 11:38-44). This is the perfect spiritual simulation of the *rapture* of the dead in the dust of the earth. The command that Jesus gave at Bethany, to *take away the stone* from the tomb

is symbolic of the mighty authority that the Son of Man has over death, a power that will exceedingly manifest on the day of *rapture* (John 5:24-28). It is such a power that comes with the glory of God because the authority of the Messiah will on that day purge-off any *bad odour* that has characterized the church this long. Jesus being aware of the power abound his authority as the Messiah, had no fear whatsoever over the *bad odour* that many dreaded would be grossly repulsive. But the glory of the LORD purged it off to the extent that not even a single stench touched the air as the stone was *taken away*. It is this particular authority of Christ the Messiah, that will on the day of *rapture* split open the tombs and graves as it pulls out the asleep in the dust of the earth. However, when Jesus said, “*Lazarus, Come out!*” that greatly prefigured the mighty voice of the Son of Man that will appear on the day of *rapture*, a voice that only the Holy Spirit-filled, holy few, will hear. Only those christians that had lived in *holiness* hence having their spiritual ears open will hear this

mighty spiritual voice of God in their respective tombs (John 5:24-28). It is obvious that at that cemetery there must have been other Lazaruses who had been buried many years back. 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. But only Lazarus, the brother of Martha, heard the command that Jesus gave when he said; “*Lazarus, Come out!*”. That implies that even on the day of *rapture* only the *holy* asleep in the dust of the earth, whose spiritual ears were opened by the Holy Spirit at the time of death, will hear the spiritual voice of the Son of Man. 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. Clearly explained, is why it was said that on that material day two men will be working in the field, one will be taken and the other left; whilst two women will be grinding on a handmill with one being taken and the other left (Matthew 24:40-41). Moreover, this is the true meaning of the statement the LORD made when he said; “Behold I come like a thief and blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with himself that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.” (Revelations 16:15). The *rapture* is like a thief, coming as a surprise when least expected! This phenomenon is biblically well documented and no one can claim not to have heard or known about it, since it is the voice of the Holy Spirit that urges the present-day church not to harden their hearts when they hear him (John 5:24-28). It is this same voice that is currently standing at the door of the heart of today’s church, and knocking that if anyone of them hears and opens, he will come in and eat with that church (Hebrews 3:7; Revelation 3:20). This voice is in fact the Shepherd’s voice that longs to lead today’s church into greener pastures and quieter, clear cool waters in the *highway of holiness*. Such waters are different from the temporary cisterns of warm and non-sparkling dead waters, that the Pastors have perennially presented to the sheep. This clear and cool water that the Shepherd is longing to lead today’s sheep to, is from the *fountain of living waters* in the throneroom of God in heaven. And because this water is fast-flowing, it provides sparkles and bubbles of life that eternally quench the thirst of the sheep (John 10:3;

Psalms 23). Nevertheless, the tomb of Lazarus that remained open after his resurrection, has to date remained a spiritual monument and a major tourist attraction. It is still an open tomb. Lazarus walking out of that tomb, in essence simulated the open tombs that will litter the earth right after the *rapture* takes place.

TRANSLATING THE LIVING

The *life* that Jesus was referring to at this little town of Bethany when he resurrected Lazarus, is the translation of the living Christians that takes place at *rapture* (John 11: 25-26). During the mighty *rapture*, only the holy living Christians will be translated into their immortal glorious bodies, and lifted up by the glory of the LORD to meet Jesus in the sky. Likewise, only the holy dead Christians will be awakened to the glory of the LORD on the day of *rapture* (Daniel 12:2-3; Isaiah 26:19-21; 1 Corinthians 15:50-56; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelations 19:6-9). Considering that dust returns to dust, then by all standards the flesh that the church wears today must die and return to the dust of the earth. And yet God Almighty created man in his very *image* and *likeness* (Genesis 1:26). It is important to comprehend here that the *image* and *likeness* of God surpasses death, thereby making the day of *rapture* the one and only most significant occasion on which the church will have surpassed death (1 Corinthians 15:50-56). It is so humbling to realize that Jesus could choose such a small broken town from which to teach an important lesson of this magnitude, to the church. The power that Jesus demonstrated at Bethany was so immense that it brings new meaning to restoration. In this way, the LORD also hinted at the fact that there would be a fall in the church of Christ, and however spiritually dead the church may be in desolation, he is able to resurrect her from the dark world back to his glory. Moreover, inside this lesson is the wedding supper of the Lamb of God at which the *raptured* saints will be rewarded differently. This was portrayed when Jesus was finally able to sit down and have dinner with resurrected Lazarus at Bethany. Following the mighty resurrection of Lazarus, word went round and came to the attention of the high priests and the Sanhedrins who were greatly riled because it dawned on them that the same JESUS OF NAZARETH whose influence they had tried to deliberately diminish, had now gained more ground (John 12:19). This Holy Ghost

revival that was now taking shape in Bethany, ushered in the truth hence exposing the unholy practices of the then priesthood that people had been conditioned to. Bethany then quickly developed as the launching pad from which Jesus confronted the orthodox priesthood in the temple of the LORD. An encounter of this nature that Jesus went through with the orthodox religious priests, greatly hints to the present-day church. It discloses that when the truth of *holiness* revival will hit today’s defiled church, the biggest resistance will have to come from the Pastors who are right now engaged in their ritualistic intractable preaching of prosperity. The Sanhedrins in Jerusalem were living a lucrative life out of the offerings of the LORD at the temple. This caused them to embrace *status quo*. Any spiritual change that was not modulated by them, within the sheep of the LORD’s flock, was

considered uprising and rebellion. Our current dispensation has too seen her share of the Sanhedrins of today who are totally resistant to change in the church. This resistance to *repentance* and the return to *holiness*, unfortunately comes within the backdrop of a very humiliating fall to sin in the church. The priests in Jerusalem too had been blinded to think that revival was throbbing when actually *darkness* had consumed worship. Today too, many Pastors are busy proclaiming revival when actually a great abomination of darkness reigns in the church. How then can revival be proclaimed without embracing *repentance*? This is the mighty lesson that Jesus taught from the little broken town of Bethany. In the present-day church also only the least of the broken desperately need Jesus to the point of opening their hearts to him, and welcoming his *repentance* revival of *holiness*. The

KILLING THE MESSENGER

Resisting Repentance

The disposition of love that Jesus had for *broken* Bethany, went way beyond the events of that dispensation. This is because besides the miracles and great teachings he conducted at Bethany, 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; Mark 11:1-11). But it is exactly this triumphal entry into Jerusalem that foretells of the Second Coming of the LORD Jesus when he will be accompanied by the *raptured* saints. That there was so much jubilation and felicitation as Jesus entered from Bethany into Jerusalem, implies that the LORD is impressing upon today’s church to not miss the *rapture*. Only through the *rapture* can the church partake of the Jerusalem felicitation during the Second Coming. Bethany therefore became the LORD’s home ground from which he launched his important missions, because his heart reciprocated the warmth of this lowly village town. It was the house of the hurting that Jesus chose. Perhaps because he was well too familiar with the kind of bitter *rejection* that the people of Bethany had lived through. Jesus lived most of his life on this earth in extreme *rejection*, culminating in the most bitter cruelty of the Cross at Calvary (Isaiah 53). On the contrary, the LORD Jesus rebuked Jerusalem over her idolatry and the subsequent failure to recognise her most critical hour of visitation. Bethany’s reception

of Jesus earned them a most treasured reputation as the house of *repentance* and *revival*, while Jerusalem’s *rejection* of the LORD, caused that city to lie in desolation. This led Jesus to cry out aloud of Jerusalem, while 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).*

Embedded in here is the irrefutable spiritual concept that *rejecting* Jesus implicitly signals the *rejection* of revival, while accepting the LORD literally births out a Holy Ghost *revival*. This is the outstanding message that the LORD sent out from Bethany to the present-day church of Christ. Many times in the life of Israel, she was prompted to self re-examine and review, especially when a clear sense of spiritual direction seemed to have been lost. Today’s church leaders also need to consider a spiritual self-examination against the truth that Jesus established at Bethany. If the notion that the church is not backslidden was true, then has the church embraced the messengers of *repentance*? And yet, has she opened her heart to the messengers of *holiness*? Is righteousness part and parcel of her daily livelihood? Sadly

post-modern day church of today, does not like *holiness* because their lives are so tailored to the world that they cannot survive in the wilderness. Interestingly, Jesus deliberately opted to operate from Bethany, and not Jerusalem, because the house of the LORD in Jerusalem had fallen out of God’s order. The temple in Jerusalem was then mainly being run through human wisdom, philosophy, programs and worldly idolatry. One wonders then as to whether today’s church has not just fallen into this Jerusalem path. The same human philosophy, wisdom, programs, and worldly idolatry appears to have resurfaced and pervaded the entire process of worshipping God. Surely, there is a need for today’s church to find bearing towards her spiritual Bethany. At that place today’s church will be restored and revived for *rapture*.

enough, the reality on the ground is that today’s church of Christ has virtually *killed* the messengers of the Lord while also *stoning* those sent to her to rebuke her excessive worldliness. Then how different is today’s post-modern church from Jerusalem of then that literally rejected Jesus, threw him out, falsely accused him, and subsequently killed him on the Cross? Because of the great desolation and the scattering of his sheep, the LORD Jesus is today longing to gather these chicks under the Eagle’s wings in order to lift them off into the safety of *rapture*. He is desperately clamouring and howling out aloud to this current church of Christ to *prepare the way* of the LORD, that they too may be blessed to soar in the clouds on the Eagle’s wings as the tribulation touches down. In other words, the LORD spoke mightily to the church about the *rapture* from Bethany. The church at Bethany provides a rare beacon of hope to the present day church of Christ. This is majorly because at Bethany the portal of heaven is open and revival reigns on. Such revival as is seen in Bethany, is a *holiness revival* arising from the brokenness of the people. Jesus left a mighty trail mark at Bethany, a pathway that today’s church ought to strive to get onto in order to win the much needed favour of the Holy Spirit in this current dispensation.

OPEN HEAVEN AT BETHANY

The Portal For Latter Glory

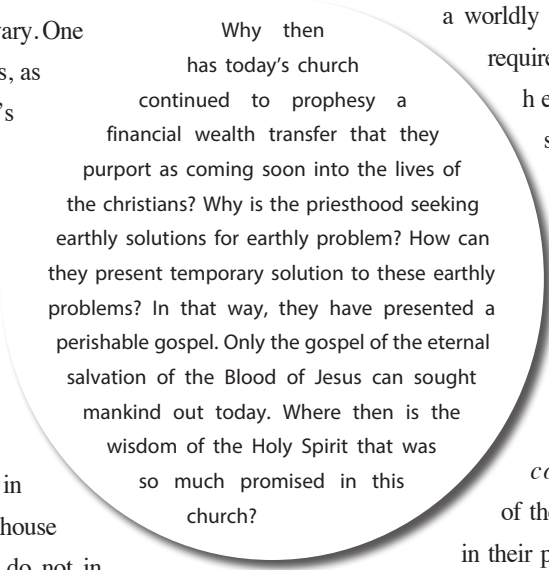
The present-day church of Christ can still learn a lot more from the spiritual events that took place in the little town of Bethany, right before the LORD accomplished his mission on the earth. The spiritual precepts that the present-day church of Christ ought to *clench* include; the portal that opened at Bethany directly into heaven, the *rapturing* of our LORD Jesus from the very spot, the promise of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and the Second Coming of Christ. These most treasured spiritual principles when well *clasped* within the mainstream of today's church, would transform her to *feign* the glamour with which the church at Bethany animated. Right before leaving this world, Jesus assured the church that she would have a place with him in eternity. He gave her this most valued picture of hope that she could hold on to, in her impending grief before he left for the Cross. Immediately following these final mighty Bethany-based missions, the Precious LORD Jesus went straight to the Cross and redeemed the church. And most importantly, after his suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection, the LORD again retraced his path back to this historic little home town of Bethany. At Bethany, Jesus gave the promise of the advent of the anointing of the Holy Spirit that would help the church from on high. At this vicinity of Bethany, the Lord Jesus lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, heaven opened and a mighty *cloud* appeared that lifted him, through the *portal* that opened and he left them as he *raptured* into heaven. Then the disciples worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great hope of joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God Almighty. (Luke 24:50-53). This becomes the most significant landmark message that the LORD Jesus ever gave to the current church that is anticipating the *rapture*. Leaving from the *broken* town of Bethany and performing the *triumphal entry* into Jerusalem, and finally returning to be *raptured* at Bethany, surely the LORD Jesus left the *footprints* that church today should follow. Such an *invaluable* and *timeless* teaching that Jesus gave at Bethany

should not have suffered the *diachrony* that has characterized church life in this modern era. The undesirable changes that have taken place in the church of today across the centuries should never have in any way ever touched this *endless testimony* that Jesus gave to the church at Bethany. It is true that today's church has finally entered into a place of greatest *anticipation* for the mightiest outpour in the history of the house of the LORD. There are two relevant scenarios that the church needs to uphold from the Bethany experience in order to realize the latter promised glory. The first episode that today's christians must incorporate into their walk is the tremendous *prerequisite* that had to avail before a great revival hit Bethany. Given that all revival must be engineered by the Spirit of the LORD, then one quickly understands the importance of *humility* and *brokenness* in predisposing the church to the free uncensored will of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of the LORD found the church at Bethany available as an defiled vessel for use in delivering revival. This revival yielded forth the great works of the Holy Spirit when Lazarus was resurrected from the dead, thereby providing an *incontrovertible* testimony of the LORD Jesus. Coming out of that testimony, multitudes *repented* and received Jesus in their hearts, thereby *separating* from the defiled priests of the day. This greatly represented the *fruit* of the Spirit and the *latter* harvest into the barns, that would manifest in this endtime church, if she conforms to the most important *prerequisite* of *humble brokenness*. When the church opens her doors unto the LORD Jesus, it is this *humble brokenness* that Jesus brings into her life in order to pave way for the mighty Holy Spirit visitation. The church at Bethany had initially done this when they opened their homes to Jesus, earning them a historic revival. The failure of today's church therefore to *clutch* a *humble brokenness* before the LORD, becomes a spiritually very catastrophic undertaking in the lives of present-day christians. And, being totally devoid of this most treasured *humble brokenness*, the present-day church of Christ has

instead gotten for herself *pride* to fill that critical vacuum in her heart. The church of Christ at Bethany did not only walk with the LORD Jesus, but also lived like the LORD Jesus. In this regard, they mirrored the *humble brokenness* that the LORD Jesus had gone through, and most importantly whose peak he was yet to experience on the Calvary Cross. In this way the people of Bethany became not only the hearers of the Word, but also doers of the Word. Has today's church heard and done the Word? Perhaps the most important reason as to why the Lord Jesus embraced the *humble and broken* people of Bethany, is due to the bitter *rejection* that his testimony against the sin of the world, brought him. Jesus was greatly *broken* on the Cross at Calvary. One then wonders, as to why today's church that so much craves for the latter glory, has not lived like Jesus. The happenings in the current house of the LORD do not in any way reflect the much desired *humble brokenness*. Instead, what the world sees from the church today, is a high level of *pride* that cannot permit the Holy Spirit to have his way. It is strongly believed that the highly self-esteemed Jewish communities that came to Jesus in multitudes at Bethany, did so after falling in love with the *humble brokenness* that the church at Bethany displayed in that otherwise *complex* and very *hierarchical* society. Today too, the world has become so *complex* and *hierarchical* that any additional complexity in presenting the *humble* testimony of Jesus will most definitely repulse the heathen from *humble broken* Jesus. However, the contrary is true, that in this complex world where many factors seem to be acting at the same time, the presentation of a *humble* solution-based, life-saving gospel of the Blood and the Cross at Calvary, will most definitely attract

millions if not billions into the spiritual barns of salvation. This is the biggest lesson that the church at Bethany taught the present-day *complex* and *hierarchical* post-modern church. The current global complexity in the life of mankind arising from the energy crisis, the mortgage crisis, environmental crisis, global food crisis, global disease crisis, crisis of global wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran, global marital and divorce crisis, drug abuse crisis, Alcohol abuse crisis, abortion crisis, teen pregnancies, suicides, homosexuality crisis in the church, among others; have presented a complexity of unbearable proportions into the life of man. Such a complexity can never in any way, be countered with the complex gospel of private aeroplanes, of sow-a-seed and get a miracle here now, of spiritual formulae and gimmicks on successful living. The current *complexity* that has befallen man's life can only be solved by the *simplicity* of the gospel of the Blood and the Cross at Calvary. The *complexity* that has entered into man's life world over does not require a worldly solution, it requires a heavenly solution. When the people of Bethany were trodden by the *complexity* of the problems in their poverty and *rejection*, they did not seek a worldly solution to attain redress. But, the moment they sought a heavenly solution unto their worldly problems, they attained an eternal restitution and the favour of God that brought peace, and comfort into their previously troubled lives. Why then has today's church perpetually presented a financial solution to the worldly problems that the people face on a daily basis? The energy crisis, global unemployment, food crisis, fear of terrorism, etc, cannot be addressed by a promise of the so-called financial wealth transfer that is today being heavily preached on global christian television. Only the salvation of our LORD Jesus, can solve the crisis that currently resonates and violently jolting the hearts of men world over. Why then has today's church continued to prophesy a financial wealth transfer that they purport will come soon into the lives of the christians? Why is the

priesthood seeking *earthly solutions* for *earthly problems*? How can they present *temporary solution* to these *earth ly problems*? In that way, they have presented a *perishable gospel*. Only the gospel of the eternal salvation of the Blood of Jesus can sought mankind out today. Where then is the wisdom of the Holy Spirit that was so much promised in this church? The church of Christ at Bethany has surely taught a lesson that today's church has not learnt. If the church had presented the simple humble salvation of the Blood of Jesus to this troubled generation, a heavenly and permanent solution would have arrived into their lives. The salvation of our LORD Jesus is the *heavenly solution* that animated the troubled hearts of the poor and rejected people of Bethany. And when this salvation entered their bloodstream then peace befell their lives as the favour of the LORD brought security, belonging, provision, health, and eternal joy unspeakable. If belonging to an important hireachy attains such high scores in the lives of today's christians, then how high is the score that Bethany achieved by sitting and dining with the King of all kings. And that is the secret of the fruit of *humbleness* that today's church has not discovered as she goes around trying to please politicians and rich people. Like it was in Bethany, so will it be with the church today, because the LORD God, He changes not. "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). This message from Bethany sounds a *reveille* to the present-day church in order that she may awaken to the moment. The only way in which the church today can be restored, is by tracing her path back to the spiritual Bethany of this dispensation. At that spiritual Bethany she will obviously display a *humble brokenness* that makes her vulnerable to the *fealty* unto the LORD. Like it was in ancient Israel, when all roads; be it from the Dead Sea, Jericho, name it, always led to Bethany; so will it be *eidetic* in the spiritual. It implies that regardless of denominational differences or religion, all nations of the earth must worship Jesus and attain their spiritual bearing towards *spiritual Bethany* where the *portal* of heaven is open for the latter glory.



The Alabaster Jar AT BETHANY

Dr. Owuor

When the LORD Jesus visited humble Bethany, it is as though every single course of event that he undertook in that poor little town, became a mighty spiritual *landmark* that was meant to *navigate* today's church. It was during one such visits that the LORD was confronted with the reality of the final *stretch* of his mission here on earth. Jesus had then become so fond of poor Bethany that he actually called it *home*, often returning there for evening rest. This was mainly due to the great and warm reception that the people of Bethany had extended to him by opening their homes. At that time in Bethany there lived many *lepers* who had been warmly accepted and welcomed there. It is then that one of the lepers known by the names *Simon the leper*, invited the LORD Jesus to a very special dinner in his house. In displaying the greatest disposition of *kindest humbleness* to the hurting and broken poor, Jesus accepted the invitation to have dinner with the leper. Considering that in the Jewish society then, lepers were classified as *outcasts*, who had been branded as totally *unclean*; Jesus as a Rabbi opting to be at this dinner surely became a historic event far and wide. It was during this historic dinner at Simon the *leper's* house that a woman suddenly and most unexpectedly showed up with a costly *alabaster jar* in her hands. In that jar, this woman carried a very pricey perfume made out of *pure nard*. It is the appearance of this woman into the *leper's* house with an *alabaster jar* that brings a totally new aspect in the preparation the church is supposed to undertake for *rapture*. In a bizarre act that puzzled many including his disciples, this woman *broke* the neck of that most expensive *alabaster* flask and poured the costly perfume of *pure nard* on the *Lord's* head and feet. It left the whole room saturated with an expensive sweet smelling *fragrance* that caused some critics to purport wastage. As the woman poured this expensive *nard* on the precious LORD, she continually crushed it to exude out every little *fragrant* content there could have been, in this costly *vessel*.

At that time, castigated and rebuked for the act of anointing Jesus with this

extremely expensive *fragrance*, this woman on the contrary becomes the greatest icon of what it takes to prepare for the *rapture* of the church. While it may have seemed an impossibility to imagine how this woman would have gained access into Simon the *leper's* house, with all the twelve disciples keeping guard around Jesus, this as a matter of fact, was a setup by the Holy Spirit. A setup because it was intended to and illustrious sermon that would teach the present-day church an invaluable lesson on how to prepare the way of the Lord for *rapture*.

THE BEAUTIFUL FEET

The ancient Near-Eastern Jewish practices were closely tied to the five books of Moses. Nothing in their lives was left to chance as they lived among communities that continued in defiled practices. The torah was used to address aspects of their lives then on a day-to-day basis. And because there were no vehicles at that time, it became common practice for people to walk long overstretched distances. Among those that walked long distances, were the king's messengers that became most esteemed and highly regarded in society. This was especially because long distance walking had become their life-long career thereby soliciting for tender care upon arrival. Courtesy had it that when a messenger of the king arrived from long distances, he would recline at dinner as his feet were embrocated with Olive oil to heal the bruises of the *sandal buckles*. Part of this embrocation was also aimed at cleaning the *dust off* the feet of these noble messengers. Likewise, when God sent a messenger unto his people, his feet had to be embrocated as an act of courtesy. God's messengers were also referred to as the *messengers of peace* because they delivered a message of reconciliation between God and Israel. Such messages in most cases embodied *repentance* or the anointing of a leader that the prophet's assistants were routinely sent to accomplish. If today's church is surely the messenger and ambassador of Christ sent to this dark world, then are her feet really

bruised by sandal buckles or they are just very healthy, clean unbruised feet? Remember the church was sent and if her feet are healthy, then it can only mean that she refused to go! Are her feet worth dusting off, washing and embrocating?

Having said so, for the blessed woman at Bethany to have chosen to anoint the feet of Jesus at dinner, she must have received revelation on the *cadre* of messenger he was. This woman must have surely noticed that the LORD's *sandalled dusty feet* were as a matter of fact, those of the MESSENGER OF PEACE. It takes launching ones *net* into the deep to be able to fish out from the river of life an enormous level of wisdom that would allow one to recognize then that the *dusty sandalled feet* of Jesus were actually the Beautiful feet that brought the Good News (Romans: 10:15; Isaiah 52:7). Such wisdom was by then and until now, remains largely hidden from the majority of the christian populace, thereby making this woman's act of anointing the LORD's feet, such a symbol of historic levels in the church. This woman at Bethany knew that the LORD Jesus had come a long way across the earth, bringing *The Message* of peace and reconciliation between man and God.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

The *fear* with which this woman at Bethany treasured the LORD's *sandalled dusty feet*, stands out in *stark contrast* to the *pride* that today's church has approached Jesus. It is common knowledge world over that women treasure their hair as a critical asset of their being. In certain circles they have even sold their hair upon death in an act that is meant to attach

boundless value to their hair. It is as though such women are saying that the value of their hair transcends the dispensation of their flesh. But for the woman at Bethany to have poured that costly perfume of *pure nard* on the LORD's *dusty sandalled feet*, and then use her hair to wipe the dust off the LORD's feet, she must most definitely have realized that she was right before the KING. Out of all this, the message to the present-day church though, is that it will take the *brokenness* and *humbleness* of this blessed woman at Bethany for the christians to receive

favour from God Almighty, the Father of Christ Jesus. This blessed woman broke down at the feet of the LORD, wiping them with her hair, the *pure nard* and tears. Moreover, she did all this in the public and against such a background of extreme hostility from both the disciples and others. Has the church of Christ ever broken down at the feet of Jesus, recognizing them as the *beautiful glorious feet* that brought the Good News? This becomes the lesson to learn from this otherwise castigated and despised woman at Bethany.

Fragrance of Pure Nard

SEPARATING CHURCH FROM THE WORLD

The ancient Hebrew setting had a very dominant culture that occasionally swallowed up the practices of the neighbouring communities. In their culture is embedded a very strong message on how the church today ought to prepare for the glorious *rapture*. The tradition in the Near-East had it that a father and mother always rewarded good conduct in their sons and daughters. The daughters however were always taught from a tender age to begin accumulating their own reservoirs of costly perfume of *pure nard*. That implied that any gift that was advanced to the daughters, be it for good conduct or birthday celebration, or *Jewish barmitzvah*, was accumulated over time and eventually used to buy the precious perfume of *pure nard*. This accumulation of *pure nard* always took place in a beautiful tall-necked flask called the *alabaster jar*. And as the little daughter continued consistently to accumulate *pure nard*, she always did so as a preparation for the day of her wedding, a day whose year, month, date, and hour, no one knew. It is estimated that from the point when the little girl begins to accumulate her first drops of this precious *pure nard*, till the *alabaster jar* filled, it took anywhere between 6-20 years. Moreover, the *pure nard* could only be bought about

once or at most twice a year, when the merchants from Lebanon and Assyria passed by, ringing their characteristic bells. *Pure nard* was hard to come by and most expensive, because it had to be produced from a virgin field of a wild *nard* plant that no person had ever touched. At approximately 18 years plus of age, it was estimated that the *alabaster jar* would be full of *pure nard* in preparation for the wedding. A full flask of *alabaster jar* containing *pure nard*, had to be sealed in order to preserve the pure and precious *nard* fragrance within the jar. On the day of her wedding, the bride would then surprise the bridegroom at some point during the occasion, by pulling out a complete sealed flask of *pure nard*. This, she would use to anoint him by breaking the tall beautiful neck of the *alabaster* flask, then releasing the pure expensive *nard* over him through the action of crushing the *alabaster*. What is most symbolic of this act is the fact that the costly content of this *alabaster* flask always represented the life-long savings of the little girl from when she was tender, till becoming a mature bride. It is like her entire life resided inside this *alabaster jar*. This in other words was the complete worth of her total life's treasure. And to break it and crush it on the day of her wedding it greatly symbolized the fact that she had

poured her entire life unto her groom, hence being left with nothing at all of her own. She literally gave in her entire life thereby seeking to be completely taken care of by the groom, from that day henceforth. Accordingly, she virtually had nothing else of her own in the world, left behind to back look to. It meant going completely forward with no looking back.

At the time when the blessed woman at Bethany broke the *alabaster jar* and poured the greatest savings of her life, little did people know that she gave the greatest illustrated sermon to the present-day church. This woman practically demonstrated the act of

salvation in Christ Jesus. In this way, she clearly expressed what it means to give one's life to Jesus, without looking back at the sinful world from which the LORD has picked one. It also, in this sermon, entails shattering every earthly blessing that one may have ever run into, right at the feet of Jesus in such a way that one would be left with nothing else to turn to except moving forward with Jesus. This unfortunately, becomes the point of departure from which the present-day church missed it. Today's christians appear to receive Jesus conditionally. They receive Jesus only on condition that there would be a *status quo* regarding worldly and

earthly status. No one ever gives their lives totally anymore to Jesus, because being born again has today shifted from a total life-long commitment unto the LORD, into a mere fashionable club-like membership in which there is only a part commitment. The blessed woman at Bethany taught the true meaning of giving our lives to Jesus, even when the public opposition rages on. Only such salvation like she demonstrated, is capable of laying a solid foundation of total commitment to walking with Jesus through the *thick* and *thin* of this world. To prepare for the *rapture* of the church will require such eternal commitment to the LORD Jesus, from

the christians. If the blessed woman at Bethany's standard were anything to go by, then one would summarily say with absolute certainty, that only a handful can proclaim the salvation of the LORD in this current dispensation.

How about the life-long preparation that the little Hebrew girl puts in to cumulatively collect, drop by drop, the full flask of the *alabaster jar* of *pure nard*? What lesson does it teach the present-church on *rapture*? It is absolutely incredible that the little Hebrew girl, from the moment she begins to be of reasonable perception, she seems to right away begin to prepare for the day of her wedding. In

every little effort, slowly but surely, she seems to envision that mighty day of her wedding. This becomes a serious wake-up call to today's church on the need to be fully pre-occupied and engaged in preparing for the day of *rapture*. The day of *rapture* is the most important day in the calendar of the church thereby warranting such a total commitment of effort. In such manner, truly the events that took place at Bethany left a life-long mark on what it takes for the church to be revived and refocused unto the LORD Jesus.

Crushing the Alabaster Jar

What every christian must know/

By Dr. Owuor

The gesture of anointing the LORD Jesus with the *alabaster jar* at Bethany is a mighty act that today's church can greatly borrow from. Perceiving just how significant this event was, would most definitely require that the church understand the connate nature that underlies the *alabaster*. The *alabaster jar* was a long-necked, beautiful ancient Hebrew flask. This flask was highly regarded in the Jewish society owing to noble use during important ceremonial events. Many times in an ancient Hebrew home, the removal of this flask signalled a historic occasion in which a highly honourable guest was present. Beyond this, is the underlying spiritual treasure around the *alabaster jar* that was used to anoint the LORD Jesus at Bethany. When that blessed woman appeared at *Simon the leper's* house, with an *alabaster jar* to anoint Jesus, it is noteworthy that the first thing she did was break the long beautiful neck of the *alabaster jar*. In the design of the *alabaster jar*, the longer the neck, the more greatly treasured and costly the flask became. This, the designers greatly capitalized on, because the content of that noble jar was meant to come in little drops as they saturated the air. It is that very long neck that the woman at Bethany broke as she began to anoint the LORD Jesus. However, in the utility of the *alabaster jar* for purposes of anointing a noble guest, the final stages of the anointing process would normally require the total crushing of the jar in order to exhaust every little drop of precious nard. And that is exactly what this blessed woman did when anointing our LORD Jesus.

Without carefully examining the scriptural context of what that woman did at *Simon the leper's* house, it would be very easy to miss out on what the Holy Spirit *setout* to convey to the present-day church. The long neck that adorns the *alabaster jar*, among other things, symbolizes the beauty and *pride* of man. This kind of *pride* and boastfulness has for a long time been a characteristic feature of man's life on earth, and across the centuries. At times it has been referred to as stiff-neckedness or long-neckedness, implying one that walks away in *disobedience*, refusing to turn back even as he is being called. In the spiritual sense, this refers to an obstinate stance in which mankind refuses to *repent* and turn back to the LORD. Such a rebellion has surely become a main feature of christian walk today. This makes the snapping of the long beautiful neck of the *alabaster jar* symbolic of the breaking of man's pride. It is absolutely obvious that not until the *pride* of mankind is broken, can *humbleness* take charge as *brokenness* becomes a predominant countenance. But, for *brokenness* to bring forth a genuine *repentance* in the life of the church, she first must get *crushed* in her heart. Only a *crushed* heart can yield true *repentance* since *humbleness* begins to overtake self. That is the lesson the blessed woman at Bethany was relaying to the church of today. Moreso, considering that not until she broke the long neck of the *alabaster jar*, no fragrance was able to come out of the flask. This implicitly points directly to where the problem lies in the current worship

that pervades today's church. By this the Holy Spirit was telling the present day church that only until she breaks the *pride* that presently adorns her, will true holy worship come from her life. It is true that most christians today have not *broken* the worldly *pride* which they came to Christ with. It surely will take the purifying action of the Holy Spirit to break this current *pride* in today's church, because it, as a matter of fact, impedes worship. Stunningly, as the blessed woman at Bethany continue to anoint the LORD Jesus, she gradually transitioned into *crushing* the *alabaster jar* to completely exhaust the precious content that it carried. What became particularly most bewildering, is the fact that, the more this woman *crushed* the *alabaster jar*, the stronger the aroma of the sweet *fragrance* that was emitted. It was at that time that the entire room became heavily saturated of sweet *fragrance* of the *pure nard*. Being very well aware of how *pure nard* settles in the *alabaster jar*, it then becomes easier to understand why the *crushing* action strengthened the sweet aroma of the *fragrance* exuded at this dinner. The most powerful precipitates of *pure nard* normally settle at the bottom as very precious concentrates of the perfume. Only the *crushing* of the jar would be able to release them as they slowly flowed out of this noble *vessel*. Like it is with the *alabaster jar* at Bethany, so it is in the spiritual with the present-day church of Christ. The Holy Spirit is using this to tell today's church that much as breaking her current *pride* is a necessity, it is not sufficient to bring true worship to Jehovah God. In this way, the LORD is

telling the church that it will take the total *crushing* of herself to release the sweetest aroma of the *fragrance* with which she was created for worship. Our LORD Jesus, already went ahead of the church and demonstrated this on the Cross at Calvary. Throughout his ministry and life on the earth, Jesus never had even the smallest bit of pride, but much as this was necessary in his mission to save mankind, it was not sufficient to accomplish the task. It had to take an extra dimension of the actual *crushing* of the flesh (self) on the cross for the mighty sweet aroma of the *fragrance* of worship to be exuded from his life directly into the throneroom of God in heaven. No wonder the Word has it that, much as he was *crushed* on the Cross for our iniquities, it was the Father's will that he be *crushed* (Isaiah 53:5; Isaiah 56:10). Jesus on the Cross was *crushed* beyond human recognition. Many became appalled at him because his appearance was disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness (Isaiah 52:13). Jesus was *crushed* on that Calvary Cross to the extent that he lost the self. Only in this way could his life emit forth such a mighty *fragrance* of worship that completely saturated the throneroom of God the Father in heaven. Upon receiving this powerful *fragrance* that saturated his throneroom, God the Father was then able to forgive the sins of all mankind. In this way, the sin of the world was atoned for.

That means that when the blessed woman at Bethany *crushed* the *alabaster jar* and let the complete saturation of the entire room with

a sweet *fragrance*, it was a very prophetic act she performed. In this way, she foretold of how Jesus was about to go to the Cross, get totally *crushed* beyond human likeness, and hence emit forth such a mighty sweet *fragrance* of worship that would saturate the entire throneroom of God in heaven. Since Jesus, the teacher, came to earth to teach the church how to worship God the Father, then it is only fair to say that this is the worship he taught the church. In this worship, our LORD Jesus firmly asserted, with not even the slightest of ambiguity, that for the church to worship Jehovah God, she must pick up her Cross, break her *pride*, and consequently *crush* the flesh. The terms of reference for this lesson to the church comes straight from the conversation that Jesus had with Nicodemus, the professor of law. In that dialogue Jesus had made it clear to Nicodemus that unless the church gets born again, she cannot see the Kingdom of God. The LORD further said, that like gives birth to like, thence that which is born of the flesh gives birth to the flesh, while that which is born of the spirit will always give birth to the spirit (John 3:1-7). The LORD Jesus at this point presented such a tremendous lesson to the church on worship by affirming that only through the *crushing* of the flesh of self, can the church emit the spiritual *fragrance* of worship acceptable to the LORD God. That is the reason why when the LORD's disfigured body was being lowered from the Cross to give way to Sabbath, Nicodemus appeared again, but this time with Joseph at that Cross. It became the culmination of the

conversation Nicodemus had earlier on had with Jesus, because this time around he was privy to the *crushing* of the flesh and the birthing out of the spiritual (John 19:38-42). It is no coincidence at all, that at that moment Nicodemus brought with himself a mix of bitter myrrh and sweet smelling aloe that he wrapped on the crushed body of Christ the Messiah! The bitter myrrh is symbolic of the *purity* with which Jesus lived, a *purity* that brought great

bitterness into his life until he was bitterly *crushed* on the Cross. While the sweet smelling aloe figuratively represented the mighty sweet aroma of worship *fragrance* that the *crushed* body of Jesus on the Cross, brought unto our God in heaven. Surely, the blessed woman at Bethany was very busy *crushing* the *alabaster jar* on that blessed day, while tremendously pleading with the church of Christ to allow herself to be *crushed* on this

beautiful Cross. It is as though she was urging today's church not to despise this beautiful ancient Cross, because it leads into the kingdom of God. This Cross is the heart of the Gospel and the Blood shed on it is the mighty power of the Gospel. How then can today's church claim to forget this Cross when it actually is the only gateway ever given to sinful mankind, through which to reach the heart of God. How can they claim today that he is not present

among them when the beautiful rugged Cross has actually been abandoned for the flamboyant excesses of this world in the very house of the LORD! How can they claim that he did not show them the way to reach him! Wasn't the way to Calvary pretty obvious to all men? Didn't the bible talk so beautifully about old Calvary? Wasn't the truth revealed unto all men? The church at Bethany knew exactly how to touch the heart of the LORD God. *Broken* and

crushed, with lepers eating at the same table with Jesus, that church surely emulated the life of Christ. Today's church must therefore, get *broken* and crush the flesh that she so much adorns. That is the true gospel that our LORD Jesus brought to the earth.

The Alabaster Jar & Today's Pastors

Dr. Owuor

The Pastors of this present dispensation can borrow a lot from the church at Bethany. The blessed woman who anointed Jesus at Bethany, demonstrated the greatest act of what it takes to Pastor the church of Christ. When God calls his servants, it is a serious undertaking that is denoted in heaven for the purposes of serving Christ Jesus the Messiah. It is for that reason that the LORD desires to have all his servants anointed of the Holy Spirit in order to do the good works of God. The good works of the LORD are holy thereby requiring enormous help from the Holy Spirit in order to achieve pastoring.

When the blessed woman at Bethany broke the tall neck of the *alabaster jar* in order to anoint Jesus, she demonstrated the first step in the calling of a Pastor. While it is true that all mankind live in the original *pride* with which Adam fell, that *pride* can stand in the way of hearing from God. It is the reason why such *pride* must be broken at the onset of a pastoral calling in order that the Pastor may be *humble* enough to tend the sheep of his flock. The breaking of the tall beautiful neck of the *alabaster jar* becomes very synonymous with that moment at which Moses, the Servant of God, was sent by the LORD God to go anoint Aaron to be a Pastor of his sheep. Among the fine spices that the LORD instructed Moses to use in formulating the precious *sacred anointing oil*, was one plant called *calamus* (Exodus 30:22-33). *Calamus* is a plant that normally grows in ponds, lakes or water bodies and does thrive well there more or less like an aquatic plant. What is particularly astonishing with this spicy plant is that while all the other plants in the lake tend to grow horizontally following the direction of the water current, this particular plant called *calamus* does on the contrary grow vertically straight upwards.

Calamus does this in complete *defiance* to the forces of the water current both beneath and on the surface. Moses was instructed to take this particular plant called *calamus*, and process it in such a way that it would form the precious mix of the *sacred anointing oil*. However, to utilize *calamus*, one would have to break its tall neck (stem) and take away for use. It is this act of breaking the vertical column of *calamus*, that so much applies to the calling of the Pastors in the church of Christ. The water in the lake within which the *calamus* plant grows does as a matter of fact represent the Holy Spirit. That is the reason why the River of Life that flows from the throneroom of God in heaven, brings with himself a very strong current in whose direction all the christians are supposed to conform to (Ezekiel 47:1-6). A failure to conform to the direction charted by the Holy Spirit essentially implies being an *intractable* christian. Moreover, while all christian life is intended to flow in the direction of the current of the Holy Spirit, a failure to comply would actually mean exalting oneself over and above Christ Jesus. This is because the Holy Spirit comes as a River whose water currents are meant to direct all persons to worship and exalt Jesus. However, self exaltation that is synonymous with defiant *calamus*, is exactly what constitutes the mountains and hills that the LORD promised would have to be levelled in order *prepare the way* for Christ Jesus the Lamb of God (Isaiah 40:1-5). It makes the failure of *calamus* plant to comply and grow horizontally leafy in the direction of the water current of its habitat, an act of *disobedience* and *pride*. What is even most interesting to the Pastors of today's church of Christ, is the fact that in order to be of utility to Moses, this *calamus* plant had to first be *broken*. It is this breaking of the vertical stem of

the *calamus* plant that symbolizes the most important first step in the calling of the Pastor. In this step, the anointing of the Holy Spirit will normally have to break down the vertical *pride* of the world with which the person who is being called to serve had lived. The *pride* of man was inherited from Adam hence must be broken down for Jesus to have his way in the hearts of man. Furthermore, it becomes very intriguing to realize that while all the other plants that grow in the direction of the current in the lake tend to be very leafy and succulent, and healthy by growing to great stretches, with many roots along their lengths; while *calamus* on the other hand tends to be a dry surviving and resistant plant in the water. *Calamus* is a very shrivelled and withered plant within the background of very leafy and healthy water plants. This greatly explains about the poor spiritual health that today's church has, because much as she lives in the lake of the Holy Spirit, she has refused to conform to the requirements of the Spirit of the LORD. The initial anointing of the Holy Spirit was already released at Pentecost thereby making all christians live in his environment. The only way the church can thrive in her spiritual life is when she taps on the waters of life and flows in the direction of the life-giving Spirit of the LORD, that comes from God's throneroom. The caveat however, is that breaking the vertical step of the *calamus* plant can already allow one to sense a sweet smell from this resistant plant. But to be of utility in the *sacred anointing oil*, the *calamus* plant had to be *crushed*. The more this plant is *crushed*, the more *fragrance* it emits, and hence becoming greater and greater in sweet aroma as it turns into a fine powder. And yet, only the powder form of this plant can dissolve within the mix of the hin of *olive oil*, *cinnamon* and *liquid myrrh* to form the *sacred anointing oil*.

This becomes a very big lesson for the Pastors to borrow from. The Holy Spirit is saying that first and foremost the *pride* of the church leadership today must be *broken* for them to release even the slightest of a *fragrance* of worship unto the LORD. Furthermore, this breaking of *pride* though being a necessary step in Pastoring, is not sufficient enough for the Pastor to be of utility unto the LORD. But it is the complete *crushing* of the Pastor that will finally exude an enormous *fragrance* of worship unto our LORD, even as the Pastor now *humbles* himself to fit homogeneously with all the other servants in the house of the LORD. The other servants in the house include the apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers. The *crushing* portrayed here by Moses when he was sent to anoint Aaron to be a Pastor in the house of the LORD, represents the total *crucifixion of the flesh*. That is the reason the breaking of the *pride* alone is not sufficient, while the flesh still lives on. A continued sustenance of the *flesh* can only mean that the *pride* will resurface unabated. But the total *crushing* of the *flesh* on the Cross is what is capable of totally killing the self and renders the Pastor totally available to the will of the Holy Spirit. The *flesh* and the Spirit are always in a constant antagonism in which whichever of the two wins the conflict, is the one that will dominate man (Galatians 5:16-18). The LORD Jesus already demonstrated what it takes to be a priest of the new covenant of the LORD, when he went to the Cross and completely *crushed* the *flesh*. This was done at the garden of Gethsemane when he said, "The flesh is weak but the Spirit is willing" and then finally allowing the Holy Spirit to lead him straight onto the Cross at Calvary, to *crucify* the *flesh* (Mark 14:38). By crying to the Father that the Fathers Will may be done, Jesus demonstrated the greatest lesson on being a Pastor of the LORD's sheep. That implies that for one to be a Pastor they have to totally submit to Will of God the Father in the Holy Spirit. Such impeccable submission can only come about after the complete *crushing* of the *flesh* of the Pastors. This is why when the blessed woman at Bethany *crushed* the *alabaster jar*, to exude forth the most concentrated of *pure nard* precipitates, she literary taught the Pastors of the

LORD's sheep. In this conversation, she clearly articulated that only by being *crushed*, can the anointing of the Holy Spirit flow through the Pastors as *vessels* of God. The more the *alabaster vessel* was *crushed* and re-*crushed*, the greater the sweet *fragrance* it exuded to saturate the room and it pleased to the Lord. Today's church however, does not seem to have been *crushed* by the Holy Spirit. This is because the *crushing* by the Holy Spirit would normally bring with it *humility* of heart and a very contrite Spirit, both of which are lacking in today's church. Moreover, a *crushed vessel* normally yields to the Will of the Holy Spirit by displaying an unmatched *submissiveness*. Considering that the blessed woman that anointed the LORD at Bethany literally wiped his *sandalled dusty feet* using her hair and tears, then it goes without saying that a Pastor of the LORD's sheep who has been *crushed* will receive enormous *wisdom* of this woman's magnitude. Such *wisdom* as coming from God inbuilds the rejection of self and the *fear* of the LORD into the life of the Pastor as he tends the LORD's sheep. This is exactly what is lacking in the present-day church, where *pride* and *arrogance* have become the marks of a Pastor, Bishop, so-called Apostles, and false prophets or anyone aspiring to these offices. The five *wise* virgins that the LORD gave in the parable of the *rapture* of the church, wielded *WISDOM* in their christian walk, because they walked in the *fear* of the LORD (Job 28:28; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10). Only the *flesh* of man can deter the works of the Holy Spirit in the priesthood of the LORD. Such cases have been clearly elaborated in the written Word even as the LORD rebuked Eli with his sons, by asking them; "Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honour your sons more than me by *FATTENING* yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?" (1 Samuel 2:29). It is as though God was directly hinting on the fact that *fattening* had become *synonymous* with *Pastoring*. One wonders as to whether this phenomenon has successfully replicated itself in the lives of today's Pastors or what!! In the same tone, the God of Israel in his greatest anger over

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the flesh of man, severely rebuked *Jeshurun* by saying; Jeshurun grew **FAT** and **KICKED**; **FILLED WITH FOOD**, he became **HEAVY** and **SLEEK**. He **ABANDONED** the God who made him and **REJECTED** the Rock his Saviour (Deut 32:15). It is very fearful to even envisage that after such bitter sentiments from Jehovah God, a Pastor

would even dare to contemplate growing **FAT**. At Eli's time God comes out clearly to display the eternal truth that a life of *obesity*, without *fasting*, literally caused the fall of the Eli's priesthood. It led to Eli failing in his vision, and to hear God, as he could not being recognize the voice of God when

the LORD called Samuel. It took three calls for Eli to wake up to the fact that God had jumped him. It is this **FATTENING** that Eli got involved in that must have led to his lying in the same usual place, in the outer court. At that very time Samuel was right inside the inner court and next to the **HOLY ARK**

OF THE COVENANT. As well put by the blessed woman at Bethany, surely, the flesh of man must be *crushed* before the Pastors of today can rightfully serve Jehovah God in absolute *holiness*. And then come Jeshurun, Jehovah God presents Jeshurun's condition as not only pathetic but

also spiritually very depressing. That one may go over-board, **FATTENING** themselves, and becoming sleek and full of food at the expense of worshipping the Rock their Saviour, is a phenomenon that can only be found in today's church of Christ .

Alabaster Jar & Highway of Holiness

By Dr. Owuor

The gravity of the spiritual events that took place at Bethany when Jesus was anointed at dinner, leave no choice but to emphasize to the present-day church to *hie* as fast as she can to a spiritual location of humbleness called Bethany. The anointing of the LORD's *dusty sandalled feet* becomes a very critical aspect that the blessed woman at Bethany teaches the *piacular* Pastors of this present-day church of Christ. First and foremost she recognized that Jesus was the **MESSENGER OF PEACE** whose *dusty sandalled feet* had brought the good news. Secondly, she demonstrated the biggest commission that Jesus ever laid before the Pastors of today's church. The most important *hest* that Jesus ever gave in his instruction to the Pastors of his sheep, when he washed the feet of his disciples, is that in whatever they would do, they should build forth disciples and send them along the *highway of holiness* (Isaiah 35:8-10). Because it is only on this *highway of holiness* that those who have been discipled, can harvest the perishing souls of this dark world. In other words, Jesus was instructing the Pastors of today to build disciples and send them on this dusty road for the latter harvest across the ends of the earth. Moreover, the fruit of the harvest of the *fruited* holy disciples that are sent, would be easily readable from their *dusty sandalled feet*. But, the LORD further asserts to the Pastors of today that the greatest act of leadership would be service in the washing of the *dusty sandalled feet* of disciples. That is why, like did the most blessed woman at Bethany wash the LORD's *dusty sandalled feet*, so did

the LORD wash the *dusty sandalled feet* of his disciples, in a mighty symbolic act of what it means to be a Pastor:

After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him (John 13:5).

Many Pastors today are quite *heretical* hence walking with *shiny well-polished* shoes, in a state of complete defiance and ignorance on the greatest treasure of being a shepherd. The *dusty sandalled feet* is a very crucial spiritual phenomenon that greatly speaks of the ability of the Pastor to walk the *beaten paths of holiness* in pursuit of the Lord's sheep. This makes the Pastor more of a gatherer, collecting them unto the LORD, while healing and binding up the wounded (Ezekiel 34:1-24). At that time in Bethany, it was common practice for messengers to walk long distances a n d

hence their feet would hurt upon arrival.

As *piddling* as her work may have seemed in the world, this blessed woman a t Bethany was cognizant of the fact that the LORD Jesus had come a long way and that the mission was now coming to completion, therefore his feet required *embrocation* and *healing*. Then, oil was used as a healing ointment that would soothe the feet and the bruises of the buckles from the sandals. Here, Jesus was ministered to. This is the

holy message that the blessed woman at Bethany was used for in order to bring forth such a mighty illustrated sermon unto the Pastors of today. The illustration here being that before one can pride themselves of being a Pastor, they should first learn the act of healing and comforting their disciples upon return. If these disciples being comforted can go forth and replicate the same act, then how much more mightier would the *humble* testimony of the **JESUS OF NAZARETH** be across the four corners of the earth today? Only in this way can today's church of Christ bring forth a bountiful harvest into the barns of the LORD. Moreover, there is such a notion as spiritual fatherhood, because Jesus is our Everlasting Father. In developing disciples, one is expected to wear the character of Christ Jesus in order that their disciples may emulate the Messiah himself. Unfortunately, today the church of Christ has seen spiritual fathers b e e n

who have caught up either i n

m e g a sexual sin scandals or scandals in the handling of church finances. It becomes quite baffling as one wonders how much more corrupt and *pietic* then will their disciples be. Part of discipling involves developing a strict standard of *holiness*, a standard that can only be achieved when one directs their disciples strictly into the *highway of holiness*. It is true that today there are so many dangers in the world especially relating to serving the LORD. But the only way that they can be sure that their disciples

are safe is when they are led strictly and exclusively through this spiritual *highway of holiness*. In this *highway of holiness*, their testimonies become unshakable in the righteousness of the LORD thereby causing no devil to ever dare to challenge the testimony of their Word and the Blood. Where the world has reached today, there are so many fake *pietic* Pastors out there that it calls for a strict adherence to the *highway of holiness* if one is to inflict a huge impact and do massive exploits against the kingdom of darkness.

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away (Isaiah 35:8-10).

God is today seeking devoted and stanch Pastors who can remove the **SCATTERED SHEEP** from the dry mountain slopes at which they have starved, and been heavily devoured. Jehovah is **PLEADING** with the Pastors of today to return the sheep back into the *highway of holiness* that Jesus pointed the church towards. Only in that highway will there be no ferocious beasts like **HIV/AIDS**, bitter divorces, hepatitis, broken-heartedness, drug addictions, abortions, prostitution, witchcraft, lies, homosexuality, lesbianism, etc. The Anglican Church too must return to this *highway of holiness*, in order to get a little breathing space from the ugly head that homosexuality has raised, literally threatening them with a historic *schism*. These are the spiritual beasts that prowl the world in which the church has been living till today. But the moment she will make up her mind and decide to rear back into this *highway of holiness*, no beast whatsoever will ever devour her again because only the **LION OF**

THE TRIBE OF JUDAH walks that *highway* as he protects his own. Some Pastors have even disgracefully shut down their churches because they did not follow, with their sheep, this noble *highway of holiness*. At *rapture* the LORD will strictly take those Christians who spot *dusty sandalled feet* because only these are the mature ones that have not only *eaten the Word*, but gone ahead to live it, and also *evangelize* it, thereby winning souls for the Messiah. Those saints whose feet will be *dusty sandalled* are the ones that will receive the greatest prizes before the judgment seat of Christ because they will shine like stars forever and ever (Daniel 12:2-3). This is a wake-up call, not only to the Pastors but also to the sheep of Christ, because the LORD promises not only to judge the Pastors that have scattered the sheep of his flock, but also to judge the sheep who have over-eaten and trampled over the pastures (Ezekiel 34:1-24; Jeremiah 23:1-4; Isaiah 56:9-12).

All articles authored by Dr. Owuor in this newspaper are available in their **ORIGINAL** form in the *Repentance* and *Holiness Magazine* Volumes 2 and 3. Pastors are highly encouraged to access these manuscripts in their **ORIGINAL** forms in the ministry magazine. The original unedited form of all these messages are also available in audio tapes, CDs, MP3s, and also in DVD and VHS formats. All Pastors are encouraged to order for their free copies from their ministry offices. Messages will be availed strictly on first-call-first served basis.

If you want to receive the LORD today;

Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins, come into my heart and be my Lord and Saviour. Please write my name in the Lamb's Book of Life. And send me the Holy Spirit to teach me to walk in Holiness In the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ I pray, Amen.

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