

HOW GOD WANTS TO SEE HIS PEOPLE?

An Example from the Church of Ephesus



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REVELATION SERVICES

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the Almighty God who inspires, reveals, guides and takes care of me throughout my journey.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Ephesus played a vital role in the spread of Christianity. In *the New Testament*, the Church of Ephesus is mentioned more than any other churches of the 1st century [among the first churches established]. It got a maximum input and guidance from the apostles and God Himself.

Apostle John, Paul, Mary the mother of Yeshua [Jesus], Mary Magdalena, Timothy and many others had the ministerial stay in Ephesus. In addition, time to time apostle John, Paul and Peter had written the guidance letter to the Ephesians to remain in faith.

They were taught the strong doctrine about Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ], real spiritual life [reception of the Holy Spirit], moral practices of righteousness, social life [love of brethren]. These were the fundamental teaching provided to Church of Ephesus as well as other churches of the first century.

If we read the Bible, we find that following have declared and affirmed that Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] is the Son of Man, Son of David, King of Jews, Son of God, Lord & God:

- Angels, prophets, and disciples
- Magi [Wise Men] from the East, All Chief Priests & Scribes of Jerusalem, King Herod, Demon [Devil / Satan] Centurion, Blind people and Robbers
- Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] by Himself
- God

Then also we don't believe [trust] on Him and ask for the proof. How foolish we are? God has made available to us in Messiah [Christ] and the Spirit, in Scripture and the church, all the resources needed to live the life of faith.

By His life Messiah [Christ] exemplified the walk to which we are called; by His death, He made possible renewed fellowship with the Father; by His resurrection, He revealed the power that is available to us.

The Holy Spirit now enables us as God's children to live in obedience to Scripture and grow in spiritual maturity. Scripture provides the teaching and example of Yeshua [Jesus] and the apostles which we are to follow as a loving response to God and as a means of glorifying Him.

The church is the gathered community which nurtures believers in the life of faith. Using these resources, we can demonstrate the new birth through new behaviour. What we are by faith in Messiah [Christ] we are to become by faithfulness to our Lord.

What could be more encouraging than what the LORD has just said? In faithfulness, He has proclaimed what He is going to do; He has given us warning. He has given us the blood of His Son, He has given us His Holy Spirit.

He has made His truths more clear and vivid, giving us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts that desire to obey Him because we love Him and want to spend eternity in His righteous kingdom. What could be more filled with His love and grace than this?

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1.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT



Ephesus [in modern day, Turkey] was not the official capital of the province, Pergamum was, but Ephesus was the greatest city. It was a port city and a commercial center. The trade routes from the east and the south all terminated there at Ephesus. So, it was a wealthy city; it was a materialistic place.

It was also a center of pagan worship. The cult of Artemis, or Diana, was there. Diana was the goddess of the chastity, hunting, wild animals, forests, childbirth, fertility, and among the Greeks that was perhaps relatively innocuous, but among the Ephesians, which was not only a Greek but an Asian city - a kind of amalgamation of both - the goddess took on more of the Asian qualities of religion, and it became a very sensual, hedonistic religion of Artemis.

The temple of the goddess was a very large temple. In fact, it was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world of that time. So, the city of Ephesus stood in the shadow of this great temple, and it was under the spell of paganism and the occult. The so-called Ephesian letters, which circulated throughout the ancient world, were charms that were widely believed to heal sickness and bring luck.

Moreover, Ephesus was a center of emperor worship. The penalty could be harsh for not honoring Domitian as lord and god, and these people were required to go to the temple and take a pinch of incense and offer it on the altar, and confess that Domitian, this Roman emperor, was lord and god of the earth.

Ephesus was also a hotbed of early Christian evangelism [Messianic Community] and remains an important archaeological site and Christian pilgrimage destination. It is mentioned multiple times in the New Testament, which is more than any other churches of that era.

It is mentioned in the Acts of Apostles [Chapters 18 & 19], Epistles of Apostle Paul [Letters to Ephesians, 1st & 2nd Timothy] and Epistles of Apostle Peter [1st Letter to churches of Asia Minor as well as 2nd Letter to all churches]; Epistles of Apostle John [1st, 2nd & 3rd Letters], Gospel of John as well as The Book of Revelation [special message to church of Ephesus is given in Chapter 2] were written and recorded from Ephesus.

Therefore, it is an ideal church to know about the DESIRE and WILL of God, which He wants to see among the true Christians.

1.1 Ephesus between 129 BC to 262 AD

In 129 BC, King Attalos of Pergamon left Ephesus to the Roman Empire in his will and the city became the seat of the regional Roman governor. During the reign of Tiberius, Ephesus flourished as a port city.

A business district was opened around 43 BC to service the massive amounts of goods arriving or departing from the man-made harbor and from caravans traveling the ancient Royal Road. The reforms of Caesar Augustus brought Ephesus to its most prosperous time, which lasted until the third century AD.

Caesar Augustus was the first Roman emperor, reigning from 27 BC until his death in 14 AD. His status as the founder of the Roman Principate has consolidated an enduring legacy as one of the most effective and controversial leaders in human history. According to some sources, Ephesus was at the time second only to Rome as a cosmopolitan center of culture and commerce.

Ephesus played a vital role in the spread of Christianity. Starting in the first century AD, notable Christians such as Apostle John and Apostle Paul visited and rebuked the cults of Artemis, winning many Christian converts in the process. Mary, the mother of Yeshua the Messiah and Mary Magdalene spent their last years in Ephesus with Apostle John. The house and their tombs can be visited there today.

However, the Bible reveals that not every Ephesian was open to Paul's Christian message. The Chapter 19 in *the Acts of Apostles* tells of a riot started by a man named Demetrius. Demetrius made silver coins featuring the likeness of Artemis.

Tired of Paul's attacks on the goddess the city worshipped, and Demetrius worried that the spread of Christianity would ruin his trade, he plotted a riot and enticed a large crowd to turn against Paul and his disciples.

Ephesian officials, however, protected Paul and his followers and eventually Christianity became the city's official religion and church flourished. Initially, there was the practices of the Nicolaitans, a very early heretical group that had mixed Christian faith with pagan eroticism.

In 262 AD, the Goths destroyed Ephesus, including the Temple of Artemis. Some restoration of the city took place, but it never regained its splendor. Emperor Theodosius erased all traces of Artemis during his reign.

He banned freedom of worship, closed the schools and temples and forbade women many of the rights they'd enjoyed before. The Temple of Artemis was destroyed, its ruins used to build Christian churches.

1.2 How the Church Ministry started in Asia Minor?

The presence and sharing of Gospel of Yeshua the Messiah by Apostle John and Apostle Paul was strong in Anatolia (the near-east, part of modern Turkey, the western part was called the Roman province of Asia). The authorship of the Johannine works traditionally and plausibly occurred in Ephesus.

The Book of Revelation, written by John in Patmos (a Greek island about 30 miles off the Anatolian coast), mentions Seven churches of Asia. Ephesus was one of the seven churches addressed in the Book of Revelation, indicating that the church at Ephesus was strong.

Although the church of Ephesus was established by Apostle John, but it was nourished by Apostle Paul [especially he dealt mostly with Gentiles and issues arose between Jewish & Gentiles believers], and other Gospel preachers and teachers. During AD 53-57 Apostle Paul lived in Ephesus [during his third ministry journey], working with the congregation and apparently organizing missionary

activity into the hinterlands and during 62-64 AD [from Rome] also wrote epistles to the church of Ephesus. Moreover, The First Epistle of Peter (1:1-2) is addressed to Anatolian regions.

The Acts of the Apostles indicates that there had been a Jewish community at Ephesus for over three hundred years [around 250-260 BC] and some of them were converted believers in Yeshua by the time when Paul the Apostle visited Ephesus [around 53 AD].

Ephesus was an important centre for Early Christianity from the AD 40s. Initially up to 48 AD Apostle John [during the period when Agrippa I (37-44AD) was suppressing the church of Jerusalem], then from AD 53-57 Apostle Paul lived in Ephesus [during his third ministry journey], working with the congregation and apparently organizing missionary activity into the hinterlands.

Initially, according to the Acts of the Apostles, Paul attended the Jewish synagogue in Ephesus, but after three months he became frustrated with the stubbornness or hardness of heart of some of the Jews, and moved his base to the school of Tyrannus (Acts 19:9).

Paul introduced about twelve men [Hellenized Jews and gentiles] to the 'baptism with the Holy Spirit' who had previously only experienced the baptism of John the Baptist (Acts 19:1-7).

Later a silversmith named Demetrios stirred up a mob against Paul, saying that he was endangering the livelihood of those making silver Artemis shrines (Acts 19:23-41). Demetrios in connexion with the temple of Artemis mentions some object (perhaps an image or a stone) "fallen from Zeus".

On the southeast shore of the Black Sea, Pontus was a Greek colony mentioned three times in the New Testament. Inhabitants of Pontus were some of the very first converts to Christianity. Pliny, governor in 110 AD, in his letters, addressed Christians in Pontus.

Of the extant letters of Ignatius of Antioch [Pisidian] considered authentic, five of seven are to Anatolian cities, the sixth is to Polycarp. Smyrna was home to Polycarp, the bishop who reportedly knew the Apostle John personally, and probably also to his student Irenaeus.

Papias of Hierapolis is also believed to have been a student of John the Apostle. In the 2nd century, Anatolia was home to Quartodecimanism, Montanism, Marcion of Sinope, and Melito of Sardis who recorded an early Christian Biblical canon.

After the Crisis of the Third Century, Nicomedia became the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire in 286. The Synod of Ancyra was held in 314. In 325 the emperor Constantine convoked the first Christian ecumenical council in Nicaea and in 330 moved the capital of the reunified empire to Byzantium (also an early Christian center and just across the Bosphorus from Anatolia, later called Constantinople), referred to as the Byzantine Empire, which lasted till 1453. The First seven Ecumenical Councils were held either in Western Anatolia or across the Bosphorus in Constantinople.

Ephesus associated with the life of several saints of that era [of 1st & 2nd century AD], such as the Philip the Evangelist, brother of the Apostle Barnabas, Hermione, Aristobulus, Paul of Thebes, Adautus and his daughter, Callisthene. It is also thought that Mary Magdalene also lived there. Moreover, according to Eusebius of Caesarea, the first bishop of Ephesus was Apostle Timothy, student of the Apostle Paul.

Until the 4th century AD, Christianity and Paganism co-existed in the city, but Christianity became the dominant religion in Ephesus in the course of time. This is mainly evident from the conversion of religious monuments, the increased use of Christian symbols, as well as the destruction of various pagan places of worship.

2.0 GUIDANCE FROM GOD AND APOSTLES



2.1 Ministerial Stay and letters from Apostle John [42-48, 64-100AD]

2.1.1 Ministerial Stay

The Acts of the Apostles relate how after the death of Christ, his followers were persecuted in Jerusalem. St. Stephen was stoned in around 35 AD, Apostle James [brother of Apostle John] was beheaded in 42 AD. And any further relate how they divided the world between them for preaching the Gospel, and Apostle John was given Asia Minor.

At his crucifixion Yeshua asked his beloved disciple, John, to look after his mother [John 19:26-27]. Apostle John was the brother of the apostle James; he was also the son of Zebedee [(a fisherman of Capernaum, Galilee and friend of Joseph (husband of Mary, the mother of Yeshua) *The Urantia Book* 129: 1.2]. His mother's name was Salome who is believed to be a sister of Mary, the mother of Yeshua.

According to *the Acts of Apostles*, John was a significant leader in the earliest church, but he drops out of the biblical record after Paul mentions him as a "pillar" of the Jerusalem church in Galatians 2.

While John was living in Ephesus, John had with him Mary, the mother of Yeshua for a few years and probably Mary Magdalena as well. Apostle John and Mary, the mother of Yeshua and probably also Mary Magdalena went to Ephesus between 42 and 48 AD and lived there. He established the first Christian community in Ephesus and went around Asia Minor with Apostle Peter, spread the Gospel of Yeshua, and founded several churches in Asia minor.

It is said that John owned a home in Jerusalem and that it is possible that the interview Nicodemus had with Yeshua was held there. Apostle John seems to have been present for the apostolic Council of Jerusalem (51 AD) described in Acts 15, since Paul mentions John explicitly along with Peter and James [brother of Jesus] the Just one of the "pillars of the church" there.

The apostle John rose to a position of influence within world-wide Christianity and shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD, he moved permanently to Ephesus. He was the preacher of the church in Ephesus and had a special relationship with other churches in the area [as we know from the letters to the Seven Churches in Asia, in the Book of Revelation (Chapter 2&3)].

In 64 -66 AD, after Apostle Paul was decapitated outside the city wall of Rome [Apostle Peter was also crucified upside down in the same year in Rome], Apostle John again became the leader of the Ephesians church community.

He was tried to be killed several times; once a glass of poisonous drink was given him but with a miracle poison came out in the form of a snake when Apostle John was ready to drink it. In other time, John was also sentenced to death in a boiling vat of oil in Rome. Yet he emerged unharmed from the experience.

Then, while in Ephesus, by order of the Roman Emperor Domitian, John was exiled to an island called Patmos. In what is known as the cave of the Apocalypse (located on this island), the sacred text of the book of Revelation was given to the apostle John by Yeshua, which was revealed by the Almighty God (Revelation 1:1; it is here that John recorded what is written in the New Testament book of Revelation.)

Domitian ordered his exile because he saw John as a threat to his rule. However, his popularity and influence in the Christian community continued through correspondence with all the churches.

When he was released from exile [around 95 AD], he returned to Ephesus and lived till the time of the Roman emperor Trajan. John's brother, James, was the first of the apostles to die; on the other hand, John was the last. All of the apostles met a violent death, however, John died peacefully in Ephesus (at an advanced age, around the year 100 AD.)

It is said that John founded and built churches throughout all Asia Minor, and worn out by old age, died in the sixty-eight year after our Lord's passion and was buried near the same city (Ephesus). When John was evidently an old man in Ephesus, he had to be carried to the church in the arms of his disciples.

At these meetings, he was accustomed to say no more than, "Little children, love one another!" After a time, the disciples wearied at always hearing the same words, asked, "Master, why do you always say this?" "It is the Lord's command," was his reply. "And if this alone be done, it is enough!"

2.1.2 Gospel and Epistles

Apostle John wrote 5 books in the New Testament. He wrote The Gospel According to John, First, Second and Third John, and he was the penman of the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. All of his books were written later in life and after all the other books in the Bible were recorded and had the central target audience of the believers of Ephesus. We don't know the exact time or order of the books having been written, but here are some possible dates:

The Gospel According to John [69-90 AD]

The purpose of the Gospel of John is **"to show that YESHUA is GOD forever on Earth and in Heaven, the great I AM, the image of the FATHER and HIS ETERNAL LOVE"**. The manifestations of this approach were done through: (i) YESHUA is the CREATOR of the WORLD, (ii) John the Baptist knew the LAMB before His Baptism, (iii) YESHUA is the LIGHT and LIFE eternal, (iv) Many disciples walk no more with YESHUA, and (v) YESHUA is in control of all from Beginning to End.

First, Second and Third Letters of John [85-100AD]

The Epistles of John were written to various audiences. They were all written between the period of 85-100AD when John was living in Ephesus. The first epistle was not addressed to anyone in particular group but was written more as a sermon for Little Children or New Believers [who know forgiveness & know fatherhood], Young Men [who have developed strong, digested scripture & defeated satan] and Fathers [who have length & depth of experience]. It was written for following reasons:

- They will be Satisfied [1 John 1.4] to promote Harmony [1 John 1:3]
- They will be Sinless [1 John 2.1] to produce Happiness [1 John 1.4]
- They will be Safe [1 John 2.26] to protect Holiness [1 John 2.1]
- They will be Sure [1 John 5.13] to prevent Heresy [1 John 2.26] & provide Hope [1 John 5.13]

The letter differentiated between Life & Death, Light & Darkness, Truth & Lie, Love & Hate, Righteousness & Lawlessness, Children of God & Children of Satan, Love of the Father & Love of the World. **However, the letter emphasised that "Either you are Children of God [The Word] or Children of Devil [The World]- no third option"**. If they are children of God [the Word], then:

- They must enjoy the Life, because God is Life [1 John 5:1-21].

- They must express Love, because God is Love [1 John 3:11-24; 4:1-21]
- They must embrace Light, because God is Light [1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-11]

However, if they are children of Devil [the World], then will have Lawlessness, Lust, Lies [1 John 2:15-29; 3:1-10]

Moreover, 1 John 3:9 says, “No one who has God as his Father keeps on sinning, because he has God as his Father” [i.e. Born of God & Abiding in Christ]; and 1 John 3:10 says, “Here is how one can distinguish clearly between God’s children and those of Adversary [Devil /Satan]: everyone who does not continue doing what is right is not from God. Likewise, anyone who fails to keep loving his brother is not from God”.

The second and third epistles were written to give emphasis on having both, **“Truth and Love” among the men and women**. They have the following common messages in both the letters:

- Love is Truth [2 John 1-3; 3 John 1]
- About following Truth [2 John 4; 3 John 2-4]
- About following Love [2 John 5-6; 3 John 5-8]
- Some Reject Truth [2 John 7-9] Some Refuse Love [3 John 9-10]
- Don’t invite them [2 John 10-11] Don’t imitate them [3 John 11-12]
- Our Joy [2 John 12-13] Your Peace [3 John 13-15]

2.2 Ministerial Visits and letter from Apostle Paul [53-64 AD]

Paul was probably 30 years old when he was converted on the way to Damascus miraculously [Acts 9:1-25]. Then he spread the Gospel of the Yeshua for about next 29 years from his conversion. However, initial 14 years he struggled a lot and spend his time in Arabia [3 years; Galatians 1:17], Damascus & Jerusalem [1 year with other Apostles; Galatians 1:18-19; Acts 9:26-30], Tarsus and surrounding region [8 years almost alone but some support from Barnabas; Galatians 2:1-10; Acts 9:30] and Antioch-Syria [2-3 years with Barnabas; Galatians 2:1-10].

In the remaining 13-14 years of his life, he rendered his services to spread the Gospel of Yeshua in the Ephesus [Acts 18:19-21]; and other churches. In Asia Minor Ephesus became the base for Christian evangelism and from here “... all residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord” (Acts 19:10; 26).

2.2.1 Ministerial Stay

The Book of Acts indicates that a community of believers in Yeshua was already in existence at Ephesus before Paul's first visit there (cf. "the brethren," Acts 18:27, in addition to Priscilla and Aquila). It was already established by Apostle John and Apostle Peter. However, the Holy Spirit reportedly did not permit Paul, on his second missionary journey to proclaim the Gospel in Asia, Mysia and Bithynia (Acts 16:6-7), that refers to John's previous missionary activity there.

The first Christian community in Ephesus was established by Apostle John and developed by Apostle Paul. Paul came into the city to fulfill the promise that he had given on his brief visit when returning from Corinth and stayed for about three and one half years [Acts 19; Acts 19:8 -10] and also wrote the letter 1 Corinthians from Ephesus in captivity (possibly from the 'Paul tower' near the harbour, where he was imprisoned for a short time).

Apostle Paul's third missionary journey brought him to Ephesus from the end of 53 - mid 57 AD, which is the longest recorded time he spent in any city. When Paul came to Ephesus,

first in the synagogues and then everywhere in the city, he preached the gospel and gained followers. Later the church of Ephesus became the head of the Seven Churches in western Asia Minor.

Apostle Paul had to struggle with magicians and soothsayers in Ephesus while struggling with state offices and pagans. In a short time, Ephesus became the third important city of Christianity after Jerusalem and Antioch [of Syria].

Christianity rapidly gained popularity in Ephesus and by the popularity of this new religion, the jeweller Demetrius and others who earned a living by selling and making silver statues of Mother Goddess Artemis, were quite distressed.

Demetrius and his colleagues provoked thousands of people and met with them in the Ephesus theatre and started shouting “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians.” Apostle Paul wanted to face the crowd, but disciples would not let him.

Finally, the city clerk announced that the courts were open for people who had a complaint and dispersed the crowd. After this event Apostle Paul left Ephesus and went to Macedonia.

It is seen that Ephesus had an important place in the lives of both apostles [Apostle John & Apostle Paul] but both of them were not in Ephesus at the same time. Initially, John and Paul led different communities in Ephesus.

Although the Apostle John resided in Ephesus for many years (and likely died there), it was Paul who started the church within it (see Acts 19). He first visited the city, for a brief period, during his second missionary journey. During his third missionary journey he resides in Ephesus for almost three and one half years.

2.2.2 Epistles

Between 53 and 57 AD Paul wrote the letter 1 Corinthians from Ephesus in captivity (possibly from the 'Paul tower' near the harbour, where he was imprisoned for a short time). Later, Paul wrote the Epistles to the Ephesians & Timothy while he was in prison in Rome (around 62-64 AD).

[1] The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

The Epistle of Paul to Ephesians was a general letter on christian life with an emphasis on having both dimensions, **“Inside Church” as well as “Outside Church”**... and must have both the dimensions in order.

The Chapters 1-3 explains the dimension of Inside Church [about His Purpose & Power-in Vertical Dimension]. It says about relationship to God [in Yeshua], salvation worked in, doctrine, what we are saved by, forgiveness, justification, our release, adoration, and divine sovereignty. **These Chapters give us the outline of worship doctrine.**

- **Praising [Ephesians 1:3-14]:** To sum up all things in Yeshua the Messiah for God's Purpose
- **Praying [Ephesians 1:15-17]:** To know the God's Purpose and Power
- **Preaching or Sermon [Ephesians 1:19-23; 2:1-22; 3:1-31]:** The God's Power and Purpose are revealed in- [1] Yeshua the Messiah raised up to reign (1:20-23); [2] Gentiles raised up to rejoin; [3] Paul raised up to reveal (3:1-13)
- **Praying [Ephesians 3:14-19]:** To know the God's Purpose and Power
- **Praising [Ephesians 3:20]:** To do exceedingly abundantly God's Power

The Chapters 4-6 explains the dimension of Outside Church [about Our Walk & Warfare-in Horizontal Dimension]. It says about relationship to others [in the Lord], salvation

worked out, duty, what we are saved for, holiness, sanctification, our response, application, and human responsibility. **These Chapters outline the response of post worship services in our daily lives.**

a. Our Walk in [Ephesians 4:1-32; 5:1-33; 6:1-9]:

- Humility
- Unity
- Maturity
- Integrity
- Charity
- Purity
- Docility [wives, children, slaves (employees)]
- Responsibility [husbands, parents, masters (employers)]

b. Our Warfare [Ephesians 6:10-20]:

- For Protection
- By / through Prayer

[2] The Letters of Paul to Timothy [1 Timothy & 2 Timothy]

These are apostolic letters because they don't direct the reader [Timothy] to go as a pastor or evangelist but as an apostolic delegate for a short period with specific purpose. The purpose was to address [resolve] the issues of the Messianic Community [Church] by focusing on their external responsibilities.

The whole thrust of the letters was to get the Messianic Community [Church] right in order for the world to be evangelised. The ultimate objective of the letters was to work on the principle of **"if the church is right, the world is going to be saved"**.

These letters can be studied in three ways:

a. Writer [Paul]: About Gospel & Salvation

(i) Pattern of his life

- Past changes
- Present circumstances
- Future prospects

(i) Purpose of his life

- Objective [Devine Indicative]- God as saviour and king [Immortal, Invisible, Living, etc.]; Yeshua as saviour and judge [Birth, death, resurrection, ascension, return]; Holy Spirit as gift & gifts [Gift experienced, gift exercised]
- Subjective [Human Imperative]- Experimental by past justification [Water baptism, Spirit baptism]; Ethical by present sanctification [Separated from evil, Set apart for good]; Eschatological by future glorification [Need for perseverance, Reward for perseverance]

b. Reader [Timothy]

(i) Timid Jew [Circumcised]

- Jewish mother and grandmother
- Godly background, taught scriptures in little child
- Gentile Father, Paul circumcised Timothy to go with Paul to preach/ teach gospel in synagogues.
- Born in Lystra
- Set a part of prophecy - three special assignments, sent to Thessalonica, Corinth & Philippi as Paul's delegate
- Collaborated in writing at least 6 letters of Paul- Thessalonian [2], Corinthians [2], Philippians [1] & Philemon [1]
- Has health problem, needed lot of moral support

- Closest to Paul- as Son
- (ii) Address [Ephesus]
 - Wrong elders
 - Concern of leadership
 - Central error [bad teaching in wrong leaders]

Task Assigned to Reader [Timothy]

- To complete the transition - quality leaders and quality members
- To confront the troublers- errors they propagate, example they presented, effect they produced
- To communicate the truth- message to be declared, model to be demonstrated.

2.3 Epistles from Apostle Peter [62-67 AD]

The Letters of Peter [1st Letter to Churches of Asia Minor & 2nd Letter to All Churches]

The letters have the three dimensions - Salvation, Suffering [consequences on the way to salvation] and Submission [how to deal with suffering?].

a. Salvation

There are two aspects of salvation - individual and corporate levels.

(i) Individual level- It comes through the word of God

- Living in HOPE with a tested FAITH for a joyful LOVE.

(ii) Corporate level- It comes through the people of God

- Living in SPIRITUAL HOUSE with a royal PRISTHOOD for a HOLY NATION.

b. Suffering

Suffering is the consequences on the way to salvation. We can suffer in following three aspects:

(i) Not Deserved

- don't ever deserve suffering for the wrong things / doing but ready to suffer for right things / doing [for the Gospel]

(ii) Not Revenged

- Don't ever retaliate, but love [bless] them and pray for their salvation. Always good to them, not the evil.

(iii) Not Successful

- Let it not get your spirit. They may be successful to suffer your body but not to your Spirit.

c. Submission

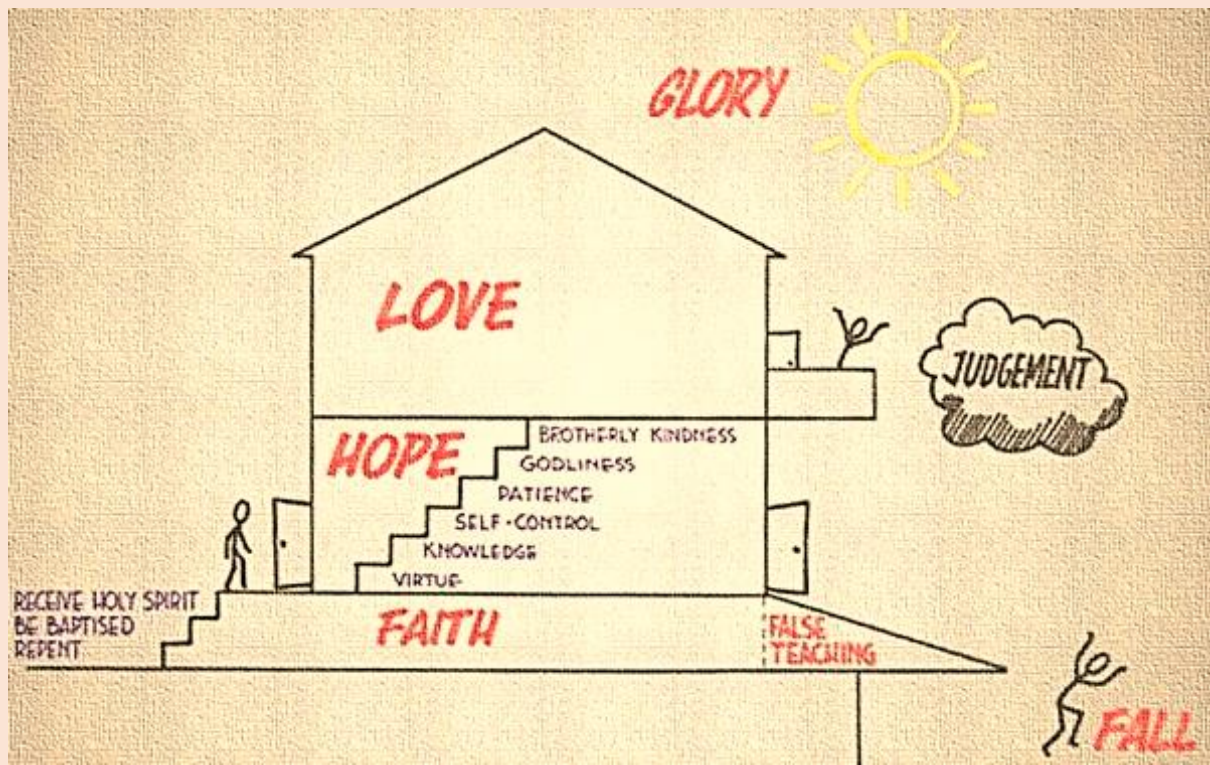
It talks about how to deal with suffering. It says, accept the suffering, don't fight back on it, but never submit for the causes of spiritual blindness.

(i) Become subjects to rulers [national and local]

(ii) Be slaves to masters [even harsh]

(iii) Wives submit to husbands (especially unbelievers)

(iv) Youngers submit to elders [who serve, not lord]



2.4 Letter from God- The Revelation to John [95AD]

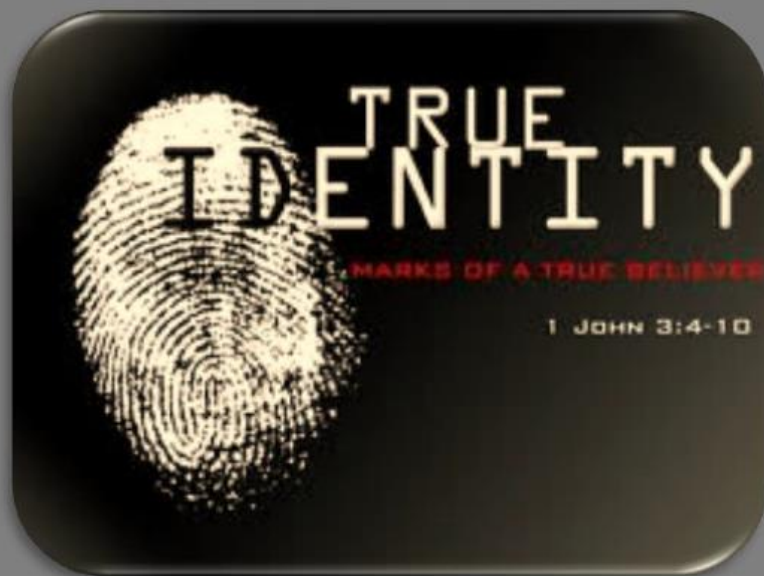
We read the letter to Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7. The letter introduces Yeshua as the one who holds seven stars in his right hand as He walks among the seven golden *menorahs* [candlesticks]. This description emphasized the light of Yeshua the Messiah's Glory and Power.

As their king, Yeshua gave a mixed evaluation of the church in Ephesus. **They had commendable zeal for sound doctrine and didn't tolerate wicked behaviour. They were specifically said to have hated the practices of the Nicolaitans, a very early heretical group that may have mixed Christian faith with pagan eroticism.**

But the Ephesian church also received a strong criticism. In Revelation 2:4 Yeshua told them that **they have forsaken their First Love; they have lost their enthusiasm and zeal for Messiah [Christ] and His Kingdom.** So, Messiah [Christ] warned them that if they didn't repent and return to their earlier enthusiasm, he would remove their *menorahs* – their symbol of honour in heaven.

In other words, they would be disciplined and perhaps even disbanded. However, further He says, who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities [church]- to him winning the victory [overcomer] I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life which is in God's Gan-'Eden.'"

3.0 TRAITS OF TRUE CHRISTIANS



3.1 Doctrinal - Person of Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] [not heresy]

We start with the person of Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] as our very first doctrine. In John 12:34 we read, The crowd answered, “We have learned from the *Torah* [Law] that the Messiah [Christ] remains forever. How is it that you say the Son of Man has to be ‘lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] provides our lens for evaluating all of our values and convictions. He helps us understand God, which is to say that He provides the orienting point for making sense of everything else. Our Christology itself will be much different when we make Yeshua’s [Jesus’] life and teaching the core content of that doctrine.

In Matthew 16:13-15; Mark 8:27-28; Luke 9:18-19 we read, When Yeshua [Jesus] came into the territory around Caesarea Philippi, he asked his *talmidim* [disciples], “Who are people saying that I am [the Son of Man is]?”

They said, “Well, some say Yochanan [John] the Immerser [Baptist], others Eliyahu [Elijah], still others Yirmeyahu [Jeremiah] or one of the prophets.” “**But you,” he said to them, “who do you say I am?”**

In Acts 13:27 we read, For the people living in Yerushalayim [Jerusalem] and their leaders **did not recognize who Yeshua [Jesus] was or understand the message of the Prophets read every *Shabbat***, so they fulfilled that message by condemning him. In John 6:66-69 we read, From this time on, many of his *talmidim* [disciples] turned back and no longer traveled around with him. So Yeshua [Jesus] said to the Twelve, “**Don’t you want to leave too?**”

In Gospel of John, Yeshua [Jesus] asks us whether we believe in him or not. It says in John 11:25-26 “Yeshua [Jesus] said to her [Martha], “**I AM the Resurrection and the Life! Whoever puts his trust in me will live, even if he dies; and everyone living and trusting in me will never die. Do you believe this?**” In John 20:29 Yeshua [Jesus] said to T’oma [Thomas], “**Have you trusted because you have seen me? How blessed are those who do not see, but trust anyway!**”

Let us try to find the answer of these questions, i.e. [1] **who is He?** & [2] **Do I believe [trust] in Him?** that Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] put forward to each one of us.

3.1.1 *The affirmation of Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] by angels, prophets, and disciples*

- i. Psalmist prophesied in Psalm 8:4-5: What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the **son of man**, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
- ii. Prophet Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 9:5-7: For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; dominion will rest on his shoulders, and he will be given the name Pele-Yo‘etz El Gibbor Avi-‘Ad Sar-Shalom [**Wonder of a Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace**], in order to extend the dominion and perpetuate the peace of the throne and kingdom of David, to secure it and sustain it through justice and righteousness henceforth and forever. The zeal of *ADONAI-Tzva’ot* [LORD of hosts] will accomplish this.
- iii. Prophet Daniel prophesied in Daniel 7:13: “I kept watching the night visions, when I saw, coming with the clouds of heaven, someone **like a son of man**. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence.

- iv. In Matthew 1: 18-23; Luke 1: 31-35, 42-43 we read about the message of birth of Yeshua [Jesus] from Angel Gavri'el [Gabriel]. Here is how the birth of Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] took place. When his mother Miryam [Mary] was engaged to Yosef [Joseph], before they were married, she was found to be pregnant from the *Ruach HaKodesh* [Holy Spirit].

Angel Gavri'el [Gabriel] said to Miryam [Mary], Look! You will become pregnant, you will give birth to a son, and you are to **name him Yeshua [Jesus]**. He will be great, he will be **called Son of Ha'Elyon [the Highest]**. *ADONAI* [LORD], God, will give him the throne of his forefather David; and he will rule the House of Ya'akov [Jacob] forever — there will be no end to his Kingdom.”

“How can this be,” asked Miryam [Mary] of the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered her, “**The *Ruach HaKodesh* [Holy Spirit] will come over you, the power of Ha'Elyon [the Highest] will cover you. Therefore, the holy child born to you will be called the Son of God.**

- v. Her husband-to-be, Yosef [Joseph], was not aware of it and did what was right; so he made plans to break the engagement quietly, rather than put her to public shame. But while he was thinking about this, an angel of *ADONAI* [LORD] appeared to him in a dream and said, “Yosef [Joseph], son of David, do not be afraid to take Miryam [Mary] home with you as your wife; for what has been conceived in her is from the *Ruach HaKodesh* [Holy Spirit].

She will give birth to a son, and you **are to name him Yeshua, [which means ‘ADONAI saves,’] because he will save his people from their sins.**” All this happened in order to fulfill what *ADONAI* [LORD] had said through the prophet, “**The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call him ‘Immanu El.’**” (The name means, “God is with us.”)

When Miryam [Mary] went to meet Elisheva [Elizabeth] and greeted her, Elisheva [Elizabeth] spoke up in a loud voice, “How blessed are you among women! And how blessed is the child in your womb! “But who am I, that the **mother of my Lord** should come to me?

- vi. In Mark 1:1 we read, The beginning of the Good News of **Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ], the Son of God:**
- vii. In Luke 2:8-14 we read, “In the countryside nearby were some shepherds spending the night in the fields, guarding their flocks, when **an angel of ADONAI [LORD] appeared to them**, and the *Sh'khinah* [glory] of *ADONAI* [LORD] shone around them.

They were terrified; but the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, because I am here announcing to you Good News that will bring great joy to all the people. **This very day, in the town of David, there was born for you a Deliverer who is the Messiah, the Lord.**

Here is how you will know: you will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a feeding trough.” **Suddenly, along with the angel was a vast army from heaven praising God: “In the highest heaven, glory to God! And on earth, peace among people of good will!”**

- viii. In John 1:1-5: writes about Yeshua [Jesus, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing made had being. In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not suppressed it.”**
- ix. In John 1:14 we read, **“The Word became a human being and lived with us, and we saw his *Sh’khinah* [Glory], the *Sh’khinah* [Glory] of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.”**
- x. In John 3:16 we read, **“For God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed.**
- xi. In Matthew 16:16; Mark 8:29 and Luke 9:20 we read, when Yeshua said to his disciples, **“who do you say I am?” Shim’on Kefa [Simon Peter] answered, “You are the *Mashiach* [Christ], the Son of the living God.”**
- xii. In John 6:66-69 we read, From this time on, many of his *talmidim* [disciples] turned back and no longer traveled around with him. So Yeshua [Jesus] said to the Twelve, **“Don’t you want to leave too?”**

Shim’on Kefa [Simon Peter] answered him, **“Lord, to whom would we go? You have the word of eternal life. We have trusted, and we know that you are the Holy One of God.”**

- xiii. In John 11:20-27 we read, **“So when Marta [Martha] heard that Yeshua was coming, she went out to meet him; but Miryam [Mary, sister of Lazarus] continued sitting *shiv’ah* [still] in the house. Marta [Martha] said to Yeshua [Jesus], “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”**

Yeshua [Jesus] said to her, **“Your brother will rise again.”** Marta [Martha] said, **“I know that he will rise again at the Resurrection on the Last Day.”** Yeshua [Jesus] said to her, **“I AM the Resurrection and the Life! Whoever puts his trust in me will live, even if he dies; and everyone living and trusting in me will never die.**

Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

- xiv. In Matthew 28:5-7; Mark 16:4-7; Luke 24:2-8 we read, **“After *Shabbat*, as the next day was dawning, Miryam [Mary] of Magdala and the other Miryam [Mary] went to see the grave. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of *ADONAI* [LORD] came down from heaven, rolled away the stone and sat on it.**

His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were as white as snow. The guards were so terrified at him that they trembled and became like dead men. Terror-stricken, women bowed down with their faces to the ground.

But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. “Why are you looking for the living among the dead? I know you are looking for Yeshua [Jesus], who was executed on the stake [Cross]. He is not here, because he has been raised – just as he said! Come and look at the place where he lay. He is not here; he has been raised. Remember how he told you while he was still in the Galil [Galilee], “The

Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be executed on a stake as a criminal, but on the third day be raised again’?” Then they remembered his words.

Angel said to them, go quickly and tell the *talmidim* [disciples], ‘He has been raised from the dead, and now he is going to the Galil [Galilee] ahead of you. You will see him there.”

- xv. In John 20:25-28 we read, When the other *talmidim* [disciples] told him [Thomas], **“We have seen the Lord,”** he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger into the place where the nails were and put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe it.”

A week later his *talmidim* [disciples] were once more in the room, and this time T’oma [Thomas] was with them. Although the doors were locked, **Yeshua [Jesus] came, stood among them and said, “*Shalom aleikhem!* [Peace be with you]”** Then he said to T’oma [Thomas], “Put your finger here, look at my hands, take your hand and put it into my side. Don’t be lacking in trust, but have trust!”

T’oma [Thomas] answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Yeshua [Jesus] said to him, “Have you trusted because you have seen me? How blessed are those who do not see, but trust anyway!”

- xvi. In the Acts of Apostles 7:56-60, Stephen, the first martyr of Christianity testified Yeshua as Son of God, Lord and God: “Look!” he exclaimed, “I see heaven opened and the **Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!**”

At this, they began yelling at the top of their voices, so that they wouldn’t have to hear him; and with one accord, they rushed at him, threw him outside the city and began stoning him.

And the witnesses laid down their coats at the feet of a young man named Sha’ul. As they were stoning him, **Stephen called out to God, “Lord Yeshua! Receive my spirit!”** Then he kneeled down and shouted out, “Lord! Don’t hold this sin against them!” With that, he died.

- xvii. In the Acts of Apostles 1:8-11 we read, before ascending to heaven Yeshua [Jesus] promised to His disciples about the Holy Spirit, “But you will receive power when the *Ruach HaKodesh* [Holy Spirit] comes upon you; you will be my witnesses both in Yerushalayim [Jerusalem] and in all Y’hudah [Judaea] and Shomron [Samaria], indeed to the ends of the earth!”

After saying this, he was taken up before their eyes; and a cloud hid him from their sight. As they were staring into the sky after him, **suddenly they saw two men dressed in white [Angels] standing next to them. The men said, “You Galileans! Why are you standing, staring into space? This Yeshua [Jesus], who has been taken away from you into heaven, will come back to you in just the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”**

- xviii. In epistle to Romans [10:9] Apostle Paul writes, “that if you acknowledge publicly with your mouth that Yeshua [Jesus] is Lord and trust in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be delivered.

- xix. In epistle to Ephesians [1:20-21] Apostle Paul writes, “when God worked in the **Messiah [Christ]** to raise him from the dead and seat him at his right hand in heaven, far above every ruler, authority, power, dominion or any other name that can be named either in the *‘olam hazeh* [this age] or in the *‘olam haba* [age to come]”.
- xx. In Hebrews 9:24 we read, “For the **Messiah has entered a Holiest Place** which is not man-made and merely a copy of the true one, **but into heaven itself, in order to appear now on our behalf in the very presence of God**”.
- xxi. In Hebrews 2:14 we read, “Therefore, since the children share a common physical nature as human beings, **he became like them and shared that same human nature; so that by his death he might render ineffective the one who had power over death** [that is, the Adversary(the devil)]”.
- xxii. In Hebrews 5:5 we read, So neither did the Messiah [Jesus] glorify himself to become *cohen gadol* [high priest]; rather, it was the One who said to him, “**You are my Son; today I have become your Father.**”
- xxiii. In 2 Peter 1:17 we read, For we were there when **he received honor and glory from God the Father**; and the voice came to him from the grandeur of the *Sh’khinah* [Majestic Glory], saying, “**This is my son, whom I love; I am well pleased with him!**”
- xxiv. In epistle to Philippians [2:6-8] Apostle Paul writes, “Though he was in the **form of God**, he did not regard equality with God something to be possessed by force. On the contrary, **he emptied himself, in that he took the form of a slave by becoming like human beings are.**

And when he appeared as a human being, he humbled himself still more by becoming obedient even to death – death on a stake [cross] as a criminal!

- xxv. In Revelation 1:13 Apostle John says, “and among the *menorahs* [candlesticks] was someone **like a Son of Man, wearing a robe down to his feet and a gold band around his chest**”.
- xxvi. In Revelation 1:1 we read, This is the revelation which **God gave to Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ]**, so that he could show his servants what must happen very soon. He communicated it by sending his angel to his servant Yochanan [John],
- xxvii. In Revelation 14:14 Apostle John says, “Then I looked, and there before me was a white cloud. Sitting on the cloud was someone **like a Son of Man** with a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

3.1.2 The affirmation of Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] by Magi [Wise Men] from the East, All Chief Priests & Scribes of Jerusalem, King Herod, Demon [Devil / Satan] Centurion, Blind people and Robbers

- i. In Matthew 2:1-12 we read, “After Yeshua [Jesus] was born in Beit-Lechem [Bethlehem] in the land of Y’hudah [Judea] during the time when Herod was king, Magi [wise men] from the east came to Yerushalayim [Jerusalem] and asked, “**Where is the newborn King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.**”

When King Herod heard of this he became very agitated, and so did everyone else in Yerushalayim [Jerusalem]. **He called together all the head *cohanim* [chief priests] and *Torah*-teachers [scribes] of the people and asked them, “Where will the Messiah be born?” “**

In Beit-Lechem [Bethlehem] of Y’hudah [Judaea],” they replied, “because the prophet wrote, ‘**And you, Beit-Lechem [Bethlehem] in the land of Y’hudah [Judaea], are by no means the least among the rulers of Y’hudah [Judaea]; for from you will come a Ruler who will shepherd my people Isra’el.**’”

Herod summoned the Magi [wise men] to meet with him privately and asked them exactly when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Beit-Lechem [Bethlehem] with these instructions: **“Search carefully for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him.”**

After they had listened to the king, they went away; and the star which they had seen in the east went in front of them until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Upon entering the house, they saw the child with his mother Miryam [Mary]; and **they prostrated themselves and worshipped him. Then they opened their bags and presented him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.** But they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they took another route back to their own country.

- ii. In Matthew 4:3, 6 & Luke 4:3, 9 we read, The Tempter [Satan] came and said to him, **“If you are the Son of God, order these stones to become bread.” “If you are the Son of God,”** he said, **“jump!**

For the *Tanakh* [Scripture] says, ‘He will order his angels to be responsible for you. . . They will support you with their hands, so that you will not hurt your feet on the stones.’”

- iii. In Matthew 9:27-31 we read, As Yeshua went on from there, two blind men began following him, **shouting, “Son of David! Take pity on us!”** When he entered the house, the blind men came up, and Yeshua said to them, **“Do you believe that I have the power to do this?” They replied, “Yes, sir.”**

Then he touched their eyes and said, “Let it happen to you according to your trust”; and their sight was restored. Yeshua [Jesus] warned them severely, “See that no one knows about it.” But instead, they went away and talked about him throughout that district.

- iv. In Mathew 20: 29-34; Mark 10: 46-52 & Luke 18: 35-43 we read, As they were leaving Yericho [Jericho], a large crowd followed Yeshua [Jesus]. Two blind men sitting by the side of the road heard that he was passing by and shouted, **“Son of David! Have pity on us!”**

The crowd scolded them and told them to be quiet, but they **shouted all the louder, “Lord! Son of David! Have pity on us!”** Yeshua [Jesus] stopped, called them and

said, "What do you want me to do for you?" **They said to him, "Lord, open our eyes."** Filled with tenderness, Yeshua [Jesus] touched their eyes; and instantly they received their sight and followed him.

- v. In Mark 1: 21-28 & Luke 4: 31-37 we read, He went down to K'far-Nachum [Capernaum], a town in the Galil [Galilee], and made a practice of teaching them on *Shabbat*.

They were amazed at the way he taught, because his word carried the ring of authority. In the synagogue there was a man who had an unclean demonic spirit, who shouted in a loud voice, **"Yaah! What do you want with us, Yeshua [Jesus] from Natzeret? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!"**

- vi. In Mathew 8: 28-34; Mark 5: 1-20 & Luke 8: 26-39 we read, When Yeshua [Jesus] arrived at the other side of the lake, in the Gadarenes' territory, there came out of the burial caves two men controlled by demons, so violent that no one dared travel on that road.

They screamed, **"What do you want with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"** Now some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged him, "If you are going to drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs." "All right, go!" he told them.

So they came out and went into the pigs, whereupon the entire herd rushed down the hillside into the lake and drowned. The swineherds fled, went off to the town and told the whole story, including what had happened to the demonized men.

At this, the whole town came out to meet Yeshua [Jesus]. When they saw him, they begged him to leave their district.

- vii. In Matthew 27:38-54; Mark 15:27-39 & Luke 23: 38-47 we read, Then two robbers were placed on execution-stakes with him, one on the right and one on the left. One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him. **"Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"**

But the other one spoke up and rebuked the first, saying, **"Have you no fear of God? You're getting the same punishment as he is. Ours is only fair; we're getting what we deserve for what we did. But this man did nothing wrong." Then he said, "Yeshua [Jesus], remember me when you come as King."** Yeshua [Jesus] said to him, **"Yes! I promise that you will be with me today in Gan-'Eden."**

People passing by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So you can destroy the Temple, can you, and rebuild it in three days? Save yourself, if you are the **Son of God**, and come down from the stake [cross]!" Then we'll believe him!"

"He trusted God? So, let him rescue him if he wants him! **After all, he did say, 'I'm the Son of God'!**" From noon until three o'clock in the afternoon, all the Land was covered with darkness. At about three, Yeshua [Jesus] uttered a loud cry, **"Eli! Eli!**

L'mah sh'vaktani? (My God! My God! Why have you deserted me?)” On hearing this, some of the bystanders said, “He’s calling for Eliyahu [Elijah].”

Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, soaked it in **vinegar**, put it on a stick and gave it to him to **drink**. The rest said, “Wait! Let’s see if Eliyahu [Elijah] comes and rescues him.”

But Yeshua, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit. At that moment the *parokhet* [partition wall] in the Temple was ripped in two from top to bottom; and there was an earthquake, with rocks splitting apart.

Also the graves were opened, and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life; and after Yeshua [Jesus] rose, they came out of the graves and went into the holy city, where many people saw them.

When the Roman officer and those with him who were keeping watch over Yeshua [Jesus] saw the earthquake and what was happening, they were awestruck and **said**, “**He really was a son of God.**”

3.1.3 The affirmation of Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] by Himself

- i. Isaiah 61:1-3 & Luke 4:16-21 we read, Now when he went to Natzeret [Nazareth], where he had been brought up, on *Shabbat* he went to the synagogue as usual. He stood up to read, and he was given the scroll of the prophet Yesha’yahu [Isaiah].

Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written, “**The Spirit of ADONAI [LORD] is upon me; therefore he has anointed me to announce Good News to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the imprisoned and renewed sight for the blind, to release those who have been crushed, to proclaim a year of the favor of ADONAI [LORD].**”

After closing the scroll and returning it to the *shammash* [minister], he sat down; and the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. He started to speak to them: “**Today, as you heard it read, this passage of the Tanakh [scripture] was fulfilled!**”

- ii. In Mathew 14: 22-33; Mark 6: 45-52 & John 6: 15-21 we read, Immediately he had the *talmidim* [disciples] get in the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the crowds away. After he had sent the crowds away, he went up into the hills by himself to pray.

Night came on, and he was there alone. But by this time, the boat was several miles from shore, battling a rough sea and a headwind. Around four o’clock in the morning, he came toward them, walking on the lake!

When the *talmidim* [disciples] saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they said and screamed with fear. But at once Yeshua [Jesus] spoke to them. “Courage,” he said, “it is I. Stop being afraid.”

Then Kefa [Peter] called to him, “**Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water.**” “Come!” he said. So Kefa [Peter] got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Yeshua [Jesus]. But when he saw the wind, he became afraid; and

as he began to sink, he yelled, **“Lord! Save me!”** Yeshua [Jesus] immediately stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, **“Such little trust! Why did you doubt?”**

As they went up into the boat, the wind ceased. The men in the boat fell down before him and exclaimed, **“You really are God’s son!”**

- iii. When Yeshua [Jesus] was in Jerusalem, in Matthew 22:32 Jesus quotes Exodus 3:6, where God uses the same intensive form to say, **“I am the God of Avraham [Abraham], the God of Yitz’chak [Isaac] and the God of Ya’akov’ [Jacob].** He is God not of the dead but of the living!”

In John 8:56-58, Yeshua [Jesus] said to them, “Avraham [Abraham], your father, was glad that he would see my day; then he saw it and was overjoyed.” “Why, you’re not yet fifty years old,” the Judeans replied, “and you have seen Avraham [Abraham]?” **“Yes, indeed! Before Avraham [Abraham] came into being, I AM!”**

- iv. In John 10:25-30 Yeshua [Jesus] answered them, “I have already told you, and you don’t trust me. The works I do in my Father’s name testify on my behalf, but the reason you don’t trust is that you are not included among my sheep.

My sheep listen to my voice, I recognize them, they follow me, and I give them eternal life. They will absolutely never be destroyed, and no one will snatch them from my hands. My Father, who gave them to me, is greater than all; and no one can snatch them from the Father’s hands. **“I and the Father are one.”**

- v. In John 14:1-28 we read, “Don’t let yourselves be disturbed. Trust in God and trust in me. In my Father’s house are many places to live. If there weren’t, I would have told you; because I am going there to prepare a place for you.

Since I am going and preparing a place for you, I will return to take you with me; so that where I am, you may be also. Furthermore, you know where I’m going; and you know the way there.”

T’oma [Thomas] said to him, **“Lord, we don’t know where you’re going; so how can we know the way?”** Yeshua said, **“I AM the Way – and the Truth and the Life;** no one comes to the Father except through me. Because you have known me, you will also know my Father; from now on, you do know Him – in fact, you have seen Him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it will be enough for us.” Yeshua replied to him, “Have I been with you so long without your knowing me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

Don’t you believe that I am united with the Father, and the Father united with me? What I am telling you, I am not saying on my own initiative; the Father living in me is doing his own works.

Trust me, that I am united with the Father, and the Father united with me. But if you can’t, then trust because of the works themselves. Yes, indeed! I tell you

that whoever trusts in me will also do the works I do! Indeed, he will do greater ones, because I am going to the Father.

In fact, whatever you ask for in my name, I will do; so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me for something in my name, I will do it. “If you love me, you will keep my commands; and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another comforting Counselor like me, the Spirit of Truth, to be with you forever.

The world cannot receive him, because it neither sees nor knows him. You know him, because he is staying with you and will be united with you. I will not leave you orphans – I am coming to you. In just a little while, the world will no longer see me; but you will see me.

Because I live, you too will live. When that day comes, you will know that I am united with my Father, and you with me, and I with you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me, and the one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

Y’hudah (not the one from K’riot) said to him, “What has happened, Lord, that you are about to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” Yeshua [Jesus] answered him, “If someone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Someone who doesn’t love me doesn’t keep my words – and the word you are hearing is not my own but that of the Father who sent me. “I have told you these things while I am still with you.

But the Counselor, the *Ruach HaKodesh* [Holy Spirit], whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything; that is, he will remind you of everything I have said to you. “What I am leaving with you is *shalom* [peace]– I am giving you my *shalom* [peace].

I don’t give the way the world gives. Don’t let yourselves be upset or frightened. You heard me tell you, ‘I am leaving, and I will come back to you.’ If you loved me, you would have been glad that I am going to the Father; because the Father is greater than I.

- vi. In Matthew 11:25-30 we read, It was at that time that Yeshua [Jesus] said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you concealed these things from the sophisticated and educated and revealed them to ordinary folks.

Yes, Father, I thank you that it pleased you to do this. **“My Father has handed over everything to me. Indeed, no one fully knows the Son except the Father, and no one fully knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”**

“Come to me, all of you who are struggling and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- vii. In John 5: 19-40 we read, Therefore, Yeshua [Jesus] said this to them: “Yes, indeed! I tell you that the Son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; **whatever the Father does, the Son does too. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he does;** and he will show him even greater things than these, so that you will be amazed.

Just as the Father raises the dead and makes them alive, so too the Son makes alive anyone he wants. The Father does not judge anyone but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son as they honor the Father. Whoever fails to honor the Son is not honoring the Father who sent him.

Yes, indeed! I tell you that whoever hears what I am saying and trusts the One who sent me has eternal life — that is, he will not come up for judgment but has already crossed over from death to life!

Yes, indeed! I tell you that there is coming a time — in fact, it’s already here — **when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who listen will come to life. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has given the Son life to have in himself. Also he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.**

Don’t be surprised at this; because the time is coming when all who are in the grave will hear his voice and come out — those who have done good to a resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to a resurrection of judgment.

I can’t do a thing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is right; because I don’t seek my own desire, but the desire of the one who sent me. “If I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is not valid.

But there is someone else testifying on my behalf, and I know that the testimony he is making is valid —you have sent to Yochanan [John], and he has testified to the truth.

Not that I collect human testimony; rather, I say these things so that you might be saved. He was a lamp burning and shining, and for a little while you were willing to bask in his light.

“But I have a testimony that is greater than Yochanan’s [John’s]. For the things the Father has given me to do, the very things I am doing now, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. “In addition, the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf.

But you have never heard his voice or seen his shape; moreover, his word does not stay in you, because you don’t trust the one he sent. **You keep examining the *Tanakh* [Scriptures] because you think that in it you have eternal life. Those very Scriptures bear witness to me, but you won’t come to me in order to have life!**

- viii. In Mathew 9: 1-8; Mark 2: 1-12 & Luke 5: 17-26 we read, One day when Yeshua [Jesus] was teaching, there were *P'rushim* [Pharisees] and *Torah* [Law]-teachers present who had come from various villages in the Galil [Galilee] and Y'hudah [Judeaea], also from Yerushalayim [Jerusalem]; and the power of *ADONAI* [LORD] was with him to heal the sick.

Some men came carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. They wanted to bring him inside and lay him in front of Yeshua [Jesus], but they couldn't find a way to get him in because of the crowd. So they went up onto the roof and lowered him on his mattress through the tiles into the middle of the gathering, right in front of Yeshua [Jesus].

When Yeshua [Jesus] saw their trust, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." The *Torah* [Law]-teachers and the *P'rushim* [Pharisees] began thinking, "Who is this fellow that speaks such blasphemies?

Who can forgive sin except God?" But Yeshua [Jesus], knowing what they were thinking, answered, "Why are you turning over such thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier to say? 'Your sins are forgiven you'? or 'Get up and walk'?"

But look! I will prove to you that **the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.**" He then said to the paralytic, "I say to you: get up, pick up your mattress and go home!" Immediately, in front of everyone, he stood up, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home praising God. Amazement seized them all, and they made a *b'rakhah* [glorified] to God; they were awestruck, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

- ix. In John 9:1-5 we read, As Yeshua [Jesus] passed along, he saw a man blind from birth. His *talmidim* [disciples] asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned – this man or his parents – to cause him to be born blind?" Yeshua [Jesus] answered, **"His blindness is due neither to his sin nor to that of his parents; it happened so that God's power might be seen at work in him."**

As long as it is day, **we must keep doing the work of the One who sent me;** the night is coming, when no one can work. **While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."**

- x. In John 9:35-38 we read, Yeshua [Jesus] heard that they had thrown the man out. He found him and said, **"Do you trust in the Son of Man?"** "Sir," he answered, "tell me who he is, so that I can trust in him." Yeshua [Jesus] said to him, "You have seen him. In fact, he's the one speaking with you now." **"Lord, I trust!" he said, and he kneeled down in front of him.**
- xi. In Mathew 12: 22-32; Mark 3: 20-30 & Luke 11: 14-23 we read, Then some people brought him a man controlled by demons who was blind and mute; and Yeshua healed him, so that he could both speak and see.

The crowds were astounded and asked, "This couldn't be the Son of David, could it?" But when the *P'rushim* [Pharisees] heard of it, they said, "It is only by Ba'al-Zibbul [Belzebul]" – the ruler of the demons – "that this man drives out demons."

However, knowing what they were thinking, Yeshua [Jesus] said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not survive. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself; so how can his kingdom survive?

Besides, if I drive out demons by Ba‘al-Zibbul [Belzebul], by whom do your people drive them out? So, they will be your judges! But if I **drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you!**

“Or again, how can someone break into a strong man’s house and make off with his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? After that he can ransack his house. **“Those who are not with me are against me, and those who do not gather with me are scattering.**

Because of this, I tell you that people will be forgiven any sin and blasphemy, **but blaspheming the *Ruach HaKodesh* [Holy Spirit] will not be forgiven. One can say something against the Son of Man and be forgiven; but whoever keeps on speaking against the *Ruach HaKodesh* [Holy Spirit] will never be forgiven, neither in the ‘*olam hazeh* [this age] nor in the ‘*olam haba* [age to come].**

xii. In Luke 18:31 we read, Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and **all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.**

xiii. In Psalms 41:9; Mark 14:18-21; John 13:18-21 & John 17:12 we read, “I’m not talking to all of you — I know which ones I have chosen. But the words of the *Tanakh* [scripture] must be fulfilled that say, **‘The one eating my bread has turned against me.’**

I’m telling you now, before it happens; so that when it does happen, **you may believe that I AM [who I say I am].** Yes, indeed! I tell you that a person who receives someone I send receives me, and that anyone who receives me receives the One who sent me.”

After saying this, Yeshua [Jesus], in deep anguish of spirit, declared, “Yes, indeed! I tell you that one of you will betray me.”

xiv. In Psalms 69:4 & John 15:20-25 we read, Remember what I told you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you too; if they kept my word, they will keep yours too.

But they will do all this to you on my account, because they don’t know the One who sent me. “If I had not come and spoken to them, they wouldn’t be guilty of sin; but now, they have no excuse for their sin. **Whoever hates me hates my Father also.**

If I had not done in their presence works which no one else ever did, they would not be guilty of sin; **but now, they have seen them and have hated both me and my Father.** But this has happened in order to fulfill the words in their *Torah* [Law] which read, **‘They hated me for no reason at all.’**

- xv. In Mark 2:5-10 & Luke 7:48 we read, Seeing their trust, Yeshua [Jesus] said to the paralyzed man, **“Son, your sins are forgiven.”** Some *Torah* [Law]-teachers sitting there thought to themselves, “How can this fellow say such a thing? He is blaspheming! **Who can forgive sins except God?**”
- But immediately Yeshua [Jesus], perceiving in his spirit what they were thinking, said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier to say to the paralyzed man? ‘Your sins are forgiven’? or ‘Get up, pick up your stretcher and walk’? But look! I will prove to you that **the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.**”
- xvi. In Matthew 26:63-64; Mark 14:61-62 & Luke 22:67-70 we read, “But he remained silent and made no reply. Again the *cohen hagadol* [high priest] questioned him: **“I put you under oath! By the living God, tell us if you are the *Mashiach* [Christ], *Ben HaM’vorakh* [the Son of God]!”** “**I AM,**” answered Yeshua [Jesus].
- “Moreover, you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of *HaG’vurah* [Power] and coming on the clouds of heaven.”
- xvii. In Matthew 27:11; Mark 15:2; Luke 23:3 & John 18:37 we read, “Meanwhile, Yeshua [Jesus] was brought before the governor, and the governor put this question to him: **“Are you the King of the Jews?”** Yeshua [Jesus] answered, **“The words are yours.”**
- xviii. In John 11:23-26 we read, “Yeshua [Jesus] said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Marta [Martha] said, “I know that he will rise again at the Resurrection on the Last Day.”
- Yeshua [Jesus] said to her, **“I AM the Resurrection and the Life! Whoever puts his trust in me will live, even if he dies; and everyone living and trusting in me will never die. Do you believe this?”**
- xix. In Matthew 24:30; Mark 13:26 & Luke 21:27 Yeshua [Jesus] said, **“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, all the tribes of the Land will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with tremendous power and glory”.**
- xx. In Matthew 25:31 Yeshua [Jesus] said, **“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, accompanied by all the angels, he will sit on his glorious throne”.**
- xxi. In Luke 21:36 Yeshua [Jesus] said, **“Stay alert, always praying that you will have the strength to escape all the things that will happen and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.”**
- xxii. In Matthew 13:41-42 Yeshua [Jesus] said, **“The Son of Man will send forth his angels, and they will collect out of his Kingdom all the things that cause people to sin and all the people who are far from *Torah* [Law]; and they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where people will wail and grind their teeth.”**

- xxiii. In John 10:24- 26 we read, So the Judeans surrounded Yeshua [Jesus] and said to him, “How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense? **If you are the Messiah [Christ], tell us publicly!**” Yeshua [Jesus] answered them, “I have already told you, and you don’t trust me. The works I do in my Father’s name testify on my behalf, but the reason you don’t trust is that you are not included among my sheep.
- xxiv. In John 3:13 Yeshua [Jesus] said, “No one has gone up into heaven; there is only the one who has come down from heaven, **the Son of Man.**”
- xxv. In John 5:25-27 Yeshua [Jesus] said, “It’s urgent that you get this right: The time has arrived—I mean right now!—when **dead men and women will hear the voice of the Son of God and, hearing, will come alive.**

Just as the Father has life in himself, he has conferred on the Son life in himself. And he has given him the authority, simply because he is the Son of Man, to decide and carry out matters of Judgment. Also he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

- xxvi. In Exodus 28:32; Psalms 22:18; Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24 & John 19:24 we read, so they said to one another, “We shouldn’t tear it in pieces; let’s draw for it.” **This happened in order to fulfill the words from the *Tanakh* [scripture], “They divided my clothes among themselves and gambled for my robe.”** This is why the soldiers did these things.
- xxvii. In Luke 24:44 we read, Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**”
- xxviii. In Revelation 1:17-20 we read, “When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand upon me and said, “Don’t be afraid! **I am the First and the Last, the Living One. I was dead, but look! — I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys to Death and Sh’ol [Hades].**

So write down what you see, both what is now, and what will happen afterwards. Here is the secret meaning of the seven stars you saw in my right hand, and of the seven gold *menorahs* [candlesticks]: the seven stars are the angels of the seven Messianic communities [churches], and the seven *menorahs* [candlesticks] are the seven Messianic communities [churches].

3.1.4 The affirmation of Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] by God

- i. In Psalms 2:7; Isaiah 42:1; Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11 & Luke 3:21-22 we read, Then Yeshua [Jesus] came from the Galil [Galilee] to the Yarden [Jordan] to be immersed [baptised] by Yochanan [John]. But Yochanan [John] tried to stop him. “You are coming to me? I ought to be immersed [baptised] by you!” However, Yeshua answered him, “Let it be this way now, because we should do everything righteousness requires.”

Then Yochanan [John] let him. As soon as Yeshua [Jesus] had been immersed [baptised], he came up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, he

saw the Spirit of God coming down upon him like a dove, and a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; I am well pleased with him.”

- ii. In Isaiah 42:1 & Matthew 12:18 we read, “Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will announce justice to the Gentiles.
- iii. In Matthew 17:4-5; Mark 9:5-7 & Luke 9:33-35 we read, As the men were leaving Yeshua [Jesus], Kefa [Peter] said to him, not knowing what he was saying, “It’s good that we’re here, Rabbi! Let’s put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moshe [Moses] and one for Eliyahu [Elijah].

As he spoke, a cloud came and enveloped them. They were frightened as they entered the cloud; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to him!”

- iv. In Hebrews 1:8 we read, God says to the Son, “Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever; you rule your Kingdom with a scepter [royal power] of equity;

3.2 Spiritual - Reception of Spirit [not Devil]

The core principles of the gospel are repentance, baptism, and receiving the Holy Spirit, which are the steps [ladder] of faith & salvation. By having faith in Jesus, Christians believe they receive favour in the eyes of God. This means they believe God has blessed them, which in turn gives them the strength to live a good Christian life. Ultimately, salvation from sin was the purpose of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

In the Acts of Apostles [2:37-40] we read, On hearing this, they were stung in their hearts; and they said to Kefa [Peter] and the other emissaries [apostles], “Brothers, what should we do?” Kefa [Peter] answered them, “Turn from sin, return to God, and each of you be immersed [baptised] on the authority of Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] into forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the *Ruach HaKodesh* [Holy Spirit]!

For the promise is for you, for your children, and for those far away – as many as *ADONAI* [LORD] our God may call!” He pressed his case with many other arguments and kept pleading with them, “Save yourselves from this perverse generation!”

Hebrews 4:12 says that “See, the Word of God is alive! It is at work and is sharper than any double-edged sword – it cuts right through to where soul meets spirit and joints meet marrow, and it is quick to judge the inner reflections and attitudes of the heart.”

The Word of God is a piercing, two-edged sword that lays open the true condition of the heart! Paul says, “And take the helmet of deliverance; along with the sword given by the Spirit, that is, the Word of God” (Ephesians 6:17).

The reason the Word of God can have such power to lay open the heart is because it the sword of the Spirit. It is not man’s sword. It does not merely have man’s endorsement, or man’s power behind it. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of truth. The true word of God is his Word, and he loves it and honors it and empowers it.

So when we read in Acts 2:37 that the people listening to Peter’s preaching were “cut [or pierced] to the heart,” we shouldn’t be surprised. Peter was preaching God’s Word—Joel 2, Psalm 16, Psalm 110, Jesus Christ! And not only that, according to verse 4 [i.e. Acts 2:4], he was filled with the Holy Spirit as he preached. So the Word of God was not Peter’s sword

that Pentecost morning. It was the Spirit's sword. And the Spirit chose to do his piercing work in an awesome way, so that 3,000 people were cut to the heart.

When it happened, the people cried out to Peter and the apostles, "What shall we do?" What a wonderful thing it is when, after years of running from God and years of denial and rebellion, a person can no longer resist the Word and the Spirit of God, and simply say, "What must I do? What must I do?"

3.2.1 Repentance

The Bible teaches us that God is loving and He forgives His children as often as they ask. As we repent and change, God forgives us of our mistakes. In turn, we must follow Jesus's example and forgive others. In Isaiah 1:18 we read, "Come now," says *ADONAI* [LORD], "let's talk this over together. Even if your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow; even if they are red as crimson, they will be like wool."

Repentance isn't just saying you're sorry. It starts with a real desire to change. You need to confess your sins to God and to anyone you've wronged, make amends if possible, and try never to repeat the sin. Of course, you won't always be perfect, but if you are sincere about your efforts, the grace of Jesus Christ will help you become clean again.

The word "repentance" comes from several Greek words which mean, change of views and purpose, change of heart, change of mind, change of life, to transform, etc. Jesus said, "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

Repentance is not just regret. They had already been cut to the heart (Acts 2:3). And now Peter says, "Repent!" So repentance is more than feeling sorry. It means following through on that conviction and turning around- changing your mind and your heart so that you are no longer at odds with God but in sync with God.

Jesus spoke to Paul in [Acts 26:18](#) about this "turning" that leads to forgiveness and gave Paul his commission with these words, "to open their eyes; so that they will turn from darkness to light, from the power of the Adversary to God, and thus receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who have been separated for holiness by putting their trust in me." There it is. That is repentance: turning from darkness to light and from Satan to God. It is a reversal of the direction of your life—toward God. That is the first answer to the question, "What shall we do?" Repent.

3.2.2 Baptism

Baptism is a covenant—or a promise—that we make with God. When we get baptized, we promise to serve Him and follow His commandments to the best of our abilities. Jesus taught, "Yeshua [Jesus] answered, "Yes, indeed, I tell you that unless a person is born from water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God." [John 3:5]. This means that baptism, or being "born of water," is a requirement to get into heaven.

Baptisms in Churches are performed by immersion, meaning a person is immersed all the way under water and brought back up. The Bible tells us that "As soon as Yeshua [Jesus] had been immersed [baptised], he came up out of the water." [Matthew 3:16] Baptism by immersion is beautifully symbolic, not only of the washing away of sins, but of death, burial, and resurrection. Baptism signifies the end of your old way of life and birth to a life committed to following the example of Jesus.

In John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Yeshua [Jesus] answered, "Yes, indeed, I tell you that unless a person is born from water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God." The scriptural mode of baptism is immersion, and is only for those who have fully repented, having turned from their sins and a love of the world. It should be administered by a duly authorized minister of the Gospel, in obedience to the Word of God, and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the Acts of the Apostles 2:38, 8:16, 10:48, 19:5; thus obeying and fulfilling Matthew 28:19.

There is a great mistake we want to avoid at this point. Some groups teach that water baptism is not only a proper act of obedience and an expression of faith, but is also part of the essential means by which God forgives sin. Faith is not enough to gain forgiveness. You must be baptized with water before you can be forgiven. What shall we make of that? Well, Acts 2:38 certainly could mean that when it says, "Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

But it might also mean something like this: "Receive the forgiveness of your sins by repenting and by believing in the name of Jesus Christ, which you signify through baptism." That would mean that the name of Jesus and faith in that name is the essential means of receiving forgiveness, and baptism is the external expression of faith in the name of Jesus.

3.2.3 The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Although baptism is itself a significant event, it is not fully complete without being born of the Spirit (see John 3:5), which means receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands. The Holy Spirit is given to you after your baptism so you can receive God's help, guidance, and comfort throughout your life.

The second need, Peter says, is to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2:38: Kefa [Peter] answered them, "Turn from sin, return to God, and each of you be immersed on the authority of Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] into forgiveness of your sins [the first need], and you will receive the gift of the *Ruach HaKodesh* [Holy Spirit, the second need]!"

What does it mean to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? Is this a promise of being baptized in the Spirit [Acts 1:5] or being filled with the Spirit [Acts 2:4] or being empowered by the Spirit [Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49]; or being indwelt by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)? The longer I meditate on those alternatives the less I see reasons in the text to choose between them.

My answer would be simply this: If you truly repent and are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit will be given to you, and will make a difference in your life. From that day on you will have the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). And nothing is said here in Acts 2:38 to limit the various ways in which he may manifest Himself in your life.

All it says is that from the day of your repentance and your identification with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit will be at work in your life as a gift. From the first day of your faith you can know he is yours because of this promise in Acts 2:38. And from that day on you can begin to seek his extraordinary empowering (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8) and fillings (Acts 4:31; Ephesians 3:19) and gifts (Acts 2:17; 1 Corinthians 14:1).

These are the two great needs that we all have. The first is to be forgiven—to have all the violations and offenses and transgressions and disobedience and sins cancelled out. "Come now," says ADONAI [LORD], "let's talk this over together. Even if your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow; even if they are red as crimson, they will be like wool." [Isaiah 1:18] And the second need is to have God himself come into our lives where sin once reigned.

We need a personal relationship with God through his Spirit. We need wisdom and guidance and love and joy and peace and patience and goodness and self-control. And we need extraordinary power for the task of local and world evangelization. We need the gift of the Holy Spirit.

3.2.4 How to recognise the Spirit of God?

- i. 1 John 4:2-3 Here is how you recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit which acknowledges that Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] came as a human being is from God, and every spirit which does not acknowledge Yeshua [Jesus] is not from God — in fact, this is the spirit of the Anti-Messiah. You have heard that he is coming. Well, he's here now, in the world already!
- ii. 2 John 7-11 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, people who do not acknowledge Yeshua the Messiah's [Jesus Christ's] coming as a human being. Such a person is a deceiver and an anti-Messiah. Watch yourselves, so that you won't lose what you have worked for, but will receive your full reward.

Everyone who goes ahead and does not remain true to what the Messiah [Christ] has taught does not have God. Those who remain true to his teaching have both the Father and the Son. If someone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, don't welcome him into your home. Don't even say, "*Shalom* [Peace]!" to him; for the person who says, "*Shalom* [Peace]!" to him shares in his evil deeds.

- iii. Jude 3-4 Dear friends, I was busily at work writing to you about the salvation we share, when I found it necessary to write, urging you to keep contending earnestly for the faith which was once and for all passed on to God's people.

For certain individuals, the ones written about long ago as being meant for this condemnation, have wormed their way in — ungodly people who pervert God's grace into a license for debauchery and disown our only Master and Lord, Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ].

3.3. Moral - Practice of Righteousness [not Lawlessness]

Being righteous is being acceptable to God. Here we see the two aspects of being righteous: doing the right thing (being blameless) and having a relationship with God (walked with God). In the Old Testament this is often connected to the law of God. In Psalm 1, the description of the righteous says "*his delight is in the law of the LORD*". The law is about what you should do. But doing that is a delight, because it is the law of the Lord. So again, doing the right thing and having the right relationship go hand in hand.

Being righteous is dependent on faith. Paul strongly emphasizes this in Romans 3-5, and quotes Genesis 15:6 about Abraham to prove his point: "*And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*" Through faith in Jesus we receive forgiveness of sins and are acceptable to God. As we are living with God, we are growing in faith. More and more we are changed into the likeness of Yeshua [Jesus].

More and more we display the fruit of the Holy Spirit [Ephesians 1:13-14; Galatians 5:22-23]. They are *love, joy, peace, patience (longsuffering), kindness (gentleness), goodness, faithfulness, humbleness (meekness) and self-control (temperance)*. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the result of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. The Bible also says, "against

such things, there is no law.” (Galatians 5:23). However, these fruits are contrasted with the works of the flesh which are immediately precede them in verse 24 (Galatians 5:24). In that way, we are made holy. This process will only be complete when we are with God in heaven.

We are righteous through faith in Messiah [Christ], and we are becoming holy as we grow in faith in Messiah [Christ]. We have been declared righteous because of something that happened outside us: Messiah [Christ] died for our sins.

This is God’s work for us. We are not contributing anything to that. We just receive God’s blessing of righteousness when we believe [trust]. We are becoming holy because something is happening in us: we are becoming more and more like Messiah [Christ]. This is the work of God in us. It is still God’s work, but we are fully involved, we are living it out.

If righteousness has no relationship with spreading the love of God to the needy, there is no holiness. God will perhaps not know us. We still may be judged. [See Matthew 25:31-46] Being righteous and becoming holy has to do with doing the right thing. And spreading the love of God is definitely part of that! Holiness, we live in out which is a process. Righteousness is WHO WE ARE. Holiness is WHO WE ARE MATURING INTO.

We receive “God’s blessing of righteousness when we believe [trust]”, but holiness is “because something is happening in us:” But more importantly happening “outside us”, as holiness is being separated from that which is ordinary or common. We, according to the word, are peculiar [Titus 2:14].

So peculiar in fact that we are to manifest (show) different than the child of the devil, [1 John 3:10], in that the devil sinned from the beginning, God never sinned, thus by being Gods Child we show (manifest) Godliness, as God’s holiness is his complete and utter uniqueness distinct from all other beings (especially the devil) in his infinite and absolute worth and beauty, thus, “Be ye holy; for I am holy.” [1 Peter 1:16] God’s favour teaches this holiness as Godliness, [Titus 2:11-12] as it is learned, not imputed! “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.” [Hebrews 12:14]

Holiness is the working out of the righteousness of Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] that we have received by faith. In other words, holiness is obeying God. [James 2:20-24; Phillipians.2:12-16] We are made righteous through faith in Messiah [Christ] and we are becoming holy as we grow deeper in relationship with Messiah [Christ]. It’s a kind of tricky faith or belief in God should have some form of corresponding action in our life; faith without works is dead, a seed needs water. We receive God by faith or our belief we show that belief with our work / action water our faith daily.

3.3.1 How Christian should practice the righteousness?

- i. Being a Christian has a huge impact on our whole life. It transforms who we are and what we do. Let’s see what Paul the apostle writes about it in 2 Corinthians 5: *“He (Messiah) died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Messiah [Christ] according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Messiah [Christ], he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

Anyone who believes in Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] is freed from the power of sin and is enabled to live a completely new life that Yeshua [Jesus] has acquired for him. He regards the world with “new eyes”. He lives for [Messiah] Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- ii. Our lives are not divided into areas “with God” and areas “without God”. He permeates every aspect of our lives. You can’t serve God by reading our Bible and praying, and at the same time make our own decisions about lifestyle and ethical issues. We are required to “fear the LORD our God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD our God with all our heart and with all our soul” (Deuteronomy 10:12).

That sounds very demanding. But if we are filled with the Holy Spirit, and are penetrated by God’s love, we don’t even want to keep certain aspects of our lives “for ourselves”. The Lord is so great and gracious and worthy of praise, that there is no greater joy than to live in His presence. Like an old hymn sings: *"All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live."*

- iii. Living as a Christian is not just about obeying certain regulations or avoiding particular sins. It is about our attitude towards the present world, it is about our relationship with God, it is about our life goal. And it involves all aspects of our lives. *"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31)

3.4 Social - Love of Brethren [not hatred]

Followers of Yeshua [Jesus] must hold correct doctrinal beliefs, and also be able to demonstrate visibly the new life they have received in Yeshua the Messiah [Christ Jesus]. Our lives must bear fruit. Doctrine isn’t shown just through head knowledge, but through an entire life that testifies that Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] is Lord.

There are aspects of the Christian life that non-believers just don’t do, such as Bible reading, praying and attending a church. These are means of cultivating our understanding of God and of his will, ways to nourish our souls with the Word of God. This is necessary because our hearts tend to wander away from God and our minds are often blinded by sin. We continually need God’s “input” into our lives.

It is vital for a healthy spiritual life to have patterns of spiritual discipline. In many places in the Bible, we are encouraged to do so. See for example Hebrews 10:24-25: *"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another."* Or in 1 Thessalonians 5: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you".*

Being a Christian also influences the way we do "ordinary" things, things that non-believers do as well. It influences the decisions we make, the way we model our daily lives, the way we raise our children, the mindset with which we face difficulties. Living with God shapes our world view, our hopes and expectations, and our priorities in life. That may result in a lifestyle so different from "the world" around us, that it evokes criticism or even persecution.

Since we are all influenced by the world views and the culture around us, it is not always easy to discern God's will for all aspects of life. And some decisions are so personal that there is no general guideline to be found in the Bible. Nevertheless, a lot of directives are clear, and others can be deduced from the Scriptures.

The truest model of the Love of brethren is and ever remains to be the inspirational **Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)**-a genuine call for care and service to the person in need whom one meets here and now. Caring and loving service to the poor lies at the heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who says: *"Blessed are the poor"* (Luke 6:20). In Mark 10:43-45 Jesus says, *"Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For, the Son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many"*.

Hence, the call to Christian discipleship is essentially a call to humble service to one's fellow beings. The acts of charity such as giving bread to the hungry, water to the thirsty and clothes to the naked, home to the homeless, assisting the sick and the suffering, the poor, the widows, the orphans, the migrants etc. are the concrete actions of compassion and mercy in showing love to one's sisters and brothers in Christ. These are the very actions which testify a person to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in this world.

4.0 CONCLUSION

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God created human beings to share His divine life with them so He could be their life, and they could be His expression. This is why He created us not as instruments or tools to use, but as vessels to fill with Himself. And even after mankind fell into sin, this desire in God's heart didn't change.

But it's impossible for fallen human beings to have God's divine life since God can never fill a vessel contaminated by sin. Instead of giving up, however, God became a man named Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ].

Yeshua [Jesus] lived a perfect human life on earth and was crucified on the cross to take away our sins. Through His sacrifice, our sins were washed away. When we believe in Yeshua the Messiah [Jesus Christ] and receive Him as our Savior, we receive forgiveness of sins. But that isn't all.

After three days, Yeshua [Jesus] resurrected from the dead, and 1 Corinthians 15:45 tells us that in resurrection, He "became a life-giving Spirit." As the Spirit, He enters into us cleansed vessels that believe in Him. God—in Messiah [Christ], as the Spirit—comes to live us.

How incredible! But He doesn't just want to *exist* in us; He comes into us to be our life so He can be *expressed through* us. This is why God created us and why God saved us. When we were saved, Messiah [Christ] came into our spirit, the deepest, innermost part of our being.

This was the beginning of God's filling us. Our spirit is where Messiah [Christ] now dwells in us and where we fellowship with God. It has the unique ability to contain God, contact God, and receive God.

But God also made us with a soul. Our soul experiences emotions, thinks and considers, and makes all kinds of decisions. Our outward actions spring from our soul, and our soul is the means by which God expresses Himself through us.

So if Messiah [Christ] remains confined in our spirit and doesn't fill our soul—our mind, emotion, and will—He'll never be expressed through us. Instead, our living will only express our own thoughts, feelings, and decisions, not His. So God wants us to do good works. He commands us to **"Love (Him) with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbour as ourselves."**



Samir Stephan Kujur

ABOUT THE WRITER

My name is Samir Stephan Kujur, and it's so nice to meet you! In mid 1970s, I was born and brought up in a Christian family. During foundation years of my life (up to 12th standard of my school years), I was in boarding schools and had the opportunity to be part of well architected and disciplined routine life. During these foundation years, moral and spiritual teachings were engrained in my life through regular practice of meditation, attending daily prayers and Holy Mass, etc. In real sense, I was living in His fellowship and enjoying the sweetness of life. However, from early 1990s to mid 2010s, I was drifted away from Him. I left meditation, stopped praying and attending Holy Mass. I felt like I was living in wilderness ... no peace, no success. It was a difficult period and my life literally became hell. I was in trap of devil and was involved in satanic activities. Although I was born and brought up in a Christian family, I never read the complete 66 Books of the Bible (from Genesis Chapter 1 to Revelation Chapter 22) till the age of my late 30s.

After mid 2010s, once again I started meditating but in different format. It was a combination of Raj Yoga, Reiki and Aura Cleansing and reading the Bible. However, this time I was having lots of questions in my mind. Who am I? What is Soul, Spirit, Holy Spirit and their relationship? Who is God? How could there be the Trinity God? What is the relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit? and so on ... Also found lots of differences between the words of God in the Bible and Churches' teachings and liturgical practices. I got confused, but never stopped praying and reading the New Testament, Old Testament (different versions- TEV, NIV, KJV, Urantia Book, etc.), Torah and Quran to some extent.

By the Grace of God, I got the answers of my above questions. My life has changed. I am having so many supernatural experiences in my daily life. Here I am sharing some of them as my testimony:

[1] The Vision of {The Divine Mercy}

In between, I got several messages in dreams through departed souls of my loved ones, especially from my grandmother but I didn't believe them because I had no clarity on their messages. Then I prayed, Lord I need a clear message from you. Then on 20th December 2018 around 4:15am to 4:30am, I had the vision (short Dream) of The Divine Mercy. It was just for a fraction of second. I asked him, Whether I should go to Church or not? He replied, You May Go, then left. No fear or excitement, only plain conversation. I got the confirmation from Him. Now I had no choice to ignore anymore.

[2] The Vision of {The Throne of the Almighty}

Although I got the confirmation, but my little human brain was not satisfied, I said to myself, it was just for a fraction of second, I didn't see Him properly and He left. I thought, maybe it was my illusion. Now I had another doubt, Is Jesus God or is just like one of the God's servants? However, I never stopped praying and reading the Bible.

After about 9 and half months of the vision of The Divine Mercy, I had another vision (long Dream). This time it was The Throne of the Almighty. The date of this vision was on 30th September 2019 between 4:15 am and 5:45am and lasted almost 90 min. Initially, appeared like a bright star at distant on white clouds. Then, it started coming closure to me, and I show The Throne of the Almighty. It looked like someone is sitting on the throne, but face was invisible. As it was approaching closer to me, The Throne of the Almighty was magnifying with increased brightness, and at one point of time it approached next to me with magnified multifold and brightness, which was impossible for me to see it from my eye. However, this brightness had no heat or temperature, but had very pleasant or bliss feeling. After this vision, the LORD revealed my future task i.e. His Will to be fulfilled through me on this earth. They are related to spreading the Good News across the globe, one of the similar type of roles of Prophet Elijah, praying for needy souls (especially who are in captivity of evil spirits), revealing the messages of salvation, always remain in his fellowship and try to walk with Him.

This initiative, the writing of book is also one of the actions to fulfil His Will.

[3] The Dream of The Rapture Event

After about 9 months of the vision of The Throne of the Almighty, I had a dream (short Dream). This time it was The Rapture Event. The date of this dream was on 27th June 2020 between 3:30 am and 4:00 am and lasted about 10-15 min. I saw that some human beings went up in the clouds to meet Yeshua. In night, He appeared in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory (the scene was almost same as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 by Apostle Paul). Yeshua descended from Heaven to receive His people with open hands. As the Scriptures state, there was no light of SUN, MOON or STARS, it was the brightness of His presence. It was a beautiful revelation and had bliss feelings. There were two groups of humankind. The people [one group] who went up in the clouds to meet Yeshua and their earthly bodies were transformed in to glorified bodies [celestial bodies] that happened in fraction of a second as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and were shining very bright in the presence of Yeshua, and the other group remained on the earth to face consequences of The Great Tribulation. Luckily by the GRACE of GOD, I saw myself

being in the group of people who went up in clouds to meet Yeshua, but I remember one of my relatives was in the other group. Then the alarm clock rang at 4:00 am.

Initially I thought it was about the second coming of Yeshua and His 1000-years reign on Earth, but The Holy Spirit revealed me that it was about the Rapture Event that will take place in the pre- tribulation period.

[4] & [5] The Short Vision and The Gift of Tongues

After about 5 and half months [163 days] of the short dream of The Rapture, I received The Gift of Tongues. This time it was The Gift of the Holy Spirit. The date of receiving the gift was on 8th December 2020 between 12:50 am and 1:20 am. On 7th December 2020 around 8:00pm, I was having an in-depth Bible study and reflections on The Rapture events. In between I had a short vision [I was taken away about 15-20 minutes from my natural state], but I could not recall what had happened to me during this short period. I felt like I slept for a while. I do recall that immediate before this event neither I was feeling tired nor sleepy. It transpired all of a sudden and when my eyes opened, I was very much afresh; as nothing had happened to me. There was no sign of feeling a sleep at all. Immediately, I tried to recall what had happened to me but couldn't recall any supernatural sign. I can say that I was taken away for 15-20 minutes from my natural state. Then without wasting my time in thinking about it I continued my study and reflections on the Rapture related events mentioned in the Bible. Once the study was over [around 11:00pm-11:15 pm], I started to watch a video on "HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT" which was made by Rev. Amit Christian, an Evangelical Bible preacher from India. At the end of the message he said that those who want to receive "THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT", please stand up. He emphasised that it's not a compulsion and requested only those who really want them voluntarily. I knelt down and started praying with the preacher, and all of a sudden, my tongue started praying in unknown heavenly language. My tongue was not in my control and this was the very first prayer in my life [as I remember] that I prayed in the spirit.

[6] Supernatural Experience and the Dream of Angels

After about 4 months [124 days] of The Gift of Tongues, I had another supernatural experience in my life and had a dream of heavenly beings. This time it was The Angels. The date of this event was on 12th April 2021 between 7:25am – 8:00am and a dream around 11:00pm -12:00 night on the same date. On 11th April 2021, we [I & my wife] handed over our all household items to Packers & Movers team for its shifting from Delhi to Odisha, and on 12th April 2021 early morning [after handing over the keys of rented house to the house owner] we started to wait auto taxi to drop us to the railway station. It took us about 30 minutes to get an auto taxi [3 wheeler] and we had left only 35 minutes time to reach the station and board the train. We were also carrying about 6-7 heavy luggage with us, and within this 35 minutes we had to reach, go through the special checking procedure at station [due to COVID] and rush towards the platform no. 5 and board the train.

Practically it was impossible, until and unless the train is delayed or some supernatural miracle happens. We started at 7:25am from Katwaria Sarai [Near IIT, Delhi] and the train was scheduled to depart at 8:00am from Anand Vihar Railway station. The distance between Katwaria Sarai and Anand Vihar Railway station is about 24km,

which takes around 45 -60min by auto taxi. In auto both of us kept mum for almost 30 minutes. We had no options left with us, except to remember and surrender everything to Him. We prayed Him individually. I prayed Him "Lord this is your plan that we should leave Delhi, and now we are in your hands...please take care of us", whereas my wife prayed, "Lord let us not miss the train". We don't know how it happened, but we reached station at 7:50am (in 25 minutes). A coolie with luggage carrier cart was waiting to receive us at railway station. He ask the name of the train, kept our luggage in the cart and said us to follow him. We kept running after him, no one asked or stopped us to check the ticket or scan the luggage at entrance, and by 7:55am we were at platform no. 5 next to the coach of our reserved berths. He also helped us to get in our luggage in the train. Then I thanked him and paid the agreed labor fee INR 400. He smiled and left. We kept the luggage and took our respective berths, and within 1 minute train left the station. The train was on time and left the platform at exactly 8:00am....Wow! what a miracle...We thanked Him for the superb plan.

Around 9:00pm we had our dinner and went back to our respective berths [I took the upper berth]. I read some chapters from the Bible, prayed in heavenly tongue and slept. Around 11:00pm – 12:00 night I had a dream. In the dream I was standing with a small group of people in an unknown place. All of a sudden something like a sea of glass as mentioned in the Revelation 4:6 and 15:2 spread across the ground. It looked like a still calm sea water surface.

Then in my right side at the end of sea I saw a marvelous City / Throne. At once I stepped down on the sea and walked on the water like Peter did in Matthew 14:29. I do remember that I was not afraid of walking on the water surface but after few steps I started sinking similar to Peter had in Matthew 14:30. I didn't cry as Peter did and within no time water came upto the level of my waist. Then I saw three angels came on motor boat [their garment were pure white, I can realise that they were not of this world because they were in their celestial bodies] and one of them stretched forth his hand and caught me as Yeshua did to Peter in Matthew 14:31, and took me with them into the boat.

[7] The Short Vision of Heaven

After about 2 and half months [76 days] of Dream of Angles, I had another short vision. This time it was vision of Heaven. The date of this vision was on 28th June 2021 between 3:40am – 3:50am. It was just for a fraction of second. I saw on clouds opening of Heaven. It was not merely the clouds parting or appearing something on clouds, but opening of Heaven as mentioned in Ezekiel 1:1; Mark 1:10; Acts 7:56 and Revelation 4:1.

The vision was similar to Prophet Micaiah as recorded in 1 Kings 22:19, "I saw the LORD sitting on His Throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right hand and on His left." The vision was amazing and beyond the human imagination. There is nothing on this world that can be used to compare this. When I had this vision, at once my spirit started praising LORD in heavenly language and I got up.

[8] The Short Vision of Heaven and Fall of Satan

After 3 months [i.e. 84 days] of The Short Vision of Heaven, I had another short vision. This time it was again the Vision of Heaven and Fall of Satan. The date of this vision was on 20th September 2021 between 1:10am – 1:15am and on 21st September 2021 around 12:10am. On 20th September 2021, I saw on clouds opening of Heaven. The opening of Heaven was similar to my earlier vision of 28th June 2021, and I saw the LORD sitting on His Throne, and all the host of Heaven standing by Him on His right hand and on His left. All the host of Heaven were praising the LORD in the same manner as mentioned in Revelation 12:10 which says, "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."

I also saw the Satan and his angels falling down from heaven as mentioned in Revelation 12:8-9 "neither was their place found anymore in heaven. He was cast out unto the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."; and said by Yeshua in Luke 10:18, "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

And I saw the earth became dark as mentioned in Isaiah 13:10; Joel 2:10; Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12 and Revelation 8:12 which say "the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and star shall withdraw their shining." Then my wife put on the fan, and my vision discontinued and I came back to my natural realm. scene in Heaven as well as tone of praise was different from the vision of 20th September 2021. It was something similar to the Alleluia! as mentioned in Revelation 19:1-8 & Psalm 118:24 i.e. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Connect With Me: If you would like to connect me, please drop me an email at info@samirstephan.com. I will get back to you soon.

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