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1. Kingdom Inheritance

I. MISUNDERSTANDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

A. Bob Fraser story

B. I was ignorant of how God wanted to move in and through the marketplace.

C. God’s plan for the advancement of His Kingdom was evident from the beginning of the early church:

21 Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that. 24 Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that condition in which he was called. 1 Cor. 7:21,24 (NASB)

II. BRINGING THE KINGDOM WHEREVER WE ARE

A. Wholeheartedness: Few believers are fully engaging their hearts where they are. Most are trying to escape or survive. Col 3:22-24: “Whatever you do, do it with your whole heart.” We are to give all we have in all we do.

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Col. 3:22-24 (NIV)

B. Example: Intern: “I can’t wait to go to Chick-fil-A and wash dishes!”

C. Jesus the dishwasher, cook, the architect, professor, the manager. Jesus wants to be in your shoes.

D. Few believers are fully engaging their hearts where they are. Most are trying to escape or survive. Col 3:22-24: “Whatever you do, do it with your whole heart.” We are to give all we have in all we do.

E. Most believers are always looking over the hill to the next opportunity or dream. Your field is where your feet are; your flock is the people around you.

F. Imagine “doing what you see your Father doing” in the workplace. Jesus the dishwasher: Everyday doing what He sees His Father doing; sharing the good news; joyful in His presence; the Kingdom comes; lives changed. Also, creativity, prosperity, dishes clean.
G. Example: Gunnar Falk: Becomes a server at a restaurant, doing Col 3. Within 6 weeks becomes “server of the year.” Within 6 months large number of the employees gave their lives to Jesus.

III. A CRISIS OF VISION IN THE MARKETPLACE

A. 3% of Christians are called to vocational ministry. 97%, the great army of God, have little clue:

1. How it fits in the KOG; how it matters.

2. How, practically, to bring the KOG where we are. How are we to be different, what are we to do differently?

3. How, in reality, to walk with God in living encounter, throughout out day.

B. Most believe the 99% of their lives outside of ministry activities is meaningless.

C. A Crisis of Vision: We Have No Heroes

1. All our modern Christian heroes are vocational ministers: Rees Howells, David Brainerd, George Muller, Charles Wesley, Finney, Jonathan Edwards, John Calvin, Smith Wigglesworth, Mother Theresa, etc.

2. In contrast, most biblical heroes were not priests. Abraham was a rancher and a businessman; Joseph was a businessman and a skilled administrator. Joshua and Caleb were generals; David was a shepherd, a general, and a king; Daniel and Nehemiah were government administrators. But these biblical heroes have been interpreted for us through the eyes of modern-day priests – and they have been stripped of their marketplace identity – “priestified”.

D. A Crisis of Value: One man related that he had booked $100 million dollars in international consulting contracts for his firm, but said he sat in the back pew of a 50-member congregation and felt like a second-class citizen.

E. A Crisis of Identity: We have read Eph 4: we conclude, we are not in the Bible. We have read Matt 28, we conclude we are not the “left behind” but the “stayed behind”
F. Most have no clue why they are there – what their mission is. Is it just money? Or did God send you? If you do not know why you are there you are visionless. Without a vision, we perish, we wander aimlessly (Prov. 29:18).

1. Influence leaders
2. Light to some around you
3. Impact Policies -- ways
4. Creative
5. Bring God’s heart
6. Resist evil

IV. MARKETPLACE MISSIONS

A. The fact: the marketplace is

1. Where Christianity meets “Not-Christianity.”
2. The front-lines of our faith, where the KOG grows or shrinks
3. Where 97% of God’s missionaries operate
4. Where 97% of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are to operate.

B. Marketplace missionaries who

1. Don’t know they are missionaries
2. Don’t know why it matters for them to be there
3. Don’t have the slightest idea how to bring the kingdom to their mission field.
4. Don’t know how to share Jesus
5. Don’t know how to walk in daily vital communion with Christ and hear His voice.

6. They don’t have a prayer life

7. They don’t have any prayer cover.

V. LIKE THE TIMES OF NEHEMIAH

1The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capital, 2that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped and had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem. 3They said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire.” 4When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. Neh. 1:1-4 (NASB)

A. In Nehemiah’s day, the temple had been built – true worship had been restored – but there was no city. History reveals to us that at this time the city of Jerusalem was mostly abandoned (Neh. 7:4). People were scattered; subject to the local warlords; in dire poverty. The enemy ran roughshod over them whenever he wanted. Without the city there is no power, no resources.

B. Today the church fights for two arenas of life: church and homes

C. Like the days of Nehemiah, today the church has abdicated the arenas of life. We have abandoned the city of God and settled for the temple of God.

D. For years her prayer has been “Thy Church Come” instead of “Thy Kingdom Come”

E. Revival unto reformation.” Not just revival but Kingdom

F. First step=walls. Second step = populate the city
2. Anointed in Business

I. CITIES WILL BE LED TO GOD BY THE MARKETPLACE – THE MARKETPLACE WILL BE THE ENGINE OF THE HARVEST

A. Billy Graham has stated, “I believe one of the next great moves of God is going to be through the believers in the workplace.”

B. Example: Accuppajoe: 1st & 2nd Commandments + pay

C. Example: Inner city convenience store

D. Example: Michael Stephens

E. Example: Hoggats

F. Example: Ned D: Home inspection

G. Example: Craig L.: Insurance sales

H. Example: Elizabeth M.: beauty salon

I. Example: Elaine H.: cheerleading

J. Example: Phil W.: Discipling employees into the Kingdom

K. Example: Steve B. (Perth): “I have a congregation of 1000 clients, most of whom don’t know Jesus.”

L. Example: Dutch Consultant: “I want to help you reach your potential, not just in business – to be more like Jesus Christ.”

II. WORLD EVANGELIZATION WILL HAPPEN THROUGH THE MARKETPLACE

A. Example: China food processor

B. Example: Jiman J.: Business as mission
C. Example: Charles C.: Global mining business

D. Example: Bernie Z.: Christian Prison

E. Example: S. Korea clothing business.

F. Example: Education-as-mission

III. MARKETPLACE WILL BE THE ENGINE OF GLOBAL REFORMATION

A. Example: Elk River

B. Example: Benevolence empire

C. Example: Alice S.: Mental Institution

D. Example: Dutch care for troubled children: praying for the kids and speaking to their hearts.

E. Zimbabwe: “Don’t go into business for a paycheck. Go to be a reformer.” He teaches them to operate in the Kingdom economics. Orphans became the owner largest bank in Zim; the second-largest cell-phone provider in all of Africa. He teaches them, “Your response determines your destiny.” Service Jesus: You are the salt of the earth: we are to be differentiated

F. Example: Zimbabwe printer biz

G. Example: Zimbabwe copper mine

H. Example: Hans Nielsen Hauge

I. Example: Robin Bell (Opportunity International)

J. Example: TDA

K. Example: Section 8 vision

L. Example: Wendy V.: Cable company, “warding off evil”
M. Example: Tim Vaughn Tech Recycling

N. Example: Ethiopia chicken farm

O. Example: Swiss SWAT policeman 7 of 44 are believers. They mandated mental training, unhealthy and unbiblical. They refused, saying “test us.” In every test they were in top 2-3. Text each other prayer requests.

P. R. John Benoit: showing ethics increases profits. Transforming corporate culture via biblical integrity.

Q. Example: Marsha Huber: grant to show that people who give are happier.

R. Swiss dept leader removing porn from workspaces. What is needed: a study showing that public porn in offices results in underperforming organizations. He said in 40 years they never had a female leader; but now 30% of the management is female.

S. Josh at D&D: Joking at foul language; purity

T. Example: Persecuted. Bethel School teacher: was given all the most difficult children with reading difficulties; she has become a sensation, nearly 100% success rate children reading at grade level within one year

U. Example teacher, began to pray for her co-worker, asking the Lord his heart for her. She had opportunity to share several times insights for her life, not mentioning Jesus. After several time the other responded, “How do you do this?”

IV. CONCLUSION

A. Nearly all of the dual-gifted are called to the marketplace

B. It is where you are called. It is where you have been sent – no different than Joseph, or Daniel, or Nehemiah

C. Where you have been called, you have been given authority to take the land.

D. You are on a holy mission

V. FOR PASTORS
A. Billy Graham has stated, “I believe one of the next great moves of God is going to be through the believers in the workplace.”

B. Church

1. Church is God’s primary institution, a place of encounter with God and equipping

2. Church is not the primary place of spiritual expression or ministry.

3. By defining church as the primary arena of (a) spiritual activity and (b) operation of our spiritual gifts, and (c) fulfillment of our spiritual calling, these have happened:

   a. Wars: people vie for voice, authority, position, honor within the church.

   b. The great army (97%) can’t make their calling “fit” within the walls of church and become dormant, disengaged from church.

   c. Revival doesn’t happen.

4. Marketplace Christians are a nation of priests to the marketplace (“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation” 1 Pet. 2:9). Pastors and ministers are priests to this royal priesthood. Royal = kingly, ruling in the affairs of life.

5. Current model of church ministry: getting people involved in church meetings and programs. New models of church ministry: equipping Marketplace Christians to be fruitful where they are.

C. Fostering Health

1. Acknowledge Marketplace Christians (give value). Public testimonies, etc.

2. Bless Marketplace Christians – powerful – Marketplace Christians covet this

   23 "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, ‘Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

   24 The LORD bless you, and keep you;"
25 The LORD make His face shine on you,  
And be gracious to you;  
26 The LORD lift up His countenance on you,  
And give you peace.’  
27 “So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them.”  
Numbers 6:23-27 (NASB)

3. Prayer meeting

4. Equipping

   a. 97% of the pastoral, evangelistic, teaching, prophetic, apostolic gifts given to the Body of Christ are in Marketplace Christians and are to operate in the marketplace.

   b. 5-Fold are to equip these (Eph 4)

   11And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13 (NASB)

   c. Find the people who are fruitful in the marketplace and begin to equip them. (80-20 rule)

   d. Marketplace Christians desperate for: (1) how to share gospel; (2) how to pray for people; (3) how to walk in intimacy; (4) how to be prophetic & listening.
3. A New Definition of Worship

I. WORKS THAT REMAIN

A. Slaves can earn a heavenly reward

22Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Col. 3:22-24 (NIV)

1. A slave:
   a. Could not control their own destiny; could not do “kingdom works.”
   b. Cannot “do” anything for God
   c. But can do everything for God

2. Even a slave (including a wage-slave) can
   a. Earn a reward in heaven
   b. Fulfill the purposes of God for his/her life

B. True Purpose

1. The Kingdom of God is not about good works, but love.

2. Christians have often misunderstood their purpose. Our purpose is not primarily to engage in deeds of righteousness but to engage our hearts in love, which results in deeds of righteousness.

3. We don’t take a spouse for the work they can do for us. Nor do we have children for the labor they can supply to us. Neither does God want us for the work we can do for Him, but only for the love we can show Him.
   a. God wants our good works, but only if they are a love-response.
4. By putting deeds first, we commit a grave error. We go from sons to slaves, from a bride to a maid.

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.* Gal. 5:6 (NIV)

5. Works are a means of glorious fellowship. Example: I bought my boys a plastic battleship model. We turn it into striving: “Dad, I will build this for you!” “Oh, Dad, use me!”

6. If we pursue works apart from love and relationship, we are deceived.

7. The Ephesian Church made this mistake.

C. Ephesus

1. Background

a. The church was the central hub of spiritual activity in Asia Minor.

b. Paul founded it, and had labored there for 3 years;

c. it was the apostle John’s home church

d. Timothy had been appointed as an overseer.

e. They were on the “cutting edge” of God’s move and purposes in the earth.

f. They were bringing His kingdom in tangible and powerful ways.

g. The Ephesian church started with a revival that rocked the Asian world such that “all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord” (Acts 19:10).

h. The Ephesians were radically saved and filled with passion for the Son of God, such that Paul, “never stopped giving thanks for them because of their faith in Christ and their love for the saints” (Eph. 1:15-16).

2. Summary: astounding ministries, power, teaching, missions – everything. 43 years later they get a letter in the mail:
**To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:**

*These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:*  
*I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.*  
*You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.*

*Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.  
*Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.*  

Rev. 2:1-5 (NIV)

3. I have little doubt they were shocked when they read John’s letter.

4. What went wrong at Ephesus?
   
   a. They were not doing anything wrong. In fact, Jesus went out of His way to praise their activities.
   
   b. They had simply let love die.
   
   c. They had forgotten that their ultimate calling and purpose was to know Him.
   
   d. They had wrongly prioritized serving God above loving God.
   
   e. They had made primary that which is to be secondary.

5. God is first of all relational. Our religion is not a philosophy, principles, or ideas: it is a person. If we have forgotten this we are deceived
   
   a. Do not be deceived from simple devotion to Christ

6. God’s economy is different than the world’s economy. We are not building a natural kingdom. Spiritual impact does not come from religious activity but from heart activity (faith and love). A slave may not control activity but can control heart.

D. The Widow’s Mite

1. She gave all she had. It is usually taught that the worthiness of her offering was based on her sacrifice.
2. Two small copper coins were not a sacrifice. It is not that “she gave everything she had,” but “what she had she gave.” 10 widow’s mites bought a loaf of bread. One Denarius (day’s wages) was 128 widow’s mites.

3. There are several reasons we give:

   a. To receive something (status, notice, financial gain, approval from men, approval from God, etc.)

   b. To have impact

   c. Obligation (we owe?)

   d. For love – the widow had none of the satisfaction of the others.

E. Motive Matters

1. Jesus’ commentary, the widow gave more. She gave more love. Love is what impacts; when love happens, the Kingdom happens; when love happens, the kingdom is built; when good works happen apart from love, nothing eternal happens.

2. Jesus does not weigh sacrifice:

   1If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. 1 Cor. 13:1-3 (NASB)

3. If love is not our motive our works don’t count – they have no eternal weight.

4. Not only is love the best motive, it is the only motive which give our acts eternal weight, or which our Father recognizes at all.

5. The scripture clearly states that any other motive, no matter what it is, invalidates our offering – rendering it completely, utterly without value whatsoever.
6. What we do is far less important than why we do it.

All of us will stand before God and our works will be presented. All work, whether ministry or business is acceptable to God as an offering, if it was motivated by love.

7. Satan cannot imitate love.

F. Conversely, if love is our motive, any gift we offer him is acceptable.

\[12\text{For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. 2 Cor. 8:12 (NIV)}\]

Example: One of my young sons one day saw his mother’s frustrated searching for a particular piece of jewelry in the pile in her drawer. A few hours later, he stood before his mom and said, “Mom, look what I made for you.” He held out an elaborate jewelry tree – several bowls for earrings, arms of various lengths for necklaces and bracelets – all carefully manufactured from cardboard and duct tape. It didn’t matter what it looked like – to this day his mom uses it and it stands as a symbol of his love.

1. God never forgets the little things we do for love’s sake (widow with mite)

2. So easy to please – he receives any offering.

3. So many other voices compelling us to more performance, activity

4. So many false yokes

\[28\text{“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30 (NASB)}\]

\[8\text{Owe nothing to anyone except to love… Romans 13:8 (NASB)}\]

5. He is so different from how most perceive him: as a hard taskmaster (Mt 25:24; the God of unbearable yoke of expectations; the big “no” in the sky; the God waiting to judge; the prohibitive God

G. Heavenly Reward

1. Many will be shocked on that day to discover that their sacrifices have been declared worthless because there was some motive besides love.
2. Rick Joyner had a vision of people’s heavenly treasure, and it was all pitifully small. This is because of wrong motives: we are not paying attention to our hearts.

3. If we give for other than love, then we “receive our reward in full.” (Matt 6:1-6)

H. Love-works vs. duty-works

1. God is not interested in duty-based service, but only in love-based service. (Ephesus)

2. If our hearts do not have love, he doesn’t want our works.

   a. God wants our good works, but only if they are a love-response.

   b. Who of us would like to have a spouse that served us diligently, but without an ounce of love? Imagine a spouse slaving over you, dutifully serving, sterile, distant, closed, and impassive. It is tragic! Our reaction would be “This is no marriage! Stop slaving! Just love me!”

   c. So too if forced to choose, God would rather have love without service than service without love.

I. God is not interested in slaves, but in bond-slaves.

1. A slave is simply one who works, and whose value is based upon their labor.

2. A bond-slave is one who is free to go, but who chooses to serve, as a love-response. Their value is based on labor but on love, as a member of the household:

   5*But if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,’ 6*then his master shall bring him to God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently. Ex. 21:5-6 (NASB)

J. Jesus proclaims a loveless life not only invalidates our works, but also endangers our soul!
1. Matt 7:21

21 "Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ Matt. 7:21-23 (NIV)

K. Even acts of worship are not necessarily true worship

13 The Lord says:

"These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.

Isa. 29:13 (NIV)

L. Motives are undetectable by human beings: this is why we are told not to judge.

5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God. 1 Cor. 4:5 (NASB)

II. A NEW DEFINITION OF WORSHIP

Worship is anything we do to “love Him back.”

1. Worship can be anything. It is as diverse as the number of unique hearts God has created. Doing a job joyfully, giving, and taking care of your children.

2. Worship is not what we do, but the heart we do it with.

“We ought not to be weary of doing the little things for the love of God. For God does not regard the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.” — Brother Lawrence, Practicing His Presence.

3. God is able to receive love in any form. Worship is acceptable if the heart is of love, regardless of the gift.

4. What gift can we give to God? Our cardboard and duct tape acts of service. Our love that makes our meager gifts a treasure to him.

5. Can be something you are already obligated to do (Col 3:22-24).

6. “Everyman, everyday worship” According to this definition, every human being can worship God every day, all day long.
a. Our entire life, all of our activities, regardless of our station, can be a continuum of love and worship to God.

b. How much of our lives we have wasted by making it loveless! We have robbed God of worship, and robbed our hearts of purpose and joy

7. The 99% of lives becomes meaningful

“Our only business is to love and delight ourselves in God. Our only endeavor should be to love Him with all our hearts.” – Brother Lawrence, Practicing His Presence.

“We ought to purpose ourselves towards this end: to become in this life the most perfect worshipper of God we can possibly be (since that is what we hope to be throughout eternity).” – Brother Lawrence, Practicing His Presence.

“I...have resolved to make the love of God the end of all my actions. I have been well satisfied with this single motive. I am pleased when I can take a straw from the ground simply for the love of God, seeking Him and nothing else – not even seeking His gifts.” – Brother Lawrence, Practicing His Presence.

B. Akinyemi Ojesina

Hi Bob,

This is a note to appreciate your work energized by faith and service motivated by love. I pray that you will receive great returns on ALL your investments.

When the story of my life is told, Joseph International Leadership Intensive would stand out as a true landmark event...I believe the Lord has just begun. I believe He allowed me to perceive the aroma of intimacy with Him and He gave me various recipes to cook meals that we can eat together. I have purposed to cook these meals for us to eat at His banqueting table of love. I will seek Him with my whole heart and will yield to His plan and call and my strategic positioning in His scheme of things. I sense that He will expect me to also under His mighty hand write more recipes of love unto Him, and to spread and make evident the fragrance of His knowledge everywhere.

As I sit at my desk in the lab, writing this, I have earphones on, listening to Bob Hartley's "Heart of Adoration" CD, and loving God while I continue to review a paper about to be sent out for publication. It feels almost as though I just returned from another planet. You guys have such an atmosphere of His presence in Kansas City and at IHOP in particular. I was hesitant to go out today because it felt like one would feel if you left an air-conditioned room into a smoked filled kitchen. But I boldly stepped out because I have brought the fragrance, clarity and presence of the Lord to the city.

It is my desire to participate (along with my unique and great wife, Tolu) in the "Call to the Wall" next year. Please keep me posted. Thank you very much. Please extend my love to every member of Joseph International. I pray that the Lord will renew your strength. He wants me to tell you that you have sown into fertile soil.....me......and you will each personally partake of the fruits that will grow from the seeds you have sown.

I love you. OJ
C. Marketplace Christianity is really about becoming lovers of God and people

1. Even if we don’t love what we do, we love who we are doing it for. Bob Hartley cleaning toilets.

2. Results: Even the mundane

   a. #1: becomes joy, presence, discovery of God.
   
   b. #2: intimacy, constant communion
   
   c. #3: This is the placed power is released

(1) Example: BF testimony of widow’s mite prayer: “everything changed.”

3. This kind of overcoming love, brought through weak, disempowered slaves conquered the roman empire

III. A NEW DEFINITION OF OUR CALLING

Our calling is discovering how we have been made to “love Him back best.”

A. Level 1 worship: “Anything we do to love him back.” Level 2 worship: “discovering how we have been made to love him back best.”

B. It is important we do level 1, but we must also press into level 2

C. Calling paralysis

1. Today’s destiny preaching is producing calling paralysis: “I don’t know what I am called to do so I will freeze and wait.”

2. Our calling is to worship him in everything we do. What we do is secondary. Get into level 1 worship, and then think about level 2.

3. Discovering our calling is simply discovering how we love Him back best.

D. The Idolatry of Our Calling
1. Our calling is not about us: it is about Him receiving his inheritance in us.

2. If it is about us:
   a. We have the option of being slack
   b. We can make a claim on others to serve us.
   c. We expect God to serve us and our calling
   d. We end up receiving the glory
4. **10 Kingdom Callings in the Marketplace**

(Not exclusive – all 10 could apply to one person).

I. **THE WORK-IS-WORSHIP ARMY – LYDIA (ACTS 16:14)**

A. The Col. 3 people. Worship God continually in everything they do. Whatever they do, they do to “love Him back.”

B. Example Intern: “I cannot wait to get back to Chick-fil-A and wash dishes!”

C. They change the atmosphere. Bringers of the “Aroma of Christ” into lives and situations.

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. 15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 (NASB)

D. Biblical examples: David. The worshipping shepherd, the praising king.

E. Revelation of the God of all of life.

F. Called to make the City a place of praise, worship, joy, thanksgiving. Called to bring the “simple worship” and “incense” to the City.

II. **THE COMPASSION ARMY – BOAZ**

A. John Hartley; John Shore. They leave no love-deed undone.

B. Also Job, Cornelius

16 “If I have denied the desires of the poor
or let the eyes of the widow grow weary,
or if I have kept my bread to myself,
ot sharing it with the fatherless—
but from my youth I reared him as would a father,
and from my birth I guided the widow—
if I have seen anyone perishing for lack of clothing,
or a needy man without a garment,
and his heart did not bless me
for warming him with the fleece from my sheep,
if I have raised my hand against the fatherless,
knowing that I had influence in court,
then let my arm fall from the shoulder,
let it be broken off at the joint.
Job 31:16-22 (NIV)

C. Entrusted with the “precious ones” of God, the weak and the vulnerable

D. Revelation of the kindness, compassion and tenderness of God

E. Called to make the City a place of kindness, tenderness, compassion, where everyone is cared for, no one is forgotten or overlooked. Called to bring the heart of God to the City.

III. THE EMBEDDED “PRESENCE BRINGERS”– DANIEL

A. People who will return the Presence to the City; people who take territory for the Kingdom of God.

B. Also: Joshua, Nehemiah, David, Cornelius, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego

C. Joshua

1. Presence (“face”) people

7 Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp. 8 And it came about, whenever Moses went out to the tent, that all the people would arise and stand, each at the entrance of his tent, and gaze after Moses until he entered the tent. 9 Whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent; and the LORD would speak with Moses. 10 When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would arise and worship, each at the entrance of his tent. 11 Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent. Ex 33:7-11 (NASB)

2. Presence-Power people

1 O God, we have heard with our ears, Our fathers have told us The work that You did in their days, In the days of old.

2 You with Your own hand drove out the nations; Then You planted them; You afflicted the peoples, Then You spread them abroad.

3 For by their own sword they did not possess the land, And their own arm did not save them,
But Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence,
For You favored them.

4 You are my King, O God;
Command victories for Jacob.
Psa 44:1-4 (NASB)

D. Cornelius

1Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, 2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, “Cornelius!” 4 And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Acts 10:1-4 (NASB)


F. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: Deep life in God. Full of the Spirit. Cultivated knowledge of God – the Kingdom of God is more real than earthly life. Bring change to the ethos. Dan 3:19, Neb. “filled with wrath;” v.28 “blessed be God!”

G. The vessels of the expansion of the Kingdom. Similar to the apostolic calling, they are always forcefully bringing the expansion of the kingdom into situations and lives. Cornelius: the gentile church; Joshua: the establishment of the Nation of Israel; David: the Kingdom of Israel; Nehemiah: the City of God

H. Prayer is their chief methodology. Steadfast in prayer; not typical marketplace prayer: “rescue me” prayer, “bless me” prayer. Daniel prayed 3 times/day (Dan 6:10); when he became aware of the purposes of God, his first response was 21 days of fasting and prayer (Dan. 9). Cornelius prayed “continually.”

I. Apostolic intercession

1. For years the church has prayed, “Thy Church Come.” We have claimed two arenas of life, church and home.

2. People who take the promises and pray them and believe them

21but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. Numbers 14:21 (NASB)
"Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build." Deuteronomy 6:10 (NASB)

4 It will no longer be said to you, “Forsaken,” Nor to your land will it any longer be said, “Desolate”; But you will be called, “My delight is in her,” And your land, “Married”; For the LORD delights in you, And to Him your land will be married.

Isa. 62:4 (NASB)

J. Supernatural encounters accompanying: Cornelius; Daniel; Joshua; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego;

K. Revelation of the Kingdom of God

L. Will bring the entrance of the Kingdom of God into every area of the city, making the City a dwelling place of the presence of God. Will cause the power, authority, activity, favor of God to be manifested in the City Called to bring the presence of God to the City.

IV. THE OASIS-BUILDERS (MARKETPLACE REDEEMERS) – ABRAHAM

A. Also: Boaz

B. These are often those with a marketplace calling and giftings, but loaded with ministry giftings as well.

C. The will build the Kingdom of God where they are. They will usher in the harvest “outside the camp.”

D. Stay-at-home moms and dads.

E. Similar to the pastoral gift

F. Biblical Examples: Abraham; Boaz; Joseph

G. Revelation of the God the Shepherd, Vine-dresser, Protector, Discipler, Mentor, Lover of our souls.
H. Those with shepherd’s hearts, who will build spiritual oases, places of spiritual health, growth and life to those in the city. Called to make the City a place of the life of God, spiritual health, safety, security, prosperity of soul. Called to bring personal health and growth (the “tree of life”) to the City.

V. THE ANOINTED CRAFTSMEN – BEZALEL

A. Most students of the scriptures cannot name the first instance of someone being “filled with the Spirit of God.” Most are surprised to find it in the building of the tabernacle of Moses:

1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 3 I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, 4 to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, 5 and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship. 6 And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, that they may make all that I have commanded you.” Ex. 31:1-6 (NASB)

B. The first mention in scripture of anyone being filled with the Spirit of God speaks of God’s infilling “in all kinds of craftsmanship.” Not prophecy, not miracles, but craftsmanship! God gave Bezalel supernatural revelation and ability in the working of gold, silver, precious stones, etc. Examples of modern craftsmen include engineers, artisans, analysts, accountants, lawyers, etc.

C. Example: George Washington Carver was a poor, self-educated ex-slave who became enamored with the peanut, considered at that time to be little more than a weed. He asked God to show him what the peanut might be good for, since He had created it. Carver invented two hundred uses for the peanut and single-handedly transformed the impoverished economy of the South. He was a craftsman of agriculture

To me my dear young friends, nature in its varied forms are the little windows through which God permits me to commune with him, and to see much of his glory, majesty and power by simply lifting the curtain and looking in.

More and more as we come closer and closer in touch with nature and its teachings, are we able to see the divine and are therefore fitted to interpret the various languages spoken by all forms of nature about us.

We must be patient and wait as were the old prophets. Isaiah, listening, heard a voice. We have so much noise now that we hear nothing but noise. It comes and goes and that’s all of it, just noise. We can’t think very well now because there are so many noises of different kinds. But Isaiah heard a voice.

There was a great purpose in that I was just an orphan boy wandering around trying to find a place and some way or other I did not allow myself to get bitter. It is forgotten.

E. Bob Fraser: a “craftsman of code.” I used to love writing code to the glory of God. I wrote code that people said was impossible to do. I would sit for hours quietly before my computer and craft the very finest code. I fellowshipped with God, we wrote together sometimes. Several times when I was stumped, I asked God to help me, and I had a dream that showed me where the problem was! I worked hard to improve my craft and become the best engineer possible. Wherever I went I quickly became the top engineer in the company.

F. Byzantine Reliquary: I am a student of history, especially ancient history. In reading a volume on the history of Byzantium, I came across a photograph of an ancient reliquary. The reliquary was of solid gold, intricately carved with figures, scriptures, etc. Monks, mostly with hand-tools, had made it nearly 1500 years ago. It was stunning! It was clearly a labor of love for many monks over, perhaps, decades. Then I read the caption: “The reliquary was to never leave the inner sanctuary of the church, and was never to be seen by the eyes of man.” These monks had labored years to produce something of stunning value and beauty, only for their creator!

G. In London there is a shoemaker named only “Lobb” who has been in business for hundreds of years. They have no sign on their door and they have never advertised. They have made shoes for nearly every king of England in the last few hundred years, and thousands of celebrities. Their shoes cost $5,000 per pair and take 9 months or more to make. But the customers say once you wear a pair you can never go back. They make wooden carvings of your feet, and then they build the shoe around the carving.

H. Of Lobb the scripture is true:

29 Do you see a man skilled in his work?
He will stand before kings;
He will not stand before obscure men. Prov. 22:29 (NASB)

I. God is the greatest craftsman ever! He loves creating; He loves beauty; He loves sharing His creative gift and love of beauty with earthly craftsmen.

J. Earthly craftsmen will be driven by the motive: to craft for Him, to give Him the very best; they will have a revelation of the Creator God.

K. Called to bring glory and beauty and creativity to the City

VI. THE TREASURE-BRINGERS – CYRUS’S
“Foreigners will build up your walls, 
And their kings will minister to you; 
For in My wrath I struck you, 
And in My favor I have had compassion on you.

Your gates will be open continually; 
They will not be closed day or night, 
So that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, 
With their kings led in procession.

Isa. 60:10-11 (NASB)

A. The treasure-bringers line up to bring their best joyfully to Jesus, then run back as fast as they can to get more.

B. God is bringing a new ethos through these: that of true financial eunuchs, those trusted because of lack of desire, “living within the circle,” only taking what they need, in order to give more to the Lord.

C. Gary Ginter: As he was on the verge of becoming a missionary, God spoke to him to go into the marketplace. Gary founded the Chicago Research & Trading Group which became a moneymaking sensation. The Wall Street Journal dubbed it “the envy of the industry.” Gary and his wife are worth multiple millions, yet they live in a modest 3-bedroom house and drive old cars. They have given millions to missions. Gary once said, “God has called me to make all the money I can, but live on as little as possible and give the rest away.”

D. Motivated by a revelation of the benevolent God. These are the ones who will bring in the billions, and will do the greatest compassion/mercy deeds to the nations.

E. Spiritual Robin Hoods. Their greatest joy is plundering the wealth of the world for their Lord. They will love money, but will be completely free from the spirit of mammon.

F. Biblical Examples: David – abandoned giving

David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, …

Wealth and honor come from you; 
you are the ruler of all things. 
In your hands are strength and power 
to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give you thanks, 
and praise your glorious name.
14 “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. 15 We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. 16 O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. 17 I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. 18 O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.

I Chronicles 29:10-18 (NIV)

G. Biblical Examples: Cyrus.

1 Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand, To subdue nations before him And to loose the loins of kings; To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: 2 “I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars. 3 “I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden wealth of secret places,

Isaiah 45:1-3 (NASB)

H. Called to bring resources to the city. By necessity will be the humblest of men/women, free from control spirit, glory-seeking.

VII. THE CUPBEARERS – MORDECAI

A. Also: Daniel, Nehemiah, Joseph, Esther

B. Prophetic influencers; in the right place at the right time with the right word; much bigger than their function

C. Daniel: Nebuchadnezzar publicly proclaimed the wisdom (Dan. 2:46-49) and power (Dan. 4:34-35) of God. Belshazzar acknowledged God (Dan 5:29). Darius proclaimed the Kingdom of God (Dan. 6:25-27). Cyrus sponsored the rebuilding of the temple.

D. Earthly example: Schindler’s little Jewish friend. Edward Jacobson (Jewish friend of Harry Truman)

E. Behind some of the most astonishing twists of history.

F. Similar to the prophetic gift. Most biblical prophets did not operate primarily in the temple (church). The operated in the court of the king
VIII. THE GOVERNORS – JOSEPH

A. The scripture speaks of God appointing gifts of “administrations”

\[\text{28And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 1 Cor. 12:28 (NASB)}\]

κυβερνεῖ σις; from κυβερνάω (to steer, guide, govern);
steering, government, administration

B. Gifts of government: Leadership and management

C. Leadership

1. Consultant Les Woller defined leadership this way: “leaders create meaning so that others can think and act.” Leaders create meaning; leaders are usually visionaries; leaders are usually articulate, excellent recruiters; leaders often are excellent strategic thinkers and “out of the box” thinkers; leaders often are initiators of change, disruptors of the continuum; leaders create chaos. Good leadership is based in goodness, justice, wisdom.

2. Where there is strong leadership there will be strong vision, unity of purpose, and alignment within an organization. Great leaders are characterized by and reproduce selflessness, humility, magnanimity, and courage. Examples would include Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., King David, Moses, William Wallace, Charlemagne, and many others.

3. Where there is weak leadership, there will be small-mindedness, and political infighting by scores of false leaders driven by personal ambition masquerading as vision. Weak leadership is characterized by and reproduces selfish ambition, pride, cowardice, and man pleasing.

4. In medieval history, often when the king would die, false leaders would surface and begin to contend for supremacy. In the 1990’s in Somalia, when the central government collapsed, competing warlords dominated the country. Leadership creates unity of heart and purpose. Without leadership, human beings devolve into their petty, meaningless personal ambitions.

D. Management
1. Managers: Managers are the counterpart of leaders. Managers organize resources to achieve the desired end; managers turn chaos into order; take activity into productivity, dilution and dissipation into focus. Management puts the right people in the right roles, and clearly defines everyone’s roles, goals, and boundaries. Managers design systems and processes that 1) bring out the best in each individual, and causes them to perform at a higher level than they naturally would; and 2) maximize efficiency so that all activity results in productivity, and no resources are wasted.

2. Where there is strong management there will be a strong yet flexible infrastructure for growth. Bringing more resources to bear results in more growth. There is little waste, resources are utilized effectively, and activity brings results.

3. Where there is weak management, resources are wasted; there may be a great deal of activity, but little real results. Bringing more resources to bear simply results in those resources being wasted.


E. Leaders define the “why,” managers define the “how.” Leaders without managers create lots of vision and activity, but frustration and fruitlessness. Managers without leaders create order and peace, but without purpose; and ultimately a different kind of frustration and fruitlessness. Where there is good leadership and management, there is good government; where there is good government; there is meaningfulness, peace, and fruitfulness.

F. Leaders create energy and activity; managers harness activity and bring productivity. Where there is leadership without management, there is activity without productivity.

G. The key tool of a leader is a vision; the key tool of a manager is a plan. A vision defines where we are going; a plan defines how we will get there.

H. Without administration you have chaos. Administration creates order and peace.

I. Revelation of God the King. They will bring the wisdom to build to the city.

J. Supernatural governance
1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,  
   And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.
2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him,  
   The spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
   The spirit of counsel and strength,  
   The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
Isa. 11:1-2 (NASB)

1. Wisdom
   a. Supernatural knowledge of the best way to proceed, and knowledge of  
      the results of various choices; supernatural creativity.
   b. Solomon “dividing the baby” was not a principle, but supernatural  
      wisdom for that particular situation.
   c. Joseph not only interpreted Pharaoh’s dream, but also knew exactly  
      what should be done with that knowledge.

2. Understanding
   a. Understand the meanings, times, seasons, strategies, purposes.
   b. Like the sons of Issachar (I Chron 12:32) – the “strategic prophets”  
      who “understand the times and know what Israel should do.” This  
      speaks of strategic understanding of the purposes of God. Joseph was  
      such a prophet.
   c. Josephs are sometimes “strategic prophets” who know how to plan and  
      mobilize on a global scale.

3. Counsel
   a. Advice, consultation; designs, plans, schemes, strategies
   b. Supernatural plans – Bob Fraser example: 1996 business plan, Joco  
      incubator plan borne supernaturally out of the gift of counsel.
   c. Joseph oversaw the transfer of wealth and power according to the  
      purposes of God. During Joseph’s famine, Egypt became wealthy and  
      a global power.
K.  Make the city a place of justice, order, peace

IX.  THE CITY-BUILDERS (REFORMERS)– JOSEPH, NEHEMIAH

A.  Build a place for God to dwell

1.  Nehemiah: Wept over the city

   "When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. 5I said, “I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God… Neh 1:4-5a (NASB)"

2.  David: Longed for a place where God would dwell.

   1 Remember, O LORD, on David’s behalf,
      All his affliction;
   2 How he swore to the LORD
      And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
   3 “Surely I will not enter my house,
      Nor lie on my bed;
   4 I will not give sleep to my eyes
      Or slumber to my eyelids,
   5 Until I find a place for the LORD,
      A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

   Psalms 132:1-5 (NASB)

3.  Abraham: Looking for city…

4.  Joseph: Secret vision of a Godly nation coming forth fulfilling the promises

B.  3-fold Joseph anointing:

   "Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck. (Gen 41:42)"

   1.  Signet ring: Authority

   2.  Fine linen: Priesthood

   3.  Gold chain: Wealth

X.  THE ANOINTERS – SAMUEL
11And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13 (NASB)

A. Samuel anointed David. Samuel’s will anoint the kings

B. Equipping marketplace apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers; equipping the work-is-worship army, the compassion army, the prayer/presence army, the oasis-builders, the craftsmen, the treasure-bringers, the cup-bearers, the governors, the city-builders.
5. **A Biblical Understanding of Money and Work**

I. **MONEY**

A. Definition of money: the right to the goods and services of others.

B. Money is morally neutral. It is neither good nor evil.

C. The bible does not say, “Money is the root of all evil.” It says, “Love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” (1 Tim 6:10)

D. Money is to be deeply appreciated, not for what it can do for you, but because of what it represents – the combined labor and love of a chain of servants. Example: a coffee bean. Appreciate: 1) To recognize the quality, significance, or magnitude of. 2) To be fully aware of or sensitive to; realize. 3) To be thankful or show gratitude for. 4) To admire greatly; value.

E. Work teaches the value of money. Until one earns a dollar, the dollar remains only a means to obtain wants. Once a dollar is earned it has new meaning: the effort, the labor, and the wants forgone. Money is the right to the goods and services of others. When money is obtained apart from work, it is the right to the goods and services of others, but without offering any goods or services in return. It can end up squandered, because proper value was never ascribed to it.

II. **WEALTH**

A. Wealth in the bible most often refers to land and herds. In an agrarian economy, *lands and flocks are the means of production*. In a modern economy, business is the means of production.

B. Definition of wealth: controlling the means of production.

C. Definition of riches: *a store of money*.

D. If money were *water*, then riches would be a *bucket* of water, and wealth a *river* of water. Or in terms of cash, riches are a *pile of cash*, and wealth is *cash flow*.

E. Riches are limited and can be depleted by loss or consumption. Wealth, on the other hand, creates a steady flow of income.
F. Wealth is others-oriented. Abram’s household supported more than three hundred trained men (Gen. 14:14), and probably a far larger number when women and children are included. These were his “employees” who worked the fields and tended the flocks, and were provided for in return.

G. Wealth gives us the ability to provide for others without depleting our resources. For example, if a needy family had arrived on Abram’s doorstep, he could have taken care of them by putting them to work in his fields. But instead of costing Abram, they would have actually expanded his production capabilities.

H. Wealth also gives us the ability to create a spiritual oasis. Abram likely hired into his household many refugees seeking to escape the depravity of nearby Sodom and Gomorrah. In Abram’s house they would have found a functioning marketplace and a spiritual oasis. By owning a business, we control the means of production and 1) create wealth; 2) we can hire good people, and provide for them; 3) we can care for customers by producing goods and services for them; and 4) we can create spiritual oases amongst our employees.

I. Wealth belongs to God

10 “For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills.
Psa. 50:10 (NASB)

J. Wealth is a blessing from God

22 It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich (wealth), And He adds no sorrow to it.
Prov. 10:22 (NASB)

12 Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And the LORD blessed him, 13 and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy; 14 for he had possessions of flocks and herds and a great household, so that the Philistines envied him. Gen. 26:12-14 (NASB)

1 Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who greatly delights in His commandments. 2 His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches are in his house, And his righteousness endures forever.
Psa. 112:1-3 (NASB)

K. God is committed to giving us the power to make wealth, because of His covenant with Abraham. He must bless His people in order to confirm His covenant.
But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Deut. 8:18 (NASB)

L. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Job, David, Solomon were all very wealthy.

III. CREATING VALUE

A. All wealth comes from creating value: growing a cucumber, fixing a car, cleaning a house, babysitting, or building a house. Creating value: creating something that: 1) never existed before, and 2) which has value to someone else.

B. Creating value is serving. All serving creates value.

C. Every normal human being has the capability of creating value, both with their hands and their head. Idle people: “go do something for somebody!”

D. If no one ever created value, no one would have anything to eat, have a place to sleep, or clothes to wear.

E. In creating value, we have the opportunity to be like God, who is always creating for others. In so doing, we earn the right to receive some value in return. This is one way people “care” for one another.

F. Through enhanced skill, we can create more value. Example: Lee Iacocca; Eli Whitney.

G. Every business (or ministry) is simply a value creation organization.

H. Every business/organization/ministry is required to balance their “income statement” – producing more than they consume – it is called “profit.” Profit simply means we are creating more value than we are consuming.

I. God’s divine order dictates that if we stop creating value as an organization, we forfeit our right to exist. This is good, since organizations that don’t create value are tying up resources but not serving others

J. Every human being is also required to balance their “income statement” – producing more than they consume
IV. THE POVERTY SPIRIT – MAMMON

9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1 Tim. 6:9-10 (NASB)

A. The root of the poverty spirit: Pursuing money apart from creating value.
Example: gambling, lottery, theft.

B. The poverty spirit: “Get rich quick.”

21 An inheritance gained hurriedly at the beginning Will not be blessed in the end. Prov. 20:21 (NASB)

C. The poverty spirit focuses on consumption and consumption items. Great pride is taken in consumption items: a fancy car, a boat, jewelry, etc.

D. Overextend with debt; disdain the very creditors that trust them.

E. The poverty spirit traps people in a cycle of poor choices and slavery to money – lottery winners.

Due to the success of its casino operations, the Seminoles have grown exceedingly wealthy, spending $965 million last year to purchase the Hard Rock International chain. Each of the tribe’s more than 3,300 members now gets free health care and college tuition – and everyone from infants to seniors receives monthly dividend checks that total more than $120,000 a year.

At first blush, it sounds like an incredible stroke of good fortune. But according to the South Florida Sun Sentinel, Seminole officials are concerned about “the alarming high school dropout rate, drug and alcohol abuse, free-spending ways that can lead to unmanageable personal debt, and an erosion of the work ethic.”

Former Tribal Chairman Howard Tommie says most families now have five or six cars, alongside airboats, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and vacation homes. Yet the tribe is also dealing with an upsurge of young people killed in accidents and by drug overdoses. Many remain unemployed.

“The challenge for me and 90 percent of the tribe is motivation,” says Louise Gopher, the Seminoles’ education director. “Young people say, ‘with so much money, why do I have to go to work, go to school.’ It’s like we've developed this monster. Now we have to deal with it.”

F. Pyramid marketing schemes prey on those with a poverty spirit – “get rich with little effort.”
G. Scarcity mentality – there is only so much food, clothing and other goods to go around, adding a new person means less for everyone. But in Abraham’s a family joining him expanded his production.

H. The poverty spirit is often accompanied by the spirit of envy: “the reason I am poor is that they are rich.” Envy fails to grasp that there is an unlimited supply of value that can be created.

I. Breaking the spirit of poverty is simple: Work. We must stop trying to get something for nothing, and instead create value for other people.

V. TWO VIEWS OF MONEY

A. There are two views of money: as a consumer and a producer.

1. Consumer view: money is viewed as the means to consume. People pursue money by any means in order to consume more. Work is a necessary evil. This is the “mammon” spirit.

2. Producer view: money is viewed as a reward for production and serving. Money is a byproduct of serving another. Money is a means of supplying others.

B. Children have the consumer view. Every father and mother must take on the producer view to some degree.

C. The consumer looks at opportunities and at others for how they can benefit from them. The producer looks at opportunities and at others for how they can serve and give to them. The consumer looks to take, the producer to give.

D. If you have the consumer view, then you are serving money. If you are serving money, then you are not serving God.

24“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. Matt. 6:24 (NIV)

VI. THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

A. The entrepreneurial spirit focuses on creating the most value for the most people. Wealth is a by-product of value-creation. The wealth potential is calculated by multiplying the amount of value created times the number of people you create it for.
B. The most successful businessmen/entrepreneurs are not driven by greed. They are looking for the most need. Find the most people in the most need, and solve their problem.

C. Example: Netflix

D. The entrepreneurial spirit is often replaced over time by the exploitational spirit.

VII. THE EXPLOITATIONAL SPIRIT

A. In business: the opposite of the entrepreneurial spirit is the exploitational spirit: focusing on getting money from a customer rather than providing value. Pursuing riches, using a customer to enrich yourself, versus serving a customer.

B. Exploitational Spirit: Seeing business primarily as a means of cashing a check. This is disrespecting the “sanctity of business:” Business is primarily about serving others, creating value, constantly improving products and services, committing to customers, being there for customers and supporting them long-term. It cannot be successful without intense passion and focus.

C. Exploitational Spirit: “I can get money from customers, I’ll do it part time, it won’t cost me much.”

D. The exploitational spirit will ultimately result in failure.

22 A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth
And does not know that want will come upon him.
Prov. 28:22 (NASB)

E. Many people (Christians too) often embrace the exploitational spirit by seeing business as a means for funding another true passion of their heart.

F. It is best to pursue our true passion and look for God’s provision in it. To pursue our passion is to serve God, who is the author of our passion. To do otherwise is to serve money.

VIII. WORK IS FOREVER

A. Even in paradise: Adam worked in the garden.

B. In Hebrew, both “work” and “worship” come from the same root: avodah.
C. Many people believe in heaven we work

D. Work is the means to create value

E. Many people’s objective is to graduate from work. But to what? Idleness? Pursuit of pleasure? If you are not working, you are not creating value. If you are not creating value you are consuming value created by others.

IX. WORK IS THE FOUNDATION OF SUCCESS

4 Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, 
   But the hand of the diligent makes rich. 
Prov. 10:4 (NASB)

17 He who loves pleasure will become a poor man; 
   He who loves wine and oil will not become rich. 
Prov. 21:17 (NASB)

11 Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, 
   But the one who gathers by labor increases it. 
Prov. 13:11 (NASB)

20 A faithful man will abound with blessings, 
   But he who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished. 
Prov. 28:20 (NASB)

X. GOD LOVES WORK

A. Many of the parables of Jesus are about work: The parable of the talents; The unrighteous steward; The Fig Tree. 45 of 52 parables told by Jesus touched the subject of work.

B. Work is mentioned 800 times in the bible, more than the words used to express worship, music, praise, and singing combined.

C. God is a worker: Many of Jesus’ descriptions of Himself and the Father are occupations: The Vinedresser; The Shepherd. He is a worker in Creation; the Cross; the earthly ministry of Jesus; His daily intercession. Does God love His work? His work is the ongoing expression of His love for us.

D. New Testament Christians were strongly exhorted to work.

10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. 
   11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. 
   12 Now such persons we
command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. 13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good. 2 Thess. 3:10-13 (NASB)

E. God loves work because He loves giving – and without work, there is nothing to give. This scripture ties together 1) the purity of labor; 2) the satisfaction of a job well-done, the “goodness” of it; 3) that labor creates value; 4) work is the foundation of giving; 5) giving is the expression of love.

He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. Eph. 4:28 (NASB)

XI. WHY GOD LOVES WORK

A. In labor we can honor God (greatest commandment)

B. In labor we create value, enabling us to serve others (2nd commandment)

C. Work is a primary means to encounter and have joyful fellowship with God (Adam’s pattern)

D. Labor is God’s training ground of governance.

So He said, “A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. 13 And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, ‘Do business with this until I come back.’ 14 “But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ 15 “When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. 16 “The first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ 17 “And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.’ 18 “The second came, saying, ‘Your mina, master, has made five minas.’ 19 “And he said to him also, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ 20 “Another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; 21 for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.’ 22 “He said to him, ‘By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? 23 ‘Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’ 24 “Then he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ 25 “And they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas already.’ 26 “I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. 27 “But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.” Luke 19:12-27 (NASB)

Through our marketplace experiences, God wants to teach us to rule. God wants to teach us not just to follow him but to rule in wisdom. Example: doing business with my children.
6. **Building Anointed Organizations**

I. **THE KINGDOM PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATIONS**

A. To create wealth

B. To establish His Presence in the marketplace; to be a spiritual oasis, a place where the Kingdom of God happens.

   1. Community, friendship, mentoring and discipleship
   2. Salvation/people are drawn closer to the Lord
   3. The presence of God
   4. Joy, peace

II. **BUILDING UN-ANOINTED ORGANIZATIONS**

A. To most, a “Christian organization” is one hiring only Christians

B. By definition, they are not hiring the most qualified person, but the most spiritual.

C. In general, they consider faith a valid replacement for competence and wisdom

D. By necessity they develop spiritual “litmus tests” which grade people on spirituality.

E. The premise: God automatically blesses those who are spiritual and punishes those who are not. Not true: often God disciplines sons and daughters while blessing the unredeemed.

F. They often devolve to cronyism and the political spirit, because reward is not based on performance, but on perception of spirituality.

G. They are often underperforming organizations, because they do not properly value and reward competence and performance, hence they reward mediocre competence and performance.

III. **BUILDING ANOINTED ORGANIZATIONS**
God prophesied about the anointed organizations in Is 62:4: our “land” (our means of production, our businesses/oragnizations) will no longer be “desolate,” but will be “married” – bound together in unity – with the Lord. Today most ministers view the marketplace as “desolate” – a black hole of faith where people lose their fire. I believe the Lord is going to reveal a new type of business/organization – where work is performed, but where the Lord inhabits.

A harvest is a miracle, but one that we can bring about: seed, soil, water and sunshine.

**A. Seed: Passion for Jesus**

1. Hire Christians: 10%-33%
2. Hire a core of on-fire Christians who will “work as for the Lord.”
3. Mix Christians and non-Christians

**B. Soil: Environment**

1. A secular (Merit-Based) environment
   a. Impartiality – merit-based recognition/reward
   b. Respect for all – including unbelievers
2. A gospel-safe environment (free from the spirit of intimidation)
   a. As long as it is respectful, invited, and on your own time, a personal sharing of lives and developing of friendships is encouraged.
   b. Managers
      (1) Be transparent about faith, but never compel
(2) When you speak of the Lord, make sure they know this is personal not professional, speak privately

(3) Say “As your manager, I would say _____, but as a friend, _____(I’d like to pray for you, you should come to church with me, etc.)”

(4) Must never use our positional authority to compel people to the Lord

c. Evangelism: Get to know your people – their personal story, their dreams, what motivates them. Tell them yours.

(1) Our testimony is the gospel. Our story will continue to impact them as they observe our lives

(2) This creates a foundation of understanding, trust; opens the door for the spiritual conversations along the way.

(3) Builds a foundation of friendship (many professional environments eschew this), love and caring, and pastoral care

(a) Are business leaders accountable for their work “flock?”

(4) Byproduct: loyalty. If you are committed to their dreams, they will be committed to yours.

3. People-oriented environment – not primarily a driven environment

a. Driven environment: people are valued/devalued purely on their performance

b. People-oriented environment: people are appreciated, loved and cared for as God’s precious ones. Performance and discipline are important parts of the equation, but they demonstrate our love for people, never undermine it. Imagine your son/daughter working for you and needing discipline.

c. Mentoring environment – placing value on learning, launching, growing
C. Water and sunshine: Teaching

1. The Bridal Paradigm: Living under the “smile of God.” God loves us ardently. God loves us even when we fall short, if there is a “yes” in heart toward God. Distinguishing between immaturity and rebellion.

    Unless our hearts embrace the bridal paradigm, we can never enter into true worship.

    Unless we have the correct view of God as a loving Father, we can never successful labor from our hearts. Parable of talents: the one who buried his talents did so because of a wrong view of God: “I knew you were a hard taskmaster.”

2. A New Definition of Worship – “Everyman, Everyday Worship”

3. Working “as for the Lord”

4. Pursuing intimacy, practicing the Presence
7. The Kingdom of God

I. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

A. Jesus talked much about the Kingdom of God. Many parables centered on the Kingdom of God as a theme. But what is the Kingdom of God?

2When you pray, say...Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Lk 11:2 (NKJV)

B. Jesus introduced us to the Kingdom of God at his first coming. He made it clear the KOG begins in the human heart:

21... the kingdom of God is within you. Luke 17:21

C. Jesus said the triumph of His power over the power of Satan was the Kingdom

28But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Matthew 12:28 (NKJV)

D. But when Zacchaeus decided to give half his possessions to the poor, and stopped being greedy, Jesus said, “Salvation has come to this house.” So clearly the kingdom of God came then too. So when benevolence replaces greed, when love replaces selfishness, etc., the Kingdom of God is coming.

9And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, Lk 19:9 (NKJV)

E. What is the Kingdom of God? The kingdom of God is any time/place his “rule” extends. Rulership has three dimensions: His power (healing, prophetic, evangelism, etc.); his ways; and his heart. Reformers are those who expand God’s kingdom by extending His heart, his ways, and his power into any area.

F. God has ways: love, generosity, humility, wisdom, graciousness, honor, integrity, honesty, diligence – and millions more. We are to bring this to the earth. This is one dimension of what it means to be the “light of the world.” Imagine His ways in education, government, business, media, etc.

G. Where God’s “Ways” Govern, it can be said He Governs

1 God be merciful to us and bless us,  
And cause His face to shine upon us,  
2 That Your way may be known on earth,  
4 For You shall...govern the nations on earth.

H. John the Baptist reformed taxation, military with God’s ways

12Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”  
13And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”  
14Likewise the soldiers
I. The Mosaic Law was an early expression of God’s ways in society. We are not trying to create a Mosaic theocracy in this age. They were types and shadows that we can learn from.

II. REFORM AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

A. “Make disciples of all nations” – the mandate is to teach them to follow his ways, the emphasis was not on belief. He did not say “make disciples in all nations.” There is a transformation component – bringing his ways.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.... 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. Matt 28:19

B. Salt and Light. Jesus gave us the reform mandate. Salt is “anti-rot” we are world anti-rot. This is more than a principle, it is a prophecy. If the church loses its anti-rot nature, it will be cast out and trampled by men. Today few young Christians train for politics, Hollywood, or CEO’s.

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matt 5:13-16

III. ALREADY HERE, OR YET TO COME?

A. Jesus introduced us to the Kingdom of God at his first coming. He made it clear the KOG begins in the human heart:

21… the kingdom of God is within you. Luke 17:21

B. He also pointed to a time when Kingdom of God would be literal:

29 They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. Luke 13:29

25 Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” Mk 14:25 (NKJV)

18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” Lk 22:18 (NKJV)

C. And a time in between, where it would be increasing
IV. THE INCREASING KINGDOM

A. Of the increase of his government there shall be no end

*Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. Isa 9:7*

B. Many hints about this progressive expansion of the kingdom:

In Daniel’s prophecy of the empires (Dan 2:31-35), Daniel described the four great empires that would dominate the nation of Israel: The Babylonian (head of gold); the Medo-Persian (chest and arms of silver); the Greek (belly and thighs of bronze); the Roman (legs of iron). The fifth empire was described as “cut out without hands” (God-created) and it “became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” (Daniel 2:35)

>34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

The fifth empire is understood to be an earthly empire as literal as the previous four:

>44 And in the days of these kings (Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome) the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. Daniel 2:31-35, 44-45

1. It is a literal empire. He prophesied during the Babylonian empire before the other three existed. “God has shown the king what will come to pass after this” requires a literal interpretation.

2. Began in the days of the Roman Empire (the fourth kingdom). In fact began at the resurrection:

>58“We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.’ ” Mk 14:58 (NKJV)

3. Authored by God – “Cut without hands”

4. It will overcome all other systems

5. It will fill the whole earth
6. It will last forever

7. It will be progressive.

C. There is a process...the stone became a mountain

D. The Kingdom is like a lump of leaven (yeast)

\[20\text{And again He said, “To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? 21 It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.” Luke 13:20}\]

E. Parable of the mustard seed

\[30\text{Then He said, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? 31 It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; 32 but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.” Mk 4:30-32 (NKJV)}\]

F. Parable of the Growing Seed: Seed → blade → head → Full grain in the head.

\[26\text{And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because (then) the harvest has come.” Mark 4:26-29 NKJV}\]

V. HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?

A. By divine process – Lord does it

\[26\text{And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because (then) the harvest has come.” Mark 4:26-29 NKJV}\]

B. Air war (prayer)

\[2\text{When you pray, say...Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Lk 11:2 (NKJV)}\]

C. Ground war (reformers)

\[13\text{“You are the salt of the earth...14“You are the light of the world...16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Mt 5:14-16 (NKJV)}\]
1. Reform: The mission of the 97%

2. 97% of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are in the marketplace.

D. Example: Nehemiah – First step = walls; second step = populate the city with his ways

VI. THE REFORMERS

A. Light has great power. It works. It changes things.

3 having a form of godliness but denying its power. 2 Tim 3:5

B. Example: William Wilberforce

C. Example: John Maxwell

VII. HOW FAR WILL WE GET IN THIS AGE?

A. Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached…is it possible the gospel of the kingdom is the Gospel that bears fruit of the Kingdom of God on earth, and is manifested is global transformation? (His ways)

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world and then the end will come
Matt 24:14

B. One extreme is Darbyism, which says Christians will be completely overcome, the Kingdom will be utterly shrunken. The other is Kingdom Now, Dominion Theology and Christian Reconstructionism, which purports Christians will take over society prior to His return. The reality probably lies somewhere in the middle. The Kingdom will be more expanded than it is today; but less than it will be after His return!
8. **Evidence of the Expanding Kingdom**

I. **FALSE ASSUMPTION: THE EARTH IS DESCENDING INTO DARKNESS THINGS ARE GETTING WORSE**

The seed “sprouts and grows” … “the earth yields crops by itself:”

26 And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because (then) the harvest has come.” Mark 4:26-29 NKJV

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. Isa 9:6-7

In the Christian population, there is widespread consensus that things are worse now than they have ever been.

A. Wealth: Poverty diminishing; focus on poor, is recent in history.
Regional GDP per capita changed very little for most of human history before the Industrial Revolution.

Hours worked per week (industrial revolution)
B. Chronic hunger and malnutrition were the norm for the majority of the population of the world including Britain and France, until the latter part of the 19th century. Until about 1750, in large part due to malnutrition, life expectancy in France was about 35 years, and only slightly higher in Britain.

The number of famine points by half-century, (1300-1900) – Saito (2010)
C. Health maladies being conquered: death in childbirth, infant mortality, increases in lifespan, penicillin
1. During the Industrial Revolution, the life expectancy of children increased dramatically. The percentage of the children born in London who died before the age of five decreased from 74.5% in 1730–1749 to 31.8% in 1810–1829.

2. “The death rate of children under the age of 15 has fallen by 95 percent since 1900 in the United States.”

3. In the plague of Justinian – 541-2 killed half the population of Europe by 700AD

4. 1347-51 – China lost around half of its population, from around 123 million to around 65 million; Europe around 1/3 of its population, from about 75 million to about 50 million; and Africa approximately 1/8 of its population

D. Science & tech: huge innovations transforming lives; deeper understanding of materials, energy, physics, human body

1 “It’s Getting Better all the Time” Moore, Simon
2 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plague_(disease)
E. Education: Literacy rates since 1475
F. Liberty: nation birthed in liberty (US); freedom of religion, speech, ownership unheard of 250 years ago, now mainstream. Before, feudal system (economic slavery), despotic kings who made their own law, systemic abuse, theft were the norm. at the turn of the last century a little over 10% of the global population lived under democratic rule. Today it is over 50%. Take this chart back 250 years it would be 100% red.

G. Slavery and human trafficking is being eradicated. 2000 years ago 30-40% of the population of Rome was slaves. Slavery was legitimized in nearly every culture and nation of the globe. Today human trafficking has been completely illegitimized.
H. Decline in human cruelty: 1000’s of years torture, mutilation, bloodshed, mainstream, human life cheap. 4-6M people died in the building of Great Wall of China. Today these are practiced only by rogue states.

I. Lawfulness and safety
J. War and Conflict

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**Top 20 Most Deadly Conflicts 1-2000**

Death Toll as a Percent of World Population

Source: Michael White, "The Great Big Book of Horrible Things"
K. Christian principles now mainstream in business: caring for employees, empowerment, honesty, integrity. John Maxwell (named the #1 leadership and management expert in the world by Inc. Magazine); Corruption rare in many nations;

L. Growth of the gospel: missions organizations more missionaries than ever; every nation have the gospel in 10 years; awakening in China

M. Knowledge of God increasing: 5000 years human sacrifice commonplace, even up to 1000 years ago in barbarian cultures; 1000 years ago indulgences for sin commonplace; last 100 years wave after wave of understanding: grace, miracles, healing, fathering, worship, prayer. Each wave leaves a new deposit of understanding & the true knowledge of God

N. Benevolence: Giving Pledge (www.givingpledge.org): 127 billionaires have pledged to give half to charity; 1.5M NGO’s in US; 3.3M in India
O. Losses: Rising tide of secularism in developed nations. Christians have largely lost our voice in the areas of public policy, education and media. But that is more that Christians have abandoned it than been removed from it. There are few passionate Christians entering the fields of education, media, or politics. It as a fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy that if we abandoned being a “preservative” of the earth, we would be trampled underfoot:

13“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. Matt 5:13

P. Losses: Virtue, personal morality; having studied the Middle Ages, Roman times (Pompeii), bible history, this generation does not have a monopoly on sin.

Q. Jesus described the Kingdom of God as a mustard plant that begins as the smallest of seeds, but becomes a tree (Matt 13:31-32). As the Kingdom of God advances, not every branch grows all the time. Though a branch may be damaged or stunted or destroyed for a time, the tree continues to grow.

“The 20th century...was the century that witnessed the death of at least 170 million people by their own governments. Nazi Germany killed more than 16 million people between 1933 and 1945, the Soviet Union killed 54.7 million between 1917 and 1987, and China killed 35.6 million between 1949 and 1987. In the 20th century at least four times as many people were killed by their own governments as were killed in wars. The accompanying table shows the number of people murdered by governments as a percentage of its total population for the 13th, 17th, 19th, and 20th centuries.”

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"Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. Isa 9:6-7"

3 “It’s Getting Better All the Time: 110 Greatest Trends of the Last 100 Years,” Stephen Moore, Julian Simon
II. HOW FAR WILL BE GET IN THIS AGE?

A. One extreme is Darbyism, which says Christians will be completely overcome, the Kingdom will be utterly shrunken. The other is Kingdom Now, Dominion Theology and Christian Reconstructionism, which purports Christians will take over society prior to His return. The reality probably lies somewhere in the middle. The Kingdom will be more expanded than it is today; but less than it will be after His return!

III. REVIVAL & REFORMATION

A. Revivalist thinking (get as many off the Titanic before it sinks)

1. Prayer/Mission
2. Revival/harvest
3. Destruction of earth
4. Heaven

B. Reformer thinking

1. Prayer/mission
2. Revival/harvest
3. Simultaneous reformation – inexorable (impossible to stop, alter, or resist; inevitable), steady, continuous – like a seed, or leaven, or the rock cut without hands.
4. Intermittent opposition
5. Jesus returns
6. Fullness of the Kingdom of God

C. Revival thinking is narrow -- We tend to look at the more recent revivals “Finney-esque”
1. Jesus movement – awakening of an entire generation, reinvented church and music

2. Healing revival of the 1940’s-50s Oral Roberts

3. Great awakening, Finney and Wesley, Whitefield, characterized by powerful preaching, conviction of sin, repentance

D. Going back even further, to the Protestant Reformation. Perhaps the most comprehensive and complete transformation of society ever seen

1. Theology Luther (1517), Calvin, Zwingli

2. Innovation medicine, science, math. Galileo, Copernicus, Kepler; Newton

3. Enlightenment
   “Atheism was much discussed but there were few proponents. Wilson and Reill note that,” In fact, very few enlightened intellectuals, even when they were vocal critics of Christianity, were true atheists. Rather, they were critics of orthodox belief”

4. Industrial revolution. In “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism,” Max Weber argued that the Protestant Reformation led to shift in cultural values that drove people toward worldly achievements, economic success a hard work ethic and saving.

9. The Destiny of Planet Earth

I. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT EARTH

A. The Earth is the Lord’s

*The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness Ps 24:1*

B. The earth is God’s footstool

*Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Isa 66:1*

C. He has given us charge and stewardship of the earth. And we were told to subdue and have dominion over the earth

27*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:27-29 (NKJV)*

Subdue = Heb: Kaw-bash – to make subservient, to dominate

D. The function of the saints was to be the “light of the world” and the “salt of the earth.”

13*“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matt 5:13-16*

E. The purpose prayer ministry was not to prepare us to go to heaven, but to prepare heaven to come to earth.

2*So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Lk 11:2 (NKJV)*

F. From the beginning he made it clear the earth would eventually fully express the Kingdom of God

*For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14*

21*but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. Numbers 14:21*

G. Heaven is in fact, coming to earth

2*Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down (to earth) out of heaven from God 3 “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them…” Rev. 21:3*

H. The Lord shall be King on the earth
And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. Zec 14:9 (NKJV)

I. Kingdoms of this World have become the Kingdoms of our Lord

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” Rev. 11:15

II. JESUS ON EARTH

A. A literal return

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” Ac 1:9-11 (NKJV)

B. God clearly pointed to a time when Jesus would come to rule the earth

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. Isa 9:6-7

C. Jesus is returning to the earth again (Luke 1:32-33, Matt 24) to dwell forever as a man. The throne of David refers to the rulership of the Jews reigning from Jerusalem.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” Luke 1:32-33

D. As Gentile believers, our most natural paradigm is to think of worshiping Jesus as God in the supernatural conditions of heaven. We emphasize Jesus’ deity as the Son of God, whereas the Jewish paradigm speaks of reigning with the messianic king as a man in the natural conditions of the earth. They emphasize the Messiah’s humanity as the Son of David. The truth is both paradigms combined.

E. Daniel 7 – The vision of the 4 beasts. It is clearly referring to his second coming and a literal earthly kingdom

“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one

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Which shall not be destroyed.
Daniel 7:13-14

F. When Jesus returns, all the saints in heaven are coming with him

13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. 1 Thessalonians 3:13 (NKJV)

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 1 Thessalonians 4:14-15 (NKJV)

G. All the angels too

31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory (on earth!). Matthew 25:31 (NKJV)

H. Matt 25 – Son of Man will “Sit on the throne of His glory” on earth

31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him… Matt 25:31-32

I. He will join heaven to earth and establish the full expression of the Kingdom of God on earth. God’s purpose not to abandon earth but bringing heaven and earth together

9 Having made known to us the mystery (hidden plan) of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (Eph. 1:9-10)

J. We will rule and reign with Him as kings and priests, on earth, forever (Rom 8:17; 2 Tim 2:12; Luke 19:13,16-17; Rev 5:10; 2:26; 3:21; 20:6; 21:7)

10 And [You] have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:10 (NKJV)

17 And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory. Romans 8:17 (AMP)

12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. 2 Timothy 2:12 (NKJV)

13 So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business till I come.’ 14 Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ 17 And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’ Luke 19:13,16-17 (NKJV)

6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection (the rapture). Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Revelation 20:6 (NKJV)
26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations. (Rev 2:26)

23 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ Matthew 25:23 (NKJV)

5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5 (NKJV)

III. WHAT ABOUT “MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD?”

A. Jesus was not making a statement for the future, but only at that moment

36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.” John 18:36

IV. WHAT ABOUT THIS AGE?

We know Jesus is coming back, and the Kingdom will be on earth forever. But what about this age?

A. The purpose of the parable was to explain the delay

11 …He spoke another parable…because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. Lk 19:11 (NKJV)

B. We have been given a clear mandate to “engage the world system” and invest our lives in such a way to win.

12 Therefore He said: “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. 13 So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business till I come.’ Luke 19:12-13 (NKJV)

Jesus gave them authority to operate in the earth; he commanded them to engage the system in activity & business; He expected them to operate in such a way to win. And those who did so were invited to rule with Him on the earth:

15 “And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ 17 And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’ Luke 19:15-17 (NKJV)

C. Mandate to Engage: What about “be not of the world” (Rom 12:2)? This is an important concept – but the idea is fully engage the world system, but reject its primary motivators: pride, materialism, and worldly pleasures.
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom 12:2

15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. In 17:15 (NKJV)

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 1 John 2:16

D. Why the 2000 year delay? To give time for the seed to grow, the leaven to spread. Parable of the Growing Seed: Seed ➔ blade ➔ head ➔ Full grain in the head.

26 And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because (then) the harvest has come.” Mark 4:26-29 NKJV

E. Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached...is it possible the gospel of the kingdom is the Gospel that bears fruit of the Kingdom of God on earth, and is manifested is global transformation? (His ways).

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world and then the end will come Matt 24:14

F. The church has done a good job preparing us for heaven – but less so preparing us for earth. We have been quick to abandon the planet – “our bags are packed.” But God is fully committed to the planet.

V. WHAT ABOUT THE GREAT TRIBULATION?

A. The bowl judgments (Rev 16 – Sores, sea turns to blood, rivers turn to blood, scorching, darkness, Euphrates dries up, earth shaken). These are called the “Seven plagues” (Rev 15:6,8). We can draw a clear parallel to Moses’ confrontation of Pharaoh with the 10 plagues in Exodus. The plagues are clearly targeting the evil army:

1. The first plague specifically “came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.” (Rev 16:2)

2. The second and third plagues were punishment for shedding the blood of saints (Rev 16:6)
3. The fourth, fifth, and seventh plagues all mentioned those affected “blasphemed God and did not repent” (Rev 4:9,11,21). Clearly then the intent was to confront the evil and if possible, offer them one more chance to repent. We again can draw a parallel to the unrepentant army of Pharaoh in the exodus.

4. The sixth plague affects only the evil army gathering for battle at Jerusalem (Rev 16:14).

B. They take place after the “last (7th) trumpet.”

52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Co 15:52 (NKJV)

15Then the seventh angel (trumpet) sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” Re 11:15 (NKJV)

C. At the 7th trumpet the church is lifted from the earth in preparation for cleansing.

1. Just like Sodom (saints evacuated first)

2. Just like Noah (saints evacuated first)

26“And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28“It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; 29but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30“It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. Luke 17:26-30 (NASB)

D. Just like the 70AD church.

E. Jesus is coming as the greater Moses to confront the powers of darkness. We think of it are just like the 10 plagues in Egypt – aimed at an obstinate Pharaoh and his wicked army (ex 14). The seven bowls of wrath end with the confrontation of the Antichrist and his armies (Rev 19:17-21).

F. Destruction of the wicked. God hates evil.

8And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NKJV)

4It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 5and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 6in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do
not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe...

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 (NKJV)

12 “Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.
13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow— For their wickedness is great.”
14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.
15 The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness.
16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.
Joel 3:12-16 (NKJV)

6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.
7 Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man’s heart will melt,
8 And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames.
9 Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.
10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. “I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.
Isaiah 13:6-11 (NKJV)

1 Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?— “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”
2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?
“I have trodden the winepress alone,  
And from the peoples no one was with Me.  
For I have trodden them in My anger,  
And trampled them in My fury;  
Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments,  
And I have stained all My robes.  
For the day of vengeance is in My heart,  
And the year of My redeemed has come.  
I looked, but there was no one to help,  
And I wondered  
That there was no one to uphold;  
Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me;  
And My own fury, it sustained Me.  
I have trodden down the peoples in My anger,  
Made them drunk in My fury,  
And brought down their strength to the earth.”

Isaiah 63:1-6 (NKJV)

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:15-16 (NKJV)

And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Luke 17:26-30 (NKJV)

(Parable of the minas)  
27 But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me. ”  Luke 19:27 (NKJV)

(Parable of the vineyard owner)  
15 …Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 He will come and destroy those vinedressers and give the vineyard to others.”  Luke 20:15-16 (NKJV)

(Parable of the wedding banquet)  
5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Matthew 22:5-7 (NKJV)

1 Why do the nations rage,  
And the people plot a vain thing?  
2 The kings of the earth set themselves,  
And the rulers take counsel together,  
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,  
3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces  
And cast away Their cords from us.”  
4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;  
The LORD shall hold them in derision.
Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:

Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion.”

“I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
‘You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.
Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.
You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”

Psalm 2:1-9 (NKJV)

More: Zeph 1:1-18, Zech 14

G. The Year of the Lord’s favor

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:16-21 (NKJV)

1. The year of His favor - to receive, to accept, to welcome, to be pleasing To extend hospitality (TDotNT) To take with the hand, to not refuse friendship, to receive favorably, to embrace, to make one’s own, to approve, to not reject (Strong's G1209).

2. The jubilee year (Lev. 25) was the year that lost inheritances and lost destinies were completely restored, without prejudice. If the loss was due to misfortune, sin, or foolishness, it made no difference - it was all forgotten. It is a proclamation of a day when men’s mistakes, faults, sins and weaknesses would not be counted against them. Everyone, no matter what, got a fresh start.

“For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him.” Psalm 103:11 (NKJV)
3. The year of His favor: “when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound.” It’s a general amnesty, the emancipation proclamation, and Santa Clause all in one: it’s when He is freely giving away new eyeballs and new hearts.

4. The verse Jesus didn’t read is “and the year of vengeance of our God” (Is. 61: 2). We are in the window, between His 1st and 2nd coming. It is a window of unlimited, unbounded mercy to any and all, without prejudice. But the window will close, and those who do not accept His mercy are subject to His judgment (22 NT references to the future wrath of God - Rom 1:18,2:5,2:8, 3:5, 5:9,9:22, Eph 2:3, 5:6, Col 3:6,1 Thes 1:10,5:9, Rev 6:16-17,11:18, 14:10,14:19, 15:1, 15:7,16:1, 16:19,18:3,19:15) Until he comes again, this is the reality we are living under: the unlimited, unbounded favor of God.

H. What about the “earth is reserved for fire?”

7The heavens and the earth…are reserved for fire until the Day of Judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 10But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (2 Peter 3:7,10)

It is really just an unfortunate translation. The word translated “burned up” is better translated “exposed” or “discovered.” Clearly from the multitude of other references to earth, the earth continues.

I. What about “heaven and earth is passed away?”

1Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Re 21:1 (NKJV)

It does not actually mean the physical earth and cosmos are destroyed, any more than being becoming a Christian gave us new physical bodies:

17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Co 5:17 (NKJV)
10. **Building for a Millennial Kingdom**

One of the greatest lost understandings of the Bible.

I. **HEAVEN OR EARTH?**

A. When Jesus returns, all the saints in heaven are coming with him

13**so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.** 1 Thessalonians 3:13 (NKJV)

14**For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.** 15**We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.** 1 Thessalonians 4:14-15 (NKJV)

B. All the angels too

31**When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.** Matthew 25:31 (NKJV)

C. Jesus is returning to earth to establish a literal kingdom on earth.

9**Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.** 10**And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,** 11**who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”** Acts 1:9-11 (NKJV)

6**Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.** Revelation 20:6 (NKJV)

II. **SECOND COMING PROCESSION STAGE 1 – IN THE SKY**

A. Procession in the sky worldwide: Rapture (Mt. 24:30-31; Rev. 1:7). The Jewish wedding is a type.

30**Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** 31**And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.** Matthew 24:30-31 (NKJV)

25**And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.** 28**Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.**” Luke 21:25-28 (NKJV)

10**when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.** 2 Thessalonians 1:10 (NASB95)
B. Appearing of the Son of Man on the clouds with power and great glory. Believers will look up with great joy and anticipation.

28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." Luke 21:28 (NKJV)

23 We...who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. Romans 8:23 (NKJV)

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom...

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NKJV)

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Titus 2:11-13 (NKJV)

10 When He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe...

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 1 Peter 4:12-13 (NKJV)

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, Jude 24 (NKJV)

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Colossians 3:4 (NKJV)

C. Rapture of the saints with a trumpet

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NKJV)

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 (NKJV)
19 Your dead shall live;  
Together with my dead body they shall arise.  
Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust;  
And the earth shall cast out the dead.
Isaiah 26:19 (NKJV)

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,  
Some to everlasting life,  
Some to shame and everlasting contempt.
3 Those who are wise shall shine  
Like the brightness of the firmament,  
And those who turn many to righteousness  
Like the stars forever and ever.
Daniel 12:2-3 (NKJV)

III. SECOND COMING PROCESSION STAGE 2: ACROSS THE LAND

A. Stage 2: Jesus’ royal procession on the land as He marches through Edom or modern-day Jordan to destroy His enemies (Isa. 63:1-6, Hab. 3:12; Ps. 45:3-5; 110:5-6) on His way to Jerusalem.

1 Who is this who comes from Edom (Jordan)...this One traveling in the greatness of His strength?...  
2 Why is Your apparel red...?  
3 I have trodden them (nations) in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes.  
4 The day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. (Isa. 63:1-4)

11 The sun and moon stood still...  
12 You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger.  
13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people... (Hab. 3:11-12)

3 Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty.  
4 And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness. (Ps. 45:3-4)

5 He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.  
6 He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:5-6)

B. As Jesus marches up through Edom (Jordan), He will function as the “greater Moses” as He releases the bowl judgments on the Antichrist, as the “end-time Pharaoh”. Seven bowls of wrath (Rev 15-16). Lasts 30 Days (Dan 12:11):

1. Foul & loathsome sores
2. Sea becomes blood (all fish die)
3. Fresh water becomes blood (lakes, rivers, springs)
4. Sun scorches with fire – great heat
5. Total darkness & pain

6. Demonic gathering of kings to Armageddon

7. Final fall of Babylon, earthquake & hail.

C. Jesus will lead Israel across the Jordan River into the promise land as the “greater Joshua”. As He marches on the land, He will gather captive Israel as He opens prison doors and liberates Jews in prison camps (Ps. 102:20; Isa. 27:12-13; 40:11; 42:7, 16, 22; 49:9-12, 21, 24-26; 61:1; Jer 30:3, 8, 10, 17; 31:16, 23; Ezek. 39:23-29; Joel 3:1-2; Amos 9:14; Mic. 2:12-13; 4:6-7; Zeph. 3:19-20; Zech. 9:11-12; 10:10; 13:8; 14:2; Mt. 25:43; Lk. 21:24).

12It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will thresh, from the channel of the River (Euphrates) to the Brook of Egypt; and you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. 

13So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; they will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem (in the Millennium). (Isa. 27:12-13)

D. Destruction of the wicked. God hates evil.

8And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NKJV)

6It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe... 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 (NKJV)

12 “Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.

13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.
Come, go down;
For the winepress is full,
The vats overflow—
For their wickedness is great.”

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!
For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

15 The sun and moon will grow dark,
And the stars will diminish their brightness.

16 The LORD also will roar from Zion,
And utter His voice from Jerusalem;
The heavens and earth will shake;
But the LORD will be a shelter for His people,
And the strength of the children of Israel.
Joel 3:12-16 (NKJV)
Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand!
It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Therefore all hands will be limp,
every man's heart will melt,

And they will be afraid.
Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them;
They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth;
They will be amazed at one another;
Their faces will be like flames.

Behold, the day of the LORD comes,
cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,
to lay the land desolate;
and He will destroy its sinners from it.

For the stars of heaven and their constellations
will not give their light;
The sun will be darkened in its going forth,
and the moon will not cause its light to shine.

“I will punish the world for its evil,
and the wicked for their iniquity;
I will halt the arrogance of the proud,
and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Isaiah 13:6-11 (NKJV)

Who is this who comes from Edom,
with dyed garments from Bozrah,
this One who is glorious in His apparel,
traveling in the greatness of His strength?
“I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”

Why is Your apparel red,
and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

“I have trodden the winepress alone,
and from the peoples no one was with Me.
For I have trodden them in My anger,
and trampled them in My fury;
Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments,
and I have stained all My robes.

For the day of vengeance is in My heart,
and the year of My redeemed has come.

I looked, but there was no one to help,
and I wondered
that there was no one to uphold;
therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me;
and My own fury, it sustained Me.

I have trodden down the peoples in My anger,
Made them drunk in My fury,
And brought down their strength to the earth.”

Isaiah 63:1-6 (NKJV)

Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:15-16 (NKJV)
26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. Luke 17:26-30 (NKJV)

(Parable of the minas)
37 But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.’ ” Luke 19:27 (NKJV)

(Parable of the vineyard owner)
15 ...Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 He will come and destroy those vinedressers and give the vineyard to others.” Luke 20:15-16 (NKJV)

(Parable of the wedding banquet)
5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Matthew 22:5-7 (NKJV)

1 Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?
2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us,”
4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The LORD shall hold them in derision,
5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:
6 “Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion.”
7 “I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
‘You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.
8 Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.
9 You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”
Psalm 2:1-9 (NKJV)

1. Zeph 1:1-18, Zech 14

IV. SECOND COMING PROCESSION STAGE 3: INTO JERUSALEM AND MOUNT OF OLIVES
A. Jesus is invited by Israel’s governmental leaders to rule (Mt. 23:39; Ps. 24:7-10; Zech. 14:4)

39 For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ Matt. 23:39

V. JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

A. Jesus returns to Jerusalem

B. 45 days Jesus restores the government of the earth (Dan 12:12)

C. Millennial reign begins

D. Jesus will rule the world from Jerusalem in perfect righteousness and continual peace as He restores it to the conditions of the Garden of Eden. His Kingdom on earth will affect every sphere of life (political, economic, educational, agricultural, family, media, arts, technology, environment, social institutions, etc; Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2; 110; Mt. 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 3:21).

E. Resurrected believers with glorified bodies will rule with Jesus over the governments of the Millennial earth. (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom 8:17).

VI. THREE JUDGMENTS: MATTHEW 25

A. Leaders: Parable the 10 virgins

B. Christians: Parable of the Talents

C. Nations: Parable of the sheep and the goats

D. Reward of the saints

18 And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.” Revelation 11:15-18 (NKJV)
1. The Greek word for the “judgment seat” is the “bema seat” or the place to receive a reward. This concept is seen when an athlete stands before the Olympic judges to receive a gold medal. Paul viewed life as one long race that resulted in one appearance before Jesus, the “Olympic Judge.”

\[\text{10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor. 5:10)}\]

\[\text{5 The Lord comes who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. (1 Cor. 4:5)}\]

2. Many references to reward

\[\text{12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. Revelation 22:12 (NKJV)}\]

\[\text{12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven. Matthew 5:12 (NKJV)}\]

9 Sermon on the Mount references to reward: Matt 5:12, 46, 6:1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 16, 18

\[\text{27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. Matthew 16:27 (NKJV)}\]

3. Number one reward: being with Him

\[\text{1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:1-3 (NKJV)}\]

4. Reigning with Him

\[\text{12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. 2 Timothy 2:12 (NKJV)}\]

\[\text{10 And [You] have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:10 (NKJV)}\]

\[\text{6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection (the rapture). Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Revelation 20:6 (NKJV)}\]

\[\text{26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations. (Rev 2:26)}\]
VII. MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

A. Restoration of the earth; preparation to receive the Father

VIII. “SALVATION” – OUR FUTURE

Salvation is described the scripture as a future event which will take place when Jesus returns:

28Christ,…will appear a second time, not to carry any burden of sin nor to deal with sin, but to bring to full salvation those who are [eagerly, constantly, and patiently] waiting for and expecting Him. Hebrews 9:27-28 (AMP)

1And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Romans 13:11-12 (NKJV)

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5 (NKJV)

IX. 15 DIMENSIONS OF “SALVATION”

A. Resurrection from the dead (Acts 23:6, 24:15, 26:6-7)

(Paul before Felix): 15I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. 16This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Acts 24:15 (NKJV)

B. Eternal life

15Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:15 (NKJV)

2in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, Titus 1:2 (NKJV)

7that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:7 (NKJV)

C. Redemption of our bodies – glorious new bodies

51Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NKJV)

23Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for…the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:23 (NIV)
...The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. 1 Corinthians 15:41-44 (NKJV)

...we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body. Philippians 3:20-21 (NKJV)

D. Redemption of creation

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. Romans 8:19-21 (NIV)

E. Jesus fully unveiled

...When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 (NKJV)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ—things which must shortly take place. Revelation 1:1 (NKJV)

F. Full, unlimited revelation of Jesus

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV)

...we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2-3 (NKJV)

G. Transformation

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2 (NKJV)

H. Being with Jesus

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:1-3 (NKJV)

For God has not appointed us to [incur His] wrath [He did not select us to condemn us], but [that we might] obtain [His] salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah). Who died for us so that whether we are still alive or are dead [at Christ’s appearing], we might live together with Him and share His life. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 (AMP)

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NKJV)
Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. John 17:24 (NKJV)

I. Fullness of grace

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

...we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand. Romans 5:2 (NKJV)

J. Joy

But insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, so that when His glory [full of radiance and splendor] is revealed, you may also rejoice with triumph [exultantly]. 1 Peter 4:13 (AMP)

In Your presence is fullness of joy: At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

K. Adoption as Sons (inheritance)

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:23 (NIV)

L. Glorification and honor

Different levels and types of glory

There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:41-42 (NKJV)

...Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Hebrews 11:35 (NKJV)

The glory will be fully evident and “in” us

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. Romans 8:18-19 (NKJV)

The glory will surpass that which Moses had

But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious. 2 Corinthians 3:7-11 (NKJV)
27 To them (the saints) God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27 (NKJV)

The glory will be stunning

43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Matthew 13:43 (NKJV)

3 Those who are wise shall shine
Like the brightness of the firmament,
And those who turn many to righteousness
Like the stars forever and ever.
Daniel 12:3 (NKJV)

Receiving a testimony

5 Because of faith Enoch was caught up and transferred to heaven, so that he did not have a glimpse of death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For even before he was taken to heaven, he received testimony [still on record] that he had pleased and been satisfactory to God. Hebrews 11:5 (AMP)

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7 (NKJV)

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. 2 Corinthians 4:17 (NKJV)

M. Reward

12 Behold, I am coming soon, and I shall bring My wages and rewards with Me, to repay and render to each one just what his own actions and his own work merit. Revelation 22:12 (AMP)

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV)

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels (motives) of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God. 1 Corinthians 4:5 (NKJV)

10 ...But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 1 Corinthians 3:10-14 (NKJV)

N. Incorruptible inheritance
3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5 (NKJV)

O. Crowns: righteousness, life, glory

9 Jesus…, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor. Hebrews 2:9 (NKJV)

24 Those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize…run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 They do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (NKJV)

8Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing (those who have lived their life focused on the consummation). 2 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV)

12Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. James 1:12 (NKJV)

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. 1 Peter 5:4 (NKJV)

19 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10 (NKJV)

P. Heirs, ruling and reigning with Him

17 And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory. Romans 8:17 (AMP)

8 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Revelation 20:6 (NKJV)

12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. 2 Timothy 2:12 (NKJV)

13 So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business till I come.’ 14 Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ 17 And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’ Luke 19:13,16-17 (NKJV)

X. HOW SHALL WE THEN LIVE?

A. We exchange the temporal for the eternal

24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (increase) Matthew 6:24 (NKJV)
The proud man [the Chaldean invader] is restless and cannot stay at home. His appetite is large like that of Sheol and [his greed] is like death and cannot be satisfied; he gathers to himself all nations and collects all people as if he owned them. Habakkuk 2:5 (AMP)

B. Personal transformation: “one thing” life-focus

C. Become reformers of our sphere of influence

1. How will this business be conducted in the millennial kingdom?

2. How would Jesus do this business/job? What would Jesus do differently?

3. What is your divine mission? What have you been sent to do? (Paradigms: One-thing focus / family / contentment)

D. Become city transformers
11. Twelve Faces of God for Reformers

I. THE GOD OF ALL OF LIFE

*The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness, Ps 24:1*

A. God is the God of Church, God of family, the God of Missions, theology

B. But God also the God of

1. The God of science – He placed the stars in the sky (200 billion in our galaxy); He designed the processes that governs the suns and moons and planets; He designed the atoms and how they interact in all materials and chemical processes;

   *I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, Ps 8:3*

2. The God of medicine – He designed the intricacies and mysteries of the human body

   *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works... Ps 139:14*

3. The God of Creation – He created the earth and all its intricate processes, its perfection and beauty, and entrusted it to man

   *O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions— This great and wide sea, In which are innumerable teeming things, Living things both small and great. Ps 104:24-25*

   *Creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. Rom 8:19*

4. The God of technology. Technology is unlocking the mysteries of creation and, like God, creating something useful and helpful to mankind.

   *God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him... 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion...Gen. 1:27-28*

5. The God of design, art, craftsmanship

   *And Moses said to the children of Israel, “See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship. Exodus 35:30-33 (NKJV)*
6. The God of leadership, management, organization – the science of how God designed people to work together

28And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations. 1 Cor. 12:28 (NASB)

κυβερνεῖ σισ; from κυβερνάω (to steer, guide, govern);
steering, government, administration

7. God of Government. God’s ways bring peace prosperity, joy and the knowledge of God to people

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people. Prov 14:34

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Rom 13:1

8. God of education. We are all born without understanding, by God’s design; but ordained teachers and a glorious and beautiful discovery process. Jesus Himself is the Teacher

for One is your Teacher, the Christ… Matt 23:8

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter. Prov 25:2

Go … and make disciples of all the nations… 29 teaching them. Matt 28:19-20

C. In all of our career, our activities, our pursuits, our daily lives we are to discover God. He understands it; he has great wisdom for us in it; His ways and values can be introduced and expanded in it, to the benefit of all; He enjoys being invited in to our lives and walking with us in all our pursuits;

indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord. Num 14:21

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. Col 3:23-24

D. Healing: vision, blind eyes

II. THE GOD OF YOUR HEART’S DESIRE

A. A definition of worship: anything you do to love Him back (Session 3)

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold (many faces) grace of God.

B. Simply doing our activities “for the Lord” we get a heavenly reward
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**TWELVE FACES OF GOD FOR REFORMERS**

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23Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. Col. 3:22-24 (NIV)

C. The Widow’s Mite. She gave all she had. It is usually taught that the worthiness of her offering was based on her sacrifice. But the two small copper coins were not a sacrifice. 10 widow’s mites bought a loaf of bread. One Denarius (day’s wages) was 256 widow’s mites. The lesson of the widow’s mite is that He loves and receives any gift we give to him, regardless of how insignificant it seems. 12For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. 2 Cor. 8:12 (NIV)

God never forgets the little things we do for love’s sake (widow with mite). So easy to please – he receives any offering.

D. We must understand that God is the author of our heart, and the good desires in our heart come from him. Our secondary “loves” – food, travel, technology, cinema, business, etc. – are not evil. They are wonderful, as long as the first commandment – Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength – is in first place. In fact, they enhance our love for God, because we love God through these passions, we invite him into them; we bring his heart and ways; it is God’s way to bring his heart and ways, His kingdom, into all the interests and activities of mankind.

E. This life is a “ranch” not a “maze.” Many are paralyzed by a prohibitive view of God, rather than inclusive

F. Healing: Heart disease

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**III. GOD OF REFORMATION**

A. The Earth is the Lord’s (session 9)

*The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness Ps 24:1*

B. The earth is God’s footstool

*Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Isa 66:1*

C. He has given us charge and stewardship of the earth. And we were told to subdue and have dominion over the earth

27So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:27-29 (NKJV)

Subdue = Heb: Kaw-bash – to make subservient, to dominate
D. God’s plan has always been to redeem and restore the earth and bring the full expression of the Kingdom of God on earth

*For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14*

21 but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. Numbers 14:21

E. Jesus is returning to the earth again (Luke 1:32-33, Matt 24) to dwell forever as a man

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” Luke 1:32-33

F. He will join heaven to earth and establish the full expression of the Kingdom of God on earth

*Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Luke 11:2*

*9Having made known to us the mystery [hidden plan] of His will…10that…He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (Eph. 1:9-10)*

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down (to earth) out of heaven from God 3“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them…” Rev. 21:3

G. We will rule and reign with Him as kings and priests, on earth, forever (Rom 8:17; 2 Tim 2:12; Luke 19:13,16-17; Rv 5:10; 2:26; 3:21; 20:6; 21:7)

H. We have been given a clear mandate to “engage the world system” and invest our lives in such a way to win.

12Therefore He said: “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. 13So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business till I come.’” Luke 19:12-13 (NKJV)

Jesus gave them authority to operate in the earth; he commanded them to engage the system in activity & business; He expected them to operate in such a way to win. And those who did so were invited to rule with Him on the earth:

15 “And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ 17 And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’” Luke 19:15-17 (NKJV)
LEADERSHIP RETREAT 2013—ROBERT FRASER

TWELVE FACES OF GOD FOR REFORMERS

I. The kingdom of God is any time/place his “rule” extends. Rulership has three dimensions: His heart, his ways, and his power (healing, prophetic, evangelism, etc.). Reformers are those who expand God’s kingdom by extending His heart, his ways, and his power into any area.

J. History is full of reformers who changed society by bringing His heart, ways, and power. Examples: William Wilberforce; John Maxwell; Florence Nightingale, Ben Carson; George Washington Carver;

IV. THE GOD WHO LOVES DIVERSITY

A. God invented the 7500 unique parts of the human body (Terminologica Anatomica), each with a special, unique, and important function (1 Cor 12). He created millions of colors; 8.74 million species (Discover News); trillions of unique snowflakes. God treasures diversity and uniqueness; he does not want everyone to be identical or conformed except to his image (Rom 8:29). Each is beautiful in its own way; each tells another side of God. He does not want one color, one flavor, one species.

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so is it with Christ… 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. 1Cor 12:12,14

15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 1 Cor 12:15-20

B. Ten Kingdom Callings in the marketplace (Session 4)


14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. 15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 (NASB)

“If I have denied the desires of the poor
or let the eyes of the widow grow weary,
if I have kept my bread to myself,
not sharing it with the fatherless—
but from my youth I reared him as would a father,
and from my birth I guided the widow—
if I have seen anyone perishing for lack of clothing,
or a needy man without a garment,
and his heart did not bless me
for warming him with the fleece from my sheep,
if I have raised my hand against the fatherless,
knowing that I had influence in court,
then let my arm fall from the shoulder,
let it be broken off at the joint.
Job 31:16-22 (NIV)

3. The Prayer and Presence Army. “Presence Bringers”– Daniel, David. People who will return the Presence to the City; people who take territory for the Kingdom of God. Marketplace Apostles


5. The Anointed Craftsmen – Bezalel, the first instance of anyone “filled with the Spirit of God.”

Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship. And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, that they may make all that I have commanded you;” Ex. 31:1-6 (NASB)

The first mention in scripture of anyone being filled with the Spirit of God speaks of God’s infilling “in all kinds of craftsmanship.” Not prophecy, not miracles, but craftsmanship! God gave Bezalel supernatural revelation and ability in the working of gold, silver, precious stones, etc. Examples of modern craftsmen include engineers, artisans, analysts, accountants, lawyers, etc.
6. **The Treasure-Bringers** – Cyrus’s. The treasure-bringers line up to bring their best joyfully to Jesus, then run back as fast as they can to get more. Spiritual Robin Hoods. Their greatest joy is plundering the wealth of the world for their Lord. They will love money, but will be completely free from the spirit of mammon.

10 “Foreigners will build up your walls,
And their kings will minister to you;
For in My wrath I struck you,
And in My favor I have had compassion on you.

11 “Your gates will be open continually;
They will not be closed day or night,
So that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations,
With their kings led in procession.

Isa. 60:10-11 (NASB)

7. **The Cupbearers** – Mordecai, Also: Daniel, Nehemiah, Joseph, Esther. Prophetic influencers to leaders; in the right place at the right time with the right word; much bigger than their function.


28And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, **administrations**, various kinds of tongues. 1 Cor. 12:28 (NASB)

κυβερνεῖ | σίμα; from κυβερνάω | (to steer, guide, govern); steering, government, administration


10. **The Anointers** – Samuel. Samuel anointed David. Samuels will anoint the kings. Equipping marketplace apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers; equipping the work-is-worship army, the compassion army, the prayer/presence army, the oasis-builders, the craftsmen, the treasure-bringers, the cup-bearers, the governors, the city-builders.

C. Heals: Depression, bipolar, mental problems

V. **THE GOD OF PROVIDENTIAL MIRACLES**
A. “Providential miracles” are miracles that do not defy the natural order: a farmer having a great crop; sitting next to the right person on the airplane; finding the perfect employee, etc. Supernatural miracles are part of our inheritance – but God never intended man to live on supernatural miracles, but to operate, under the anointing, the natural system God created.

B. In the beginning God designed the earth to be a wealth-creation machine:

11Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. Genesis 1:11 (NKJV)

At the foundation, at the very beginning, he designed a system for unmatched wealth creation. It was built into the design of the earth from the beginning. It was a system of multiplication that would produce unparalleled wealth.

If you were to start with 1 bushel of wheat and every year were able to plant it and get a 100 fold harvest, then you planted all of that harvest, and got another 100-fold harvest. Do you know how much you would have in the 7th year? 100 trillion bushels. (100; 10,000; 1M; 100M; 10B; 1T; 100T)

C. The system is a perfect example of the partnership with God and man. We cannot do God’s part (make a seed sprout) and he will not do our part (plant, water or harvest). If ground is not cleared, seeds are not planted and cared for, nothing will grow. But only god can make a seed grow.

D. God then gave this system to man as its steward (Gen 1:27-29) and we were told to be fruitful and multiply; to subdue (Hebrew Kaw-bash – to make subservient, to dominate) and have dominion over the earth.

E. Isaac in the great famine is an example of a providential miracle. There was no rain, but he dug wells instead.

12Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him. 13The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; Genesis 26:12-13 (NKJV)

F. When the Israelites entered the Promised Land, the manna ceased, because the land produced according to the natural order. As we increasingly enter into the greater Promised Land (the manifestation of the Kingdom of God on earth) we will rely increasingly on providential miracles.

12 Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year. Josh 5:12
G. Though providential miracles do not violate the natural order, they are still miracles, meaning God-activated. God activates or accelerates the natural processes, or removes the hindrances.

H. 78 types of providential miracles

I. Healing: our burdens (pain replaced with life); Heals cancer;

VI. GOD OF CONSTANT COMMUNION

16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 (NIV)

17 pray without ceasing: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NASB)

Literally: Pray without stopping

“My set times of prayer are not different from other times of the day. Although I do pray (because it is the direction of my superior) I do not need such retirement nor do I ask for it because my greatest business does not divert me from God.” – Brother Lawrence, Practicing His Presence.

“I am more united to God in my outward employments than when I leave them for devotion and retirement.” – Brother Lawrence, Practicing His Presence.

“It is a great delusion to think that the time of prayer ought to be different from other times. We are strictly obliged to adhere to God in the time of action, just as we are to adhere to God during the season of prayer.” – Brother Lawrence, Practicing His Presence.

“When the appointed time of prayer has passed, I find no difference because I still continue with God, praising and blessing Him with all my might, so that I might pass my life in continual joy.” – Brother Lawrence, Practicing His Presence.

A. Omnipresence of God

5 “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’
6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. John 16:5-7 (NKJV)

20 …Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)

B. The “Presence Principle:”

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:8 (NASB)

If we are not in His presence, it is because we haven’t drawn near.

C. Heals: Migraines
VII. THE GOD WHO SPEAKS -- ISSACHARIAN HEARING

A. God wants to speak to His reformers with a new kind of hearing that is practical, wise, and helps us build. It is not just words of knowledge, but creative genius, divine solutions, heavenly blueprints and strategies. It will show us how to build and reform, like the sons of Issachar.

32 The sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do. 1 Chron 12:32

B. The key to this type of hearing is asking the right questions. Jesus had something to say, but the disciples were too full of their own questions:

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:4-8 (NKJV)

C. In Issacharian hearing we talk about what he wants to talk about. We often come to him with our own thoughts, our faulty paradigms, our petty needs, and our internal noise. At the “table of the Lord” we are to set aside these things and get in sync with His heart and thoughts.

8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.
9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.
Isaiah 55:8-9 (NKJV)

D. We let Jesus tell us what to ask. Jesus sits at the table with us as our best friend who loves us dearly, and He is here to meet with us. We ask Him, what do you want me to ask you?

1. We can start with the things he has already been speaking (use the journal of the voice)

2. We can ask anointed questions. Picture Jesus sitting with you at the table, looking in your eyes, and giving you questions to ask:

   a. Jesus says, “Ask me how I been there for you and you have not perceived me.”
   Me: “Jesus, how have you been there for me and I have not perceived it?”
20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

31 In the wilderness...you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went...Deuteronomy 1:31 (NKJV)

b. Jesus says, “Ask me how you underestimate me.”

37 For nothing is impossible with God.” Luke 1:37 (NIV)

c. Jesus says, “Ask me the perfect plans I have for you for a hope and a future.”

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

d. Jesus says, “Ask me who I can be to you in your situation.”

e. Jesus says, “Ask me what I am working in your life right now.”

f. Jesus says, “Ask me what are the promises I have spoken over your life that I will fulfill.”

g. Jesus says, “Ask me what I feel about you”

1 We are) those who are called (chosen), dearly loved by God the Father and separated (set apart) and kept for Jesus Christ: Jude 1 (AMP)

h. Jesus says, “Ask me what are the good things I have given to you throughout your life.”

17 Every gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. James 1:17 (NKJV)

i. Jesus says, “Ask me how I will redeem all your shortcomings.”

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

E. The “Issacharian” Prayer model

1. We obtain the “mind of Christ,” for our situations, his guidance in our leadership, problem solving, and decision making.

2. Jesus declares “it is better for you if I go” (John 16:7). It is better for us to interact with the Holy Spirit through prayer than if Jesus were alive.
3. We are to take our plans, ideas, decisions, problems, weaknesses, opportunities before God and incubate them in prayer. Plans are tweaked; opportunities fade or strengthen; problems are answered with creative solutions; etc. We become more than “mere men.”

4. Daniel’s lifestyle was this type of prayer. He was a man of prayer (3 times/day – Dan 6:10), and as a result was an extraordinary leader, and promoted to the king’s court:

   As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted (Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah), he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm. Daniel 1:19-20 (NASB)
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<th>Ideas</th>
<th>Hopes &amp; Dreams</th>
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<td><strong>Wisdom, Skill &amp; Creativity</strong></td>
<td><strong>Understanding</strong></td>
<td><strong>Might</strong></td>
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<td>How will this opportunity take me closer to you? How might it hinder me? What is your heart in this?</td>
<td>What are my choices? What will happen as a result of each choice? What is the best solution? How would you do this?</td>
<td>How is your heart? Give me your view of my needs.</td>
<td>How is your heart? Give me your view of your needs. Give me scriptures for prayer.</td>
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F. Seven Spirits of God

5...And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; Revelation 4:5 (NASB)

1. Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.
2. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Isaiah 11:1-2 (NASB)

1. Jesus declares “it is better for you if I go” (John 16:7). It is better for us to interact with the Holy Spirit through prayer than if Jesus were alive.

2. The Spirit of the Lord: His presence & intimacy is a prophetic act toward us to strengthen our hearts and give us confidence and security.

My soul takes refuge and finds shelter and confidence in You; yes, in the shadow of Your wings will I take refuge and be confident until calamities and destructive storms are passed. Psalm 57:1 (AMP)

He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings shall you trust and find refuge. Psalm 91:4 (AMP)

3. Spirit of Wisdom: creative genius, creative problem solving, supernatural creativity. This is the word used for Bezalel in Exodus 31

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2“See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 3And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, 4to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, 5in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. Exodus 31:1-5 (NKJV)

a. Solomon “dividing the baby” was not a principle, but supernatural wisdom for that particular situation.

b. Example: Mike N

c. Example: Kenny A

d. Example: David W acquisition

e. Example: Oil tech

f. Example: BF: Bug in code
g. Example: Sherry, accountant

h. Example: Masahide, New surgical instrument; spiritual diagnosis

This kind of wisdom is never to replace natural wisdom but supplement it. In fact, one of the main on-ramps to supernatural wisdom is natural wisdom. Daniel was “wise in every form of literature, knowledge and understanding” (Dan 1:17) first; then he was “ten times better” (Dan1:12) than the others. He first became wise in the wisdom of the world, then took it to a new dimension. Same with Masahide; David W, Mike N.

*He gives (supernatural) wisdom to the wise (natural), Dan 2:21 (NKJV)*

4. Spirit of Understanding: grasping the times, seasons, purposes and strategies of God. Imagine knowing what God is up to, where He is going with us and others.

a. Understand the meanings, times, seasons, strategies, purposes.

b. Like the sons of Issachar (I Chron 12:32) who “understood the times and knew what Israel should do.” This speaks of strategic understanding of the purposes of God. Joseph was such a prophet.

c. Example: Internet 1995

d. Example: Rich veins 2009

e. Knowing where a person is “at” – what God is doing in them, what season they are in what their priorities are. Knowing their true identity and purpose and calling. Ex.: Rusty C

5. Spirit of Counsel: Advice, consultation; designs, plans, schemes, strategies. This word is from the “counsel of war” – like when David received divine battle plans. Inspired strategies, plans and tactics; divine blueprints. Supernatural knowledge of the best way to proceed and knowledge of the results of various choices.

a. Supernatural plans – Bob Fraser example: 1996 business plan,

b. Knowing the next steps for a person, blueprints, plans; Ex. Ben F; Jed H; Rusty C
6. Spirit of Might: strength, power, boldness, especially to be a warrior and make war; when you become “bulletproof;” Ex; Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Adbnego. Lucia confronting the militants who over took her orphanage. Bob F. heading to Egypt.

7. Spirit of Knowledge: divine information
   a. Example: Trader, gets stock symbols
   b. Example: Bob H: employees

8. Spirit of Fear of the Lord: Ability to walk in a manner pleasing to God, making godly choices in belief, holiness, purity, integrity, and self-control. Example: Job: refused to curse God; David: refused to seize the throne by force; Cornelius was a “devout” man, prayed “always,” gave alms (Acts 10:1-4); Joseph refusing Potiphar’s wife: “How can I do this?”
   a. Divine correction
   b. Motives / Heart issues
   c. Divine guardrails
   d. Requirements of the Lord

VIII. THE GOD WHO HEARS – INFORMED INTERCESSION

A. We are to ask according to his revealed will.

   14This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. 1 John 5:14-15 (NASB)

   1. Faith is required for answered prayer

   22And Jesus answered saying to them, “Have faith in God. 21“Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. 24“Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you. Mark 11:22-24 (NASB)

2. So where does faith come from? Hearing God

   17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the (spoken) word of God. Romans 10:17
3. Peter is perfect example. When he heard Jesus say, “Come!” His faith jumped  
25 …Jesus went to them, walking on the sea… 28 Peter…said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” 29 So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water. Matt 14:25-29

4. Hope is a precursor to faith. Peter asked because he had hope. Hope is stronger than optimism, because hope has a reason…Peter saw Jesus

B. The Promise of Answered Prayer – 8 times in scripture we are told God will do “whatever” or “anything” we ask – no limits.

19 “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. Matthew 18:19 (NKJV)

22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” Matthew 21:22 (NKJV)

24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. Mark 11:24 (NKJV)

13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:13-14 (NKJV)

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. John 15:16 (NKJV)

23 “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. John 16:23 (NKJV)

22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. 1 John 3:22 (NKJV)

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

C. More Promises

16 …The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16 (NIV)

5 Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3 (NASB)

20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us. Ephesians 3:20 (NASB)

D. Divine Trump:

The Devil may play four aces, but God has a divine trump for every situation
Genesis 18:13-14 (NASB)  
13 And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?’ 14 Is anything too difficult for the LORD?

Jeremiah 32:17 (NASB)  
17 Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You

Jeremiah 32:26-27 (NASB)  
26 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, 27 “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?”

Zechariah 8:6 (NASB)  
6 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘If it is too difficult in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, will it also be too difficult in My sight?’ declares the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 17:20 (NASB)  
20 And He said to them, “… for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.”

Matthew 19:26 (NASB)  
26 And looking at them Jesus said to them, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Mark 10:27 (NASB)  
27 Looking at them, Jesus said, “With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.”

Luke 1:37 (NASB)  
37 “For nothing will be impossible with God.” Angel Gabriel foretelling of the coming of Jesus

Luke 18:27 (NASB)  
27 But He said, “The things that are impossible with people are possible with God.”

Daniel 2:19-23 (NASB)  
19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; 20 Daniel said,  
“Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,  
For wisdom and power belong to Him.  
21 “It is He who changes the times and the epochs;  
He removes kings and establishes kings;  
He gives wisdom to wise men  
And knowledge to men of understanding.  
22 “It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;  
He knows what is in the darkness,  
And the light dwells with Him.  
23 “To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,  
For You have given me wisdom and power;  
Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You,  
For You have made known to us the king’s matter.”
Daniel 4:34-37 (NASB)

34”But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation. 35 “All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

Daniel 5:21 (NASB)

21”He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes. Daniel to Belshazzar.

Daniel 6:25-27 (NASB)

25 Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language who were living in all the land: “May your peace abound! 26 I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion will be forever. 27 “He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Psalms 115:2-3 (NASB)

2 Why should the nations say, “Where, now, is their God?” 3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Colossians 2:15 (NASB)

15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

Luke 10:18-19 (NASB)

18 And He said to them, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.

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TWELVE FACES OF GOD FOR REFORMERS

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John 19:10-11 (NASB)  
10 So Pilate said* to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?” 11 Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

2 Kings 6:15-17 (NASB)  
15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” 16 So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” And the LORD opened the servant’s eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Isaiah 54:13-17 (NASB)  
13 “All your sons will be taught of the LORD; And the well-being of your sons will be great. 14 “In righteousness you will be established; You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear; And from terror, for it will not come near you. 15 “If anyone fiercely assails you it will not be from Me. Whoever assails you will fall because of you. 16 “Behold, I Myself have created the smith who blows the fire of coals And brings out a weapon for its work; And I have created the destroyer to ruin. 17 “No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me,” declares the LORD.

Ephesians 1:20-22 (NASB)  
20 …He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet…

Philippians 2:9-11 (NASB)  
9 …God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

E. Heals: Manic(?) attacks

IX. THE GOD OF HOPE

A. What is Hope (Michael Sullivant)
1. Hope is a precursor to faith
   
   *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen....And without faith it is impossible to please him.* Hebrews 11:1,6

2. Hope is the fountainhead of faith and love:
   
   *faith and love that spring from the hope.... Colossians 1:5*

3. Despair is contrary to the nature of God and Biblical spirituality:
   
   *I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living.* Psalm 27:13

4. Hope is a present state that promotes the desire of future positive outcomes related to events and circumstances in one’s life or in the world at large.

   **B. Five hope pillars**

   1. Hope in God – God is good, all the time; he has good plans
   2. Hope in people – we can never give up on people, God is working
   3. Hope in the next generation (hope for the future)
   4. Hope in prayer – we always have a prayer
   5. Hope in cities and nations – God is advancing/redeeming/restoring/reforming cities and nations

   **C. Four new hopes**

   1. Hope unseen
   2. Hope against hope
   3. Carefree hope
   4. Childlike hope

   **D. Heals :Premature death**
X. THE GOD OF JOY

A. Joy is different from happiness. Happiness is based on circumstances; joy comes from the inside, and is not dependent upon good circumstances.

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials. James 1:2

22 Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man’s sake.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

Luke 6:22-23

B. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:9) – it is always present inside us.

8 I have set the LORD always before me;
9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
11 In Your presence is fullness of joy;
   At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
Psalm 16:8-11 (NKJV)

7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!
   Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.
8 They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house,
   And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.
9 For with You is the fountain of life;
   In Your light we see light.
Psalm 36:7-9 (NKJV)

5 You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Psalm 23:5 (NKJV)

6 You have made him (King David) exceedingly glad with Your presence. Psalm 21:6 (NKJV)

C. Disneyland businesses – places of joy

D. Heals: Immune problems

XI. GOD OF ABUNDANCE

A. He is a good Father

27 Let the LORD be magnified, who delights in the prosperity of His servant.” Psalm 35:27 (NKJV)

B. Blessings are part of the covenant – no different than healing
“Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.

2“All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God:

3“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

4“These blessings will come upon you if you obey the LORD your God:

5“Blessed shall be the offspring of your body (children) and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock (our work).

6“Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

7“The LORD shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways (victory).

8“The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you (the golden touch).

9“The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.

10“So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will be afraid of you (we have a testimony to others).

11“The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

12“The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand (our business and our work); and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow (creditors not debtors).

13“The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath (favor and leadership), if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully,

14 and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (NASB95)

C. The Lord must bless us to fulfill His covenant to Abraham

18 The LORD...gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)

D. God’s promise to Abraham

2 I will make you a great nation;
   I will bless you
   And make your name great;
   And you shall be a blessing.

Genesis 12:2 (NKJV)

E. Jesus did economic miracles. Multiplied food / coin in fishes mouth / fish jumping into the nets

F. Gen 26

1There was a famine In the land,... 2Then the LORD appeared to him and said: “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. 3Dwell in this land, and I will be with
you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. Genesis 26:1-3 (NKJV)

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him. The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him. Genesis 26:12-14 (NKJV)

They were providential miracles, not supernatural miracles…Isaac dug wells

And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. Genesis 26:18 (NKJV)

Also Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there. Genesis 26:19 (NKJV)

Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name Sittah. Genesis 26:21 (NKJV)

And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, “For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.” Genesis 26:22 (NKJV)

Then he went up from there to Beersheba.” And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake.” “So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well Genesis 26:23-25 (NKJV)

it came to pass the same day (as he made a covenant of peace with Abimelech) that Isaac's servants came and told him about the well which they had due, and said to him, “We have found water.” So he called it Shebah. Therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day. Genesis 26:32-33 (NKJV)

G. God’s generosity is not based our worthiness – The Year of the Lord’s favor

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. Then He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:16-21 (NKJV)
1. The year of His favor - to receive, to accept, to welcome, to be pleasing To extend hospitality (TDotNT) To take with the hand, to not refuse friendship, to receive favorably, to embrace, to make one’s own, to approve, to not reject (Strongs G1209).

2. The jubilee year (Lev. 25) was the year that lost inheritances and lost destinies were completely restored, without prejudice. If the loss was due to misfortune, sin, or foolishness, it made no difference - it was all forgotten. It is a proclamation of a day when men’s mistakes, faults, sins and weaknesses would not be counted against them. Everyone, no matter what, got a fresh start.

“For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him: Psalm 103:11 (NKJV)

3. The year of His favor: “when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound.” It’s a general amnesty, the emancipation proclamation, and Christmas all in one: it’s when He is freely giving away everything.

4. God loves a cheerful – literally, “hilarious” giver – in fact, He is one

God loves a cheerful giver. 1 Cor. 9:7

H. The Cyrus Anointing – Supernatural Wealth, for those who will build the house

1. God will display His power by supernatural conviction through apostolic preaching, singing, etc. He will confirm His Word with signs and wonders in physical healings and in the financial realm. God is kind, powerful, and wise, but He is also very rich.

18 It is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant… (Deut. 8:18)

2. There will be a great transfer of wealth as God manifests His ownership over the silver and gold.

7“I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory…’The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,” says the LORD. (Hag. 2:6-8)


1 “Thus says the LORD to His anointed,
   To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held (intimacy with God) —
   To subdue nations before him
   And loose the armor of kings, (God is undermining existing power structures)
   To open before him the double doors,
   So that the gates will not be shut: (supernatural doors of opportunity)

2 ‘I will go before you
And make the crooked places straight; (smooth out difficulties)
I will break in pieces the gates of bronze
And cut the bars of iron, (remove all hindrances)
I will give you the treasures of darkness
And hidden riches of secret places, (supernatural access to wealth) Isaiah 45:1-3 (NKJV)

4. God will release great wealth to the right people, at the right time, and for the right reasons. He will personally finance the end-time harvest and the prayer movement that will undergird it.

5. There are those who have gone through a radical paradigm shift related to money. When they see money, they will see souls, intercessors, and being able to help the oppressed, etc.

6. Joseph was only one idea away from being one of the wealthiest people on earth (Gen. 40-45). King David grew up in a poor family in a rural village called Bethlehem, yet he gave billions of dollars to the prayer movement by the time he was seventy. Cyrus did the same. Joseph was a young uneducated Jewish slave in Egypt who became a billionaire.

   a. David gave it all

   b. Cyrus (Is 45:1-3). gave it all

   c. Joseph owned nothing. Built Goshen

7. When God begins building his house, He releases supernatural finance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temple built by</th>
<th>But really by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moses</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon</td>
<td>David ($3B in gold)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nehemiah</td>
<td>Cyrus (Isa 45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride of Christ</td>
<td>Modern-day Joseph ministries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Every great temple-building project was preceded by anointing for supernatural wealth.
The glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former.

6“**For thus says the LORD of hosts:** ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts. 8**The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,** says the LORD of hosts. 9**The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,** says the LORD of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the LORD of hosts.” Haggai 2:6-9 (NKJV)

I. The Promise of supernatural wealth

1. Bob Jones Aug 8 1975, “God will send finances to Kansas City far beyond anything we can now understand. It will be a city where people form a partnership with God, and let Him do with His money as He chooses. Finances from Kansas City will be sent throughout the world.”

2. “Do not touch” (MB: “I have resolved I won’t take a dime of it. Not even a cup of coffee.”)

   a. David W. “Sometimes I feel like I can command pallets of cash…but I cannot touch.”

   b. Christee C: “Bank with God”

   c. Many say if God blesses me I will give the surplus. But it doesn’t work that way. I you want to access this kind of wealth, you have to have resolved first and develop a history in giving.

   d. Wealth is from the Lord. Meaning, if the Lord chooses, you will prosper. $30B is as easy to God as $30.

3. “Do Not Touch”

   a. Revelation that it is His.

   b. Every new level of blessing is preceded by a new level of giving. “In prayer I know I am to give at a new level. I have faith for it until I open my eyes, then my faith deflates like a balloon. I keep praying about it until my faith is strong even with my eyes open.”

   c. 4 levels of giving
(1) Sacrificial giving

(2) Pre-tithing

(3) Living on 10% of what you make

(4) Living on 10% of what you give.

J. Results: Miracles

XII. THE GOD WHO IMPARTS

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established. Romans 1:11

18 And the LORD said to Moses: “Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; 19 set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. 20 And you shall give some of your authority to him. Deut 34:18-19
12. **The Reformers**

I. **3-FOLD JOSEPH ANOINTING: AUTHORITY; PRIESTHOOD; WEALTH**

   41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.”
   42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. Gen 41:41-42

   A. Fine linen – priesthood
   B. Gold chain – wealth, success
   C. Signet ring – authority and influence

II. **FIVE IMPACTS OF THE COMING JOSEPHS**

   A. Releasing the “strategic prophetic” like the “Sons of Issachar” (I Chron. 12:32) who “understand the times and know what Israel should do.” This speaks of strategic understanding of the purposes of God. Joseph was such a prophet.

   Joseph was a “strategic prophet.” He interpreted Pharaoh’s dream and knew exactly what should be done with that knowledge. God’s new Josephs are also “strategic prophets” who know how to plan and mobilize on a global scale. Joseph oversaw the transfer of wealth and power according to the purposes of God. During Joseph’s famine, Egypt became wealthy and a global power.

   13 About Joseph he said:
   17 In majesty he is like a firstborn bull; his horns are the horns of a wild ox.
   With them he will gore the nations, even those at the ends of the earth.
   Deut. 33:13,17 (NIV)

   B. Benevolence – mercy deeds to the nations: During Joseph’s famine, perhaps millions of people were delivered from starvation. God’s desire in judgment is also to offer mercy. “Miracles of Compassion.” Ex: DW; Christee Cole; Bill Hamm.

   C. Influence: Pharaoh was greatly impacted by Joseph’s wisdom and leadership. Joseph said God “has made me a father to Pharaoh” (Gen. 45:8).
D. Engaging and reforming the system: Today the world system/marketplace is not understood as an integral part of God’s Kingdom. Just as Joseph took the people of God into Egypt – a type of the world system – modern day Josephs will lead the church into the system, transforming it with god’s power, ways and heart. Ex. Elk River; Masahide Kanayama

E. Building “Cities of Habitation:” (Ps. 107); Establishing places of the Kingdom of God. Joseph built Goshen, a city of habitation.

III. THE VICTORY OF THE CHURCH

The Maturity of the Bride in the end-times:

A. Before Christ returns his people will operate in the fullness of Christ. Fullness in unity, knowledge of God (we will know Jesus as the Father), character (we will look and act like Jesus), wisdom (answers for every situation), and power (signs and wonders, authority over creation). This time it will not be an individual anointing, but a corporate anointing.

11 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; Ephesians 4:13 (NKJV)

B. Jesus’ high priestly prayer will be fulfilled: (1) We will be completely unified in God (v. 21); (2) we will be witnesses that Jesus is the Son of God (v. 21,23); (3) we will have his glory (v. 22); we will know the Father loves us just as He loves Jesus (v. 23); (4) we will be filled with passionate love for God (v. 26).

C. The church will operate in unprecedented power. The two witnesses in Jerusalem are examples of the power that will be released worldwide on God’s people.

15 “As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders.” Micah 7:15 (NKJV)

5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. Revelation 11:4-6 (NKJV)

12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. John 14:12 (NKJV)

D. Unprecedented prophetic anointing; power manifestations and revival. Peter proclaimed this the day of Pentecost. It was partially fulfilled. Prior to Jesus return we will see Pentecost on a global scale. There may be “upper room” visitations where Jesus teaches us.

17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
IV. END-TIMES POWER MINISTRIES

A. Prayer Ministries (Rev 5:8, 8:3-4)

B. Five-fold ministries – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers (Eph 4:11).

C. Power financiers – Cyrus (Isa 45:1-3). Bob Jones Aug 8 1975, “God will send finances to Kansas City far beyond anything we can now understand. It will be a city where people form a partnership with God, and let Him do with His money as He chooses. Finances from Kansas City will be sent throughout the world.”

D. Goshen-Builders – Joseph. Bob Jones Aug 8 1975, “Kansas City is a city that people can flee to and find refuge in the last days. Great famines will be seen around the world. The angels showed me God blessing certain geographic areas.” Ps 107: “cities of habitation.”

E. Deliverers – Esther. Divinely placed to save millions.

F. Prophetic Witnesses – Daniel. 5 times “the spirit of the holy gods is in him!” (Dan 4:8, 4:9, 4:18, 5:11, 5:14). Bob Jones Aug 8 1975, “one billion souls” will be saved.


V. GOD OF ABUNDANCE

A. He is a good Father
Let the LORD be magnified, who delights in the prosperity of His servant.” Psalm 35:27 (NKJV)

B. Blessings are part of the covenant – no different than healing

1. Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.
2. All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God:
3. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.
4. Blessed shall be the offspring of your body (children) and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock (our work).
5. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.
6. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.
7. The LORD shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways (victory).
8. The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you (the golden touch).
9. The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.
10. So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will be afraid of you (we have a testimony to others).
11. The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.
12. The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand (our business and our work); and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow (creditors not debtors).
13. The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath (favor and leadership), if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully,
14. and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (NASB95)

C. The Lord must bless us to fulfill His covenant to Abraham

18. The LORD . . . gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)

D. God’s promise to Abraham

2. I will make you a great nation:
   I will bless you
   And make your name great;
   And you shall be a blessing.
Genesis 12:2 (NKJV)

E. Jesus did economic miracles. Multiplied food / coin in fishes mouth / fish jumping into the nets
F. Gen 26

1 There was a famine in the land... 2 Then the LORD appeared to him and said: “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. Genesis 26:1-3 (NKJV)

12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him. 13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; 14 for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him. Genesis 26:12-14 (NKJV)

They were providential miracles, not supernatural miracles... Isaac dug wells

18 And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. Genesis 26:18 (NKJV)

19 Also Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there. Genesis 26:19 (NKJV)

21 Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name Sittnah. Genesis 26:21 (NKJV)

22 And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, “For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.” Genesis 26:22 (NKJV)

23 Then he went up from there to Beersheba.” And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake.” “So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well. Genesis 26:23-25 (NKJV)

32 it came to pass the same day (as he made a covenant of peace with Abimelech) that Isaac's servants came and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, “We have found water.” 33 So he called it Shebah. Therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day. Genesis 26:32-33 (NKJV)

G. God’s generosity is not based our worthiness – The Year of the Lord’s favor

16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

18 “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”
20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:16-21 (NKJV)

1. The year of His favor - to receive, to accept, to welcome, to be pleasing To extend hospitality (TDotNT) To take with the hand, to not refuse friendship, to receive favorably, to embrace, to make one’s own, to approve, to not reject (Strong’s G1209).

2. The jubilee year (Lev. 25) was the year that lost inheritances and lost destinies were completely restored, without prejudice. If the loss was due to misfortune, sin, or foolishness, it made no difference - it was all forgotten. It is a proclamation of a day when men’s mistakes, faults, sins and weaknesses would not be counted against them. Everyone, no matter what, got a fresh start.

“For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him: Psalm 103:11 (NKJV)

3. The year of His favor: “when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound.” It’s a general amnesty, the emancipation proclamation, and Christmas all in one: it’s when He is freely giving away everything.

4. God loves a cheerful – literally, “hilarious” giver – in fact, He is one

*God loves a cheerful giver. I Cor. 9:7*

**H. The Cyrus Anointing – Supernatural Wealth, for those who will build the house**

1. God will display His power by supernatural conviction through apostolic preaching, singing, etc. He will confirm His Word with signs and wonders in physical healings and in the financial realm. God is kind, powerful, and wise, but He is also very rich.

*It is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant… (Deut. 8:18)*

2. There will be a great transfer of wealth as God manifests His ownership over the silver and gold.

*“I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory…” The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,” says the LORD. (Hag. 2:6-8)*


*“Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held (intimacy with God) — To subdue nations before him*
And loose the armor of kings, (God is undermining existing power structures)  
To open before him the double doors,  
So that the gates will not be shut: (supernatural doors of opportunity)

2  I will go before you  
And make the crooked places straight; (smooth out difficulties)  
I will break in pieces the gates of bronze  
And cut the bars of iron, (remove all hindrances)

3  I will give you the treasures of darkness  
And hidden riches of secret places, (supernatural access to wealth) Isaiah 45:1-3 (NKJV)

4.  God will release great wealth to the right people, at the right time, and for the right reasons. He will personally finance the end-time harvest and the prayer movement that will undergird it.

5.  There are those who have gone through a radical paradigm shift related to money. When they see money, they will see souls, intercessors, and being able to help the oppressed, etc.

6.  Joseph was only one idea away from being one of the wealthiest people on earth (Gen. 40-45). King David grew up in a poor family in a rural village called Bethlehem, yet he gave billions of dollars to the prayer movement by the time he was seventy. Cyrus did the same. Joseph was a young uneducated Jewish slave in Egypt who became a billionaire.

   a.  David gave it all
   b.  Cyrus (Is 45:1-3). gave it all
   c.  Joseph owned nothing. Built Goshen

7.  When God begins building his house, He releases supernatural finance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Every great temple-building project was preceded by anointing for supernatural wealth.

The glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former.

6 “For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts.

8 ‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts. 9 ‘The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the LORD of hosts.” Haggai 2:6-9 (NKJV)

I. The Promise of supernatural wealth

1. Bob Jones Aug 8 1975, “God will send finances to Kansas City far beyond anything we can now understand. It will be a city where people form a partnership with God, and let Him do with His money as He chooses. Finances from Kansas City will be sent throughout the world.”

2. “Do not touch” (MB: “I have resolved I won’t take a dime of it. Not even a cup of coffee.”)
   a. David W. “Sometimes I feel like I can command pallets of cash…but I cannot touch.”
   b. Christee C: “Bank with God”
   c. Many say if God blesses me I will give the surplus. But it doesn’t work that way. I you want to access this kind of wealth, you have to have resolved first and develop a history in giving.
   d. Wealth is from the Lord. Meaning, if the Lord chooses, you will prosper. $30B is as easy to God as $30.

3. “Do Not Touch”
   a. Revelation that it is His.
   b. Every new level of blessing is preceded by a new level of giving. “In prayer I know I am to give at a new level. I have faith for it until I open my eyes, then my faith deflates like a balloon. I keep praying about it until my faith is strong even with my eyes open.”
c. 4 levels of giving

(1) Sacrificial giving

(2) Pre-tithing

(3) Living on 10% of what you make

(4) Living on 10% of what you give.

J. Results: Miracles

VI. SUPERNATURAL WEALTH

A. God will display His power by supernatural conviction through apostolic preaching, singing, etc. He will confirm His Word with signs and wonders in physical healings and in the financial realm. God is kind, powerful, and wise, but He is also very rich.

18 It is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant… (Deut. 8:18)

B. There will be a great transfer of wealth as God manifests His ownership over the silver and gold when He shakes all the nations in the end times.

7 “I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory… The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,” says the LORD. (Hag. 2:6-8)

C. Isa 45:1-3: the Cyrus anointing.

1 Thus says the Lord to His anointed,
   To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held (intimacy with God) —
   To subdue nations before him
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D. The journey of the patriarchs parallels the 2nd coming of Christ.
1. Moses confronting Pharaoh with signs and wonders foreshadows Christ as the “greater Moses” confronting the Antichrist with power demonstrations (the two witnesses, the signs, and 7 bowls of wrath).

2. Joshua taking the people of God into the Promised Land foreshadows Christ as the “Greater Joshua” who will lead us to the true Promised Land, the millennial kingdom.

3. Joseph was released first.

E. God will release great wealth to the right people, at the right time, and for the right reasons. He will personally finance the end-time harvest and the prayer movement that will undergird it.

*God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.* (Ps. 67:1-2)

F. There are those who have gone through a radical paradigm shift related to money. When they see money, they will see souls, intercessors, and being able to help the oppressed, etc.

G. Joseph was only one idea away from being one of the wealthiest people on earth (Gen. 40-45). King David grew up in a poor family in a rural village called Bethlehem, yet he gave billions of dollars to the prayer movement by the time he was seventy. Cyrus did the same. Joseph was a young uneducated Jewish slave in Egypt who became a billionaire.

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VII. JOSEPH PROMISES

A. There will be a day when the marketplace is seen as an invitation into intimacy with God
   1. Walking out simple devotion to Christ in their everyday life
   2. Seeing their work as worship – opportunity to love God and love others

B. There will be a day when marketplace people include Jesus in their day
   1. Constant communion
   2. Working with Him vs for Him
   3. Inviting him in
   4. Remembering him

C. There will be a day when prayer will be our primary methodology
   1. Marketplace people will turn upward quickly
   2. Will look to God first instead of last
   3. Will wait up the Lord for wisdom, understanding, and counsel

D. There will be a day when passion for Jesus in the marketplace will be normal
   1. Stunning everyday heroes, like biblical heroes of old, who simply say “no” to mediocrity
   2. Models of passion in every arena of life
3. Young people will say “I am so passionate for God I must go into the marketplace.”

E. There will be a day when marketplace people are bondservants
   1. They have let go of personal agendas
   2. They are not building their “own house” first
   3. Jesus is their primary reward, everything else is secondary
   4. If they have Him, it is enough

F. There will be a day when there will be a new ethos in giving
   1. Joyful givers, people without fear, easily trusting God
   2. Without greed, loving money for what it can do for others more than for themselves
   3. Great treasure-bringers will be commonplace, giving enormous sums
   4. Benevolence empire will emerge, people viewing their wealth as a tool of kingdom building

G. There will be a day when the city of God is rebuilt
   1. Jesus will be reflected in every arena of life
   2. People understand how to walk with Jesus in their vocation
   3. Understand their purpose
   4. God’s presence is established in all of life

H. There will be a day when anointed governance emerges in the Body
   1. Prophets priests and kings will work together and defer to one another in unity.
2. Anointed with the spirit of wisdom, understanding, and counsel
3. Good Leadership: goodness, justice, wisdom
4. Great Leadership: selflessness, condescension/humility, magnanimity, courage

VIII. HOW THE “CITY” WILL EMERGE

A. Nehemiah Promises
   1. Imagine: Building the walls; Intercessors: Building walls – Praying/believing for the city to come forth
   2. Imagine: Resettling the City “Here God will inhabit.” Pioneers, tough: Daniel Boone; Neh: “Should a man like me flee?” (“I would rather die than live without the city.”)
   3. Imagine: Anointed businesses/institutions, arts; education, medicine, police, military
   4. Imagine: a thousand coming forth
   5. Imagine: Biz/institutional leaders networking together to share their ideas about bringing the kingdom, expanding the anointing; trading; creating a safety net for people.
   6. It becomes a “city within a city”

B. Joseph Promises
   1. Imagine: Cities filled with light – every corner filled with his presence, even in the midst of challenges in the earth;
   2. Imagine: Supernatural prosperity (in every sense) everywhere: Cities overflowing with abundance, the favor of God
   3. Imagine: Anointed governance

IX. JOSEPH INTERNATIONAL PLAN
A. Influent.life
   1. Personal growth
   2. Build Success
   3. Influence society

B. Joseph International Seminars
   1. Focuses on “re-wiring” marketplace people through the presence of God, prayer and intimacy with God tailored to marketplace people, the paradigm-changing Joseph International teaching, and the prophetic.
   2. Refreshing encounter with God (Presence of God, prayer and intimacy), plus “re-wiring” marketplace people (Paradigm-changing Joseph International teaching, and the Prophetic).

Joseph International Leadership Retreats
Practical Prophetic Hearing
Practical Prayer (ACTS)
Advanced Prophetic Training
13. Anointed Questions

I. QUESTIONS ON YOUR IDENTITY

A. Jesus says: “Ask me what good things I see when I look at you. Ask me who you are in my eyes.

   17 And they shall be Mine, says the Lord of hosts, in that day when I publicly recognize and openly declare them to be My jewels (My special possession, My peculiar treasure). Malachi 3:17 (AMP)

B. Jesus says, “Ask me what I love about you.”

C. Jesus says, “Ask me what I feel about you”

   1 (We are) those who are called (chosen), dearly loved by God the Father and separated (set apart) and kept for Jesus Christ: Jude 1 (AMP)

D. Jesus says, “Ask me what kind of person you are to be, the good things that I have put in you.”

   14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 (NKJV)

II. QUESTIONS ON YOUR KINGDOM INHERITANCE

A. Read Col 3:22-24. Jesus says, “Ask me the ways you can love me during your workday.”

   22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Col. 3:22-24 (NIV)

B. Most believers are always looking over the hill to the next opportunity or dream. Your field is where your feet are; your flock is the people around you.

   Jesus says, “Ask me what your ministry ‘field’ is; and who is your ‘flock’.”
C. Imagine “doing what you see your Father doing” in the workplace. Jesus the dishwasher: Everyday doing what He sees His Father doing; sharing the good news; joyful in His presence; the Kingdom comes; lives changed; creativity; prosperity, dishes clean.

Jesus says, “Ask me to show you what I would do if I walked in your shoes for a day.” Hint: Imagine the progression of your day; how you would start it; using your getting ready time; your drive time; during your day: your attitude; work ethic; integrating prayer in your day; how would you relate to others; expressing love for God in the day; love for others in the day;

D. Most have no clue why they are there – what their mission is. Is it just money? Or did God send you. If you do not know why you are there you are visionless. Without a vision, we perish, we wander aimlessly (Prov. 29:18).

Jesus says, “Ask me what your mission is, what I have sent you to do on planet earth.” Hint: make a list of everything you can think of. Go back and market the things you are sure of.

9(God) has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

III. QUESTIONS ON ANOINTED IN WP

A. How have you so blessed me in this place, or in my business? (thankful Q)

B. Why have I been sent here? (Prayer? Personal growth? Make money? Be a light to individuals? Be an influencer for God’s ways?)


IV. QUESTIONS FOR OTHERS

A. Make a list of your “flock” – the people around you that you are called to be a light to. Ask God, “Who else?” and write of the name of those who come to mind. Keep doing this until you know the list is complete for now.

B. For each, ask God these questions:

1. “What is your heart for them?”
2. “How much do you love them? How do you feel about them?”

3. “What are you working in their lives?”

4. “What good plans do you have for them?”

5. “How are they to respond to their situation?”

6. “What is my role in their life?”

7. “How can I pray for them?”

8. “How can I love / serve them?”

C. For each, ask God

1. How you are to pray for them

2. How much you are to share with them

3. If you are to share with them, when, where and how

4. If you are to tell them God spoke to you or not.

V. QUESTIONS ON THE DANIEL LIFESTYLE

A. The “fasted” or “consecrated” lifestyle

1. Food (fasting: Matthew 6:16-18);
   a. Ask God to show you are to fast? How often? How long? What type?

2. Spending (giving: Matthew 6:19-34);
   a. Ask God to show you the top 5 ways you waste money. Ask God how he would have you limit any of these.
   b. Ask God what is your giving target percentage?
c. Ask God to whom should you give?

   a. Ask God to show you the top 5 ways you are selfish. Ask God how he would have you limit any of these.
   b. Ask God how he would have you serve others

4. Anger (love: Matthew 5:21-26)

5. Your rights (Blessing your enemies: Matthew 5:43-48)

6. Entertainment; Ask God to show you how you are not to entertain

7. Ego / Honor. Ask God to show you how you operate out of ego and self-honor. Ask God how He would have you change these things

8. Relationships. Ask God to show you any unhealthy/distracting relationships; ask God how he would have you change these.

9. Tongue.
   a. Ask God to show you the main ways your tongue is unhealthy – complaining; self-hatred; gossip; doubt; slander.
   b. Ask God to show you how he would have you use your tongue: thankfulness, honor; which areas specifically He would have you agree with His word in speech.

B. Prayer time (Matthew 6:5-14); describe your prayer life for each day;

1. Ask God to show you the top 5 ways you waste time. Ask God how he would have you limit any of these.


3. Ask God about your constant communion prayer life: How?
LEADERSHIP RETREAT 2013—ROBERT FRASER

ANointed Questions


5. Ask God about your journaling time: When? Where? How long? With who?

C. Marvelous Comrades

1. Ask God to show you who your marvelous comrades are (fight-for-you friends; rejoice with you friends; weep with you friends; passion for Jesus friends; prayer friends; true identity friends; faith friends; believe-in-you friends; destiny friends)

2. Ask God who you are to be a marvelous comrade to

3. Ask God to show you how are direct your marvelous comrades into spiritual activities versus just entertainment/hanging out.

VI. QUESTIONS ON ESTABLISHISH THE KINGDOM OF GOD

A. Ask God how you are to establish His power and his ways in the earth in the next 20 years. Hint: make a list.
(January 2007, Roseville, CA)

I. TREASURE BRINGERS

11 “Your gates will be open continually;
They will not be closed day or night,
So that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations,
With their kings led in procession.
Isa. 60:11 (NASB)

A. The treasure-bringers line up to bring there best joyfully to Jesus, then run back as fast as they can to get more.

B. God is beginning to release a new understanding of benevolence. He is releasing a new ethos (ethos: “the fundamental character or spirit of a culture; the underlying sentiment that informs the beliefs, customs, or practices of a group or society; dominant assumptions of a people or period.”) in giving: exhilarated givers. Best picture: Scrooge 2.

C. God is bringing a new ethos through these: that of true financial eunuchs, those trusted because of lack of desire, “living within the circle,” only taking what they need, in order to give more to the Lord.

Example: David W.; “I can command pallets of cash, but I cannot touch.”

D. God will change the course of nations

Example: Benevolence Empire

E. Spiritual Robin Hoods. Their greatest joy is plundering the wealth of the world for their Lord. They will love money, but will be completely free from the spirit of mammon.

God is taking us from reluctant, grudging givers to exhilarated givers.

Example: Christee C.: Business 90% owned by a non-profit foundation; “bank with God!”

F. God will release untold wealth, the Cyrus anointing

1 Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed,
Whom I have taken by the right hand,
To subdue nations before him
And to loose the loins of kings;
**Leadership Retreat 2013 — Robert Fraser**

**A Heart of Benevolence: Luke 16**

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**To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:**

> 2 "I will go before you and make the rough places smooth;  
> I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.

> 3 "I will give you the treasures of darkness  
> And hidden wealth of secret places,

*Is 45:1-3 (NASB)*

Example: Bill H: Oil technology

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**II. INTRODUCTION TO LUKE 16**

A. Perhaps one of the least understood parables in the Bible. Many times God hides truths, in order to bring them out in just the right time. This is the definitive parable spoken regarding benevolence. It contains all the keys that unlock exhilarated giving.

B. This parable contains 8 revelations that unlock a benevolent heart.

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**III. REVELATION #1: GOD IS THE SOURCE**

1Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this manager was reported to him as squandering his possessions.” *Luke 16:1 (NASB)*

A. In the parable, God is described as a rich man. This is the essence of the first revelation that unlocks the heart: **God is the Source**.

B. The deception of the self-made man

1. Deception: we created it. God to BF: “You get in the middle of what I am doing then believe you are the author of the good that results.”

2. Example: “Entrepreneur of the Year” visits Zimbabwe orphans. We believe we succeed through our own efforts, hard work, brains, etc. Truth: God gave you mentors; an education; models & examples; creative ideas.

3. *Hos 2:8*  
> 8For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the new wine and the oil,  
> And lavished on her silver and gold, Which they used for Baal. *Hos 2:8 (NASB)*

C. God is the source of wealth. He gives it to whomever he pleases, and takes it away whenever He pleases.

> 12 Wealth and honor come from you;  
> you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.
1 Chron 29:12 (NIV)

28 “All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. 29 “Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon. 30 “The king reflected and said, ‘Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?’

31 “While the word was in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, 32 and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.’

33 “Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.

34 “But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever;

For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.
All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

36 “At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.

37 “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.” Dan 4:28-37 (NASB)

D. When God is our source, benevolence is unlocked. Example: David at Ziklag (1 Sam 30). David takes 600 men and chases the Amalekite raiders of Ziklag. 200 soon are too exhausted to continue. 400 pursue and defeat the Amalekites. The 400 do not want to share the plunder:

21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David and the people with him. As David and his men approached, he greeted them. 22 But all the evil men and troublemakers among David’s followers said, “Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go.”
Their view was the ones who fought and risked deserved the plunder. David’s view, however, is that God gave the victory, therefore all should share:

23 David replied, “No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the Lord has given us. He has protected us and handed over to us the forces that came against us. 24 Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike.” 25 David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this.

26 When David arrived in Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah, who were his friends, saying, “Here is a present for you from the plunder of the Lord’s enemies.”

27 He sent it to those who were in Bethel, Ramoth Negev and Jattir; 28 to those in Aroer, Siphmoth, Eshtemoa 29 and Racal; to those in the towns of the Jerahmeelites and the Kenites; 30 to those in Hormah, Bor Ashan, Athach 31 and Hebron; and to those in all the other places where David and his men had roamed. 1 Sam 30:1-31 (NIV)

E. Who is the source of your success? As Bob H shared with me, “Working all night cleaning is hard work. You really think about giving.” But it is God who gave us health, strength, opportunity, ability, favor.

F. God is the one responsible for your success. God has been your source

1. God has been unbelievably generous toward us

2. Everything you have you have received (“What do you have that you have not received?” 1 Cor 4:1)

3. Every good gift comes from above James 1:17

G. When God is our source we have access to unlimited wealth: Wow! The Richness of God

1. God has unlimited resources

   a. All wealth belongs to God

      10 “For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills.
      Psa. 50:10 (NASB)

      10 “The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains.
      Psa. 24:1 (NASB)

   b. Nine times in scripture it says “nothing is impossible with God.”
c. Seven times in scripture it says that we can have whatever we ask for.

d. All authority in heaven and earth has been granted to him (Eph 1:20, Matt 28:18)

2. He extends His resources and authority to us:

18 “But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Deut 8:18 (NASB)

Aside: v. 17: the wilderness was to humble us and test us, “Otherwise, [we] may say in [our] heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’”

8 God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; 2 Cor 9:8 (NASB)

20 Now to Him Who, by the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]— Eph 3:20 (Amp)

H. If God is our source, we can trust

1. God will give us what we need Luke 12

22 And He said to His disciples, “For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!

25 And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life’s span? 26 If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith!

29 And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying.

30 For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things.

31 But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. 32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.
33Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not
wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth
destroys. 34“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Lk 12:13-34 (NASB)

2. Christee Cole: “Bank with God”

IV. REVELATION #2: WE ARE STEWARDS

1Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this manager
was reported to him as squandering his possessions. Luke 16:1 (NASB)

A. In the parable, the rich man is God, we are the stewards. All wealth belongs to
God (everything in your bank accounts)

10“The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains.
Psa. 24:1 (NASB)

B. The steward acted like the owner. “Squandered” is the same word used in the
parable of the prodigal son who “squandered” his inheritance in a foreign land. He
presumed the wealth was for him. The picture: a man who had so much authority
and so little accountability, he began to act like it was his.

C. BF: Giving to the level means giving out of my little savings. “Is God on the
throne? Is what he says true?”

D. David W.: Every month prays and asks God what He wants to do with His
money.

V. REVELATION #3: WE ARE GUILTY (WHO AM I?)

1Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this manager
was reported to him as squandering his possessions. Luke 16:1 (NASB)

A. We are unworthy stewards. We have been unreasonably entrusted.

1. We get no credit from God for our success. When we stand before him
proud of our achievements, God says, “I gave you everything…”

2. We deserve nothing we have received.

3. We have squandered the Master’s resources.

B. God has been an exhilarated giver in giving to us
C. The “Who am I?” revelation produces a benevolent heart. David taking the offering for the temple: (3000 talents = 3,000,000oz = $3B)

\[10\] David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, …

\[12\] Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.

\[13\] Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name.

\[14\] “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. \[15\] We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. \[16\] O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. \[17\] I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.

\[18\] O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. 1 Chronicles 29:10-18 (NIV)

VI. REVELATION #4: WE HAVE A BRIEF WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

\[2\] “And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’

\[3\] “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg.

\[4\] ‘I know what I shall do, so that when I am removed from the management people will welcome me into their homes.’

\[5\] “And he summoned each one of his master’s debtors, and he began saying to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ \[6\] “And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ \[7\] “Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ Lk 16:2-7 (NASB)

A. The steward gives away the master’s wealth and gets personal credit for it.

B. We have a minute on the earth, and eternity waiting for us. This life is the blink of an eye and it is almost over.

C. We have a limited-time offer: to change temporal, earthly wealth that doesn’t belong to us and that we cannot keep into something that is yours and you can keep forever and ever.
The picture: You are the manager of a bank. You find out that tomorrow, all paper money, including the millions in your vault, will be declared worthless. You find a buyer who will take all the paper money in your bank and give you gold bars. You talk to the owner of the bank, and he says you can keep the gold bars. You are very happy!

8“And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.

D. Wily, shrewd: If you can take a sucker, take him. God is offering Himself to us as the sucker and saying, “take me for everything I’m worth.”

E. All your wealth is going to be given away to others. You might as well do it and get credit for it.

F. Inheritance for children: “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children” (Proverbs 13:22). Wisdom is the #1 inheritance. It is foolish to create entitlements.

Due to the success of its casino operations, the Seminoles have grown exceedingly wealthy, spending $965 million last year to purchase the Hard Rock International chain. Each of the tribe’s more than 3,300 members now gets free health care and college tuition – and everyone from infants to seniors receives monthly dividend checks that total more than $120,000 a year.

At first blush, it sounds like an incredible stroke of good fortune. But according to the South Florida Sun Sentinel, Seminole officials are concerned about “the alarming high school dropout rate, drug and alcohol abuse, free-spending ways that can lead to unmanageable personal debt, and an erosion of the work ethic.”

Former Tribal Chairman Howard Tommie says most families now have five or six cars, alongside airboats, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and vacation homes. Yet the tribe is also dealing with an upsurge of young people killed in accidents and by drug overdoses. Many remain unemployed.

“The challenge for me and 90 percent of the tribe is motivation,” says Louise Gopher, the Seminoles’ education director. “Young people say, ‘with so much money, why do I have to go to work, go to school.’ It’s like we’ve developed this monster. Now we have to deal with it.”

G. Rick Joyner: He wants to make billions of dollars, but die penniless.

H. Time is running out

1. Num 19:10: “teach us to number our days, that we might present to you a heart of wisdom.” Numbering days = a key to wisdom.

2. Luke 12:20: “You fool…this very night your life is demanded of you…then who will get what you have stored up?”
I. We want to always be stretching to give away what we make.

1. We never know how much longer we have

2. We never know if we may lose it. Business downturn, market change, legal change, lawsuit

   a. The lesson of IPIC: give it away.

VII. REVELATION #5: EXTRAVAGANCE – GOD GIVES ACCORDING TO OUR STANDARD

5“And he summoned each one of his master’s debtors, and he began saying to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ 7Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ Lk 16:5-7 (NASB)

A. How would you like God to give to you? Skeptically? Begrudgingly? After a year of due-diligence? Never quite enough? Last-minute? Or how about the generous, always ready, “double what you need!” or the “way too early” the celebratory? You determine how God gives to you:

   38Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return. Luke 6:38 (NASB)

VIII. REVELATION #6: GIVING GOD PLEASURE

8“And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.

A. By taking this sucker to the cleaners, we have the power to give Him great pleasure

B. Honor God with the firstfruits of your wealth…you have the power to honor the king.

   Prov 14:31 but whoever is kind to the needy honors God
   Prov 3:9 Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce;
   2 Cor 9:7 God loves a cheerful giver

1 BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, to be envied) is he who considers the weak and the poor; the Lord will deliver him in the time of evil and trouble.
The Lord will protect him and keep him alive; he shall be called blessed in the land; and You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies.

Ps 41:1-3 (Amp)

Prov 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and that which he has given He will repay to him.

IX. REVELATION #7: FRIENDS – THE GOOD WE CAN DO

9“And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings. Lk 16:9 (NASB)

A. The Schindler revelation; The Chang-Rai girl’s home: $30 per girl. Your vacation home could buy 10,000 girls. Which will you choose?

B. Becoming a friend of God, who carries God’s heart

1. How many cries of legitimate need did God hear today? We can share His burden as a friend.

6“In all their affliction He was afflicted. Isaiah 63:9 (NKJV)

2. David W: chokes whenever he talks about orphans

C. Making thousands of friends. Every orphan you helped comes up to you and thanks you. And everyone touched by their life and on and on. And every time someone thanks you, you hear Jesus whisper in your ear, “thank you, you carried my heart!”

X. REVELATION #8: TRUE RICHES

10“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.

11“Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?

12“And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? Lk 16:10-12 (NASB)

A. Money is a “very little thing.”

B. This life is an internship for the age to come.
C. Money is a test. What you do with it determines your reward and position in eternity.

D. Parable of the minas

12 So He said, “A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. 13 And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, ‘Do business with this until I come back.’ 14 But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ 15 When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. 16 The first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ 17 And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.’ 18 The second came, saying, ‘Your mina, master, has made five minas.’ 19 And he said to him also, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ 20 Another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; 21 for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.’ 22 He said to him, ‘By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? 23 Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’ 24 Then he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ 25 And they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas already.’ 26 I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. 27 But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.” Luke 19:12-27 (NASB)

Those who were faithful with money were rewarded with authority, position and honor.

E. True riches: we don’t know much; but they will be far more exciting to us than money; they will be ours to keep; they will last forever.

13 No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” 14 Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him.

15 And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God. Lk 16:13-15 (NASB)

XI. PATRIARCHAL

A. Release the Cyrus anointing

B. Release happy benevolence – “Get happy in your giving”
15. The Blessing of the Righteous – Isaiah 58

I. THE PROMISE OF BLESSING – OUR INHERITANCE

A. He is a good Father

Psalm 35:27 (NKJV)

B. Blessings are part of the covenant

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (NASB95)

C. The Lord must bless us to fulfill His covenant to Abraham

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)

D. God’s promise to Abraham

2 I will make you a great nation;
   I will bless you
   And make your name great;
   And you shall be a blessing.
3. I will bless those who bless you,  
And I will curse him who curses you;  
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” 
*Genesis 12:2-3 (NKJV)*

1. Gen 12
2. Gen 15
3. Gen 17 (Abraham)
4. Gen 22:15-18 (Abraham): 1) blessings; 2) descendants; 3) victory; 4) blessing to the nations
5. Gen 26:23-24 (Isaac): 1) God with you; 2) blessings; 3) descendants
6. Isaac blesses Jacob: Gen 27:27-29, Gen 28 3-4
7. Gen 28: 13-15 (Jacob): 1) Land; 2) descendants; 3) blessing to the nations; 4) God with him to keep him
8. Gen 35:10-12 (Jacob): “be fruitful and multiply, nations and kings will come from you.

II. RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. A lot of people talk about wealth transfer:

22*The wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.* Proverbs 13:22 (NKJV)

21*The righteous will be rewarded with prosperity.* 22...And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous. Proverbs 13:21-22 (NASB95)

B. Who is this wealth transfer for? The righteous.

12*For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor you will surround him as with a shield.* Psalm 5:12 (NKJV)

C. Who are the righteous? Those who do right.

1. No lying

5*A righteous man hates lying, Proverbs 13:5 (NKJV)*

2. Integrity No cheating. - pay taxes
The righteous man walks in his integrity; Proverbs 20:7 (NKJV)

(The) righteous... keeps his oath even when it hurts. Psalm 15:2,4 (NIV)

a. Taxes: Jesus commanded us to pay

17(Pharisees:) “Tell us, therefore, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”...21He (Jesus) said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” Matthew 22:17-21 (NKJV)

3. Generous

26(The lazy man) covets greedily all day long, But the righteous gives and does not spare. Proverbs 21:26 (NKJV)

4. Kind and merciful

The righteous considers the cause of the poor. Proverbs 29:7 (NKJV)

III. ISA. 58

A. Overview of Isa 58

1. Often misinterpreted as the “fasting” chapter. But it is written primarily to marketplace people and leaders to communicate God’s priorities for their situations.

2. It is the “Old Testament Sermon on the Mount” laying out a lifestyle. Contains the richest promises of any passage in the bible. Clear and practical steps for walking into the promises.

3. Designed to be a constitution for our businesses and our lives.

B. Our Complaint (Isa. 58:1-3a)

1“Shout! A full-throated shout! Hold nothing back—a trumpet-blast shout! Tell my people what’s wrong with their lives, face my family Jacob with their sins! Isa 58:1 (TMNT)

1. “Family” – God is speaking as Father. Addressing our pain.

2. These are people who don’t miss church; they lift their hands in church; they close their eyes and sing with all their heart

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Rev 9/14/2017
a. “Day by day” they seek him” (NASB) they pray every day;

b. They “delight to know his ways” (NASB); they “love studying all about me” (TMNT) pursuing the knowledge of God;

c. They ask him for “just decisions” (NASB); “what is the right thing to do?” (TMNT); prophetic, seeking guidance; and pursuing integrity; asking, “what is your will?”

d. They “delight in the nearness of God”; people of his presence, wanting to be near him.

>They’re busy, busy, busy at worship, and love studying all about me. To all appearances they’re a nation of right-living people — law-abiding, God-honoring. They ask me, ‘What’s the right thing to do?’ and love having me on their side. Isa 58:2 (TMNT)

3. Our complaint: “Why do you not see"

>Why have we fasted and You do not see? Why have we humbled ourselves and You do not notice?’ Isa 58:3 (NASB)

a. Fasting: Isa 58 is not about fasting – fasting is simply the popular expression of religious zeal, radical faith, the prophet was using to address our definition of religion. The only fast proscribed in the law is day of atonement (Lev 16:29), at least 4 other ceremonial fasts were observed (K&D).

b. Their complaint: God does not “look their way” (not validating them – not answering their prayers; not honoring them with his presence). They are offended because God does not seem to take up their cause.

c. They are in pain. They don’t understand, they feel they are so committed to God / obedient / spiritual.
   “Why aren’t you helping us?”
   “Why aren’t you defending us?”
   “Why aren’t you answering us?”
   “Why aren’t you blessing us?”
d. Why is there so much difficulty and so little blessing? I am in need, yet there is no answer! Where is God? Does he not see my need? Does he not care? Why do we pray and you don’t answer? Why do I have so many unanswered prayers? Why are my needs ignored? Why have you seem so distant? Why does it seem like you don’t see or care? Why does it seem that you (God) are not doing your part? Why does it always seem God is letting me down?

14“You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty?’ Malachi 3:14 (NIV)

e. Offense enters our hearts.

C. God’s Explanation and Indictment (Isa. 58:3b-5)

3b Behold, on the day of your fast you find your desire, And drive hard all your workers.

4 “Behold, you fast for contention and strife and to strike with a wicked fist. You do not fast like you do today to make your voice heard on high.

5 “Is it a fast like this which I choose, a day for a man to humble himself? Is it for bowing one’s head like a reed And for spreading out sackcloth and ashes as a bed? Will you call this a fast, even an acceptable day to the LORD?

Isaiah 58:3b-5 (NASB)

3b“Well, here’s why: “The bottom line on your ‘fast days’ is profit. You drive your employees much too hard. You fast, but at the same time you bicker and fight. You fast, but you swing a mean fist. The kind of fasting you do won’t get your prayers off the ground. Do you think this is the kind of fast day I’m after: a day to show off humility? To put on a pious long face and parade around solemnly in black? Do you call that fasting, a fast day that I, GOD, would like? Isaiah 58:3b-5 (TMNT)


2. **Indictment #2: Drive hard all your workers.** Exact that which is owed. Horsley, with Vulgate, translates, “Exact the whole upon your debtors”

3. **Indictment #3: Fast for contention and strife.** Contention (pressing lawsuits) and strife. “At war” with / opposing your brothers/sisters.

4. **Indictment #4: Strike with a wicked fist.** Swinging of fist. Anger, harshness, “lording it over” others.
5. God’s conclusion: religious expressions of faith apart from a life aligned with God’s heart for others will not be acknowledged.

D. Exhortations I (Is. 58:6-7)

6. *Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?*

7. *Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?*

Isaiah 58:6-7 (NIV)

6. *This is the kind of fast day I’m after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts.*

7. *What I’m interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families.*

Isaiah 58:6-7 (TMNT)

1. **Exhortation #1: Justice**

   a. **Loose the chains of injustice.** Exercising any unjust and cruel authority; exploitation; dissolve every tie wherewith one has unjustly bound his fellow men.

   b. **Untie the cords of the yoke.** Undo the heavy burdens. Dissolve the obligations of onerous contracts; compulsory toil; emancipation from servitude. exacting debts/obligations from others

   c. **Set the oppressed free.** Lit. “Send out the oppressed free” lit. “Set at liberty those who are broken down” impl. deliverance from servitude. Those broken with poverty & bankruptcy (Jerome)

   d. **Break every yoke; cancel debts;** (TMNT) cease all oppressions, and to restore all to their just and equal rights.

2. **Exhortation #2: Mercy (Benevolence)**

   a. **Share [divide, distribute] your food with the hungry.** The idea is, that we are to apportion among the poor that which they need for their support, as a father does to his children.
b. **Provide the poor wanderer with shelter.** Refers to those whose lands and houses were expropriated in payment of debts. Hospitality to all, and especially to the friendless and the stranger.

c. **When you see the naked, to clothe him.**

d. **Not to turn away from your own flesh and blood.** “Not hide yourself from flesh” – the pain and suffering of man. It is not hidden from God – he sees and cares. Avoidance of the needy.

16 “If I have denied the desires of the poor
or let the eyes of the widow grow weary,
17 if I have kept my bread to myself,
not sharing it with the fatherless—
18 but from my youth I reared him as would a father,
and from my birth I guided the widow—
19 if I have seen anyone perishing for lack of clothing,
or a needy man without a garment,
20 and his heart did not bless me
for warming him with the fleece from my sheep,
21 if I have raised my hand against the fatherless,
knowing that I had influence in court,
22 then let my arm fall from the shoulder,
let it be broken off at the joint.
**Job 31:16-22 (NIV)**

3. **A heart activated by love – caring for the needs of others**


4 “What can I do with you, Ephraim?
What can I do with you, Judah?
Your love is like the morning mist,
Like the early dew that disappears.
5 Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets,
I killed you with the words of my mouth;
My judgments flashed like lightning upon you.
6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment [the knowledge] of God rather than burnt offerings.
**Hosea 6:4-6 (NIV)**
b. *chesed:* goodness, kindness:—deeds of devotion (2), devotion (1), devout (1), faithfulness (1), favor (2), good (1), kindly (7), kindness (32), kindnesses (1), loveliness (1), lovingkindness (176), lovingkindesses (7), loyal deeds (1), loyalty (6), mercies (1), merciful (2), mercy (1), righteousness (1), unchanging love (2). (NAS Hebrew Dictionary)

> *He has showed you, O man, what is good.*
> And what does the LORD require of you?
> To act justly and to love mercy
> And to walk humbly with your God.

*Micah 6:8 (NIV)*

c. Not all matters of the law are equal in weight. Justice and mercy (kindness) and faith have far more weight.

> 23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Matthew 23:23 (NKJV)

d. Religious expressions are *worthless,* unless it is reflected in how we live: a) personal holiness; b) care for the needs of others.

> 26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:26-27 (NIV)


f. Cornelius (Acts 10): “Your prayers and alms have risen as a memorial to God.” He was not a Jew; not rich/powerful; yet his alms greatly moved God’s heart. What did he do that so moved God’s heart? My picture: heart of justice and mercy. Again, no popular expressions of faith (not a Jew).

g. Revelation of the preciousness of human beings: God loves the “least” of men as much as He loves me. He suffers at the suffering of all. “9 In all their affliction He was afflicted,” Isaiah 63:9 (NKJV).

E. Isa 1: Compartmentalized Christianity
1. They had a very sincere and even radical faith. They were zealous in worship, prayer, study, seeking God, and fasting. But their faith did change their heart desires; did not extend into their businesses, their treatment of people, or their tongues. They had a disconnect between their faith and their lives: “Compartmentalized Christianity”

2. Our spirituality does not extend to our earthly affairs. Our earthly lives are about “getting ahead” (profit). We live our lives, and we do business like the world.

3. We have reduced religion to religious observance; we measure our spirituality by our zeal. How do you measure your spirituality?

4. Pattern (Matt 18) God forgives us, we do not; God cancels our debts, but we cancel none owed to us; God bails us out, but we bail out no one; God blesses us, but we are stingy to others. We ask for justice for ourselves, but oblivious to the injustice we are doing to others; we ask for our needs to be met, but are blind to the needs of others; we ask for God to be generous with us, but we are stingy with others; we ask for lovingkindness, but respond in anger to our fellow man.

5. Our cause is self; the needs we are concerned about are ours; the justice we pursue is for ourselves;

6. Zaccheus translated his salvation into his life affairs.

Luke 19:5 - Luke 19:8 (NASB) 5When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” 6And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. 7When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” 8Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.”

7. Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-38). Pharisees: religious zeal, insensitive to the needs of others; Samaritan: Poor religious observance, but caring for the needs of others.

8. Their spirituality was a “Sunday morning” reality; showcase religion.

7 Your land is desolate,  
Your cities are burned with fire,  
Your fields—strangers are devouring them in your presence;  
It is desolation, as overthrown by strangers.

8 The daughter of Zion is left like a shelter in a vineyard,  
Like a watchman’s hut in a cucumber field, like a besieged city.
Unless the LORD of hosts
Had left us a few survivors,
We would be like Sodom,
We would be like Gomorrah.

Hear the word of the LORD,
You rulers of Sodom;
Give ear to the instruction of our God,
You people of Gomorrah.

“What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?”
Says the LORD.
“I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
And the fat of fed cattle;
And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats.

“When you come to appear before Me,
Who requires of you this trampling of My courts?

Bring your worthless offerings no longer,
Incense is an abomination to Me.
New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies—
I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.

“I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts,
They have become a burden to Me;
I am weary of bearing them.

“So when you spread out your hands in prayer,
I will hide My eyes from you;
Yes, even though you multiply prayers,
I will not listen.
Your hands are covered with blood.

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight.
Cease to do evil,

Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Reprove the ruthless,
Defend the orphan,
Plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:7-17 (NASB)

9. 1) Under judgment; 2) religious zeal; 3) but not extending to their lives: a)
Personal holiness; b) care for the needs of others

10. Ezek 18: Personal holiness & Justice

But if a man is just
And does what is lawful and right;
If he has not eaten on the mountains,
Nor lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel,
Nor defiled his neighbor’s wife,
Nor approached a woman during her impurity;
If he has not oppressed anyone,
But has restored to the debtor his pledge;
Has robbed no one by violence,
But has given his bread to the hungry
And covered the naked with clothing;
8 If he has not exacted usury
   Nor taken any increase,
   But has withdrawn his hand from iniquity
   And executed true judgment between man and man;
9 If he has walked in My statutes—
   And kept My judgments faithfully—
   He is just;
   He shall surely live!”
   Says the Lord God.
Ezekiel 18:5-9 (NKJV)

F. Sins of Omission

1. “Hands covered in blood” (Is 1:15) inaction as much as action: like the Pharisee/Levite who passed by the man in the ditch;

   17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins. James 4:17 (NIV)

   a. Neglect of doing good is sin – sins of omission vs. commission.

   b. Ezek 3, 33: Sins of omission: blood is on his hands.

2. Nehemiah and the exiles translated their faith into action

   1Now there was a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. 2For there were those who said, “We, our sons and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain that we may eat and live.” 3There were others who said, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our houses that we might get grain because of the famine.” 4Also there were those who said, “We have borrowed money for the king’s tax on our fields and our vineyards. 5Now our flesh is like the flesh of our brothers, our children like theirs. Yet behold, we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters are forced into bondage already, and we are helpless because our fields and vineyards belong to others.”

   6Then I was very angry when I had heard their outcry and these words. 7I consulted with myself and contended with the nobles and the rulers and said to them, “You are exacting usury, each from his brother!” Therefore, I held a great assembly against them. 8I said to them, “We according to our ability have redeemed our Jewish brothers who were sold to the nations; now would you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us?” Then they were silent and could not find a word to say. 9Again I said, “The thing which you are doing is not good; should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?” 10And likewise I, my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Please, let us leave off this usury. 11Please, give back to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money and of the grain, the new wine and the oil that you are exacting from them.” 12Then they said, “We will give it back and will require nothing from them; we will do exactly as you say.” So I called the priests and took an oath from them that they would do according to this promise. 13I also shook out the front of my garment and said, “Thus may God shake out every man...
from his house and from his possessions who does not fulfill this promise; even thus may he be shaken out and emptied.” And all the assembly said, “Amen!” And they praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise. Nehemiah 5:1-13 (NASB)

3. Rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Rich man’s sin: insensitivity to the needs of others. God shows us mercy by lifting the blessing, so we will come to the truth. No such mercy was shown to the rich man in the parable.

G. Fashionable Religion

1. Like Jeroboam (1 Kings 13) our offerings are “fashionable” (false). Marketplace Christian movement in danger of making it fashionable to be a believer in the workplace, but it is little more than baptizing our greed and selfishness.

   a. Jeroboam: Driven by selfish ambition (1 Kings 12:27) he would lose the kingdom if he obeyed God, even though God gave him the promise; 1 Kings 13:1: his selfish ambition was hidden behind religious observance

2. We have narrowed our definition of religious service: to expressions of worship, church service; we have neglected life transformation; substituted religious observance for a heart overflowing with love.

23“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. 24You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel. Matthew 23:23-24 (NIV)

3. Only one fast was prescribed by the law (Lev 16:29,31), but after the fall of Jerusalem many more instituted (Zech. 7:3,5; 8:19). Ironically, the specific commands of justice and mercy in the law were not being followed.

4. How do you express your faith? Today’s popular expressions of Christianity: Church, Sunday school, tithing, singing, dancing, lifting hands, prayer

H. Promises I (Is. 58: 8-9a)

8Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The GOD of glory will secure your passage. 9Then
when you pray, God will answer. You’ll call out for help and I’ll say, ‘Here I am.’ Isa. 58:8-9 (TMNT)

8 “Then your light will break out like the dawn,
And your recovery will speedily spring forth;
And your righteousness will go before you;
The glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.
9 “Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
You will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’
Isaiah 58:8-9a (NASB)


2. **Promise #1: Heavenly blessing.** “Your light will break out like the dawn.” God is light (1 Jn 1:5) and the Father of lights (James 1:17). Jesus is the light of the world (Jn 8:12, 9:5). We are children of the light (Jn 12:36, Eph 5:8). Our “glorious time” begins.

God will put honour upon them. Good works shall be recompensed with a good name; this is included in that light which rises out of obscurity. Though a man’s extraction be mean, his family obscure, and he has no external advantages to gain him honour, yet, if he do good in his place, that will procure him respect and veneration, and his darkness shall by this means become as the noon-day, that is, he shall become very eminent and shine brightly in his generation. See here what is the surest way for a man to make himself illustrious; let him study to do good. He that would be the greatest of all, and best-loved, let him by humility and industry make himself a servant of all. Matthew Henry

3. **Promise #2: Restoration/Redemption.** “Your recovery will speedily spring forth.” Literally, a long bandage, applied by surgeons to heal a wound (compare Is 1:6). Hence restoration from all past calamities

4. **Promise #3: God’s Presence and protection conducting our life.** “Your righteousness will go before you; the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.” Like the pillar of cloud and fire, the symbol of God’s “glory,” which went behind Israel, separating them from their Egyptian pursuers (Is 52:12; Ex 14:19, 20), and led them in the wilderness (Num 9:15-23).

5. **Promise #4: Answer.** “You will call, and the LORD will answer.”

7. Principle of Spiritual Measure: With the measure we use it shall be measured to us. With the measure of generosity, kindness. Jesus used this phrase in context to spiritual growth (Mark 4:24), judgment (Matt 7:2), and generosity (Luke 6:38).

38Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38 (NIV)

I. Exhortations II (Is. 58:9b-10a)

9b If you remove the yoke from your midst,
    The pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness,
10 And if you give yourself to the hungry
    And satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
Isaiah 58:9b-10a (NASB95)

9b“If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people’s sins, 10 If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out. Isa. 58:9b-10 (TMNT)

1. Exhortation #3: Stop unfair practices. “Remove the yoke from your midst.” Not just untying the yoke for one person or one time, but removing it entirely.

2. Exhortation #4: Guarding the tongue from speaking evil of others.

Ex. God to me: “____ has shown you only love, and you have returned him only evil.”

3. Exhortation #5: Devoted to caring for others: “Give yourself to the hungry.” Not just occasional generosity but a lifestyle devoted to generosity.

J. Promises II (Is. 58:10b-12)

10b Then your light will rise in darkness
And your gloom will become like midday.
11 And the LORD will continually guide you,
And satisfy your desire in scorched places,
And give strength to your bones;
And you will be like a watered garden,
And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.
12 Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins;
You will raise up the age-old foundations;  
And you will be called the repairer of the breach,  
The restorer of the streets in which to dwell.
Isaiah 58:10-12 (NASB95)

10 Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.  
11 I will always show you where to go. I’ll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—firm muscles, strong bones. You’ll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry.  
12 You’ll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You’ll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again. Isa. 58:10b-12 (TMNT)

1. **Promise #5: Great heavenly blessing.** Not just a dawn, but glory and blessing like the sun at noon.

2. **Promise #6: Continual guidance.**


4. **Promise #8: Transformation of cities / cities of refuge / Goshens / Builders of the Millennial Kingdom.** Your life/business will be transformational to your community.

K. Exhortations III (Is. 58:13)

13 If because of the sabbath, you turn your foot  
   From doing your own pleasure on My holy day,  
   And call the sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable,  
   And honor it, desisting from your own ways,  
   From seeking your own pleasure  
   And speaking your own word,
Isaiah 58:13 (NASB95)


13 “If you watch your step on the Sabbath and don’t use my holy day for personal advantage, If you treat the Sabbath as a day of joy, God’s holy day as a celebration, If you honor it by refusing ‘business as usual,’ making money, running here and there— Isaiah 58:13 (TMNT)

1. **Exhortation #6: Keep the Sacred Trust.**

L. Promises III (Is. 58:14)

14 Then you will take delight in the LORD,  
   And I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;  
   And I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,  
   For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
Isaiah 58:14 (NASB95)
14‘Then you’ll be free to enjoy God! Oh, I’ll make you ride high and soar above it all. I’ll make you feast on the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob.” Yes! God says so! Isaiah 58:14 (TMNT)

1. Promise #9: Fullness of joy.

2. Promise #10: Soaring of Soul.

3. Promise #11: Promises of Jacob.
16. 10 Kingdom Purposes of the Marketplace

I. A NEW VIEW OF THE MARKETPLACE

A. Traditional View: Marketplace is for Financing the Kingdom of God

B. New View: Marketplace is an integral and indispensable arena of the Kingdom of God: it is a place where the Kingdom of God can actually happen and eternal fruit can be borne – with money as a by-product.

C. A Definition of the Marketplace: All arenas of life outside of vocational ministry: public service, education, medicine, arts, stay-at-home parents, etc.

II. 10 KINGDOM THINGS THE MARKETPLACE CAN DO

1. Developing “Life Skills”

a. Life skills are skills people need to be successful in all arenas of life and all endeavors they many : people skills, work ethic, problem solving, diligence, perseverance, follow-through, conflict resolution, communication skills, people management skills, project management skills, confidence, teachableness, motivating others, recruiting, planning, decision-making, and exercising good judgment.

b. Even very talented and anointed individuals with poor life skills will find their success and impact in life firmly capped.

c. Conversely, often the very best leaders are not the smartest or most talented individuals, but those with the strongest life skills.

d. Good marketplace organizations are life-skills factories. They make their trade in identifying, training, modeling and rewarding life skills. Early in my career, I had exceptionally poor life skills. I was fired from many jobs; I often created a negative “wake.” But my business career has reshaped me into an effective leader with passable life skills. It has become one of my greatest joys throughout my tenure as CEO to watch passionate but “raw” Christians obtain valuable life skills, and with them begin to soar to new personal heights.

e. Church can rarely develop life skills in people as effectively.
2. Leadership Development

   a. The preponderance of gifted leaders are in the marketplace. In business, true leaders are almost always rewarded. The best organizations are masters at identifying and developing leaders.

   b. Leadership skills include envisioning and rallying; being articulate; assembling teams to accomplish projects; and strategic thinking. Leadership is commonly present, rewarded, valued, and developed in the marketplace.

3. Management Skill

   a. Management is ability to organize resources to achieve a desired result. Without good management there is chaos, inefficiency, poor results, and frustrated people. Good managers create order, design systems and process, clearly define roles and goals, empower workers within boundaries, and eliminate confusion and inefficiency.

   b. Good management is absolutely critical in achieving any goal, if more than a few people are involved. Without good management, all the resources in the world will simply be wasted.

   c. Good managers form the backbone of an organization. Most decent organizations are experts at developing management, because without good management, waste and chaos will ultimately cause the enterprise to fail. Management development is a core skill for organizations. No company will grow or survive without being good at it.

   d. If the church is ever to accomplish anything, we must get the managers in place. Otherwise all the resources God sends will simply be wasted.

4. Mentoring and Discipleship

   a. Mentoring and discipling is one of the core missions of believers. It is also one of the core skills of a good business. The best organizations recognize the importance of mentoring, and devote significant internal focus upon it. They usually call it simply “management” or “training.”
b. Church-based discipleship programs, though positive, are inherently limited. Marketplace training can supplement the spiritual health development activities of church with life-skill and character development.

c. Mentoring and discipleship is also creating opportunities, internships, apprenticeships, and modeling success. This is all common stock-in-trade in business, nearly impossible for church.

d. Identifying the giftings and callings.

(1) Example: Phil Wagler

e. Missionary businesses: societal transformation, economics, discipleship to employees.

(1) Example: Fish Farm

(2) Example: Inner city convenience store

5. Everyman, Everyday Ministry

a. The traditional church model has not been effective in unlocking spiritual potential in everyday Christians. Traditional church model: individual spiritual potential: 1%?

b. Church: meeting-oriented and ministry-program-oriented: undermines and disempowers the individual ministry taking place in homes and workplaces.

c. Historic, biblical Christianity was not practiced primarily in church meetings. Meetings were so little thought of that they had to be warned not to drop them altogether (Heb 10:25).

d. Meetings can create knowledge, but without exercising the “faith muscle.” Programs create activity, but often little eternal fruit.
e. New Testament church was framed by apostolic power and preaching, but was built upon simple “everyman, everyday ministry:” All believers, even the simplest, youngest, least anointed believers: loving God and serving others, everyday, in everything they did.

f. As the mini-revival unfolded at my business, I was amazed to see the amount of ministry going forth. And it was not one person, or a few especially bold or gifted – it was the majority of the believers.

   (1) cube-mates: they shared the gospel, shared their lives, prayed for each other, stood with each other for breakthroughs in finances, with children, and with spouses; they invited to church, got those in need of counseling into church programs, visited the hospital at times, and shared meals together.

g. Walking in their spiritual potential. If the millions of believers who are operating at 1% of their spiritual potential were simply empowered to walk in 50%, there would be a massive release of spiritual power in the earth.

   (1) Example: Acuppajoe: 1st+2nd commandments + pay

6. Evangelism

   a. Friendship evangelism. As unbelievers work beside believers who truly “work as for the Lord,” their hearts are opened due to the authenticity of their faith, and trust develops.

   b. Billy Graham has stated, “I believe one of the next great moves of God is going to be through the believers in the workplace.”

   c. As marketplace believers have lost their vision, the church has lost its revival.

   d. World evangelism will also be accomplished in a significant way through marketplace ministry.

      (1) Example: China food processor

      (2) Example: Chuck Ripka, Riverview Community Bank
7. **Spiritual Oasis**

   a. When Christians gather together and “work as for the Lord,” as the bible mandates, Kingdom life begins to manifest. Prayer, bible studies, teachings.

   b. Christians were all strengthened – the weak grew stronger, the strong, stronger still. Backsliders were strengthened and returned to the fold. Passion for Jesus, exampled so well in a few, was expressed in many, renewed in some, and expanded. People supported and stood with one another through difficult times: health woes, financial distress, family heartaches, drug and alcohol addictions, and all kinds of emotional brokenness. Lives were touched and transformed, not by professional pastors, but by empowered everyday Christians.

   c. The Presence of God was often manifested. I recall a visitor who had been waiting in the lobby. He began to ask me about the company, and what was different about it. “People just seem so…happy…there is such a wonderful atmosphere here.” He had been deeply touched by the presence of God and couldn’t quantify it.

   (1) Example: Alice Stephens

   (2) Example: Bernie Zarda

   (3) Example: San Jose Dentist

   (4) Example: LA Charter School

8. **Benevolence**

   (1) Example: Sean Henry, Masters Solutions

   (2) Example: Safe Harbor

   (3) Example: Modern-day gleaning

   (4) LA Coffee roaster, buys beans direct from poor growers

   (5) Food Mission USA
9. Friendship and Community
   a. Whenever anyone left the company, I would ask them what the number one thing they appreciated about it was. The top response — by far — was the friends they had made and the sense of community they felt.

   b. Human beings are designed to be in community together. In modern society, true community can be difficult to achieve. Neighborhoods have become less a community, as they rarely connect. Church too can often be a difficult place to develop community for the same reason — people spend only a little time together. The workplace can be a natural place to build it, because people are together 40 hours per week; people are thrown into the “foxhole” together; people form teams together, set and achieve goals together, etc.

10. Individual Wealth Creation and Kingdom Financing
   a. Though I have emphasized the non-financial fruits of business, business is also to serve as provision for families and Kingdom projects. In my business, I estimate about 30 families bought their first family house. I hired many Christians who had been earning $15-30,000 per year in dead-end, low-paying jobs. Not only did they discover a calling, an anointing, a place of spiritual life and ministry, but they also prospered financially. We hired one special young lady into our phone center for $10 per hour. She grew in anointing and skill, and within a couple years was hired away by another company for a six-figure salary.

      (1) Example: Oil sands extraction

      (2) Example: Benevolence Empire

III. A VISION FOR THE MARKETPLACE
   A. I have a vision of hundreds of organizations all over the city where these 10 things are exploding.
B. They are inspiring one another to greater exploits in God, and passion for Jesus is growing.

C. They are exchanging workers, opportunities, goods and services

D. It becomes a great harvest-basket.

E. We must be those who *contend for a vision*. We cannot abdicate spiritual greatness to the priests.

F. The “marketplace apostles” – emerge. Leaders who are prophetic, understanding the times and seasons and knowing what the people of God need to do; financial eunuchs, do astounding mercy deeds to the nations; people who impact kings and leaders, who build cities of habitation.