

**Outlines of the Messages
for the International Chinese-speaking Conference
February 13-15, 2026**

GENERAL SUBJECT:

**NOAH, DANIEL, AND JOB—PATTERNS OF LIVING AN OVERCOMING LIFE
ON THE LINE OF LIFE TO FULFILL THE ECONOMY OF GOD**

Message One

Living and Working according to the Vision of the Age to Change the Age

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 14:14, 20; Gen. 6:8; Matt. 24:37-39; Dan. 2:34-35; Job 42:5-6

Ezek. 14:14—Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in the midst of it, they would deliver *only* their own souls by their righteousness, declares the Lord Jehovah.

Ezek. 14:20—Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in the midst of it, as I live, declares the Lord Jehovah, they could not deliver *even* a son or daughter; they would deliver *only* their own souls by their righteousness.

Gen. 6:8—But Noah found favor in the sight of Jehovah.

Matt. 24:37-39—For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark, ³⁹And they did not know *that judgment was coming* until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Dan. 2:34-35—You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and 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.

Job 42:5-6—I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye has seen You; ⁶Therefore I abhor *myself*, and I repent In dust and ashes.

I. Noah, Daniel, and Job are patterns revealing how we can live an overcoming life on the line of life to fulfill the economy of God; this is to live and work according to the vision of the age to change the age—Ezek. 14:14, 20; Gen. 2:9; Rev. 2:7; 22:1-2; Matt. 24:37-39, 45-51; Dan. 2:34-35; Acts 26:19; 2 Tim. 4:8.

Ezek. 14:14—Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in the midst of it, they would deliver *only* their own souls by their righteousness, declares the Lord Jehovah.

Ezek. 14:20—Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in the midst of it, as I live, declares the Lord Jehovah, they could not deliver *even* a son or daughter; they would deliver *only* their own souls by their righteousness.

Gen. 2:9—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Rev. 2:7—He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev. 22:1-2—And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. ²And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Matt. 24:37-39—For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark, ³⁹And they did not know *that judgment was coming* until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matt. 24:45-51—Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time? ⁴⁶Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. ⁴⁷Truly I say to you that he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸But if that evil slave says in his heart, My master delays, ⁴⁹And begins to beat his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with the drunken, ⁵⁰The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour which he does not know, ⁵¹And will cut him asunder and appoint his portion with the hypocrites. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

Dan. 2:34-35—You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and 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.

Acts 26:19—Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

2 Tim. 4:8—Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.

II. The lives of Noah, Daniel, and Job reveal the Triune God dispensing Himself, working Himself, into His chosen and redeemed people to fulfill His eternal economy; the entire Bible was written according to the governing principle of the Triune God dispensing Himself into us for us to experience Him, enjoy Him, and express Him for the fulfillment of His divine economy—cf. 1 Tim. 1:3-4; Eph. 3:2; 1 Pet. 4:10; Psa. 36:8-9; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:16-19:

cf. 1 Tim. 1:3-4—Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things ⁴Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

cf. Eph. 3:2—If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

cf. 1 Pet. 4:10—Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

cf. Psa. 36:8-9—They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures. ⁹For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

cf. 2 Cor. 13:14—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

cf. Eph. 3:16-19—That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, ¹⁷That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are ¹⁹And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

A. With Noah we see God the Father in His faithfulness to keep His eternal covenant (signified by the rainbow), which is His eternal economy to dispense the all-inclusive Christ into His chosen people as righteousness, holiness, and glory to make them the wise exhibition of all that Christ is—Gen. 3:24; 9:8-17; Ezek. 1:26-28; 36:22-38; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 8:8-12; 1 Cor. 1:9, 24-30; 2:9-10; Eph. 2:10; 5:25-27; Rev. 4:3; 21:18-20.

Gen. 3:24—So He drove the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned in every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

Gen. 9:8-17—Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, ⁹And I Myself now establish My covenant with you and with your seed after you ¹⁰And with every living animal that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every animal of the earth with you, of all that came out of the ark, every animal of the earth. ¹¹And I establish My covenant with you, that never again will all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. ¹²And God said, This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living animal that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³I set My bow in the clouds, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴And when I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living animal of all flesh, and never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶And the bow will be in the clouds, and I will look upon it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living animal of all flesh that is upon the earth. ¹⁷And God said to Noah, This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

Ezek. 1:26-28—And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it. ²⁷Then I saw *something* like the sight of electrum, like the appearance of fire encased all around, from the appearance of His loins and upward; and from the appearance of His loins and downward, I saw *something* like the appearance of fire. And there was brightness all around Him. ²⁸Like the appearance of the rainbow that is in the cloud on a day of rain, such was the appearance of the

brightness all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah. And when I saw *it*, I fell on my face and I heard the voice of someone speaking.

Ezek. 36:22-38—Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, I am not doing *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. ²³And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations will know that I am Jehovah, declares the Lord Jehovah, when I am sanctified in you in their sight. ²⁴And I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and My ordinances you shall keep and do. ²⁸And you shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers; and you will be My people, and I will be your God. ²⁹And I will save you from all your uncleanness, and I will summon the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. ³⁰And I will multiply the fruit of the trees and the produce of the field, that you may no longer receive the reproach of famine among the nations. ³¹Then you will remember your evil ways and your doings that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. ³²It is not for your sake that I am doing *this*, declares the Lord Jehovah; let it be known to you. Be ashamed and humiliated on account of your ways, O house of Israel. ³³Thus says the Lord Jehovah, On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt. ³⁴And the land that was desolate will be tilled instead of being desolate in the sight of all who passed by. ³⁵And they will say, This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are fortified *and* inhabited. ³⁶Then the nations that are left all around you will know that I, Jehovah, have rebuilt the ruined places *and* planted that which was desolate. I, Jehovah, have spoken, and I will do *it*. ³⁷Thus says the Lord Jehovah, Moreover for this I will be inquired of by the house of Israel to do *it* for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. ³⁸Like the holy flock *for sacrifices*, like the flock of Jerusalem in her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of men; and they will know that I am Jehovah.

Matt. 26:28—For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Heb. 8:8-12—For finding fault with them He says, “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, and I will consummate a new covenant upon the house of Israel and upon the house of Judah, ⁹Not according to the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. ¹⁰For this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me. ¹¹And they shall by no means each teach his fellow citizen and each his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them. ¹²For I will be propitious to their unrighteousnesses, and their sins I shall by no means remember anymore.”

1 Cor. 1:9—God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor. 1:24-30—But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶For consider your calling, brothers, that there are not many wise according to flesh, not many powerful, not many wellborn. ²⁷But God has chosen the foolish things of the world that He might shame those *who are* wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world that He might shame the things that are strong, ²⁸And the lowborn things of the world and the despised things God has chosen, things which are not, that He might bring to nought the things which are, ²⁹So that no flesh may boast before God. ³⁰But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

1 Cor. 2:9-10—But as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and *which* have not come up in man’s heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” ¹⁰But to us God has revealed *them* through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

Eph. 2:10—For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.

Eph. 5:25-27—Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her ²⁶That He might sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the washing of the water in the word, ²⁷That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

Rev. 4:3—And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and *there was* a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.

Rev. 21:18-20—And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; ²⁰The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

B. With Daniel we see that Christ the Son is the centrality and universality of God’s move and that the goal of God’s eternal economy is to have the corporate Christ, Christ with His overcomers, as the crushing stone to be His dispensational instrument to end this age and become a great mountain to fill the whole earth, making the whole earth God’s kingdom—Dan. 2:31-45; 7:13-14; 10:4-9; Joel 3:11; Rev. 12:1-2, 5, 11; 19:7-21.

Dan. 2:31-45—You, O king, were watching, and there was a single great image. This image, large and its brightness surpassing, stood opposite you; and its appearance was frightful. ³²Concerning this image, its head was of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its abdomen and its thighs of bronze, ³³Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and 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. ³⁶This is the dream; and we will tell its interpretation before the king. ³⁷You, O king, are king of kings, to whom the God of the heavens has given kingship, power, and strength and glory. ³⁸And wherever the children of men, the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky dwell, He has given *them* into your hand and has made you ruler over all of them. You are the head of gold. ³⁹And after you another kingdom will arise, inferior to you; and *there will be* another kingdom, a third one, of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰And there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters everything; and like iron that smashes all these, it will crush and smash. ⁴¹And in that you saw the feet and the toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom will be a confused mass; but there will be some of the firmness of iron in it, for you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay. ⁴²And *as* the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be fragile. ⁴³And in that you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay, they will be mixed together through the seed of men, but they will not cleave to one another, even as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever. ⁴⁵Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.

Dan. 7:13-14—I watched in the night visions, And there with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming; And He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and languages might serve Him. His dominion is an eternal dominion, which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Dan. 10:4-9—And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the great river, that is, the Hiddekel, ⁵I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz. ⁶His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude. ⁷And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; instead, a great dread fell on them, and they fled to hide themselves. ⁸Thus I was left alone and I saw this great vision; and no strength was left in me, but my color turned deathly pale; and I retained no strength. ⁹Yet I heard the sound of His words; and when I heard the sound of His words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

Joel 3:11—Hurry and come, All you surrounding nations, And be gathered. There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!

Rev. 12:1-2—And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon underneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; ²And she was with child, and she cried out, travailing in birth and being in pain to bring forth.

Rev. 12:5—And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

Rev. 12:11—And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

Rev. 19:7-21—Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. ⁸And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints. ⁹And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God. ¹⁰And I fell before his feet to worship him. And he said to me, Do not do this. I am your fellow slave and *a fellow slave* of your brothers who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of the prophecy. ¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, *and* He has a name written which no one knows but Himself. ¹³And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white *and* clean. ¹⁵And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God, ¹⁸That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great. ¹⁹And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army. ²⁰And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. ²¹And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

C. With Job we see God the Spirit bringing His lovers through the process of transformation by the renewing of the Holy Spirit in their seeing God to gain God and be transformed by God to carry out what is in the heart of God by becoming God in life, in nature, and in appearance but not in the Godhead for the corporate expression of God, the glory of God—Job 10:13; 42:5-6; Eph. 3:9; Matt. 5:8; 2 Cor. 3:16-18; Titus 3:5; 1 Cor. 10:31; Eph. 3:20-21; Rev. 21:10-11.

Job 10:13—But You have hidden these things in Your heart; I know that this is with You:

Job 42:5-6—I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye has seen You; ⁶Therefore I abhor *myself*, and I repent In dust and ashes.

Eph. 3:9—And to enlighten all *that they may see* what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

Matt. 5:8—Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

2 Cor. 3:16-18—But whenever *their heart* turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.¹⁷ And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.¹⁸ But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Titus 3:5—Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

1 Cor. 10:31—Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Eph. 3:20-21—But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,²¹ To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 21:10-11—And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,¹¹ Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

III. “But Noah found grace in the sight of Jehovah”—Gen. 6:8:

A. Noah’s life and work reveal how much grace can do for fallen people; grace is the wonderful Christ as our burden bearer, doing everything in us on our behalf for our enjoyment—vv. 1-14; Matt. 24:37-39; 2 Cor. 12:7-9:

Gen. 6:1-14—And when men began to multiply on the surface of the ground, and daughters were born to them,² The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair; and they took wives for themselves from all whom they chose.³ And Jehovah said, My Spirit will not strive with man forever, for he indeed is flesh; so his days will be one hundred twenty years.⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them; these were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.⁵ And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.⁶ And Jehovah repented that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart.⁷ And Jehovah said, I will blot out the man whom I have created from the surface of the ground, from man to beast to creeping things to the birds of heaven; for I repent that I have made them.⁸ But Noah found favor in the sight of Jehovah.⁹ These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations; *and* Noah walked with God.¹⁰ And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.¹¹ And the earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.¹² And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth.¹³ And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and now I am about to destroy them with the earth.¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make rooms in the ark and shall cover it within and without with pitch.

Matt. 24:37-39—For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.³⁸ For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark,³⁹ And they did not

know that judgment was coming until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

2 Cor. 12:7-9—And because of the transcendence of the revelations, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, that he might buffet me, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up. ⁸Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

1. The flesh is the presence of the devil, and grace is the presence of God; in order for us to face the presence of Satan, we need the presence of God—Gen. 6:3, 8; Rom. 7:17-21; Heb. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:10.

Gen. 6:3—And Jehovah said, My Spirit will not strive with man forever, for he indeed is flesh; so his days will be one hundred twenty years.

Gen. 6:8—But Noah found favor in the sight of Jehovah.

Rom. 7:17-21—Now then *it is* no longer I *that* work it out but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not. ¹⁹For I do not do the good which I will; but the evil which I do not will, this I practice. ²⁰But if what I do not will, this I do, *it is* no longer I *that* work it out but sin that dwells in me. ²¹I find then the law with me who wills to do the good, that is, the evil is present with me.

Heb. 4:16—Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

1 Cor. 15:10—But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

2. The issue of grace is righteousness; by the power of grace, the strength of grace, and the life of grace, we can be right with God, with one another, and even with ourselves—Rom. 5:17, 21; 2 Pet. 2:5.

Rom. 5:17—For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom. 5:21—In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Pet. 2:5—And did not spare the ancient world but guarded Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

- B. Noah walked with God and built the ark for the carrying out of the divine economy—Gen. 6:8-22; Heb. 11:7; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Matt. 16:18:

Gen. 6:8-22—But Noah found favor in the sight of Jehovah. ⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations; *and* Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹And the earth was

corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and now I am about to destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make rooms in the ark and shall cover it within and without with pitch. ¹⁵And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶You shall make an opening for light for the ark, and you shall finish it up to a cubit from the top; and you shall put the entrance of the ark in its side; you shall make it with lower, second, and third *stories*. ¹⁷And now I am about to bring a flood of water upon the earth to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing, of all flesh, two of every *kind* you shall bring into the ark to preserve *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kind and of the cattle according to their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you in order to preserve *them* alive. ²¹And for your part, take some of every *kind* of food that is edible, and gather *it* to yourself, and it will be for food for you and for them. ²²And Noah did *this*; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Heb. 11:7—By faith Noah, having been divinely instructed concerning things not yet seen *and* being moved by pious fear, prepared an ark for the salvation of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

1 Pet. 3:20-21—Who had formerly disobeyed when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared; *entering* into which, a few, that is, eight souls, were brought safely through by water. ²¹Which *water*, as the antitype, also now saves you, *that is*, baptism, not a putting away of the filth of the flesh but the appeal of a good conscience unto God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Matt. 16:18—And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

1. The first building of God in the Scriptures is Noah's ark, signifying Christ as the building of God and man; God's building is a God-man—John 1:14; 2:19; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16-17; Rev. 21:2, 22; Eph. 2:22; Psa. 27:4.

John 1:14—And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 2:19—Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

1 Cor. 3:9—For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.

1 Cor. 3:16-17—Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him; for the temple of God is holy, *and* such are you.

Rev. 21:2—And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev. 21:22—And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Eph. 2:22—In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Psa. 27:4—One thing I have asked from Jehovah; That do I seek: To dwell in the house of Jehovah All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of Jehovah, And to inquire in His temple.

2. The building of the ark typifies the building of the corporate Christ, the church as the Body of Christ, with the element of Christ's riches as the building material—Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:9-12a; Eph. 3:8-10; 4:12.

Matt. 16:18—And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

1 Cor. 3:9-12—For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon *it*. But let each man take heed how he builds upon *it*. ¹¹For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

Eph. 3:8-10—To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel ⁹And to enlighten all *that they may see* what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things, ¹⁰In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

Eph. 4:12—For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

3. The three stories of the ark signify the Triune God according to our experience of Him; the Spirit, signified by the lower story, brings us to the Son (1 Pet. 1:2; John 16:8, 13-15), and the Son brings us higher in our experience to the Father (14:6; Eph. 2:18; 1 John 1:5; 4:8).

1 Pet. 1:2—Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

John 16:8—And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and concerning righteousness and concerning judgment:

John 16:13-15—But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming. ¹⁴He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare *it* to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is Mine; for this *reason* I have said that He receives of Mine and will declare *it* to you.

John 14:6—Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

Eph. 2:18—For through Him we both have access in one Spirit unto the Father.

1 John 1:5—And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 4:8—He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

4. On the third story of the ark there was only one window, toward the heavens, signifying that in the church, God's building, there is only one revelation and one vision through the one New Testament ministry—Gen. 6:16; Acts 26:19; Prov. 29:18a; 1 Tim. 1:3-4; 2 Cor. 3:6-9; 4:1.

Gen. 6:16—You shall make an opening for light for the ark, and you shall finish it up to a cubit from the top; and you shall put the entrance of the ark in its side; you shall make it with lower, second, and third *stories*.

Acts 26:19—Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

Prov. 29:18—Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

1 Tim. 1:3-4—Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things
⁹Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

2 Cor. 3:6-9—Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, *ministers* not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷Moreover if the ministry of death, engraved in stone in letters, came about in glory, so that the sons of Israel were not able to gaze at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, *a glory* which was being done away with, ⁸How shall the ministry of the Spirit not be more in glory? ⁹For if there is glory with the ministry of condemnation, much more the ministry of righteousness abounds with glory.

2 Cor. 4:1—Therefore having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart;

IV. Daniel shows us that we must redeem the time to enjoy Christ as the supreme preciousness of God for us to be constituted with Him to be men of preciousness, even preciousness itself, as His personal treasure—Dan. 9:23; 10:11, 19; 1 Pet. 2:7; Exo. 19:4-6:

Dan. 9:23—At the beginning of your supplications the command went forth, and I have come to tell you, for you are preciousness itself. Therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

Dan. 10:11—And he said to me, Daniel, man of preciousness, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand in your place, for I have now been sent to you. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

Dan. 10:19—And he said, Do not be afraid, man of preciousness. Peace to you. Be strong, yes, be strong. And when he spoke to me, I received strength and said, Speak, sir, for you have strengthened me.

1 Pet. 2:7—To you therefore who believe is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, “The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner,”

Exo. 19:4-6—You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵Now therefore if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine. ⁶And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.

A. The excellent Christ appeared to Daniel in His supreme preciousness as a man for his appreciation, consolation, encouragement, expectation, and stabilization—Dan. 10:4-9:

Dan. 10:4-9—And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the great river, that is, the Hiddekel, ⁵I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz. ⁶His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude. ⁷And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; instead, a great dread fell on them, and they fled to hide themselves. ⁸Thus I was left alone and I saw this great vision; and no strength was left in me, but my color turned deathly pale; and I retained no strength. ⁹Yet I heard the sound of His words; and when I heard the sound of His words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

1. Christ appeared as a Priest in His humanity, signified by the linen robe, to care for His chosen people in their captivity—v. 5a; Exo. 28:31-35.

Dan. 10:5—I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz.

Exo. 28:31-35—And you shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue *strands*. ³²And there shall be an opening for the head in its center; around its opening there shall be a *binding* edge of woven work, like the opening of a coat of mail, so that it will not be torn. ³³And you shall make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet *strands*, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around: ³⁴A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, on the hem of the robe all around. ³⁵And it shall be upon Aaron when *he* ministers, and its sound shall be heard when he goes into the sanctuary before Jehovah and when he comes out, so that he may not die.

2. Christ appeared in His kingship in His divinity, signified by the girdle of gold, for ruling over all the peoples—Dan. 10:5b.

Dan. 10:5—I lifted up my eyes and I looked, and there was a certain man, clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz.

3. For His people’s appreciation, Christ appeared in His preciousness and dignity, as signified by His body being like beryl; the Hebrew word for *beryl* could refer to a bluish-green or yellow precious stone, signifying that Christ

in His embodiment is divine (yellow), full of life (green), and heavenly (blue)—v. 6a.

Dan. 10:6—His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.

4. Christ also appeared in His brightness for shining over the people, as signified by His face being like the appearance of lightning (v. 6b), and in His enlightening sight for searching and judging, as signified by His eyes being like torches of fire (v. 6c).

Dan. 10:6—His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.

5. Christ appeared in the gleam of His work and move, as signified by His arms and His feet being like the gleam of polished bronze—v. 6d.

Dan. 10:6—His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.

6. Christ appeared in His strong speaking for judging people, as signified by the sound of His words being like the sound of a multitude—v. 6e.

Dan. 10:6—His body also was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and His feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a multitude.

- B. Daniel received the revelation that the entire world situation is under the rule of the heavens by the God of the heavens in order to give Christ the preeminence, the first place, in everything—2:34-35, 44-45; 7:9-10; 4:34-35; Col. 1:15, 17-18; Rev. 2:4-5.

Dan. 2:34-35—You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and 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.

Dan. 2:44-45—And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.⁴⁵Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.

Dan. 7:9-10—I watched Until thrones were set, And the Ancient of Days sat down. His clothing was like white snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool; His throne was flames of fire; Its wheels, burning fire.¹⁰A stream of fire issued forth And came out from before Him. Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. The court of judgment sat, And the books were opened.

Dan. 4:34-35—And at the end of *those* days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation; ³⁵And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, But He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth; And there is no one who can resist His hand Or say to Him, What are You doing?

Col. 1:15—Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,

Col. 1:17-18—And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him; ¹⁸And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

Rev. 2:4-5—But I have *one thing* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

V. “Then Jehovah answered Job” (Job 38:1a); “then Job answered Jehovah” (42:1a); “and Jehovah turned the captivity of Job” (v. 10a):

- A. The logic of Job’s friends was according to the line of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in their thinking that Job’s sufferings were a matter of God’s judgment; however, Job’s sufferings were God’s consuming that God might gain Job so that he might gain God more—9:15; 11:12; 13:4; Phil. 3:8, 12-13:
Job 9:15—I, though righteous, could not answer *Him*; I could *only* plead for mercy before my Judge.

Job 11:12—But an empty-headed man acquires intelligence When the foal of a wild ass is born as a man.

Job 13:4—Yet you are plasterers of lies; Physicians of no value are you all.

Phil. 3:8—But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count *them* as refuse that I may gain Christ

Phil. 3:12-13—Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing *I do*: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

1. God’s intention with Job was to tear down the natural Job in his perfection and uprightness that He might build up a renewed Job in God’s nature and attributes—Job 1:1; Titus 3:5.

Job 1:1—There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and this man was perfect and upright, and he feared God and turned away from evil.

Titus 3:5—Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

2. God's intention was to usher Job into a deeper seeking after God that Job might realize that what he was short of in his human life was God Himself and that he might pursue God, gain God, and express God—Col. 2:19.

Col. 2:19—And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

3. God's intention was to have a Job in the line of the tree of life and to make Job a man of God—Gen. 2:9; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:17; Eph. 3:14-21.

Gen. 2:9—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

1 Tim. 6:11—But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, meekness.

2 Tim. 3:17—That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

Eph. 3:14-21—For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father, ¹⁵Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named, ¹⁶That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, ¹⁷That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are ¹⁹And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God. ²⁰But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us, ²¹To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

B. Job reveals that the Bible of sixty-six books is for only one thing: for God in Christ by the Spirit to dispense Himself into us to be our life, our nature, and our everything that we may live Christ and express Christ; this should be the principle that governs our life—Job 10:13; Eph. 3:9; Phil. 3:8-9; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:15; Rev. 21:2.

Job 10:13—But You have hidden these things in Your heart; I know that this is with You:

Eph. 3:9—And to enlighten all *that they may see* what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

Phil. 3:8-9—But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count *them* as refuse that I may gain Christ ⁹And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God *and* based on faith,

Eph. 1:22-23—And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church, ²³Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph. 2:15—Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,

Rev. 21:2—And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- C. The way to live and work in this principle is to be and do everything by the Spirit, with the Spirit, in the Spirit, and through the Spirit by exercising our spirit— Gal. 5:25; Rom. 8:4; Phil. 3:3; Rev. 2:7; 22:17a.

Gal. 5:25—If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Rom. 8:4—That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

Phil. 3:3—For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,

Rev. 2:7—He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev. 22:17—And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

Message Two

The Line of Life with Noah— the Life and Work That Change the Age

Scripture Reading: Gen. 6:5-14; Heb. 11:7

Gen. 6:5-14—And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And Jehovah repented that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart. ⁷And Jehovah said, I will blot out the man whom I have created from the surface of the ground, from man to beast to creeping things to the birds of heaven; for I repent that I have made them. ⁸But Noah found favor in the sight of Jehovah. ⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations; *and* Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹And the earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and now I am about to destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make rooms in the ark and shall cover it within and without with pitch.

Heb. 11:7—By faith Noah, having been divinely instructed concerning things not yet seen *and* being moved by pious fear, prepared an ark for the salvation of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

I. Noah believed in God, walked with God, pleased God, and enjoyed all that God is:

- A. Satan had corrupted man to the uttermost, and God had determined to destroy the man whom He had created for His purpose.
- B. Thus, it appeared that God was defeated; *but Noah* points to the sovereign factor that provided God a way to continue to carry out His original purpose with man.
- C. Through Noah's life and work, God gained the victory over His enemy and changed the age.

II. Noah's life was a life that changed the age—cf. Phil. 1:19-21a:

cf. Phil. 1:19-21—For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

- A. The life that changes the age is a life that inherits the godly ways of the fore-fathers:

1. Noah inherited Adam's way of salvation, receiving the promise of Christ as the seed of the woman and the covering of Christ as the God-satisfying righteousness—Gen. 3:15, 20-21; cf. Isa. 12:2.

Gen. 3:15—And I will put enmity Between you and the woman And between your seed and her seed; He will bruise you on the head, But you will bruise him on the heel.

Gen. 3:20-21—And the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And Jehovah God made coats of skin for Adam and for his wife and clothed them.

cf. Isa. 12:2—God is now my salvation; I will trust and not dread; For Jah Jehovah is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.

2. Noah inherited Abel's way of offering, which is that of offering Christ to God, not only as the sacrifice for our sins but also as a gift for pleasing God—Gen. 4:4.

Gen. 4:4—And Abel also brought *an offering*, from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering.

3. Noah inherited Enosh's way of calling on the name of Jehovah to enjoy all that He is—v. 26; Jer. 33:3; Rom. 10:12; 2 Tim. 2:22.

Gen. 4:26—And to Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time *men* began to call upon the name of Jehovah.

Jer. 33:3—Call unto Me, and I will answer you and tell you great and hidden things, which you do not know.

Rom. 10:12—For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is *Lord* of all and rich to all who call upon Him;

2 Tim. 2:22—But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

4. Noah inherited Enoch's way of walking with God, which is to take God as our center and everything, living and doing all things according to God and with God—Gen. 5:22-24; Heb. 11:5-6; 2 Cor. 5:4, 9, 14-16; 6:1.

Gen. 5:22-24—And Enoch walked with God after he had begotten Methuselah three hundred years, and he begot *more* sons and daughters. ²³And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty-five years. ²⁴And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

Heb. 11:5-6—By faith Enoch was translated so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For before his translation he obtained the testimony that he had been well pleasing to God. ⁶But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to *Him*, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2 Cor. 5:4—For also, we who are in this tabernacle groan, being burdened, in that we do not desire to be unclothed, but clothed upon, that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

2 Cor. 5:9—Therefore also we are determined, whether at home or abroad, to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him.

2 Cor. 5:14-16—For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised. ¹⁶So

then we, from now on, know no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him* so no longer.

2 Cor. 6:1—And working together with *Him*, we also entreat you not to receive the grace of God in vain;

B. God showed Noah the true situation of the corrupt age in which he lived—Gen. 6:3, 5, 11, 13; Matt. 24:37-39; 2 Tim. 3:1-5.

Gen. 6:3—And Jehovah said, My Spirit will not strive with man forever, for he indeed is flesh; so his days will be one hundred twenty years.

Gen. 6:5—And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Gen. 6:11—And the earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

Gen. 6:13—And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and now I am about to destroy them with the earth.

Matt. 24:37-39—For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark, ³⁹And they did not know *that judgment was coming* until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

2 Tim. 3:1-5—But know this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ²For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholly, ³Without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, not lovers of good, ⁴Traitors, reckless, blinded with pride, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵Having an outward form of godliness, though denying its power; from these also turn away.

C. “*But Noah found favor [grace] in the sight of Jehovah*”—Gen. 6:8:

1. When Satan has done his best to damage the situation, there have always been some who found grace in the eyes of God to become ones who turned the age—cf. Dan. 1:8; 9:23; 10:11, 19.

cf. Dan. 1:8—But Daniel set his heart not to defile himself with the king’s choice provision and with the wine that the king drank, so he requested of the leader of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

cf. Dan. 9:23—At the beginning of your supplications the command went forth, and I have come to tell *you*, for you are preciousness itself. Therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

cf. Dan. 10:11—And he said to me, Daniel, man of preciousness, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand in your place, for I have now been sent to you. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

cf. Dan. 10:19—And he said, Do not be afraid, man of preciousness. Peace to you. Be strong, yes, be strong. And when he spoke to me, I received strength and said, Speak, sir, for you have strengthened me.

2. The main purpose of the record of Genesis is not to show the fall but to show how much God's grace can do for fallen people:

a. Grace is God Himself, the presence of God, enjoyed by us to be everything to us and to do everything in us, through us, and for us—John 1:14, 16-17; Rev. 22:21.

John 1:14—And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:16-17—For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

Rev. 22:21—The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

b. The enjoyment of the Lord as grace is with those who love Him—Eph. 6:24; John 21:15-17.

Eph. 6:24—Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptibility.

John 21:15-17—Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs. ¹⁶He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep. ¹⁷He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

c. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ as the bountiful supply of the Triune God is enjoyed by us through the exercise of our human spirit—Heb. 10:29b; Gal. 6:18; Phil. 4:23; Philem. 25; 2 Tim. 4:22.

Heb. 10:29—By how much do you think he will be thought worthy of worse punishment who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and has considered the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Gal. 6:18—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Phil. 4:23—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Philem. 25—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

2 Tim. 4:22—The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

d. God's word is the word of grace—Acts 20:32; Col. 3:16; cf. Jer. 15:16.

Acts 20:32—And now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who have been sanctified.

Col. 3:16—Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

cf. Jer. 15:16—Your words were found and I ate them, And Your word became to me The gladness and joy of my heart, For I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.

- e. We experience the processed Triune God as the grace of life in meeting with the saints on the ground of oneness—Psa. 133:3; 1 Pet. 3:7; Acts 4:33; 11:23.

Psa. 133:3—Like the dew of Hermon That came down upon the mountains of Zion. For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: Life forever.

1 Pet. 3:7—Husbands, in like manner dwell together with *them* according to knowledge, as with the weaker, female vessel, assigning honor to *them* as also to fellow heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Acts 4:33—And with great power the apostles gave testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 11:23—Who, when he arrived and saw the grace of God, rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain with the Lord with purpose of heart;

- f. We can experience the Lord as our increasing and all-sufficient grace in the midst of sufferings and trials—2 Cor. 12:9.

2 Cor. 12:9—And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

- g. We need to labor for the Lord in the power of His grace—1 Cor. 15:10, 58; 3:12.

1 Cor. 15:10—But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

1 Cor. 15:58—Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Cor. 3:12—But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

- h. We need to be good stewards of the varied grace of God—1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 3:2; 2 Cor. 1:15; Eph. 4:29.

1 Pet. 4:10—Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

Eph. 3:2—If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

2 Cor. 1:15—And in this confidence I intended to come to you previously that you might have double grace,

Eph. 4:29—Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.

- i. By the power of grace, the strength of grace, and the life of grace, we can be right with God and with one another; grace produces righteousness—Heb. 11:7; Rom. 5:17, 21.

Heb. 11:7—By faith Noah, having been divinely instructed concerning things not yet seen *and* being moved by pious fear, prepared an ark for the salvation of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Rom. 5:17—For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom. 5:21—In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

III. Noah's work was a work that changed the age—1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1; Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:12:

1 Cor. 3:9—For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.

2 Cor. 6:1—And working together with *Him*, we also entreat you not to receive the grace of God in vain;

Matt. 16:18—And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

1 Cor. 3:12—But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

A. God gave Noah an all-inclusive revelation, a further revelation, the revelation to build the ark, which was the way that God would terminate the corrupted generation and bring in a new age:

1. The ark is a type of Christ (1 Pet. 3:20-21)—not only the individual Christ but also the corporate Christ, the church, which is the Body of Christ and the new man to consummate in the New Jerusalem (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:15-16; Col. 3:10-11; Rev. 21:2).

1 Pet. 3:20-21—Who had formerly disobeyed when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared; *entering* into which, a few, that is, eight souls, were brought safely through by water. ²¹Which *water*, as the antitype, also now saves you, *that is*, baptism, not a putting away of the filth of the flesh but the appeal of a good conscience unto God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Matt. 16:18—And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

1 Cor. 12:12—For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

Eph. 2:15-16—Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace, ¹⁶And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Col. 3:10-11—And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

Rev. 21:2—And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

2. The building of the ark typifies the building of the corporate Christ, with the element of Christ's riches as the building material, by those who work together with God—1 Cor. 3:9-12a; Eph. 4:12; 2:22.

1 Cor. 3:9-12—For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon it. But let each man take heed how he builds upon it. ¹¹For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

Eph. 4:12—For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

Eph. 2:22—In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

3. This building is the working of Christ into people to build them together by Christ that they may become God's manifestation in the flesh—1 Tim. 3:15-16:

1 Tim. 3:15-16—But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth. ¹⁶And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

- a. The crucial matter in our work is to minister the building and builded God into others so that the Triune God may build Himself into their being—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 3:17a; 1 Cor. 14:4b.

Matt. 16:18—And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Eph. 2:21-22—In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Eph. 3:17—That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

1 Cor. 14:4—He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church.

- b. We need to practice one thing—to minister the processed and consummated Triune God into others so that He may build Himself into their inner man; we need to pray that the Lord will teach us to work in this way—2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Cor. 3:9a, 10, 12; Rom. 11:36.

2 Cor. 13:14—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1 Cor. 3:9—For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.

1 Cor. 3:10—According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon *it*. But let each man take heed how he builds upon *it*.

1 Cor. 3:12—But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

Rom. 11:36—Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

- B. By building the church and entering into the church life, we will be saved from God's judgment on today's evil generation through the great tribulation and will be separated from that generation to be ushered into a new age, the age of the millennium—Heb. 11:7; Matt. 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27.

Heb. 11:7—By faith Noah, having been divinely instructed concerning things not yet seen *and* being moved by pious fear, prepared an ark for the salvation of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Matt. 24:37-39—For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.³⁸For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark,³⁹And they did not know *that judgment was coming* until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Luke 17:26-27—And even as it happened in the days of Noah, so will it 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 in which Noah entered into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all.

Message Three

The Victory of the Overcomers Seen with Daniel and His Companions

Scripture Reading: Dan. 1—6

I. The principle of the Lord's recovery is seen with "Daniel and his companions" (Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah), as overcomers who were absolutely one with God in their victory over Satan's devices—Dan. 2:13, 17; cf. Rev. 17:14; Matt. 22:14:

Dan. 2:13—And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his companions so that they might be slain.

Dan. 2:17—Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,

cf. Rev. 17:14—These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, *will also overcome them*.

cf. Matt. 22:14—For many are called but few are chosen.

A. In his devilish tempting of Daniel and his companions, Nebuchadnezzar changed their names, which indicated that they belonged to God, to names that made them one with idols—Dan. 1:6-7.

Dan. 1:6-7—Now among these from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. ⁷And the leader of the eunuchs gave them names: he gave Daniel *the name* Belteshazzar; Hananiah, *the name* Shadrach; Mishael, *the name* Meshach; and Azariah, *the name* Abed-nego.

B. The name Daniel, meaning "God is my Judge," was changed to Belteshazzar, meaning "the prince of Bel," or "the favorite of Bel"—Isa. 46:1.

Isa. 46:1—Bel has bowed down; Nebo stoops; Their idols are on beasts and cattle; The things which you carry are a burden, A load for a weary *beast*.

C. The name Hananiah, meaning "Jah has graciously given," or "favored of Jah," was changed to Shadrach, meaning "enlightened by the sun god."

D. The name Mishael, meaning "Who is what God is?" was changed to Meshach, meaning "Who can be like the goddess Shach?"

E. The name Azariah, meaning "Jah has helped," was changed to Abed-nego, meaning "the faithful servant of the fire god Nego."

II. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the demonic diet—Dan. 1:

A. Nebuchadnezzar's devilish temptation was first to seduce the four brilliant young descendants of God's defeated elect, Daniel and his three companions, to be defiled by partaking of his unclean food, food offered to idols.

B. For Daniel and his companions to eat that food would have been to take in the defilement, to take in the idols, and thus to become one with Satan—cf. 1 Cor. 10:19-21.

cf. 1 Cor. 10:19-21—What then am I saying? That what is sacrificed to an idol is anything? Or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, but that the things which the Gentiles

sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become those who have fellowship with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the Lord's cup and the demons' cup; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the demons' table.

C. When Daniel and his companions refused to eat Nebuchadnezzar's unclean food and chose instead to eat vegetables (Dan. 1:8-16), in principle they rejected the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (cf. Gen. 3:1-6) and took the tree of life, which caused them to be one with God (cf. 2:9, 16-17).

Dan. 1:8-16—But Daniel set his heart not to defile himself with the king's choice provision and with the wine that the king drank, so he requested of the leader of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. ⁹And God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the leader of the eunuchs; ¹⁰And the leader of the eunuchs said to Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink; for why should he see your faces being more morose than *those of* the children who are of your own age? Then you would bring guilt upon my head before the king. ¹¹Then Daniel said to the steward whom the leader of the eunuchs had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹²Please test your servants for ten days, and let vegetables be given to us to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then let our countenances be watched in your presence, as well as the countenances of the children who eat the king's choice provision; and do with your servants according to what you see. ¹⁴So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared better, and they were more fully fleshed than all the children who ate the king's choice provision. ¹⁶Therefore the steward withheld their *portion of* the choice provision and the wine that they were to drink and gave them vegetables.

cf. Gen. 3:1-6—Now the serpent was more crafty than any *other* animal of the field that Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden? ²And the woman said to the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. ⁴And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil. ⁶And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and *that* the tree was to be desired to make *oneself* wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave *some* to her husband with her, and he ate.

cf. Gen. 2:9—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

cf. Gen. 2:16-17—And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely, ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

D. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the eating of Jesus for the building up of the church—vv. 9, 16-17; Rev. 2:7, 17; 3:20.

Gen. 2:9—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen. 2:16-17—And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Rev. 2:7—He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev. 2:17—He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

Rev. 3:20—Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.

E. We can eat Jesus by eating His words and by being careful to contact and be with those who call on Him out of a pure heart—Jer. 15:16; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 13:20.

Jer. 15:16—Your words were found and I ate them, And Your word became to me The gladness and joy of my heart, For I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.

2 Tim. 2:22—But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Cor. 15:33—Do not be deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.

Prov. 13:20—He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be troubled.

III. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the devilish blinding that prevents people from seeing the great human image and the crushing stone as the divine history within human history—Dan. 2:

A. The corporate Christ as the stone and the mountain, the Bridegroom with His bride, the corporate man of God with the breath of God, will crush and slay Antichrist and his armies by the breath, the sword, of His mouth—vv. 34-35, 44-45; 2 Thes. 2:8; Rev. 19:11-21; Gen. 11:4-9; cf. Isa. 33:22.

Dan. 2:34-35—You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and 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.

Dan. 2:44-45—And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.⁴⁵Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.

2 Thes. 2:8—And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord Jesus will slay by the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of His coming),

Rev. 19:11-21—And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, *and* He has a name written which no one knows but Himself. ¹³And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white *and* clean. ¹⁵And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God, ¹⁸That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great. ¹⁹And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army. ²⁰And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. ²¹And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Gen. 11:4-9—And they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens; and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered over the surface of the whole earth. ⁵And Jehovah came down to see the city and the tower which the children of men had built. ⁶And Jehovah said, Behold, they are one people, and they all have one language; and this is *only* the beginning of what they will do; and now nothing which they purpose to do will be kept from them. ⁷Come, let Us go down and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. ⁸So Jehovah scattered them from there over the surface of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹Therefore its name was called Babel, because there Jehovah confounded the language of all the earth, and from there Jehovah scattered them over the surface of the earth.

cf. Isa. 33:22—For Jehovah is our Judge, / Jehovah is our Lawmaker, / Jehovah is our King; He will save us.

B. Christ, as the living and precious stone, foundation stone, cornerstone, and topstone of God's building, infuses us with Himself as the preciousness to transform us into living and precious stones for His building—1 Pet. 2:4-8; Isa. 28:16; Zech. 3:9; 4:7, 9-10.

1 Pet. 2:4-8—Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen *and* precious, ⁵You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a cornerstone, chosen *and* precious; and he who believes on Him shall by no means be put to shame.” ⁷To you therefore who believe is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, “The stone which the

builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner,” ⁸And, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; who stumble at the word, being disobedient, to which also they were appointed.

Isa. 28:16—Therefore thus says The Lord Jehovah: Indeed I lay a stone in Zion as a foundation, A tested stone, A precious cornerstone *as a* foundation firmly established; He who believes will not hasten away.

Zech. 3:9—For here is the stone that I have set before Joshua—upon one stone are seven eyes. I will engrave its engraving, declares Jehovah of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

Zech. 4:7—Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel *you will become* a plain, and he will bring forth the topstone with shouts of Grace, grace to it!

Zech. 4:9-10—The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish *it*; and you will know that Jehovah of hosts has sent Me to you. ¹⁰For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice when they see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel; they are the eyes of Jehovah running to and fro on the whole earth.

IV. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the seduction of idol worship—Dan. 3; cf. Matt. 4:9-10:

cf. Matt. 4:9-10—And he said to Him, All these will I give You if You will fall down and worship me. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, Go away, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.”

A. Whatever is not the true God in our regenerated spirit is an idol replacing God; whatever is not in the spirit or of the spirit is an idol—1 John 5:21.

1 John 5:21—Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

B. The enemy of the Body is the self that replaces God with its self-interest, self-exaltation, self-glory, self-beauty, and self-strength; in and for the Body we deny the self and do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord—Matt. 16:24; 2 Cor. 4:5.

Matt. 16:24—Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

2 Cor. 4:5—For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake.

C. Daniel’s companions had a true spirit of martyrdom; they stood for the Lord as the unique God and against idol worship at the cost of their lives, being thrown at the command of Nebuchadnezzar into a blazing furnace—Dan. 3:19-23.

Dan. 3:19-23—Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury and the countenance of his face was changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. He responded and commanded that the furnace be made seven times hotter than it was usually heated. ²⁰And he commanded certain mighty men who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and throw *them* into the blazing furnace of fire. ²¹Then these men were bound in their shirts, tunics, and mantles, and *other* clothing, and thrown into the midst of the blazing furnace of fire. ²²For this reason, because the king’s word was so

harsh and the furnace had been heated to an extreme, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. ²³And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the blazing furnace of fire bound up.

D. When Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace, he saw four men walking in the midst of the fire (vv. 24-25); the fourth one was the excellent Christ as the Son of Man, who had come to be with His three suffering, persecuted overcomers and to make the fire a pleasant place in which to walk about.

Dan. 3:24-25—Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished and stood up in haste; he responded and said to his counselors, Did we not throw three men into the midst of the fire bound up? They answered and said to the king, Certainly, O king. ²⁵He answered and said, Look, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not harmed. And the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.

E. The three overcomers did not need to ask God to deliver them from the furnace (cf. v. 17); Christ as the Son of Man—the One who is qualified and capable of sympathizing with God's people in everything (Heb. 4:15-16)—came to be their Companion and take care of them in their suffering, by His presence making their place of suffering a pleasant situation.

cf. Dan. 3:17—If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the blazing furnace of fire, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

Heb. 4:15-16—For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

V. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the covering that hinders people from seeing the ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens— Dan. 4:

A. As those who have been chosen by God to be His people for Christ's preeminence, we are under God's heavenly rule for the purpose of making Christ preeminent—vv. 18, 23-26, 30-32; Rom. 8:28-29; Col. 1:18b; 2 Cor. 10:13, 18; Jer. 9:23-24.

Dan. 4:18—This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, inasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make the interpretation known to me; but you are able, for a spirit of the holy gods is in you.

Dan. 4:23-26—And in that the king saw a watcher, indeed, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, Cut down the tree and destroy it; yet leave its stump of roots in the earth, but with an iron and bronze band *around it*, in the tender grass of the field; and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him; ²⁴This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: ²⁵You shall be driven out from among mankind, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; and you shall be made to eat grass as bulls do and shall be wet with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills.

²⁶And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.

Dan. 4:30-32—The king responded and said, Is this not Babylon the great, which I have built up as a royal house by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty? ³¹While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice came down from heaven: To you it is spoken, King Nebuchadnezzar: The kingdom has passed on from you; ³²And from among mankind you shall be driven out, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; you shall be made to eat grass as bulls *do*; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills.

Rom. 8:28-29—And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Col. 1:18—And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

2 Cor. 10:13—But we will not boast beyond *our* measure but according to the measure of the rule which the God of measure has apportioned to us, to reach even as far as you.

2 Cor. 10:18—For *it is* not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

Jer. 9:23-24—Thus says Jehovah, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, And let not the mighty man glory in his might; Let not the rich man glory in his riches. ²⁴But let him who glories glory in this, That he has insight and knows Me, That I am Jehovah who exercises lovingkindness, Justice, and righteousness on earth; For in these things I delight, declares Jehovah.

B. “He is able to abase those who walk in pride”—Dan. 4:37b.

VI. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the ignorance concerning the result of the debauchery before God and the insult to His holiness—ch. 5:

A. Belshazzar's taking the vessels that were for God's worship in His holy temple at Jerusalem and using them in worshipping idols was an insult to God's holiness (v. 4); he should have learned the lesson from Nebuchadnezzar's experience (4:18-37); however, he did not learn the lesson and suffered as a result (5:18, 20, 24-31).

Dan. 5:4—They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and of silver, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Dan. 4:18-37—This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, tell *me* the interpretation, inasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make the interpretation known to me; but you are able, for a spirit of the holy gods is in you. ¹⁹Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. The king responded and said, Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you, and its interpretation for your enemies! ²⁰The tree that you saw,

which grew great and became strong, and whose height reached to heaven and the sight of it to all the earth, ²¹And whose foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, *and* under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the sky lodged— ²²It is you, O king, who have grown great and become strong, for your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the end of the earth. ²³And in that the king saw a watcher, indeed, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, Cut down the tree and destroy it; yet leave its stump of roots in the earth, but with an iron and bronze band *around it*, in the tender grass of the field; and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him; ²⁴This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: ²⁵You shall be driven out from among mankind, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; and you shall be made to eat grass as bulls *do* and shall be wet with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills. ²⁶And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule. ²⁷Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: Break off your sins by doing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; perhaps there may be a prolonging of your prosperity. ²⁸All this came upon Nebuchadnezzar the king. ²⁹At the end of twelve months he was walking upon *the roof of* the royal palace of Babylon. ³⁰The king responded and said, Is this not Babylon the great, which I have built up as a royal house by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty? ³¹While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice came down from heaven: To you it is spoken, King Nebuchadnezzar: The kingdom has passed on from you; ³²And from among mankind you shall be driven out, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; you shall be made to eat grass as bulls *do*; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills. ³³In that very hour the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and from among mankind he was driven out, and he began to eat grass as bulls *do*, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until his hair had grown like eagles' *feathers* and his nails like birds' *claws*. ³⁴And at the end of *those* days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation; ³⁵And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, But He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth; And there is no one who can resist His hand Or say to Him, What are You doing? ³⁶At that time my reason returned to me; and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and my splendor returned to me; and my counselors and my lords sought me out, and I was established in my kingdom, and surpassing greatness was added to me. ³⁷Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and honor the King of the heavens, because all His works are truth and His ways justice, and because He is able to abase those who walk in pride.

Dan. 5:18—Regarding you, O king, God the Most High gave to Nebuchadnezzar your forefather kingship, greatness, glory, and majesty;

Dan. 5:20—But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so arrogant that he conducted himself in pride, he was deposed from his royal throne, and *his* glory was taken away from him.

Dan. 5:24-31—Then *that* part of the hand was sent from before Him, and this writing was inscribed. ²⁵And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. ²⁶This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE—God has numbered your kingdom and brought it to an end; ²⁷TEKEL—You have been weighed in the scales and found to be lacking. ²⁸PERES—Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians. ²⁹Then Belshazzar commanded; and they clothed Daniel in purple and *put* a chain of gold around his neck, and they made the proclamation concerning him that he should rule as the third *ruler* in the kingdom. ³⁰In that very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. ³¹And Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

- B. “An excellent spirit and knowledge and insight, and the interpretation of dreams, the declaring of riddles, and the resolving of problems [lit., knots] were found in this Daniel”—v. 12a.
- C. “You..., Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this; but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of the heavens; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and of gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see nor hear nor know. But the God in whose hand is your breath and to whom all your ways belong, you have not honored”—vv. 22-23, cf. v. 20.

cf. Dan. 5:20—But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so arrogant that he conducted himself in pride, he was deposed from his royal throne, and *his* glory was taken away from him.

VII. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the subtlety that prohibited the faithfulness of the overcomers in the worship of God—ch. 6:

- A. The center of Daniel 6 is man’s prayer for the carrying out of God’s economy; Daniel depended on prayer to do what man could not do and to understand what man could not understand; there is no other way to bring God’s economy into fullness and into fulfillment except by prayer; this is the inner secret of this chapter.
- B. Daniel prayed three times daily with his windows open toward Jerusalem; through his gracious prayer God brought Israel back to their fathers’ land (v. 10; cf. 1 Kings 19:12, 18); God will listen to our prayer when our prayer is toward Christ (typified by the Holy Land), toward the kingdom of God (typified by the holy city), and toward the house of God (typified by the holy temple) as the goal in God’s eternal economy—8:48-49.

Dan. 6:10—Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had *always* done so previously.

cf. 1 Kings 19:12—And after the earthquake, a fire—Jehovah was not in the fire. And after the fire, a gentle, quiet voice.

cf. 1 Kings 19:18—Yet I have left *Myself* seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed unto Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.

1 Kings 8:48-49—And *if* they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who have carried them captive, and they pray to You toward their land that You have given to their fathers, the city that You have chosen, and the house that I have built for Your name; ⁴⁹Then hear their prayer and their supplication in the heavens Your dwelling place and maintain their cause,

Message Four

Job and the Two Trees

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:9, 17; Rev. 22:1-2, 14; Job 1:1; 2:3; 42:1-6

Gen. 2:9—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen. 2:17—But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Rev. 22:1-2—And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. ²And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Rev. 22:14—Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

Job 1:1—There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and this man was perfect and upright, and he feared God and turned away from evil.

Job 2:3—And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, though you have moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.

Job 42:1-6—Then Job answered Jehovah and said, ²I know that You can do all things And that no purpose of Yours can be restrained. ³Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴Hear now, and I will speak; I will ask of You, and You shall inform me. ⁵I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye has seen You; ⁶Therefore I abhor *myself*, and I repent In dust and ashes.

I. In the divine revelation there are two trees, two sources, two ways, two principles, and two consummations:

A. Two trees:

1. The tree of life signifies the Triune God as life to man in man's relationship with Him—Gen. 2:9; Psa. 36:9a.

Gen. 2:9—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Psa. 36:9—For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

2. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil signifies Satan, the devil, the evil one, as death to man in man's fall before God—Gen. 2:17.

Gen. 2:17—But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

B. Two sources:

1. The tree of life is the source of men who seek God as life for their supply and enjoyment—John 1:4; 15:1.

John 1:4—In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 15:1—I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.

2. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is the source of men who follow Satan as their poison unto death and eternal perdition—8:44.

John 8:44—You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks *it* out of his own possessions; for he is a liar and the father of it.

3. The outcome of these two sources is two kingdoms—the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan—Matt. 21:43; 12:26; Col. 1:13.

Matt. 21:43—Therefore I say to you that the kingdom of God shall be taken from you and shall be given to a nation producing its fruit.

Matt. 12:26—And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

Col. 1:13—Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

C. Two ways:

1. The first way is the way of life, the constricted way, for men to seek God, to gain God, and to enjoy God in His eternal life as the supply—Matt. 7:14; Acts 9:2; 16:17; 18:25-26; 2 Pet. 2:15, 21.

Matt. 7:14—Because narrow is the gate and constricted is the way that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

Acts 9:2—And asked for letters from him to Damascus for the synagogues, so that if he found any who were of the Way, both men and women, he might bring *them* bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 16:17—This woman followed after Paul and us and cried out, saying, These men are slaves of the Most High God, who announce to you a way of salvation.

Acts 18:25-26—This man was instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶And this man began to speak boldly in the synagogue. And when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him to *themselves* and expounded the way of God to him more accurately.

2 Pet. 2:15—Forsaking the straight way, they have gone astray, following the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness

2 Pet. 2:21—For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, knowing *it*, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

2. The second way is the way of death and of good and evil, the broad way, for men to follow Satan to be his children—Matt. 7:13; 1 John 3:10a.

Matt. 7:13—Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it.

1 John 3:10—In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest. Everyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, neither he who does not love his brother.

D. Two principles:

1. The first principle is the principle of life—the principle of dependence on God—John 15:5; Gen. 4:4.

John 15:5—I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Gen. 4:4—And Abel also brought *an offering*, from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering.

2. The second principle is the principle of death and of good and evil—the principle of independence from God—Jer. 17:5-6; Gen. 4:3.

Jer. 17:5-6—Thus says Jehovah, Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his arm And whose heart turns away from Jehovah. ⁶And he will be like a shrub in the desert And will not see when good comes; But he will dwell in the parched places in the wilderness, A land of salt and uninhabited.

Gen. 4:3—And in the course of time Cain brought an offering to Jehovah from the fruit of the ground.

E. The two consummations are the final outcome of the two ways men take in their relationship with God:

1. The consummation of God's way of life is a city of water of life, the New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:2, 10-11; 22:1-2.

Rev. 21:2—And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev. 21:10-11—And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Rev. 22:1-2—And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. ²And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

2. The consummation of the way of death and of good and evil is a lake of fire—19:20; 20:10, 14-15; 21:8.

Rev. 19:20—And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.

Rev. 20:10—And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where also the beast and the false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Rev. 20:14-15—And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev. 21:8—But the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and fornicators and sorcerers and idolaters and all the false, their part will be in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

II. God's intention was not to have a Job in the line of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil but a Job in the line of the tree of life:

A. The logic of Job and his friends was according to the line of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—Job 2:11—32:1.

B. Job, like his friends, was halted in the knowledge of right and wrong, not knowing God's economy—4:7-8.

Job 4:7-8—Remember now, who, being innocent, has *ever* perished? And where have the upright *ever* been cut off? ⁸According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity And those who sow trouble reap the same.

C. Job and his friends were in the realm of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; God was trying to rescue them from that realm and put them into the realm of the tree of life—1:1; 2:3; 19:10.

Job 1:1—There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and this man was perfect and upright, and he feared God and turned away from evil.

Job 2:3—And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, though you have moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.

Job 19:10—He has broken me all around, and I am gone; And He has plucked up my hope like a tree.

D. God's purpose in dealing with Job was to turn him from the way of good and evil to the way of life so that he might gain God to the fullest extent—42:1-6.

Job 42:1-6—Then Job answered Jehovah and said, ²I know that You can do all things And that no purpose of Yours can be restrained. ³Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴Hear now, and I will speak; I will ask of You, and You shall inform me. ⁵I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye has seen You; ⁶Therefore I abhor *myself*, and I repent In dust and ashes.

III. We need a vision of the tree of life—a vision of God in Christ as our food—Gen. 2:9; Rev. 22:1-2, 14:

Gen. 2:9—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Rev. 22:1-2—And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. ²And on this side and on that

side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Rev. 22:14—Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

A. The tree of life signifies the Triune God in Christ to dispense Himself into His chosen people as life in the form of food—Gen. 2:9.

Gen. 2:9—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

B. The tree of life is the center of the universe:

1. According to the purpose of God, the earth is the center of the universe, the garden of Eden is the center of the earth, and the tree of life is the center of the garden of Eden; hence, the universe is centered on the tree of life.
2. Nothing is more central and crucial to both God and man than the tree of life—3:22; Rev. 22:14.

Gen. 3:22—And Jehovah God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever—

Rev. 22:14—Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

C. The New Testament reveals that Christ is the fulfillment of the figure of the tree of life—John 1:4; 15:5.

John 1:4—In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 15:5—I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

D. All the aspects of the all-inclusive Christ revealed in the Gospel of John are the outcome of the tree of life—6:48; 8:12; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6.

John 6:48—I am the bread of life.

John 8:12—Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 10:11—I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

John 11:25—Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

John 14:6—Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

E. The enjoyment of the tree of life will be the eternal portion of all of God's redeemed—Rev. 22:1-2, 14:

Rev. 22:1-2—And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. ²And on this side and

on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Rev. 22:14—Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

1. The tree of life fulfills for eternity what God intended for man from the beginning—Gen. 1:26; 2:9.

Gen. 1:26—And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Gen. 2:9—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

2. The fruits of the tree of life will be the food for God's redeemed in eternity; these fruits will be continually fresh, being produced every month—Rev. 22:2.

Rev. 22:2—And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

IV. When we were regenerated, Christ planted Himself into us as the tree of life—John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5-6, 15; 11:25; 15:1, 5:

John 1:12-13—But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name, ¹³Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:3—Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5-6—Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:15—That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

John 11:25—Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

John 15:1—I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.

John 15:5—I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

- A. In our practical living, we may not be in the line of the tree of life but in the line of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—Prov. 16:25; 21:2.

Prov. 16:25—There is a way which seems right to a man, But the end of it is the ways of death.

Prov. 21:2—Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But Jehovah weighs the hearts.

B. Job pursued something in the realm of ethics, but we, the believers in Christ, should pursue something in the realm of God—1 Cor. 15:28; Eph. 3:16-21.

1 Cor. 15:28—And when all things have been subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to Him who has subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all.

Eph. 3:16-21—That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,¹⁷That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are¹⁹And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.²⁰But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,²¹To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

C. In our daily living, we should not be in the realm of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil but in the realm of the life-giving Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:2.

1 Cor. 15:45—So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul”; the last Adam *became* a life-giving Spirit.

Rom. 8:2—For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

D. God’s intention is to tear us down and rebuild us with Himself as our life and nature so that we may be persons absolutely one with Him—2 Cor. 1:9; 4:14.

2 Cor. 1:9—Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;

2 Cor. 4:14—Knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will make *us* stand before *Him* with you.

Message Five

God's Intention with Job—That a Good Man Become a God-man

Scripture Reading: Job 1:1, 8; 2:3, 9; 27:5; 31:6; 42:5-6

Job 1:1—There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and this man was perfect and upright, and he feared God and turned away from evil.

Job 1:8—And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.

Job 2:3—And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, though you have moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.

Job 2:9—Then his wife said to him, Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.

Job 27:5—Far be it from me to declare you righteous! Until I die, I will not put away my integrity from me.

Job 31:6—Let Him weigh me in a righteous balance, And let God know my integrity—

Job 42:5-6—I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye has seen You; ⁶Therefore I abhor *myself*, and I repent In dust and ashes.

I. The Bible of sixty-six books is for only one thing—for God in Christ as the Spirit to dispense Himself into us to be our life, our nature, and our everything that we may live Christ and express Christ—Eph. 3:16-17a; Phil. 1:21a:

Eph. 3:16-17—That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, ¹⁷That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Phil. 1:21—For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

A. This should be the principle that governs our life—John 6:57.

John 6:57—As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

B. In a practical way, this should be today's tree of life for our enjoyment—Rev. 22:14.

Rev. 22:14—Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

II. Job was a good man, expressing himself in his perfection, uprightness, and integrity—Job 27:5; 31:6; 32:1:

Job 27:5—Far be it from me to declare you righteous! Until I die, I will not put away my integrity from me.

Job 31:6—Let Him weigh me in a righteous balance, And let God know my integrity—

Job 32:1—Then these three men ceased answering Job, for he was righteous in his own eyes.

A. Being perfect is related to the inner man, and being upright is related to the outer man—1:1.

Job 1:1—There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and this man was perfect and upright, and he feared God and turned away from evil.

B. Job was a man of integrity; integrity is the totality of being perfect and upright—2:3; 9; 27:5; 31:6:

Job 2:3—And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, though you have moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.

Job 2:9—Then his wife said to him, Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.

Job 27:5—Far be it from me to declare you righteous! Until I die, I will not put away my integrity from me.

Job 31:6—Let Him weigh me in a righteous balance, And let God know my integrity—

1. With respect to Job, integrity is the total expression of what he was.
2. In character, Job was perfect and upright, and in his ethics, he had a high standard of integrity.

C. Job feared God positively and turned away from evil negatively—1:1:

Job 1:1—There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and this man was perfect and upright, and he feared God and turned away from evil.

1. God did not create man merely to fear Him and not do anything wrong; rather, God created man in His own image and according to His likeness that man may express God—Gen. 1:26.

Gen. 1:26—And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

2. To express God is higher than fearing God and turning away from evil.
3. What Job had attained in his perfection, uprightness, and integrity was altogether vanity; it neither fulfilled God's purpose nor satisfied His desire, and thus He was lovingly concerned for Job—Job 1:6-8; 2:1-3.

Job 1:6-8—Then one day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, Satan also came among them. ⁷And Jehovah said to Satan, Where have you come from? And Satan answered Jehovah and said, From roving the earth and going about in it. ⁸And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.

Job 2:1-3—Then one day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, Satan also came among them to present himself before Jehovah. ²And Jehovah said to Satan, Where have you come from? And Satan answered Jehovah and said, From roving the earth and going about in it. ³And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a

perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, though you have moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.

D. Only God knew that Job had a need—he did not have God within him; therefore, God wanted Job to gain Him in order to express Him for the fulfillment of His purpose—42:5-6.

Job 42:5-6—I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye has seen You; ⁶Therefore I abhor *myself*, and I repent In dust and ashes.

III. God's intention was that Job would become a God-man, expressing God in His attributes—22:24-25; 38:1-3:

Job 22:24-25—And place *your* gold nuggets in the dust And *your gold of Ophir* in the stones of the brooks, ²⁵Then the Almighty will be your gold nuggets And precious silver to you.

Job 38:1-3—Then Jehovah answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, ²Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? ³Gird up now your loins like a mighty man; For I will ask of you, and you shall inform Me.

A. God ushered Job into another realm, the realm of God, that Job might gain God instead of his attainments in his perfection, righteousness, and integrity—42:5-6.

Job 42:5-6—I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye has seen You; ⁶Therefore I abhor *myself*, and I repent In dust and ashes.

B. God's intention with Job was to consume him and to strip him of his attainments, his achievements, in the highest standard of ethics in perfection and uprightness—31:6.

Job 31:6—Let Him weigh me in a righteous balance, And let God know my integrity—

C. God's intention was to tear down the natural Job in his perfection and uprightness that He might build up a renewed Job in God's nature and attributes—1:6-8; 2:3-6.

Job 1:6-8—Then one day, when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, Satan also came among them. ⁷And Jehovah said to Satan, Where have you come from? And Satan answered Jehovah and said, From roving the earth and going about in it. ⁸And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.

Job 2:3-6—And Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, though you have moved Me against him to destroy him without cause. ⁴Then Satan answered Jehovah and said, Skin for skin! Indeed all that a man has he will give for the sake of his life. ⁵But stretch forth Your hand, and touch his bone and his flesh; and he will surely curse You to Your face. ⁶And Jehovah said to Satan, Here he is, in your hand; only spare his life.

D. God's intention was to make Job a man of God, filled with Christ, the embodiment of God, to be the fullness of God for the expression of God in Christ—1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:17.

1 Tim. 6:11—But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, meekness.

2 Tim. 3:17—That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

E. God's stripping and consuming were exercised over Job to tear him down that God might have a base and a way to rebuild him with God Himself so that he might become a God-man, the same as God in His life and nature but not in His Godhead, in order to express God—Eph. 3:16-21.

Eph. 3:16-21—That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,¹⁷That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are¹⁹And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.²⁰But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,²¹To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

IV. In Christ God has been constituted into man, man has been constituted into God, and God and man have been mingled together to be one entity, which is called the God-man—Matt. 1:21, 23; Luke 1:35; Titus 2:13; 1 Tim. 2:5:

Matt. 1:21—And she will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for *it is* He who will save His people from their sins.

Matt. 1:23—“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel” (which is translated, God with us).

Luke 1:35—And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore also the holy thing which is born will be called the Son of God.

Titus 2:13—Awaiting the blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

1 Tim. 2:5—For there is one God and one Mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

A. The many God-men, the many sons of God, are the increase, reproduction, duplication, and continuation of Christ, the first God-man—John 12:24; Heb. 2:10; Rom. 8:29.

John 12:24—Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Heb. 2:10—For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Rom. 8:29—Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

B. A God-man is one who partakes of God's life and nature, thus becoming one with God in His life and nature and thereby expressing Him—John 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 6:17.

John 3:15—That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

2 Pet. 1:4—Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

1 Cor. 6:17—But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

C. A God-man has been born of God to be a child of God, having the life and nature of God—John 1:12-13; 3:6:

John 1:12-13—But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name, ¹³Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:6—That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1. A God-man has two lives, the human and the divine, and two natures, humanity and divinity.

2. A God-man is a life-man—1 John 5:11-13; Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11.

1 John 5:11-13—And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son. ¹²He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. ¹³I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.

Rom. 8:2—For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Rom. 8:6—For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom. 8:10-11—But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

3. A God-man is a gold-man—Exo. 25:11; 1 Pet. 1:7; Rev. 3:18; 21:18b.

Exo. 25:11—And you shall overlay it with pure gold; inside and outside you shall overlay it; and you shall make a rim of gold upon it all around.

1 Pet. 1:7—So that the proving of your faith, much more precious than of gold which perishes though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Rev. 3:18—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.

Rev. 21:18—And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

D. A God-man is constituted with God, having God as his life, life supply, and everything; thus, a God-man is man yet God and God yet man—Eph. 3:16-17a.

Eph. 3:16-17—That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,¹⁷That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

E. A God-man is a new creation and the righteousness of God in Christ—2 Cor. 5:17, 21.

2 Cor. 5:17—So then if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

2 Cor. 5:21—Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

F. A God-man loves the Lord with his whole being, that is, from his heart, soul, mind, and strength—Mark 12:30.

Mark 12:30—And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength.”

G. A God-man has no confidence in the flesh, denies the self, and exercises the spirit to live Christ—Phil. 3:3; Matt. 16:24; 1 Tim. 4:7; Phil. 1:21a.

Phil. 3:3—For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,

Matt. 16:24—Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

1 Tim. 4:7—But the profane and old-womanish myths refuse, and exercise yourself unto godliness.

Phil. 1:21—For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

H. A God-man is a man of God with the word of God, inhaling the breath of God—1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

1 Tim. 6:11—But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, meekness.

2 Tim. 3:16-17—All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

I. A God-man realizes that he is not an independent individual but part of the corporate God-man—the Body of Christ, the one new man—1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 4:16; Col. 3:10-11.

1 Cor. 12:12-13—For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ. ¹⁸For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

Eph. 4:16—Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Col. 3:10-11—And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.