

The Hand Of Our God!

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Father, this morning, we just come to You. We come to You, Father, because You alone have Words of life. We have come today for more than wisdom, knowledge or understanding; we have come Jesus, for life. Your words are life. Your words are Spirit. Your Word has the power to work for those who believe. And today, I pray, even as the ministry of the Word begins, faith will arise in every one of our hearts. We will hear. We will believe. We will receive. We will obey. And we believe God's Word will do its work in the lives of His people. Take authority in the name of Jesus. And come against every distracting spirit. Every spirit that tries to hinder God's people from moving ahead with their destiny. I bind you in Jesus' Name. And I command You to be still and to leave this place. May there be an opening of our ears and hearts, Lord. Speak to us. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

I hope your minds are tuned in to all the messages we've been listening to these past few weeks. And keep listening to them over and over again. Because I know it's a difficult season, summer. The best thing is to do plug in your ear phones and keep listening to the messages. And keep a note book on your side. Keep studying the Word of God. Okay. I know you often people find studying the Word of God difficult. That's why God kept Pastors and teachers in the Kingdom of God so that we would teach you Word. And you know here that we really teach you the Word and go back to the website and keep listening. That's one way you will redeem your time. Remember the only thing on this side of eternity we have which we won't have on that side is time. God's Word keeps on telling us, *"Redeem the time for the days are evil."* Next two hours, we will redeem the time. We need to study. We need to learn.

In the past few weeks, we know we have been studying about the wiles the devices of the enemy, the devil. When you study, if you are a Child of God and you want to go ahead with God. Move on with God. Fulfil your God-given destiny. There are four fundamental things which we need to study very carefully. The first, of course, is God. We need to know God. The only way we can know God is through Christ. Because Christ when He came, lived among us, is exact representation of the Father. We know Christ. We know God. We need to know the Person of God. Two – we need to know the text. Scripture. That's the Word of God. The danger of knowing the Word of God without knowing the Person of God, you end up being a Pharisee. Remember, that's the danger. You should know the Person of God. You should know the Word of God. Both together. Know that they are no separate. Don't separate them, every time you sit down to study the Word of God. The primary purpose is, *"Lord, I want to know You."* The Person of God, the Word of God. Then, when you study the Word of God, you know yourself. Third thing – You and I really need to know who we are. Because *the heart is deceitful above all things*. The only thing that will actually show us, the Holy Spirit will show us, who we really are. If we ask this, Lord, as we study, scripture says, *"This Word of God is a mirror."* We look into the mirror, we like ourselves. Or maybe, sometimes, we don't like ourselves. But that's not the real picture. The real picture of who we are is when we study the Word of God. And through the chapter from *Genesis* one onwards.

As we go through and we study the characters and study Scripture, the Holy Spirit will start showing what we are, what we shouldn't be and point us to Christ what we should be constantly. Remember, keep that in your mind. We need to know who God is. We need to know His Word. We need to know who we are. And then, remember we have an archenemy. We need to know the enemy of our souls. If we know Christ, we know the Shepherd of our souls. We know the enemy, an unseen spiritual powerful enemy. We need to know him. We need to know his devices. How he works. Remember last Sunday and previous Sunday, when we looked at the ways of the enemy, the serpent? In *Genesis 3:1*, he is introduced as the snake, the serpent. When he is first introduced in the Bible, he is introduced as the serpent. By the time we come to *Revelation*, if I am right, 12 or 7 or 9. 9, I think. It says, *"The ancient serpent."* Okay? The young fellow from *Genesis 3:1* by the time he comes to *Revelation*, he is an ancient serpent. Okay? Meaning? He has had, as of now, older than 6000 years old. But as of now, he has got 6000 years of experience tempting and bringing mankind down. So, we are no match. No match. There is one thing young people need to realize, you know. There is something which you can acquire you know because you are young, and you have access to language and technology and all that. You get wisdom, you can get knowledge, you can get talents, you can skill and get anointing you can get all that but one thing that separates you from the older generation is you cannot have experience. You cannot have experience. That's why young people always need to seek the council of godly older people because they have one thing you don't have – they have experience. Okay? And experience is something which you don't get in books. You don't get it in books. Okay? But when you remember, even the

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oldest living godly man on earth doesn't have the experience of the devil. It has got 6000 years of experience dealing with man. It's the ancient serpent. But remember who we have. We have the God who is the ancient of days. No beginning, no end. So, we are not by turning at certain periods through the year turning our focus on the enemy. In no way we are glorifying the enemy. We are just being practical. Understanding the devil and his devices. But that's not enough knowing all the ways of the enemy is not enough. We need to know God. We need to know God's ways. Remember this journey. It's a battle every day. Whether we like it or not, it's a battle – we win or lose each day. And we need God every day, all the days of our life. All the way.

So, today, we are going to turn our focus back to God. Okay? We are turning our focus back to God today. We will get back to the devil. We are not finished with him yet. Because the Scripture says in the book of *Romans* *"Very soon, the God of peace shall trample crush satan under our feet."* Okay? So, we need to know God so that He can establish his peace in us. Then, that God of peace when we have the peace of God guarding our hearts in any situation. That's the only time satan is under our feet. That's why the devil does everything to take us steal our peace, get us to be anxious and fight and scream and shout and do all kind of things because he knows the God of peace in us, will crush his head. Okay? That's the first prophesy in the Old Testament. In *Genesis*, *"You shall bite his heel, but you shall crush his head."* Jesus said, *"I shall give you power over all the power of the enemy and you shall trample."* Remember the right place for the devil in our lives is under our feet. That's the rightful place and keep him there but we need to know our God. And know His ways; know His power; know His strength, how we can walk in it.

So, today, let's come to a man called; I am not teaching you from him, but just as a starting point. There is a period in Israel's history where Israel no longer a nation. Has been taken over by Babylon and the princes of Judah, Israel all had been taken to Babylon and years have passed by. It's the 70th year of captivity. God has started moving back again in the lives of people and there is a man called Nehemiah. Nehemiah is the cup bearer of the king. And he is there in Babylon in the city called Suza. If I am right. He is there, and he gets this report about Jerusalem. Jerusalem's walls are down. The gate is burnt, and the city is in ruins. And he is broken and shaken. And you know the story. And that's the truth. The Church, spiritual Jerusalem, is in very bad shape. Very bad shape. Walls are down, the enemy has kept in. He is every devouring young people. They are hooked into all kinds of addictions. You know, the walls are down. the gates are burned. When Scripture has actually promised *the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church*. That's not the actual reality. If you look at what's happening, there has to be, like I said, not another revival; there has to be another reformation, to get the Church back on track. But revival of reformation always beings when one man one woman is broken before God. God always says, "I look for one man to stand in the gap." He said He found none. In *Ezekiel*, He says He found none. But you look through God's history, you will always see somebody will stand up and God uses that person. In age, in that time, in the generation, it was Nehemiah who stood up. Okay? Nehemiah will speak to people and this is one of his statement he makes in *Nehemiah 2:18*,

Nehemiah 2:18

¹⁸ And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So, they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.

We need this. We need to be able to say, "The hand of my God is good upon me." Before we rise up, build and do this good work. We need the hand of the Living God upon us. This is a man in Babylon. This is a man who has heard and seeing now the ruins of Jerusalem. You see we always look like, this morning also I noticed, WhatsApp message of two Pastors being taken into a temple, forcibly being taken into a temple in Tamil Nadu and they are made to utter shlokas. And they have been put saffron paste all over. This is what we see every day. You don't get it. I keep getting it from different places. But the whole idea is to intimidate into terrorizing small population. Okay? So that we don't rise up and build. These are just hands and feet. But the powers behind them are powers of darkness. And we look at the secular authorities, they are not secular. There are no secular authorities in India. They are not secular. They are all religious authorities. But we need to realize, so was Babylon. And we sometimes forget what God Himself says, *"The heart of this king is in our hand of our God."* So, he was a very religious king. They were all very religious. And you will see the king, Nehemiah found favor with the king. Because the hand of God was upon Nehemiah. The king gives permission, offers protection and provision to rebuild Jerusalem. So, don't look at authorities. Don't worry about the authorities. See that – 'how do I align my life in such a way that the good hand of God is upon my life?' Because my heart grieves over the state of Jerusalem. In *Hebrews 12:22-23*, it is talking about the Church.

Hebrews 12:22-23

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and Church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

So, the Church is the Heavenly Jerusalem. See, this is what Prophet Haggai will always remind Israel know? We are so concerned about our own lives, our own homes, our own careers, we forget the state of God's house. God says, "You have built your lives, built your careers, but you are going nowhere. You are heaped, but this all just goes away, why? This is because your heart is not on My house on My Building, My Kingdom." Everything we are building here is temporary. It will pass away but that's eternal. Our eyes have not on the eternal. We are not moved by the plight of Jerusalem. Even in this nation and all the surrounding nations. All the surrounding nations, they are not moved. Even the freest nation, Christian nation. The believers struggle there to take the Name of Christ. The men's magazine, the most famous men's magazine. I don't know QB? I don't know what it stands for. I forgot. You know, in the U.S., their recent front-line article, "This is an outdated book." You have to understand how vicious the enemy, has turned the people against the Living God, in that country which is supposed to be the beacon for Christians.

We had the Secretary of the State being confirmed Mike Pompeo CIA. The director was being confirmed. They have to go through the Senate hearings and the Senate hearings were so rough this time because they were asking his religious beliefs – "Do you believe in same sex marriage? Do you believe? Because you have said you are not for it." So, the Senator Booker who was questioning him, was actually saying that anybody who holds these views should not be confirmed into any position in the US government; meaning – to be a Bible-believing Christian. They are coming to that point that if you are a Bible-believing Christian, you should not be part of the government. We don't realize the attack is everywhere against the Church. The believing Church. If you are not a believing compromising Church, there is no issue. But if you are a Bible-believing Church, the attack. And that's a spiritual Jerusalem. That's the Heavenly spiritual Jerusalem on earth now. And God is saying, "Are you bothered?" Are we worried? Are we concerned? Yes, when we accepted Jesus or when Jesus accepted us, that day, when we repented, we believed, we were made just. In our spirit, we were made just. We are born from above. The righteousness of Christ Jesus, the righteousness was imputed into us. We were made just. That's the beginning at the end of the journey. He wants to make us perfect. It's a process and every inch of the wait for that journey. It's going to be a battle. That's why we need to know the devices of the enemy. And sometimes, we don't realize the things that are happening in our own personal lives, in our homes, everything, is because of this battle. Don't take it normal saying, "Next door also, they fight; this door also, they fight." No, it's not the same. Don't generalize these things. Because He wants to perfect His Bride. Because He is perfect. For that journey, there is a battle. And we need to be ready for the battle. We need to understand the devices of the devil.

Yes, we also need and know our God and His ways. Our God is not arbitrary. He is not whimsical. He doesn't have mood swings. He doesn't do what He feels like today and tomorrow and weans off. No, He doesn't. You study the Word of God, you will understand, literally, God is the same today, tomorrow and forever. He will never change. We will quote and confess this only when it comes to blessing. We don't confess it when it comes to change. We selectively appropriate the blessings of God to feed our flesh. But that's not what the whole Scripture means. Meaning – God does not change. He is not whimsical. He is not arbitrary in the ways. There are definite set patterns in which God moves. And He works because Sceptre of His Kingdom is righteousness. The way God deals with man is always righteous. And men of God who went through incredible battles and sufferings and loss in their lives like Job. 42 chapters of suffering. And question in the 42nd chapter, he will finally turn up and acknowledge the righteousness of God. He says, "*Earlier, my ears had heard about You. Now, my eyes have seen You. I shut my mouth.*" He declares the righteousness of God after having lost all the people he brought out of Israel. 600,000 men and women except for two Joshua and Caleb, the rest are all dead bones buried in the wilderness. Everything is over. He himself is not going to be allowed to enter into the Promised Land. And his final statement is "*All Your ways are perfect, and they are judgement, they are right, they are justice.*" He understands God is not whimsical. He won't bend something even for His best buddy on earth, Moses. I won't bend. You and I realize God is holy and righteous. He cannot bend. And if could bend, His Son did not have to die on the Cross. He could have bend some standards for us to enter. No, He doesn't. So, understand that there is a battle. God works on certain fundamental principles which is the basis of His character. So, if we want to fight this battle and we want to have the good hand of the Lord upon us in the spiritual battle. I am not talking about prosperity in the material sense. There are lot of ways in the

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world for that. We are talking about hand of God upon us. Then we need to understand the ways of God. To the Church in Philadelphia; there are seven Churches in the *Book of Revelation* to whom Jesus personally comes. And He sends a message through John to the Pastors of the Church and to this particular Church, Jesus says,

Revelations 3:7-8

To the angle of the Church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, (First thing to the Church in Philadelphia He says, "I am Holy." He who is Holy) 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, (I am Holy. I am true). "He who has the key of David, He who opens, and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" ⁸ "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Study the Scripture carefully. You will realize to all the seven Churches, Jesus will begin by actually saying, *"I know your works."* To everyone who have ears hear, He will say, *"I know your works."* Only two Churches get a commendation and nothing negative. But to the first Church in Smyrna, there is no open door. Only to one Church in the history in the 2000-year-old history to one Church alone, God says, *"In the midst of unprecedented turmoil because he will say in the trial that will come upon the whole earth to you alone, I will keep an open door because I know your works. As believers as Christians as a Church or Churches or Church of God in India, we are going through turbulent times. Very turbulent times. God says, "I am the only One who can open door." The government is upon His shoulders. The keys are in His hands. And the door that He opens no man can shut. Why this Church alone? He says, "I know your works." Please remember that, God inspects our works. He inspects our works. God created Adam to work. When we were born again and saved by grace, Ephesians 2:10 says,*

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, (He recreated redeemed us in Christ) created in Christ Jesus (Like Adam was created of the dust. We were born in the flesh of dust. We were created in Christ Jesus for?) for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Are we walking so that He comes to inspect our works whether we are walking in the works which He prepared beforehand. Even before you and I were born? He had prepared the works which we should do. Some are general common to all of us. Some are specific to us. So, God says, *"I come and check your work. I know your work."* And that Church to Philadelphia, you know what He says to them in *verse 8*? He says, *"You have a little strength."* That was the weakest Church and the weakest Church was the one which had an open door. Look at that. We think that strongest Church with the largest congregation with the money coming in like wave into the offering bags to the largest number of people who are willing to work will have open door. He says, *"You have very little strength."* Very little strength. But, you have kept my Word. I approve your work. I approve you of your work. The work in the believer's life and the work through a believer is done by the Holy Spirit. That's the fundamental principle in the Kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit is the One who does the work.

So, you will see *Genesis* begins like that. The Holy Spirit is hovering over the waters waiting for the Word to come from the Father, the Heavenly Father. Father says, *"Let there be light."* And Holy Spirit starts its work. So, Jesus said when the Holy Spirit comes, He begins the work of regeneration in us. The Holy Spirit is the actual One who does the work. He says, *"I know your works. You had very little strength, but you were strong in the Spirit you allowed the Spirit to work through you. You had very little strength. You were submissive and obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit. You had very little strength, but you honoured My Spirit. You have very little strength, but you have kept My Word in an incredibly hostile compromising world. You kept My Word. You don't have to know the whole Word immediately but what Word you know,"* God says, *"are you keeping it?"* Are we keeping it? Are we keeping His Word? Is it a Bible reading, Bible preaching, Bible believing, Bible keeping Church? It's not a 20-minute affair on a Sunday morning keeping people very happy please jumping dancing and letting them go. No. Philadelphia was not that kind of a Church. It was Church that was rooted in the Word of God. And it says, *"You have very little strength. I like your works. I see you kept My Word. Not only that, you have not denied My name. You honoured My name."* When the Ten Commandments had been given in Mount Sinai, God says, *"Thou shall not take My Name in vain."* When they ask Him to teach them to pray, His first Words are *"Hallowed be Thy Name."* This is the Church who did not take the Name of God lightly nor did they profane His Name. They Hallowed His Name. There are people who will not profane His Name. They will not take His Name in vain neither will they hallow it. This is a Church which did not take it in vain. They hallowed His Name. Kept His Name. They magnified His Name. So, God says, *"You know*

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what? This Church will have an open door. That's why certain people in the Bible, you will see, in spite of all the struggles and attacks of the enemy, they will always have the good hand of the Lord upon them. They face trouble like no man. So many were the plans of the devil every side to destroy them. But the good hand of the Lord was upon them. So, in the time we have, we have very little time. No? I am not taking about today's service. I am saying about time as time is.

Yesterday, I got in my inbox, a pdf from this Pastor called Ray Pritchard. He has written this New Booklet called "Two Minutes Till Midnight." It's freely available if you know the site. It's a beautiful book, you need to read. He's talking about the very current letter he has written about two minutes and he goes to the *Book of Peter*, where he says, "The time is near." Peter says, "The end of all things are here." The first thing he says, "When you read that passage when God says time is almost doing to be wrapped up, the first thing he says is – 'be sober and be in control'." Don't be an emotional believer jumping up and down like this, be sober. This is the time to be sober, in control. Redeem the time. Be sober, spiritually sober, emotionally sober, intellectually sober. Remember, we are living in unprecedented times because there are powers of darkness, raging like never before. And promised, prophesied by God in the last days, he will release all of them. He will allow them; the power of occult will increase in last days. We have to negotiate our way through literally like a mind field; laid by the devil and the wicket men and women who work with him. And we keep our eyes focus on Christ Jesus. But we are not afraid, because remember in the last days in the *Book of Daniel*. They, who know the Lord, shall do mighty exploits. That was the offertory song, right? Greater things. They who know the Lord shall do great exploits.

Daniel 11:32

³² And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Even in the Olivet terms discoursed when His disciples asking about the last days, when Jesus talks about all the horror stories, how it is going to unfolds. Remember 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and in the end, if the days are not shortened, even the elect would not save. All that, in the middle he says something in *Luke 21:15*,

Luke 21:15

¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.

Sometimes, people miss; they only see the gloom and the doom. They don't receive the promise in the middle of it. He says, "Lift up your head; your redemption is near." You will be hunted and hounded by all these people. You will be taken before authorities. He says, "Don't worry." I will give you a mouth and a wisdom. All your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You need to believe, "Lord, times are difficult. You have prophesied all these things. I don't think anybody can escape this. But, when that hour comes in my life, I want Your good hand upon me. When I am brought into places, I want You to give me a mouth and a wisdom where Your adversaries and my adversaries will not be able to resist or contradict. I believe in You, I believe in Your power. I believe in Your sovereignty and, O Lord, I want Your hand upon me." Wherever, take it into personal life. You're going tomorrow for an interview? Say, "Lord! Give me a mouth. All the ones sitting in the line with me are my adversaries fighting for the same post and if Your hand is upon me, I believe, Lord, I will be able to answer in ways others cannot answer. Simply because your Word says – 'I have the mind of Christ Jesus'."

Can anybody refute the arguments of Christ? Nobody could, the brilliant minds of His age –d the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the judo-Caesars, the Levites, the Priests all gave up. They were scared to question Him. They knew you couldn't argue with this Man. So, in this kind of hours and in this kind of days, God says, "My hand will be upon My people who know Me." We need to know Him. We need to understand how God works. First, I want to turn to *Daniel 1:8-9*. Think about all of you as Daniels though our lives may not tally like Daniel's but say, "Lord, change me and make me like Daniel. Cleanse me with the Blood of Jesus. I messed up unlike Daniel but help me, Lord. You can make me poorer than Daniel because Daniel didn't have access to what I have access to, in the New Covenant. Make me like him, give me his boldness and his strength and his purity." And we are in Babylon, a world absolutely under the control of wicked one. And *Daniel purposed in his heart, he will not defile himself*. One simple thing he said: "Lord, I don't want to defile myself. Even in this land, I have no freedom but I don't want to defile. I've been brought here as a slave, but I don't want to defile myself.: That was his simple prayer in his heart. And Scripture says, *Daniel 1:8-9*.

Daniel 1:8-9

⁸ But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. ⁹ Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.

He's a big guy. He's like Nehemiah the cupbearer. Big guy, the chief of the eunuchs. The one who controls practically the realm, the Babylonian king. The man who trusts with his life, very big guy. And Scripture says, "A young man makes a decision in his heart and God is immediately moving in the hearts of the secular authorities, for his sake." That's what it means the good hand of God upon us, favor. God's people need favor in difficult situation, in difficult workplaces. All your workplaces are difficult, what do we need? We need favor with God, and favor with man. We cannot change the heart of men, God can. But we can change the heart of God, by understanding what is important to God. A little thing. A little thing, very little thing is over which Daniel took a stand. Now, God is a God of little things. Remember, last Sunday, those little things mean a great to God because he who is faithful in small things, will be faithful in big things also. It's the little things that God watches; not the big things. Big things, anybody will do. Almost everybody will be zealous and excited to do big things but nobody will be excited over the small things of God. And here is a young man, 13, 14, 15-year old teenager in Babylon with nobody, no family no friends; everybody has compromised. He alone first decides to honor God in little thing and you see the incredible supernatural hand of God moving in the heart of a eunuch who didn't know God. You know the heart of authorities are in God's hand. Suddenly, the eunuch looks with favor upon Daniel. We need favor with God and believe if the good hand of God is upon me, I will have favor with God and with man like Nehemiah got favor with the king. You know, you imagine a king of Babylon, with how many 130 provisions, right? That's what Esther begins with 130 provisions, right? Massive empire. Can anybody see a cup bearer's face? That's how he begins with. "Why is your face downcast?" That's God. You cannot tell the king, "Lord, I need to tell..." No, the king has to speak. And the king looks at his face and says, "What's wrong with you." And he says about Jerusalem in ruins. The king is moved. He says, "Go. I will give you protection, I will give you provision, a royal proclamation. Go rebuild Jerusalem." Favor, we need favor with God. People can do anything to you. That's irrelevant. Your own family, your own brothers may sell you as a slave to the Amalekites and the Midianites. You may be taken in chains to Egypt. You may be put on the block, and may be sold as a slave. But God is still in control. He is the one who touches the captain of the guards, very important man. His heart to buy Joseph, when Joseph is brought to his house. Scripture says, *Genesis*,

Genesis 39:4

⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.

Joseph found favor. Favor, he found favor in His sight. This are all Gentile rulers, this are not believers. Actually, Jewish kings, God's people had always trouble with them. But his servants, always had favor with Gentile kings because God was working in them. Meaning – it was easier for God to work in the heart of a Gentile authority than in the heart of a wicked Jewish king like Ahab or Manasseh or any one of them. Never underestimate our God. We need favor with God. Immediately, the devil rises up; there is a false accusation. He is thrown into prison and Scripture says,

Genesis 39:20-21

²⁰ Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison. ²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

You see, this was all God's plan. God has a plan. Even before you were formed in your mother's womb, God has chosen you, God has set a plan for you, foreordained plan. God had a plan for Joseph revealed to him through dreams. The dream was that one day, he would rule and he was not going to rule sitting in Potiphar's house; he needed to reach the palace and God had made a highway through the prison. It was not any ordinary prison; it had to be the king's prison where the king's prisoners came in, who came in from the palace. If you are in the prison and you are chained in a cell, you are going to rot over there. So, God showed that he had favor. So, he has favor with the prison warden and we will see that the prison warden gives him the freedom and puts him in charge of all the prisoners. So, he is moving around freely in the prison and there, he will learn the language, the culture of the palace because he is meant to rule in the palace one day. There is a baker; there is a cupbearer who both will come over there. God is planning it all out. So, don't look at your misfortunes, if you are walking with God, as being out of God's plan because you are in God's plan but see that you have always favor that

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the hand of the Lord is upon me. In this place, I'm going to fight God. I'm not going to struggle against God because my future has been ordained in Christ. Like Joseph, I'm destined to rule one day if I finish my race. I don't know how many years for you and me but for him, it was 13 years in the prison. 17 till 30 – 13 years, he had to be a slave before he could reach but he knew he had favor with God and he had favor with man. That's how God works. Look through the Bible, whenever God has picked a man and before God picks a man and starts moving him, you will always see – God has inspected his works and He finds him pleasing. Little things. Joseph in a little thing, "Will you take this bread and check out on your brothers?" He could have said, "Dada, I don't want to go. It's so far away. It's almost 60 miles, Dada. Send so many servants. You've got hundreds of servants. Why should I go?" Can you imagine today's teenager being asked to go? "Will you go?" "Can I book an Uber?" "My brothers don't love me at all. They hate me. They don't talk to me at all. Dada, I'm really scared. They are all older to me. They could beat me up." Nothing. Small thing. Daniel, in a small thing.

Do you remember David? When Saul has a problem and the servant recommends David and David comes to the palace, what does Scripture say?

1 Samuel 16:21-22

²¹ ***So David came to Saul and stood before him...***

What is happening? This is a wicked king; not a wicked king. He is not so wicked still but he is oppressed by demons, evil spirit. He comes and stands before David. Next thing he says,

...And he loved him greatly, (The king loves this young boy) and he became his armorbearer. ²² Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."

Did he do anything? Nothing. He hasn't even picked his harp. He hasn't sung a song. He just stood before him and God touched the heart of that king. So, he had favor in his sight. Later, things will change but that's also part of God's plan. He is turning everything for David. He is running. He is in the Philistine territory and he has taken refuge under Achish, the Philistine king and Scripture says, the Philistine king, under whose rule he will live for 16 months, he loved David. How can a Philistine king love David, knowing that David is the one who killed Goliath, his champion? That's God. Finally, after 16 months, it is time for David to get out but the king loves him so much; but the Philistine leaders don't want David in the battle against Israel. So, you know what is the narrative written over there about that?

1 Samuel 29:6-7

⁶ ***Then Achish called David and said to him, "Surely, as the Lord lives, you have been upright, and your going out and your coming in with me in the army is good in my sight. For to this day I have not found evil in you since the day of your coming to me. Nevertheless the lords do not favor you."***

Imagine a Gentile king telling a Jewish boy who killed his champion, "From the day you joined my company till today, actually, I have no complains. Nothing. I've checked the cameras – you work. You take your tea break. If the company rule is 5 minutes, you are back before 5. You don't sit and waste time. I have checked. I have nothing against you but I have to let you go because the rest of the board says that we need to let you go. But honestly, I love you."

⁷ ***Therefore return now, and go in peace, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines."***

"If it was my choice alone, I wouldn't let you go but I am outnumbered in this counsel." Do you see favor? You and I need favor. We will have enemies all the days of our lives. If you don't have, the enemy will create a few and they will stand up against us but we need God to touch men, men who matter in our lives. That's what happens when you have the good hand of the Lord upon you.

Then, when it comes to *Daniel 1:17*, second thing.

Daniel 1:17

¹⁷ ***As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.***

This is natural; this is spiritual. What you are struggling, breaking your head, Jyothi, is over natural subjects. NEET exam, you call. It's not neat at all. EAMCET, NEET, LAWCET, you name it – these are all secular subjects in this world. Scripture says,

...God gave them knowledge and skill...

How to crack a CAT exam? Skill. The others have no clue that there were 4 cool cats walking in Babylon in secular subjects. My question to you is that, when you read these things, why don't you believe? "Yes, I'm competing with 500, 000 kids or maybe more but you know what? I will do my part. I will work hard but Lord, I need favor. I need favor with You and I'm going to please You in little things and in the big things and I'm believing that the hand of God will be upon me." "And to Daniel, you are the leader. You are the one who stood up first. So, to you, I will give you understanding in all visions and dreams." You see, these are not whimsical and arbitrary with God. These are all based on fundamental principles which God has spoken – "Who honors Me, I will honor them back." That's the principle. "I saw you. In the little things, you stood up. At the cost of your life, your career, you honored Me. Now, the time has come for Me to honor in the front of those same people. I'm going to honor you." So, God is not whimsical. God is not arbitrary. But we are not honoring God for a promotion. We are honoring God because he is God. They never expected this. Everybody will honor God if you are told that, "You come to Church six days a week, sit and study. You will surely pass EAMCET," you will all come. You will forget your books and sit here to pass EAMCET. That is not what is happening here. Nothing is promised. Nothing has to be promised. Truth should be able to stand on its own. You don't need an incentive to stand for truth. It can stand on its own because it is true. That's what He tells the Church of Philadelphia, "I am the One who is holy and true." Does God have to be honored? Yes, in Jerusalem or Babylon, God has to be honored, God has to be honored in small things and big things. That is the truth. You don't need an incentive for that and God will honor them. These young men were in extremely difficult hostile environment. Hostile to their faith, hostile to their beliefs, hostile to everything they had been raised up in. But they decided to honor God. Not only that, they were very humble about it. They didn't make a big fuss about it, to show how they were honoring God. They were very quiet about it; they were not the show-offs like the Pharisees. They were very humble about it. God will intervene specially with Daniel and give him divine revelation.

Like I said in the beginning, many of you will have to face interviews in life. For admissions, for jobs, for promotions. Do you realize the God of Daniel is your God, that He could actually go to an interview and you already know the answers of all the questions that are going to be asked? That's exactly what happened. The king, after three years, had questioned all of them personally and he is stunned by Daniel and his three friends because they knew all the answers. You study the Bible and you realize that from the beginning; there has hardly been any man or a woman who has divine vision or visions, who has failed in life. Whether it is a Noah, an Abraham, a Jacob, a Joseph, a Daniel, a David – these were all people who received a vision from God and they ended up being succeeded because they received a vision. Do we receive? Because that's how Peter begins the Church, right? You shall have visions and dreams. How are your dreams? Are you having demonic dreams where you are chased forever by men and women and animals and reptiles and snakes? Or are you having divine visions where God is opening up spiritual truths to you? How are your dreams? Because everybody dreams and dreams are from both sides. How are your dreams? Are you always seeing snakes or are you seeing revelations of God? Are you been harassed in your dreams or are you being ordained in your dreams? Because the God of Daniel is your God and my God.

We saw on Sunday – where there is no vision, people fall away, people fail. Even in the world people will succeed in the world because they had a worldly vision. Not world vision but a worldly vision. How much more in the Kingdom of God? We need favor, we need a vision. And ask God, "Lord, show me, speak to me in dreams and visions. All I want is to honor You, all I want is to serve You. Speak to me, Lord, I just want to like Daniel in Babylon, like Joseph in Egypt. I just don't want to be a nobody in Your Kingdom. I don't care if I am a nobody in this world but I want to be somebody in Your Kingdom." When the annals of faith are opened and *Hebrews 11* is going to be read – 'But Abel, by faith, Enoch by faith, Noah by faith, Abraham by faith, Isaac by faith, Jacob by faith' and as the unfinished list is written, Lord, I want my name there. Give me a vision, give me a dream that I might fulfill and finish the work which You ordained for me when You created me." Because remember, nobody sitting here who knows Christ is an ordinary person in the spiritual realm. That's why the enemy is after your life, he is after our lives.

In *Daniel 2:21*, the third thing.

Daniel 2:21

²¹ And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.

God is sovereign. He can change times and seasons. He can, it's in His hands. Three months ago, four months ago, the whole world was panicking thinking that there is going to be a nuclear war with North Korea. Three months later, everybody is saying, "What happened?" He can change times and seasons, He can take one king off and put another king on. He can change the entire dispensation in election for one child of His. He can change. He is sovereign. Do we believe? He changes the times and the seasons. I believe that is what happened in the last election in the USA. Their time was almost up. God said, "Your time is almost up," and I believe the believing Church was there praying, they were fasting and God says, "Okay, I'm changing, I'm extending the time, this guy is going to win and he is going to be a hard nut not to be cracked. He is going to be a fighter in the ring." He is not like what we think he is. He is like Hazel and Jehu who need to fight. Single-handedly, he is fighting. What has happened? The Church time and season changed. He is not a soft like Hezekiah and Josiah and all to fight these people.

Hezekiah and Josiah are good in Israel. In a world like this, you need fighters who will fight for God's people. And yes, one thing he is consistent. He may be inconsistent in everything else but once when it comes to the Church, he is consistent. He says, "I got your back and I'm for you," and they all say that, "Never in recent US history a president has every stood for them as him." "I will protect your rights." Why? Because He changes time and the seasons. Why can't you believe He can do it for this nation too? Why do you give up so fast? No, neither the ballet nor the bullet matter to God because the change comes from neither of this two. Neither the bullet nor the ballet. Neither, change comes through God. The iron curtain fell after 75 years neither without bullet nor a ballet being used. Neither was there a ballet nor a bullet, the iron curtain just fell and the communism just collapsed because God says, "I am changing the situation," because He removes kings and rises up kings.

People may do it but personally, I am not for Christians going on the streets, sitting in parliamentary, holding black cards and all. We don't do that. Get into your closet and pray because we have a King who moves kings out of their thrones. He didn't ask us to be active and to go on the streets and go on to do rally. When they were beaten up in the streets of Jerusalem, Peter and John and all didn't go to see Pilot and asked for mercy. They went to their closet and started crying out to the Lord and Scripture says, "The Holy Spirit came and shook the place and filled them all over again." That's what a Church needs to do. When we appeal to the secular authorities, then we don't believe in the sovereignty of God, we believe. Nehemiah didn't appeal to the king, the king asked Nehemiah. The king said, "Go," and even then, do you know what Nehemiah actually said? He said, "We don't need protection." He took provision but he didn't take protection. He said, "I don't need your protection." He didn't say it that way but that's what he meant because, "My God is able to guard us." Understand our God is sovereign. Our God can change times and seasons. Our God can change kings and authorities. He can change your boss and suddenly, a new boss has brought in and he is the kindest man you have ever seen. "How did it happen?" Because God says, "Every manager is appointed by Me." Don't magnify the devil or your afflictions. Don't magnify your afflictions. That's what you read as you study the *Book of Acts*. Every time the devil rose and used instruments of men to beat them, to throw them into prison, to lock them up, they magnified God. They did not magnify their affliction; they did not magnify the devil; they magnified God because John will say in *1 John 3:8*,

1 John 3:8

⁸ ...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

And one of the works of the devil is affliction in the lives of God's people and Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. We read in this portion of what Daniel is saying and what the kings are saying but we need to understand the context. The context is this – Nebuchadnezzar has the dream and he calls all the wise men of his kingdom and says, "I know you guys. You are very challoo (cunning). If I tell you the dream, you will give me hundred different interpretations. So, you tell me what I dreamt and then, give me the interpretation." They said, "Lord, as far as we know in history, no king has ever asked any wise man like this." He said, "You better get me an answer or I will kill all of you." And in that 'all' was included Daniel and the three friends. Daniel went to the king and said, "Give me a few days. Let me ask my God." He came back and ask his friends, "Let us pray. Let us fast." And Scripture says, "God gave him the dream as to what it was and the interpretation." That's what had happened. Afflictions come but the purpose Jesus came was to destroy the affliction. One of the works of

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the devil is affliction. That's why Jesus says, "*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.*" If you and I want God to intervene into our lives, we need to fall in line with the character of God. Repent and get back. You can't change the past but God can. In *Psalm 34:19-20*,

Psalm 34:19-20

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all. ²⁰ He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.

It's not talking about bones as in bones. Many righteous people had their bones broken. That's not what he is talking about. Bones is what gives stability to my body. If there are no bones, I would just crumble. God says, "Through all your afflictions, I would guard you and you will be still stable and sober through it all." That's what you see in the *Book of Acts*. They are not crumbling under pressure. Like some of our young men will put on their profile Dhoni's finish. IPL, recently. I haven't seen any IPL matches from the time it has begun but I see these profiles of my young men. On that, they put, "Dhoni finished well." Now, let me ask you even in sports and in cricket and all, why do they pick certain men for the final over? Because they don't crumble under pressure. 100, 000 fans screaming, 5 balls to go, 12 runs to get it; this guy is cool as a cucumber because he has been taught and he has trained himself on how to handle pressure. How much more the saints of God who have got God with them and in them and the anointing of the Holy Spirit? He asks, "Will you stand?" Yes, you are going through afflictions but the Lord will deliver them out of all, "and I will guard you. Stand there firm, unshaken, unmovable. This will pass." That's why we say in English, "Tough times do not last; tough people do." Righteousness automatically catches the attention of the devil and you are in his crosshairs. God says, "Afflictions will come and I will allow it. By the time it's over, you will be even more righteous if you stand because I am sovereign." The more the power and the hand of God upon you, the greater the warfare; not less. The greater the afflictions, the greater they are. Look at all the men of God, why did they have to fight so much in their lives? It's only because they were righteous and the hand of God was upon them. God is not giving the anointing of His Holy Spirit for us to lie in our hammocks; He is giving us the anointing of the Holy Spirit to fight the devil and break every yoke of His in our lives and in the lives of others. When Paul and Silas were outside in the marketplace, because of the anointing that was upon them, they could deliver one servant girl out of her possession. But when, in their affliction, they went into prison and when they started worshipping under the same anointing, the chains of all the prisoners came off. Which ministry do you want? One or many? That's the question God is asking. That's why we remain stable and say, "Lord, let the good hand of the Lord be upon me. I need favor, Lord. You are sovereign over all my situations, O Lord. Times and seasons are in Your hands. Yes, prophecy is written; yet, I know, Lord, it is not set. You can change. You can lengthen. You can shorten. You can do all kinds of things because it's all in Your hands. You can take one king and put another." That's what God is talking about. God delivered His people. He has the power to change anybody.

That's what we see. When that happened, Daniel goes in, asks and prays in *verse 17-19*, you will see that.

Daniel 2:17-19

¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸ that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹ Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

The question is: how strong is your prayer life? Prayer is a very hard work, you know that? It's not an easy work. It's a very hard work to get your mind and your soul and your everything focused on God. It is not easy. To get focused on the TV is very easy. To get focused on God without losing your attention is not easy. And while they were in prayer, that was when Daniel received that vision. How is our prayer life or are we crying about our affliction? In *James 5:13*, James, the apostle, will say,

James 5:13

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.

That's the only solution. Not cry, not get on WhatsApp. Not mourn. He didn't say. He says, "If any of you are afflicted, let him pray." He didn't say, "Fight with your wife." No. "Blame your children." No. "Shout at your boss." No. He said, "Just

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pray.” Are you afflicted? Yes, Daniel was afflicted; his three spiritual brothers were afflicted. All of Babylon’s wise men were afflicted but they took it to prayer and God gave Daniel the answer, the secret and they are out of their affliction. When affliction comes, don’t cry and worry. Don’t get drunk to drown your sorrows. Let him or her pray. Daniel had three prayer partners and they prayed. Have you noticed in everything, wherever he is mentioned, it is Daniel who initiates? The devil brings affliction to hurts us but God says in *Luke 10:19*,

Luke 10:19

¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Afflictions shouldn’t hurt it; it should improve us. By any means hurt us. That’s Scripture. Question is: do you believe? If you believe, then how come your confessions are all – “I can never forget what he did to me! I am so hurt.” God says, “Nothing will, by no means, hurt you,” if you are righteous. You have power over all the power of the enemy. You haven’t prayed. The wiles of the devil should not hurt us because he has no power to hurt us. He has the power to intimidate us, hurt us physically, but our soul? Our spirit? Untouched. Please remember – the devil is not our friend. He doesn’t want you in the hospital; he wants you in the coffin. You and me, he wants us in the coffin. God says, “Fight that good fight.” It’s a battle you are engaged in. God has already prophesied over His children, “You are more than conquerors.” But He says, “Now, fight and prove. You have My word. You have My Spirit. Fight and prove. Let Me have the glory and the joy of a Father seeing His sons and daughters beating him left and right.” That’s where He gets His glory on earth.

Fourth one;

Daniel 2:22

²² He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness

Do you know that’s what happens in all these nations? Occult. In the hours of darkness, they are doing all kind of witchcraft, spells, shedding blood, drinking blood and doing all kind of things against God’s people and against each other. That’s how power is sustained in each nation. The secrets of darkness belong to God. God says, “If you walk in My ways and you pray, I will show you what your enemies are planning. You can cut it off at the root. *No weapon that is formed against you will prosper.* Do you know the weapons that are formed?” Secrets belong to God. They belong to God. He can actually show you the future. He can show you the secret meetings that take place that are made to destroy you because He knows what is in darkness. They can hide from everybody but they cannot hide from Him. Men of God always had enemies plotting and planning with powers of darkness to destroy them. Always. That’s how a power is sustained. You look through the Bible; you look through history of any nation, what happens? A king will have wise men, astrologers, magicians all around him. These are the ones who sustain his power through occult. These are the ones, through occult, give him counsel. That’s how he holds his reign. That’s why whenever a king fought another king and they defeated, he brought his gods also and put them over there to increase his power. That is why when the Philistines took the Ark, they took the Ark and took it to their temple. They have no issue with any god. “Just add to my power.” They didn’t realize that He is the only One. He knows what is in the darkness and He says that secrets belong to Him. The enemies that pursue us are not interested in the status quo. They are not. They will rest only till we are destroyed. They will come to steal. They are not satisfied; they kill. They destroy our entire khandhan (family). Let me ask you a question: in the place of your enemy, you go to your yard and you find a viper and his five eggs, will you kill the viper and leave the eggs alone? Won’t you destroy the eggs? That’s what it means to kill, to destroy. Why is he after the young generation? To destroy the seed of the woman. Not just kill the parents but to kill the next generation. There’s no compromise in this battle. We are fighting powers of darkness.

Pharaoh did not follow Israel to the Red Sea to talk but to destroy. But God destroyed Pharaoh and his army. Goliath did not go the battle field to chat with David. If David hadn’t killed him, he would have killed David. On Mount Carmel, if God hadn’t intervened and answered Elijah’s prayer, they would have killed Elijah. Instead, Elijah killed them. These are all symbols to show us what actually happened. That’s what I said – you study the Old Testament, real battles. It will show us how we fight spiritual battles because we are not fighting flesh and blood; we are fighting powers of darkness. We are not fighting man; we are fighting the powers that empower them and we look at it and see that it’s a real battle. That’s why I said in the Kingdom of God, everything is tangible. Peace is a real thing. I can’t hold peace but it is real in the spiritual realm. “My peace, I leave with you.” You go to a house and say, “Peace.” Jude will say, “The devil is bound in chains of darkness.”

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Darkness is tangible in the spiritual realm. Once you are bound in darkness, you will never see light. Does that mean he cannot see? He can never see God's truth. He walks in spiritual darkness because he is bound; not with physical chains; he is bound with darkness. That's what Scripture says about the judgment at the end – some will be thrown to outer darkness. These are tangible real things. The spiritual realm is even more real than the physical realm. Here, I cannot touch light. There, light is tangible. Here, I cannot touch darkness. There, it is tangible. You will understand and realize that one day, when we die and reach there that this was not the real world; that was. So, when you fight spiritual enemies, you fight it with spiritual weapons which become tangible for them. That's why they are afraid of prayers that is empowered by the Holy Spirit because they actually become tangible weapons and cut them apart. When Elijah called down fire from Heaven, the fire came and burnt up the servants of the king. In the same way, when you pray fire prayers and when the Holy Spirit empowers you, demons are fried on the other side. When the prophet talked about blindness, the Midianites were blinded and they were killing each other. When the prophet or the man or the woman of God prays and the Holy Spirit leads, demons turn and start cutting each other. It's real. God says, "Get into it. Understand but keep your life clear." That's why He says, "Put on the full armor of God." No chinks in your armor. Walk under the Blood. Stay under the Blood. Destroy these princes of darkness who would, otherwise, destroy us. Because no weapon that is formed against us shall prosper.

Understand. When the Bible uses terms, David uses terms, what does he actually mean? These are all given to us. He, in the natural, spoke spiritual things. He did not understand. We, in the Spirit, because we are born of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit shows us what it actually means because they were all written for us upon whom the end of ages has come. In *Psalms* 27:2, Scripture says,

Psalms 27:2

² When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell.

You mean his enemies ate his flesh? Prophet Isaiah in *Isaiah* 49:26,

Isaiah 49:26

²⁶ I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh, And they shall be drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine. All flesh shall know That I, the Lord, am your Savior, And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

What are they talking about here? In every occult ceremony, like just now, two days back, they discovered one of the largest sacrifice in Peru, right? Over 126 babies were sacrificed 100 years ago. One of the largest sites they find. What do you think happens in all these occult places all over the world in secret? They drink blood and they eat flesh. Why? This flesh here is your body. Blood is your life. In occult, when they are eating the body and the flesh, they are destroying their enemies that your body will not function and your life is in our hands. Now, you understand why they got so offended when they didn't understand the spiritual? He says, "You will not have life until you drink My Blood and eat My flesh. That's your power to fight them." Because this is a spiritual fight. This is not physical. This is a real war we are fighting because they, in the spiritual realm, are drinking the blood of their enemies and are eating the flesh of their enemies; Jesus says, "You drink My Blood and you eat My body. Until I come, do not stop this because when I come, battle is over. Then, you don't have to do it. Your victory lies when My body is your body and My Blood is your blood in the spiritual realm. They cannot fight that." This is war, children and there is no way out. You are born again and you are born again into a battle for life. That's why gird your loins, put on the full armor of God. Stand in your full might of God. Take up your weapons of warfare, the Word of God which is the sword of Spirit and praying in the Spirit all kinds of prayers as the Holy Spirit leads because what sharpens the edge of the sword is the Holy Spirit. That is your anointing. That is what. If the anointing, if the Holy Spirit is not there, all these will not work. Isn't that what David cries when Jonathan and Saul are dead? He said, "They are dead. Let Gilboah be dry because there was no oil on their shield." That's why He told, after 3 ½ years of ministry, training, practical, theological, everything – He said, "Wait. Go but until you have received power from above and you need that power every single day of your life to fight this battle that even if you finally die in this battle, you die as a conqueror and an overcomer." We are in battle.

Jesus has power. He actually shows us and demonstrates to His disciples, "I have powers that can destroy." No fig, dry. Life just went out of the fig tree. Do you see the sorcerer who wanted the Holy Spirit by laying on of hands and he was willing to pay? Peter said, "Go in darkness." And they had to lead him out in darkness. Ananias fell down. Sapphira came without knowing. What did Peter say? "The ones who carried your husband's body are still here. They can carry you also out." We

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are fighting real wars. You see, the Church was not infiltrated by the enemy in the beginning. Understand our God. He is a Man of war. We are not fighting flesh and blood; we are fighting powers of darkness but in the process, when you fight the powers of darkness, what will happen is – men and women who are aligned with them will die. I have heard the story of a lady who was going through all kinds of afflictions and then, she went for prayer and she went for deliverance and the Pastor led her through the whole process of cleansing and said, “All the powers of affliction in my life, die in Jesus’ Name.” That week, three of her relatives died, including her father and mother who were the reason of her affliction and they were doing witchcraft to stop her because she had become a believer. That’s why Jesus said, “If any man loves his father or mother or wife or children more than Me, you can’t fight this battle because some of them may join on the other side and fight you and do every kind of occult to stop you from fulfilling your Heavenly Father’s purpose. Are you willing to fight this battle?” Are you willing to be a Levite? That’s what the call was given when Moses came down from the mountain. Only the Levites came to his side. All the others stood back. He said, “Strap your sword on to your sword. Go into the camp and kill father, brother, uncle – everyone who has worshipped the idol, kill.” And three thousand died that day. It’s a battle, real battle. We are fighting for the souls of people and we are fighting for the honor of our King. We are not fighting flesh and blood.

The fifth one – *Daniel 6*.

Daniel 6:20-22

²⁰ And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” ²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.”

Our God is a God of deliverance. Our God is a God who delivers. In this particular case, when God literally intervenes and shuts the mouth of lions. If you are having a lion attack, a roaring lion, people are biting you and you want the lion’s mouth to be shut, we have a God who delivers and shuts the mouth of lions but before you go into it, remember –

...because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.”

“I was found before God and I was found innocent before man.” That’s why in *Hebrews 12:14*, Scripture says,

Hebrews 12:14

¹⁴ Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Pursue. You can’t change things but you can pursue peace. “Sorry.” One simple word. “I’m sorry. Forgive me.” It’s over. “Forgive me. I’m out of this.” Pursue peace. You are innocent before God, innocent with man. God will shut the mouths of the lions.

You have a God who delivers. Our God is a deliverer. He can part the Red Sea. He can quench the flames. He can shut the mouth of lions. These are all spiritual truths physically shown in the Old Testament. They fought flesh and blood; we fight powers of darkness and He will part anything the devil has spread before us. He will quench any fire the devil tries to light in our lives. He will shut the mouth of any lion who roars and barks against us, comes against us. The devil is roaring lion and the devil uses the mouth of men and women to hurt God’s children, to discourage them, to depress them, to destroy their testimony but remember – Joseph, Daniel, David – remember all these people. Our God is a God of Daniel. He will shut the mouth of the oppressors. That’s why Scripture says, “Every tongue that rises against you in judgment, you shall condemn.” Say, “I condemn it in Jesus’ Name. God of Daniel, deliver me from the mouth of these lions that rise up against me. Help us to be blameless before You and before man because You, I see, are a Deliverer. May the good hand of God be upon me.”

It doesn’t stop there. In *verse 26-27*,

Daniel 6:26-27

²⁶ I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall

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endure to the end. ²⁷He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Our God has a specialty. He is just not MBBS; He has done a specialty. He specializes in signs and wonders in Heaven and on earth. This is no ordinary God. He uses ordinary men and women as a sign and a wonder. When Moses was sent to the most powerful regime known then, the most powerful nation known then – Egypt and to the Pharaoh, he was sent with an ordinary stick. Just an ordinary stick. An old man with an ordinary stick. You know what Scripture says in *Exodus*?

Exodus 4:17

¹⁷And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs.”

He said, “Just take the stick.” Our God sits in Heaven and He laughs when the Pharaoh, with his counselors and wizards and astrologers and his chariots and his army is unable to fight one man with a stick. That, He said, “Moses’ rod. With that, you shall do signs and wonders.”

Jeremiah 32:21, Scripture says,

Jeremiah 32:21

²¹You have brought Your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with great terror;

He has given you and me one Book. That’s all you and I need. We don’t need another book. This one Book. It’s not about holding this Book in your hands; it’s about holding this Book in your heart and allowing the Holy Spirit to release it through your mouth and your life. We become a sign and wonder in the spiritual realm. A man and a woman who cannot be broken by afflictions, who can be pursued and never be overtaken, who can be pushed and never be brought down because you and I, God said, are a sign and wonder to this generation. This is coming from a Gentile king, looking at Daniel, “Your God is a God who works signs and wonders.” That’s what we are here for. The devil has. *Matthew 24* says, he has false signs.

Matthew 24:24

²⁴For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

He will try to use false ones. How do you distinguish the false from the right? Check their doctrine. Check what they teach. Do they lift Jesus up and point people constantly back to the path of righteousness? They don’t lead you to the truth. They don’t you to radically change lives. In *2 Thessalonians 2:9*, Scripture says,

2 Thessalonians 2:9

⁹The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

Those wonders don’t lead you to truth. He will use signs and wonders to deceive but God uses signs and wonders to establish and deliver us from the power of sin. Israel was taken out of the captivity of Egypt and brought to the wilderness through the mighty hand of Moses through signs and wonders. He takes us from the captivity of sin and of the flesh and this world and brings us out into a place where we are free. If that is what is happening, then that sign is true. If that is not happening, it is feeding your flesh. It is a lying sign. So, say, “I will not limit the hand of God by unbelief in my flesh.” That’s what Israel did. God says, “You’ve limited My hand by your unbelief.” That’s what the apostles will say. That’s what God’s servants will say through the ages in *Romans 15:19*, Paul says,

Romans 15:19

¹⁹in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Signs and wonders. I have seen in my life in these 25 years how God has absolutely done supernatural things, impossible for man to deny and when you go into difficult places where you are not allowed to go; when you go into restricted areas and underground Churches, how God blinds officials and policemen and cops and soldiers. All you have to do is what the Spirit

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says and He makes seeing eyes blind, blind eyes see. Now, Lord, in Jesus' Name, make seeing eyes blind. Once I was carrying cash to another country for the underground Church and I was in the first seat of the bus and I had in 1 lakh in cash. At the first stop, the soldiers got in and said, "Everybody, get out. Open your bags. Unlock your bags and everybody, get out." My heart was beating fast. "Lord, what do I do? It's gone. They may release me but the money is gone. It was meant for the Church there." All I prayed is, "Lord, let them not see." You wouldn't believe – those guys were going bag to bag. My seat was the first one next to the door and they come out without opening my bag. Our God is able, more than able.

Once, I was coming out from another place and the Church said, "Watch out. Three check posts on the way. Don't take This. They will check." When I come to the bus stand with the whole Church over there to see me off, suddenly, the driver comes running and says, "Why are you all here?" They said, "No, Pastor has come from India. He is going." He said, "Oh! Jai Masih. I'm a believer." He said, "Sir, give me your bag." And he took my bag with the Bible and put it into the toolkit box which belongs to the driver which is never checked. First check posts, cops are all over checking everybody's bag. My bag is in the toolkit. Do you believe this God of the signs and the wonder? And I get a free lunch too because the drivers never pay for their lunch. So, I sat with the driver and ate a free lunch. That's also a sign and a wonder. Our God is real. That's why *Ephesians 6:10* will say,

Ephesians 6:10

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

We cannot fight this battle but we can in Him. In Him, we can. Be strong. That's what David is talking about. The battles he is fighting, he knows it is physical and he knows it is spiritual. In *Psalms 27*, he will say,

Psalms 27:1-3

***¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?
² When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell. ³ Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident.***

He wrote this; Elijah experienced this. Elisha experienced it. Remember Gehazi shaking? "Did you see all these people?" Elisha is cool. Finally, in panic, he said, "Okay, Lord. Open his eyes for a couple of seconds."

³ Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear...

"I know what this is. Your Word says ministering angels are sent to those who believe." I told you last Sunday – if you see royalty, the king's children or the king's family, they are always covered by body guards. The problem is – we don't see we are king's children. We are surrounded by royal body guards. Angels watch over His children. We need to believe. Nothing is going to happen to me unless my Father wills and if He does, it is for my good. It is not for my bad; it is for my good because we are fighting a real battle with powers of darkness. Remember *Isaiah 49*, I showed you earlier.

Isaiah 49:24-26

²⁴ Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, Or the captives of the righteous be delivered? ²⁵ But thus says the Lord: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, And the prey of the terrible be delivered; For I will contend with him who contends with you, And I will save your children.

That's where the power of God's Word comes because God says, "You are a sign and a wonder. Israel shall be for Me a sign and a wonder." That was their destiny. They messed it up but even now, every report you get, even the Palestinians are saying, "What has happened? We shoot a rocket and it just goes away." You have to see that movie when they attacked Entebbe Remember 90 minutes at Entebbe? You have to see that movie when they go in. That was a different breed of soldiers. In that final scene before they actually land to rescue the Israelites prisoners held in Uganda, they are singing and worshipping God in the plane before the Commandos come out. The Commandos are worshipping in Hebrew, singing to the Lord. Incredible scene. Unbelievable scene. My heart was pounding when I saw it because I know that song because we have sung that song in this Church – Israel. And these soldiers are singing before they were going to come out and they could die and they could rescue nobody but they rescued everybody and only one soldier died. You know who was the

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soldier, the colonel who died? The current Israeli Prime Minister's elder brother, Colonel Jonathan was the only one who died. Benjamin Netanyahu's brother. Our God fights for His people. Incredible battle scenes and you have to believe. That's why the Old Testament is given to us; not just New Testament. You learn physical warfare, apply it in spiritual how you fight this battle.

Do you remember Jesus' final promise in *Mark 16*?

Mark 16:17-18

¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will (first thing – I will give you power over all the power of the enemy) ***cast out demons...***

Do that every day in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth, anything unclean that has come, go. This is the temple of the Living God. I belong to God. I am His property. You have no right to stay here. My mind, my body, my soul, my spirit is set apart for Him. Be cleansed in Jesus' Name. Go. My thoughts, my minds, ideas, imaginations nothing above the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Get out. Leave me. I belong to Him."

...they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents;

They are not afraid of demons. Are you afraid of demons? I've met every demon of every name including Indian gods, Greek gods, Roman gods during deliverance. Every name I have called out and I have come out. They have told their names too. God has ordained my future that when I grew up, I grew up in a land where there is no Christianity with parents who were English teachers with a house full of books, library full of books and all Greek epics, Roman and Odyssey and everything I read. So, I knew the name of all these gods, including the Egyptian ones. So, when I'm doing deliverance and am asking, "What is your name?" His name is "Isis." I said, "Are you Osiris' wife?" The demon did not know I knew her husband's name. Orisis, Isis, Ra – I knew them all because God had trained me even before I knew him. You think these are stories. These are not stories; these are real demons people have worshipped down the centuries. They have not gone away. They are manifesting back all over again in Europe. Now, they have started worshipping their old gods. When Olympics come, we pay and sit there. What is the first ceremony that takes place? It is the worship of those same demons.

...and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them;

There is occult going on over every food thing that is sent into the market to captivate people. God says, "You don't worry. You take it. Nothing will influence you. They can put whatever they want. You are under My Blood. Don't fear." Protection. These signs shall follow. You have no clue the amount of occult that goes in practically everything that we buy. Nothing is neutral because we partake of His body and His Blood by faith; not real but by faith. That's why Jesus said and they were upset in *John 6*.

John 6:53-54

⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

They couldn't understand. He is speaking spiritual truth. On the other side, He is saying, "They are drinking flesh and blood to destroy your life and you will be destroyed if you don't drink My Blood and flesh. They cannot fight that." They are saying, "What is this? Are we being made into cannibals?" No, these are spiritual truths in the spiritual realm. We need to fight the good fight.

So, this morning, as we close, I want you to stand up. The Holy Spirit, through Paul, in the letter of *Ephesians* says, "Do not give a foothold to the enemy." The enemy is always looking to encroach into God's territory and we are His territory. We are His temple. Ask the Spirit of God to show. He will show. Just put it away. Just confess, reject, repent, ask the Blood because Scripture says, "If we confess, He is faithful and the Blood of Jesus." That's how we partake of the Blood. The Blood of Jesus. That's we partake of His Body, the Word of God. He is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. Unless this Word becomes part of us, integral part of our spirit, our soul and our thinking and when it becomes that, the devil has

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no place. When we believe, when we confess, when we repent, the Blood starts working in our lives because Scripture says, *"They overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb and by the Word of their testimony and they did not love their lives even unto death."*

Repeat with me – *"Father, I just come to You this morning. I repent of everything that You show me, Lord. I confess that I have sinned against You. Forgive me, Father, and I confess and I believe that the Blood of Jesus cleanses me of all unrighteousness. Cleanse me now, Lord. Sanctify me, Lord. O Spirit of God, empower me, Lord. Let nothing of the enemy have place in my life. I belong to You and You alone. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."*

Closing Prayer:

I take authority now in Jesus' Name and I command every oppressor that has been following these children, stealing their destiny to leave them now in Jesus' Name. All the oppressors who have been after their flesh and blood, you will drink your own flesh and blood and die in Jesus' Name. Everyone who has come after Your children, O Lord, here, to destroy them will, instead, die in the order of Haman – they will die. No weapon that is formed against us will prosper. Every lying tongue that rises against us in judgment, we condemn it now in Jesus' Name. We are weak. Lord, You are strong. And I pray, Father, Your people will be a people who keep Your Word will not deny Your Name. I pray, Lord, they will all experience an open door in their lives all the days of their lives, Lord; a door that no man can shut. No power of darkness can shut because God, who holds the keys, God upon whose shoulders the government is, has opened that door for them, Lord. We believe, Lord. We believe that we have favor with God and favor with man. We believe that times and seasons are in Your hands and Your children have been experiencing season after season of failure and rejection, I pray, Father, in the Name of Jesus, that season will change and they will start experiencing season of favor and season of victory, Father, in their lives. If they are facing opposing forces in their workplaces anywhere, O Lord, You are the One who raises kings and disposes kings, O God and I pray, Father they will find favor wherever they go, Lord, because they choose to honor You even in the small things, O Lord. O Father, we just want to magnify You in Your house this morning. We just lift Your Name, O God, for Your Word says, "For this purpose, the Son of Man came that He might destroy the works of the devil." Let every work of the devil be destroyed in our lives in Jesus' Name. Every work of the devil. It doesn't matter how far back into the generations it is, let it be broken in Jesus' Name and these children, many here, with unbelieving parents, with spouses who do not believe, I pray, let them experience a change in their season now, Lord; that You would touch the hearts of their parents; that You would touch the hearts of their spouses; touch the hearts of the Gentile masters; that they will find favor. Let this be the year, O Lord; the 11th year is coming. Let this be a year of favor, O God – favor with God, favor with man. We need favor, Lord. We need the favor of God, O Master. Your children need wisdom and understanding, divine revelations, O Lord. They need to see the secret things that is hidden from man, O Lord. These are Your promises for the generation, Lord. I pray, Father, they will receive visions and dreams from You and they will foresee the wicked plans of the enemy and destroy it before it is hatched, O Lord. Let there be a release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Your body, Father, but above all, I pray, let them always remain humble under the mighty hand of God for Your Word says, "Submit to God and resist the devil." I pray, Lord, everyone here today hearing and those who hear over the weeks, the message on the net, will humble themselves under the mighty hand of God and the devil will flee and we will experience daily Your victory in our lives, O Lord. I commit all the children and the brethren who are out of station, I commit them, Lord. They are not here today but in the spirit, we join ourselves with them and we receive that victory for them too, Lord; that all of them, wherever they are now, Lord, You are the same God; You are able to reach their lives even now – their minds, their bodies – I pray and I speak deliverance and release for them too, Lord. And those, as they listen to the message by tonight, O Father, I pray, even as they hear the message, the Spirit of God will work in them, Father, and I pray that they will experience Your deliverance, O Lord. Thank You, Father. You are our Deliverer. You are our Redeemer. We are more than conquerors in You, Lord. All we want to do now, Father, is lift up holy hands and bless Your holy Name. We bless Your holy Name. And we proclaim in Your house – Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever, Lord. Go before us, Lord. Make every crooked path straight, every rough road smooth and come with glory in our lives, O Lord, that Christ may be lifted up in our lives and in our homes, O Father. Thank You, Lord. Go before us this new week, this new month. Thank You, Lord. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Benediction:

May the grace our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with all of us, every one of us, until the hour of His Coming, Amen.