

*Father, once again, we come to You, Father, and we stand in Your presence. Speak to us. It has never been a time in our lifetime, Lord, when we need to hear from Heaven. For what the world is going through, only Heaven has the answer. So, speak to us. I pray all Your children will have open ears, minds that understand, hearts that believe and above all, a surrendered will that obeys. Teach us. As Peter said 2000 years ago, to whom else can we go, because You alone have the words of life? In the midst of death, You alone have the words of life. Speak, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

In the midst of everything that is happening, God just put His finger on the pause button. And life, as we saw it, has just come to a standstill everywhere. It doesn't matter where you live – in the mountains or in the valley; in the city or in the village; the desert, coast to coast, everywhere, life has come to a standstill. And our God says, "Be still." That's one thing to be locked down; it's another thing to be still inside. You can be locked down in the four walls of your house and be absolutely restless inside. But God says, "Be still and know that I am God." Like I keep saying, I'm not a physician. I don't have a solution for this Corona Virus. I'm not looking for one, too, but I'm a servant of God and the actual solution to every problem – small or big – is spiritual. Because the root of every problem is spiritual. The spiritual solution is the permanent solution. So, there is so much information floating around – false information connecting with this virus. True information also. Let me give you the true information, the source of every virus, including Corona Virus. It's found in *Genesis 2:17*. Because, what are people afraid of? People are not so much afraid of sickness but that it is leading to death. And the true source of every virus is this –

### **Genesis 2:17**

***<sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."***

This is the source for every virus that is floating around. If there were viruses before man fell, you can be very sure man didn't fall ill nor did they die. So, this is where it all begins – an act of disobedience. So, if you look at your WhatsApp groups and all that and all the forwards you get, (which are stopping any way, currently after the next notification by the government) there is true information and false information. Let's see the beginning of false information about the virus. It's found in *Genesis 3:3-4*. We have the serpent coming in and you have the conversation between the first lady (not Melania Trump but the original first lady) and the devil.

### **Genesis 3:3-4**

***<sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "***<sup>4</sup> ***Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.***

So, that's the beginning of the false information in all WhatsApp groups – it started in the Garden. So, there is true information and false information. Nothing has changed in life. From that day, there is a source of true information and there is a source of false information.

Again, when we come further, true information. Let's go to the New Covenant. *Romans 6:23*. This is the true information –

### **Romans 6:23**

***<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death...***

That's true information. You cannot skirt it. Don't try to believe it is not true. It is true. The wages of sin is death. And true information connected with that?

***...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

So, there is true information that *the wages of sin is death* and there is also the solution which Paul will put across through the Spirit of God in *Romans 1:16-17*. The reason, the very reason we are standing here in the midst of a curfew in this Church office and is preaching is because this is a true information.

**Romans 1:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> ***For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ...***

None of us are ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.

***...for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.***

That's the rest of us, who were once Gentiles.

<sup>17</sup> ***For in it (in the Gospel that we are preaching,) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."***

So, you look, the Gospel that we preach is the solution – *the wages of sin is death*; the Gospel is the answer.

Now, if you saw the latest notification that came in this evening, you see, all kinds of people; everybody is banned from going out in the public from 7 to 6. Complete curfew and even if you are on the road after that, only one person on a two-wheeler and two on a four-wheeler. All kinds of restrictions have come in but you will see – one set of people are exempted. They are called 'essential services'. They are essential to maintaining physical life in this city or any city. They are exempted from these restrictions. So, we are here because we are part of God's essential services and we work day and night to save lives, like doctors and nurses are working day and night to save lives. That's why we are streaming twice a day and the rest of the time, we are working. Because the end of every pandemic, every disease, every famine is the end of human life – it is death. So, what are the doctors trying to do? It is to save people from dying. What we are trying to do is – stop souls from dying. So, let me give you true information,

**Hebrews 9:27**

<sup>27</sup> ***And as it is appointed for men to die once...***

So, what are doctors, the medical fraternity trying to do? It is to save people from dying. What are we dying to do? To save people from judgment because you will die any way.

<sup>27</sup> ***And as it is appointed for men to die once but after this the judgment,***

So, whether you die today of pandemic or you survive and die 10 years later, everybody has to be prepared for death. And because this pandemic is hitting everybody, it's the first time the virus is an equalizer – everybody, the President, down to the man on the street, it doesn't matter who you are, it is breaking every barrier. So, we have to tell people, "Get ready." And if you go to *Hebrews 9:29*,

**Hebrews 9:28**

<sup>28</sup> ***so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.***

All those who are eagerly waiting. So, we are trying to create this eagerness. By the time I am praying for the Church, when the quarantine and everything is over, a different Church will emerge out of this isolation. A different Church.

So, first let me give you true information which the world will not give you, which is there in the Word of God so that in this pandemic, you don't fear. *John 11:25-26*. This is true information. You need to get it into your heart and meditate upon it.

**John 11:25-26**

<sup>25</sup> ***Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die...***

Whatever way,

***...he shall live. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"***

Remember – no man ever who walked on earth under the title of God, no one in any religion has ever said this. Nobody has said it. And He is the Only One who has said it. “You will not die if you believe in Me. Even if you die, you will still live.” And in the *Book of Revelation 1:17-19*, when John sees this vision of Jesus in the island of Patmos and falls like one dead at his feet,

**Revelation 1:17-18**

***<sup>17</sup> And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.***

He says, “I’ve got the keys. I have the keys.” So, we have established the fundamentals – there is disease and there is death. It is not the disease that people are scared of. Till this virus came in, nobody was scared of fever or a cough or sneezing or a runny nose. Nobody was worried. But suddenly, a virus has changed the parameters. Everybody is scared because you realize – this could be symptoms of something worse. So, we have established fundamentals – there is disease; or otherwise, there is death, absolutely. Surely. Then, there is judgment. So, this is a spiritual truth. The spiritual truth is the truth about the unseen realm. There is only One who has come back from the dead – that is Jesus Christ. So, when He talks about that realm, be very careful and listen. We can deal with the physical realm. That is like scientist – day and night, sitting in the lab, trying to isolate this virus and break it down to find the cure. But the problem is – even when they find the cure, finally, after some time, another one comes in. It will only get worse and worse. So, there is a physical realm which we are operating and thank God for all the people who are working day and night to find a solution. But I’m looking, as a servant of God, at the spiritual fact. The spiritual part, we need to understand something. There is a spiritual realm. In *Psalm 103:19*,

**Psalm 103:19**

***<sup>19</sup> The Lord has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.***

You need to understand – above and beyond the spiritual realm, there is another realm, which is called the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of Heaven. And it rules over all. His Kingdom rules over all.

*Daniel 4:17*. This is the wise man, Daniel, speaking through the Spirit of God.

**Daniel 4:17**

***<sup>17</sup> ‘This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.’***

Now, there is this constant criticism of the caliber of the political leaders we have in our times. Constant criticism. It is also the sign of the times. When sin increases and the social climate goes down and down, God also will give us political leaders according to that caliber. It’s He who chooses. People think they vote. It’s not. It’s God who chooses leaders. In *Nehemiah 9:6*, this is what Nehemiah says. These are spiritual realities. Until we understand the spiritual reality of the Kingdom of God.

**Nehemiah 9:6**

***<sup>6</sup> You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.***

So, we have established something. There is something more in this world that we live in. There is this spiritual realm. So, we have to look at the spiritual realm to find answers, permanent answer. The permanent answer is not about death. A lot of people in labs are working on how to beat death. It’s not going to happen. So, nobody is going to beat death but we need to be prepared for what happens after death. God said very clearly, after death, it’s not a vacuum; it’s judgment.

So, we will go to the beginning. In the coming days, we will try to establish the spiritual side of how we look at things. So, if you want to go to the beginning, of course, you have to go to the beginning, which is *Genesis*. *Genesis* means beginning and we go to the first chapter,

**Genesis 1:4-5**

***<sup>4</sup> And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.***

***<sup>4</sup> And God saw the light, that it was good...***

So, the first day. He saw the light and He said that it was good.

Next,

**Genesis 1:9-10**

***<sup>9</sup> Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. <sup>10</sup> And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.***

**Genesis 1:13**

***<sup>13</sup> So the evening and the morning were the third day.***

So, we have the first day; we have the third day. If you go to,

**Genesis 1:18-19**

***<sup>18</sup> and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.***

So, we saw the fourth day. Now, if you come to,

**Genesis 1:21-23**

***<sup>21</sup> So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup> So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.***

So, we saw the first day, the third day, the fourth day and the fifth day and if you come to,

**Genesis 1:25-26**

***<sup>25</sup> And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."***

**Genesis 1:31**

***<sup>31</sup> Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.***

So, if you see in the narrative that I read, we looked at the first day; we looked at the third day; we looked at the fourth day; we looked at the fifth day; we looked at the sixth day; and God says it was good and it was that day.

Now, we will go the one day that we missed. It was the second day.

**Genesis 1:6-8**

***<sup>6</sup> Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup> Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. <sup>8</sup> And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.***

So, you see – six days are mentioned over there but one word is missing in the second day – God does not say ‘it is good’. It is not good. He does not say, “It is good.” Because in the second day, something happens. There is a division in the heavens. Now, if you go to the Biblical truths of *2 Corinthians 12:2*, Paul talks about a man (it is basically he himself, we all presume),

**2 Corinthians 12:2**

***<sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.***

You read further and you know that is God’s realm and he hears things that could not be uttered. So, the Bible actually talks about three Heavens. In the Islamic narrative, there are seven heavens. It is not Biblical and it’s not true. There are only three heavens. So, you will have the seventh heaven and all these things talked about. It’s not Biblical and it’s not there in the Bible. There are three heavens. The third heaven is God’s realm. Let me put this here. I am putting this term ‘realm’. Now, actually, we understand ‘realm’ better; our generation understands ‘realm’ better than any other generation because we are physical being, we live in the first realm, the first heaven, which is material. Second and third heaven are spiritual. They are not made of matter. Now all of us today know what the ‘virtual reality’ is; spiritual reality is something like that. Nobody will deny a virtual reality, though you cannot touch it; it is a virtual world. So, there is a ‘realm’. So, the first realm is the physical realm. This is how I understand; I am not putting across as doctrine but this is how I understand when I read Scripture and compare Scripture with Scripture. The first realm, which is this; we are all caught in the first realm, the physical realm. God made us in His image but He made us this earth, everything that you can see and touch, the physical realm.

Then, there is the second realm and then there is the third realm. Something happened in time immemorial, when there was a rebellion in heaven and satan was cast out. That’s where the second realm is. So, that has to happen even before the *Genesis* record is actually there because God doesn’t talk about the second realm being good. So, there are a lot of things that are hidden, secret things, which belong to God; we don’t have to fight over it. One day when we are with God or outside of God, we will understand. Either way, everybody will understand.

So, please understand; these three realms are real. Earth is real, third realm is real and the second realm is real. How many of you doubt it? Have you ever seen your soul? No! Do you doubt it? When you look in the mirror, you see your body, but do you see your soul? Have you seen your thoughts? Can you see your thoughts? No! But aren’t they real, absolutely real? Have you ever doubted your thoughts? So, we also realize within us also there is a realm, which is not physical. There are two parts of us in the similar manner. One is a physical body, which is the first realm and then there is the second part, the soul, which is the second realm. Then there is third part, which is the spirit, which when you are born again, becomes the third realm, where God is. The second realm is where the devil is fighting for the second and the first and tries to manipulate your thinking. Manipulation all takes place in the first and second. He manipulates the second realm and then uses us to sin in the first realm, to act in the first realm. So, it is there actually within us and we understand how the mystery of the ‘three’ is in the Bible.

We know this. Daniel saw something; he wanted answer. He prayed. He fasted for 21 days and the reply did not come. Then finally when the reply comes, when the Archangel Michael comes in chapter 10—

**Daniel 10:11-13**

***<sup>11</sup> And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. <sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup> But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days;***

Unlike us, who have the Holy Spirit, who speaks to us, in the Old Covenant because the Spirit was not given the way He is given to us (He resides in us), they did not get an answer like we did. So the angelic realm had to operate, where the answer usually comes through the angels. So the angel says, “*the prince of Persia opposed me twenty one days.*” It is not talking about human prince. It is talking about the second realm, the demonic entity who is in control of Persia. We know Paul talks about, our fight is not against flesh and blood but against principalities. So a prince is in-charge of a principality. So like in the demonic

realm, there is a demon principality over India, over China, over America and all. They are not similar, meaning they are all demonic under Lucifer, who has created a realm, the second realm. These nations are there and as the governments are there and down to the local 'panchayat' as we call over there, (like we are in a ward and there is a ward member), down to that level, satan has his structure.

Satan is an imitator. There is nothing original about him. He imitates everything God has done. So his government also is there in the second realm. God's government is there in the third realm. Man's government is there on the first realm. Man, who does not understand 2 and 3 control, is a fool. They think they are doing things here. It is not! Everything is being controlled by 2 and 3. Overall 3 is in absolute control. We saw very clearly Pastor Vijay preaching in the morning, even when devil does something, it is God who allows or doesn't allow. His purposes are being all worked out. So you see this over there. The second realm is over there and if we don't understand what is happening! The Bible talks about it in the last days- satan who has his realm in the second heaven, will be thrown down to our realm, that is earth.

### **Revelation 12:7-9**

***<sup>7</sup> And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, <sup>8</sup> but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. <sup>9</sup> So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.***

You will see here, he is called two names. He is called dragon and he is called the serpent. You know when man has actually moved from that centre where the garden was, you will see Cain went away 'toward the east'. When people move away, it is a physical direction but spiritual connotations are there. If you have noticed, when people have moved over into the east, you will see snake and dragon worship becomes predominant. Even now, in China and all these places, it's a dragon festival that goes on. It's a dragon that comes out. Snake and dragon in different regions!

We know we have an enemy. In *Revelation 12*, this is what the Bible says, the response in heavens:

### **Revelation 12:12**

***<sup>12</sup> Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."***

The devil knows his time is very short. He reads the signs better than us. He doesn't know the day and the hour Jesus is coming but he knows very clearly as things are moving, he has got very little time. He has come with great wrath because he hates mankind. Even those who serve him, he hates them because God loves them. That's why he hates man. Everybody who serves him does not realize he hates them with a perfect hatred because God loves them. God loves man. Simple! *For God so loved the world!* Remember that.

Now, let us go to the prince, the one above the principalities, that is the devil. Let us look at him, how he is described by God in His Word because we need to know our enemy. Unless we know our enemy and how his realm works, we will not understand a lot of stuff that is happening. Go to *Isaiah 14*. I am not giving the whole portion, but we will just read specific, so that we have a rough idea about this entity and his kingdom. Like if you understand God, you can understand how His Kingdom works. If you understand the devil, you will understand how his kingdom works. You don't have to understand each demon. You know that is the character every one of them displays. If you know God, you understand that is how the Kingdom works; you don't have to study Michael and Gabriel. You don't have to study any one them. You only have to know Christ because Christ is the exact representation of who God is. That's why Christ told His disciples, "*If you have seen Me, you have seen God.*" We know Christ because He dwelt among us, came like us, lived among us, died for us and rose again so now we understand within our human frailties and faculties what God is like. In the same way, if you look at how the Bible describes the enemy, the devil, we will also know our enemy, how his kingdom operates- the nature.

Go to *Isaiah 14:12-14*. This is a description of 'Lucifer'. Remember before he was called satan, before he fell, he was called 'Lucifer', which actually means 'light bearer'. So, he is the false light and Jesus is the true light. Lucifer is actually mad at Christ. He wanted Christ's position. So, he is trying to imitate Christ. He is 'Lucifer'.

**Isaiah 14:12-14**

**<sup>12</sup> "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!"**

Now, this is a picture of devil and this is a prophetic picture also of devil when he is talking about this, what he will do and is doing to the nations. Satan doesn't strengthen nations; he weakens nations. He is still doing it.

**<sup>13</sup> For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;**

Now, we are not talking about 'north' in terms of Scandinavia and all, but symbolically, God's throne is in the north and the further you go from the north, you go actually toward east away from God. If you look at the human travels in the Bible, they went further and further into the east from the north. So you will see actually from the middle-east, an Apostle called Paul in recorded history, will go to the north so within centuries, the whole Europe was converted. But Apostle Thomas comes to India and others come to east, after 2000 years, we are still struggling. We have not been able to touch miniscule portion of the population because when you come to the east, the realm is different. The white man doesn't know how blessed he is to be born there; they are throwing away their inheritance and their heritage that God gave them a great break. Their forefathers received the Gospel so easily. So, this is what we are talking about.

**<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'**

That's what he wanted to be. He says, "I will be like God." Remember this is the lie he told Adam and Eve. "Eve, if you eat, you will be like God." We are just taking his desire and implanting into our hearts. That's what Pastor Vijay was talking about. Autonomy means, "I am God. Don't tell me what to do." That's why I said, humble thyself means 'to come under'. 'Come under' means you can tell me what to do. So he out of pride, tried to raise himself higher and higher and higher and God cast him down to the lowest place. Jesus, on the other hand, came and humbled Himself to the lowest, took the form of man, became a servant, obedient unto the death and the death on a cross; there is nothing more you can become. He humbled Himself to the lowest and the Scripture says, God raised Him to the highest. Do you want to rise up in God's Kingdom? Humble yourself. Pictures are all there. So, this is the devil we are talking about.

Now, we will go to another picture of the devil. These are the two portions where the devil is described as he is. Tyre and all are a symbol of the devil.

**Ezekiel 28:11-19**

**<sup>11</sup> Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>12</sup> "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God:**

So, we know, suddenly, He is not talking about this king.

**... "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.**

When God made the devil or Lucifer as he was called then, he was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

**<sup>13</sup> You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.**

So, the assumption is he was a worship leader in heaven. That is why music is the most powerful medium that draws people. You see all musicians go crazy and their end is pitiable because that is something that was very original to Lucifer, more than movies, more than books, more than anything. If you know what captures mankind, it's music. You see a movie and you are illiterate, you can't understand it. You cannot read but music! That's why I always tell worship leaders, be very, very careful, stay humble because talent doesn't matter in God's Kingdom.

***<sup>14</sup> “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. <sup>15</sup> You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.***

What was that iniquity, like we say ‘mother of all sins’? The mother of all sins is pride. That is where it began. That’s why there’s a saying – ‘*pride goes before a fall*’. He looked at himself and he looked at all the other angels and he realized, “I am the best. There is only above me, that’s God. I need to be equal to Him or lift my throne above Him.” Pride!

Now, we are moving into another picture altogether. Now we have to take what he did in humanity. You have to read Scripture that way – what he did in humanity, with nations from beginning after the fall.

***<sup>16</sup> “By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned;***

Everybody, all governments are worried. Let me tell you the truth about the difference between the people and the government. The people are worried about the disease and death; the government is worried about the economy. They are not worried about the people dying. They don’t care. Tell me one real leader who really loves the people. True leader who really loves the people! Hardly there are any, I don’t think there is anybody who really, really cares for the people. So they are worried about the economy. This world economy is deeply connected to the satanic realm and it is full of violence.

***...And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. <sup>17</sup> “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;***

Have you ever seen a beautiful woman who is humble? Or a handsome man who is humble? Very difficult! These are all outward things. This is the problem. You can be beautiful. It’s fine but if you don’t have the heart of Christ, it’s a very dangerous. W. B. Yeats who wrote a sonnet owed to his daughter, when his daughter was going to be born. He says, “This is my prayer for my daughter. I don’t want my daughter to be beautiful. Pride will kill her. I don’t want her to be looking terrible also; then, she will be rejected. Let her be somewhere in the middle.”

***...You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.***

This is all going to happen. It also has happened. Like Christ lives through us by faith; the devil lives through humanity who would obey him. So you will see Nebuchadnezzar is cast to the ground. Alexander is cast to the ground. All these leaders have been cast to the ground and he lived through them. They, during those days, made humanity tremble. It’s a warning to all political leaders, too. They will be cast to the ground because if you are a leader, you need to have the heart of Jesus Christ. He is a ‘servant King’. That’s why He told His disciples the Kingdom of God is not like the kingdom of world. The kingdom over people use power to oppress; in the Kingdom of God, power is used to serve.

***<sup>18</sup> “You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you.***

It is prophetic. One day, Babylon will be destroyed. In one day, this economic system will collapse. You see it happening before our eyes. We are given a sign. This is not the end but when the end comes, it will be worse than this.

***<sup>19</sup> All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever.”***  
”

So, there is a King and there is a Kingdom. I told you, if you know Christ, you know how His Kingdom works. If you know the devil and you will know how his kingdom works. So, Babylon was cast! Medo - Persia was cast! Greek was cast! Then came the kingdom of iron called the Roman empire. Pax Romana made people tremble. Roman Empire was cast down. One day American Empire also will be cast down. The last is the Roman Empires again coming back in a different form of iron and clay. And you realize the Roman Empire symbol was Eagle. America symbol also is the eagle. I am just guessing, presuming. But I believe they are the only last superpower left. China was trying to be, but the virus brought them down. So, we don’t know



how. I am not prophesying or saying anything; we just wait and see how everything plays out. So, please understand this – satan is the prince of this world, the king of this world, the ruler of this world.

In *1 John 5:9*, so, when we go into this world and we go gaga about this world, please understand the one who rules the world. Earth and its fullness belong to the Lord. Dharti! The world is a system built over it. The world, its nations, system, economics, educational all the systems built over it. He is the prince of that system, not the prince of the earth. The earth belongs to God. So, what happens, you will see like we looked two Sundays back – when this world comes to a tipping point and is messing up earth, God will cleanse it, cause the earth is His. Purge! Like what we did a couple of months back. We got those guys to come in and they cleaned this place out. Right? We thought it was fine, but suddenly when those what you call those guys who came here? The pest control, right? They came in – we do it, regularly right? Pest control people come, and they clean up. God is doing a kind of pest control – because He says, “The earth is Mine.”

Now, I am not into green movement or any or talking of all those junks. These are people who will kill babies with one hand and worry about the snail with the other. I don't understand your logic. Protect this wildlife sanctuary, whole area, because there is a rare beetle over there. But you know the government has rules talking about electives surgery. They are talking about postponing all surgeries under this essential rule, because everything has to be kept ready for corona virus patients coming in. Postpone all that ICUs, ventilators – all have needed. You know what they are saying in the bill in the US – you have to look up at US – because what is happening in Britain, Germany and France –nobody knows, but US is kept over there, everybody knows, because that nation claims to be under God. So, like Israel in old times – everybody looked at Israel and all we read in Bible is about Israel, because God's dispensation is walking with Israel. This is the foremost Christian country and you know what they are talking about in the bill? They are talking about in the bill, the same thing is happening in the US, all surgeries and everything should be postponed, whatever and all, but one should not be, and it should be in the essentials – you know what it is? Abortion! In the midst of this pandemic, they are postponing everything else, but abortion should not be postponed. That is how blinded people can become.

Absolutely blinded people can become, and we have to be very careful about it because this is the blindness Pastor Vijay was talking about, *Romans 1*. God gives people over; he gives them over to blindness and they are not even able to see their actions. On one side, they are fighting for this right which is actually good. On the other side, they are fighting for another right which is absolutely evil and demonic.

### **1 John 5:19**

<sup>19</sup> ***We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.***

We know that we are of God because the Kingdom of God is within us.

So, remember yesterday? The Kingdom of God within is anxiously looking for the Kingdom of God, the Spiritual realm; the third realm and the first realm to come together. Right now, the second realm controls the first realm. *The whole world lies under the sway (or the control) of the wicked one.* And Jesus many times said this of which I will give you one.

### **John 14:13**

<sup>30</sup> ***I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.***

He talks about the devil. The ruler of this world keeps on coming and tempts us and because there is something in us; he gets us. He tried all his tricks with Jesus but inside Him there was nothing of the world, only the Kingdom of God, so the devil could not get anything in Him. He calls him the ruler of this world. He did not call him the imposter; he is the ruler of this world. I am in this world, but I am not of this world. That is how He has called us to live. If you read *John 17*, you are in this world, but you are not of this world. Just as He was, we are called to be. So, He is saying, “The ruler of this world has come and he has nothing in Me.” The ruler of this world, God has allowed, to cause this pandemic, this crash of stocks, markets everything to happen because it is his. Does he have anything in you? Are you worried? Are you upset? Are you panicking? Does he have anything in you? That is why I say that our reaction cannot be the same. If our reaction is same as the world, that means the ruler of this world has got something in us. So please remember this, in this world there are two sources of power. God, eternal, holy. His power is ultimate. Then there is a source of power which is from the devil. The fallen angel. He also has power. He was made perfect in wisdom and beauty and he has incredible beauty & wisdom. Not the wisdom of God, but the

wisdom God gave him. And he has power. God has given him power for a season. We are caught in this first realm and is a test to which way we will go. So, we will also see in human history till today, the rulers on earth have their armies and their bodyguards. Using a structure, they control the world. This physical world, if Babylon has to control, King Nebuchadnezzar has to control Babylonians and all the others who are under his realm, he needs his army and his police. But to protect him also there will be a set of elite guards, like the US President has a secret service protecting him. But, they also know there is another realm. They know that the army soldiers can't do anything. They are not aware of the third realm. They are aware of the second realm because they don't know God. They are aware of the second realm and know it is the second realm that controls their power. So, if you see the narrative in the Bible right from the beginning in *Genesis 41:8*, we will see Joseph in Egypt and the greatest power of that time Egypt Pharaoh.

### **Genesis 41:8**

**<sup>9</sup> Now it came to pass in the morning** (see the Pharaoh had a dream; he woke up and it was a dream) **that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh.**

So, he called all the soothsayers and the magicians. Why? Cause it is a dream in the physical realm or the spiritual realm? He is calling all those enchanters, soothsayers, magicians and says find it. So, the second level people, those who are connected with the second realm people fail. That is when a man who is connected to the third realm was called who gives it. Joseph is called. But Joseph is not connected to second realm, he is connected to third realm. In *Exodus 7:11* you will see it is familiar to us, but we have to see. This is when Moses and Aron went there and the power from the third realm turned the rod into a snake. *Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so, the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.* They did. If you come to *verse 22, Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the Lord had said.* If you come to *Exodus 8:7, And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.* If you come to *verse 18, Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So, there were lice on man and beast.* First one, second one, third they could do. But fourth God made a distinction. They had power. But remember their power is always decided by God, how much He will allow. That is why on Mount Carmel from morning till evening, they are cutting and jumping, doing everything but nothing is able, because God closed it. He will not move.

If you come to *Daniel 1:20* another king, another age.

### **Daniel 1:20**

**<sup>20</sup>And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.**

So, there were four people connected to realm three, the rest to realm two. And he found that the four people connected to realm three were better than (those connected to realm two). I am just giving you a brief picture. You need to realize that this is how it works. There is the government; there are demonic powers and they are connected. You don't see them. You don't see like before today. But they all have. They are connected. There are rulers, they have their enchanters, soothsayers, wizards, warlocks, priests, you have different names for them. This is the connecting point to second realm. This is how the system is controlled and is continuous everywhere. Even in atheist nations. There is no true atheists anywhere in power. If anybody is in power even in communist nations they are not atheist. They are connected to realm two. That is the only way you can sustain your power. There is no other way. Realm two or realm one. No other way. So, don't get fooled. So, if you study the *Book of Exodus*, we will understand what God is doing in history till now. Because all are patterns. One thing you learn from history is history. One thing people don't learn from history is history. So, you have Israel held captive in Egypt. Egypt there symbolizes the world. Israel there for us now in our pattern symbolizes the believing church. If you are a part of a believing church you will always be groaning that, "I am a captive here and waiting for my release." Isn't that what the saint said in the new covenant, "We are groaning that this world is not our place." So, Israel is held captive in a world called Egypt which represents the world system. And we have to see – am I that way or not? We live here but inside we know we do not belong here. We live here, but we do not belong here. Or do we? That is the question. Are we really always aware – "I don't belong here?" Peter and Sammy always feel know; you don't belong here. I am not talking about the Church. That is when they go out. You always feel you don't belong here when people always stare at you – "These guys are not Indian." But my question is: It's okay you don't feel you don't belong here because you are in India, but the problem is when you go to Nigeria

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do you feel that you belong there? And that's the problem. We cannot belong anywhere. Because earth is not our home. This world is not our home. That is why the Bible, to believers warns in *1 John 2:15*.

### **1 John 2:15**

**<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or the things in the world...**

So, Pastor, what do you mean by 'love the world'? God said 'things in the world;?' Because this world is always connected with things. Take the things out and what is there? Only the earth and its fullness. Right? Things in the world. Do not love the things in the world.

***...If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.***

Why does God say that? Because the whole world is under the sway of the ruler, the prince of this world. If he is the prince of the world, then you cannot love anything that belongs to him. Everything in this world belongs to him. Use it, leave it but don't get attached to it. Let us read further. Pastor Vijay explained verse 16 very well.

### **1 John 2:16,17**

**<sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh...**

Now ,you need to realize that this is a thing. This is neutral. This the remote of the TV and is neutral. But when the demonic gets attached to it, it starts operating on your flesh and your lust. You use the same remote to watch Netflix. This (remote) and that is neutral (TV). But if your love is for God you will turn this around and you will use it to edify yourself. On the other hand, if your love is or this world you will use the same thing to feed your flesh. That's the issue. And you realize what happens. You think this is a neutral object but the demonic touches it. The second realm touches this. And the first realm also touches it. The first realm also touches our spirit and says how will you use it? The second realm touches and says to use it for your flesh. God says use it for your spirit. Because everything is neutral. Money and everything is neutral. All are neutral. But it depends on what spirit is operating upon it

***...the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.***

So, you see this very clearly. You see the picture of Egypt, Israel in Egypt. You see this larger picture now of the world and church scattered, nobody knows the believing church, nobody knows. God alone knows where his people are hidden, struggling, fighting, they fight temptations, persecuted all; they are crying out to Him (Lord). You may be in a country where there is absolute freedom to sin anywhere and you are fighting every day, day and night "Lord deliver me." Another place there is no freedom to sin in anyway; but you are not allowed to worship or pray or read. You are fighting everyday "Lord help me to worship you." So, all kinds of things are happening. God knows His people; their struggles He knows. So, there is Israel in Egypt and there is the Church in this world. You learn Exodus and you understand what God is doing in time. If you read *Exodus 7: 4-5*, God said very clearly through Moses what He would do. He is telling beforehand because God has seen the end from the beginning, even before he goes and speaks. He says this is what will happen.

### **Exodus 7:4-5**

**<sup>4</sup>But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. <sup>5</sup>And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them."**

So, God said three things primarily here.

One thing, "I will bring Israel out of Egypt."

Second, "I will bring Israel out of Egypt by great judgements over Egypt." See that. Great judgements. And He will do it in such a way that Egypt will know that "I am the Lord." So, you see that pattern. Everything that is happening here is not aimed at the world. It is aimed at the Church to get it out of the world; It is an opening to eyes. Are you part of Egypt? Was your trust in all these things? Are you preparing for My coming to get out of this place? I said I am coming to take you. When I come to

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take you, it will be through great judgements upon Egypt, upon this world.” When you read the *Book of Revelation*, there are going to be incredible judgements. And He said, “By the time I finish My judgment, everybody in this world will know that I am God. Every eye will see.” And you need to understand – in Exodus 12:12, He makes it very clear– judgments are on two levels; not on one level. This is the final judgment.

### **Exodus 12:12**

<sup>12</sup> ***‘For I will pass through...***

This is final judgment but what was happening in Egypt through each of the judgments.

***...the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast...***

So, the first level, level one – it is the physical realm that is getting judged. At the second level, He says,

***...and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.***

So, judgments are taking place in two levels. You need to realize – there are these two levels of judgments taking place over hundred... most of the world is encompassed in this judgment. Only one man had the guts to call for the days of prayer. None of them will openly speak about it because they know their gods cannot answer this. Only one man had the guts to say, “I call for a national day of prayer.” How much he believes, I don’t know but at least, he knows that there are a huge set of people in that country who believes in the real God, who can change it if He wants. But he also knows the nation that is going to Church, the real Churches is always under the sovereignty of God. They are like Daniel’s three friends, “If God wants, He can save us from this death. Even if He doesn’t, we know one thing – we will not bend down to your gods.” That is the true Church. The true Church will not say, “My God will stay this.” No. Who am I to tell God what to do? What do I understand about the dispensations of God and what He is doing through all of this? I don’t understand. I’m not God. But the true Church will always say, “One thing I know – I will not bow before the other gods.” I leave sovereignty into the hands of God. I am not God and none of us are. There is only one God. Ultimately, every knee will bow; every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.

Now, in connection with the two of the ten plagues that came (the judgments as we call it) of God upon Egypt, what is interesting is the last two. Let’s look at the ninth one. Interesting. *Exodus 10:21-23*. You will see the ninth plague.

### **Exodus 10:20-23**

<sup>20</sup> ***But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.***

This is the danger. If you look in the beginning of the narrative in the Book of Exodus, when Moses went and he spoke and Pharaoh saw the powers of God and the soothsayers duplicated it, he hardened his heart. Again, God did and he hardened his heart. Again, God did; he hardened his heart. And then, God did and God hardened his heart. So, we have to be very careful about this. That is why we have to keep a very humble, contrite heart before God because we will say, “How can God harden somebody’s heart?” Just by withdrawing His Spirit. That’s all He has to do. How does wet clay get hard? When the water dries up. How does your vehicle engine get stuck? Because your oil wasn’t there. Simple. All God has to do to harden my heart is, “You don’t want Me here? Okay, fine. I’ll go. Bye. You don’t want Me? I’m going.” That’s all. Finished. My heart is hardened. That is what Jesus said, “You cannot do anything without Me. Absolutely nothing without Me.” So, you have this. Now, let us look at what happens over here, the 9<sup>th</sup> one.

<sup>21</sup> ***Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.”***

Boy! That was some darkness – darkness which can be felt. Such thick darkness.

<sup>22</sup> ***So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.*** <sup>23</sup> ***They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.***

The ninth one is interesting. The ninth has got to do with darkness. God is moving stage by stage. When it comes to the ninth one, it is hitting them in, what we call as the solar plexus because the predominant god of Egypt is the sun god, Ra. So, you need to realize – when Moses lifted up his hands up to Heaven, the sun couldn't do anything. I believe there was a little boy who had heard this story or had seen this. And therefore, he will have the courage, one day, to tell the sun, "Stop over there. I know my God. He is the God of the sun. I know my God." So, three days, absolute total darkness covered the earth. So, we see that and we turn to Isaiah. We don't look at Egypt. We are looking at our times. *Isaiah 60:1-2*,

### **Isaiah 60:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.***

Spiritually speaking, that is exactly what is happening in the world now – darkness has covered. People are petrified. Darkness has covered the world. Spiritual darkness. Nobody knows what's the solution. Nobody knows how long this will continue. Nobody knows who all will die. Everybody is scared. Darkness is covered. God is saying, "When darkness covered Egypt for three days, Israel had light in their dwelling." Everybody had light but the question is in our homes, is there light? Is there light? Nobody can go out. Everybody is shut in. You can't do anything you wanted to do. The question is: are we reacting in the light or are we reacting in the darkness? There are works of darkness and there are works of light. And I'm talking to even GTC Hyderabad. We have come here; we have separated ourselves. We are living in this place, eating in this place, left our families, sitting over here; are all of you watching? Are all of you studying? I saw pictures of little children, fascinated. Our little children are sitting with the laptops and watching and taking notes. There is light that in dwelling place. There is light because He says, "Your Word is light unto my feet, a lamp unto my path." And Jesus said, "I am the light of this world." The question is: is there light in your dwelling place or are you sitting in the darkness and doing the works of darkness? The choice is yours. That is the physical picture of what will happen in the spiritual realm in the last days. God is not going to cover everything with darkness like He did with them but He will say, "You learn from them." And you ask yourselves: what is that you are choosing? Because the only thing the government is giving 24x7; I will tell you what it is – power, internet, TV channels. That's all. Three things. Because all industries are shut down. So, the power is excess. So, you don't have to worry about a power cut. Everything is shut down. Power is in excess. Everybody is supposed to work from home. So, all the internet systems are working and TV channels are also working. Internet subscription have gone up like crazy but you think it's for light or darkness? Are people praying more or playing more? Online games or on your knees? Hearing more or watching more? See, we don't realize – this darkness is not a test for the world; this darkness is a test for the Church. The world knows nothing. What does the world know? They know nothing. So, these three days are symbolic. Total darkness over Egypt. But there was light in the Israelite camp. A little flicker, one lamp. What does it mean? Physical realm, what did it mean? When the darkness covered, it came and covered. The Egyptians could not get up from the chairs because the darkness could be felt but the Israelites had a little forewarning. Therefore, they could go, get their lamps lighted and stocked enough oil for three days because they knew. Forewarned is foreprepared, right? So, God is talking about – were you prepared? Like we were talking about – Pastor Vijay and I were talking about it – does it bother us that we have to preach for 14 days, 2 times a day, 2 hours, 4 hours? No. That's what we've been doing all these years – preparing and preparing to give out. We didn't know when the hour and the day would come. Would our spouses be upset that we may not be going home for days? No, they are used to it. They have already given us over to our God. They know they come only second in our lives. They won't complain. They never complain. "Why are you not coming home?" None of them will complain. Neither of our spouses will complain. If we go back, they will say, "What are you doing here? You know you are supposed to be there. This is the hour and the time you've been called. Be there." These things don't catch us by surprise. It should not catch us by surprise because we are always prepared for a time of darkness because there is light inside. So, you have to look at the ninth one there. What has darkness done? There is this incredible darkness that has come over the world, spiritual, moral, financial, medical. Can you imagine, at an age like this, where medical technology; the kind of advancements we were boasting about, where we have reached?

A couple of weeks back before all this happened, I had a medical scare. So, I had to do my whole blood test. So, I was doing my blood test after years and years. So, when this girl is taking this blood of my vein and I found that new system is so good, so fast, so painless; she takes a small little thing, keeps it there and it's done. I'm looking at this thing which would be a terror for me in my young days, how much things have changed! Yet, nobody is able to crack this. I'm not saying they will not crack; they will crack it because God will say, "Okay, have mercy." Seventy thousand men died and then, God said, "Okay, fine. It's okay." This man is offering a sacrifice. It's not because of that. God looked and He's a merciful God. In Scripture, He says,

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“Judgment is a strange work.” He hates judgment. You have all of us sitting over here; we have three fathers sitting over here. Do you really like spanking Enoch? No. None of us like spanking our children but at times, we know we need to do it and when we do it, that child is only jumping because of the physical pain. They don’t realize that we hate that. And God hates judgment but because He is holy and righteous and the earth is His and so are the people and the inhabitants, everything is His, He has to judge. So, you have the ninth one, which is different.

Then, you come to the tenth one. We saw in the morning. Yesterday, we saw the power of the enemy, He’s been given the power of death. It’s not his. But God has given it to him. “If you eat, you will die.” And after man has sinned, satan was given the power of death and the power of the fear of death. Please don’t think that the power to kill lies with satan. It lies with God. Now, day before yesterday or something, Friday, four of the Nirbaya convicts were hanged early morning at the Hard Jail. Now, the power to kill him, did it lie with the hangman? No. It lied with the court. It was one judge who passed the sentence. And every other petition, “No.” But that sentence, it is his sentence which was passed by the hangman. So, the same way, the one who passes the sentence is God. The hangman is the devil, except for God’s children. They fall asleep.

### 1 Samuel 2:6

<sup>6</sup> ***“The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.***

He is the Judge, not the devil. Please remember. But the devil, if you do not know Christ, is the hangman. If you leave Christ, if you are outside of Christ, who is the hangman? The devil is the hangman. That is why Jesus gave His final Communion, Passover; He gave it to Judas. Judas ate it; the devil entered and a little later, satan became the hangman and Judas hung himself. And a gory detail is given – his belly opened and his entrails came out. Now, you all guys know that there are a lot of people who listened did not understand. Why should those details be given in Acts 1? Judas hung himself; his stomach burst open; everything came out; because he was one of the selected, elite group of disciples and he had heard Jesus said, “When the Holy Spirit comes, rivers of Living Water shall flow out of your belly.” This is what you were meant to be; but instead, you betrayed the Son of God. You went over to the devil’s side. This is what will come out of your belly. Not life but muck. So, the picture symbols are there in the Bible. Belly is the seat. Belly is the place, physical place but also, a spiritual place. Out of the belly shall flow rivers of living water. Remember the Pharaoh had given this – “Throw all the boys into the River Nile”? All the boys. He thought he had power over life and death. God is going to show, “No, you don’t have. I have.” And the final judgment over Egypt is the death of the firstborn. And if you have listened to Pastor Vijay when he preached on a Wednesday, the firstborn denotes your strength. The firstborn is your strength. So, the Pharaoh is being told, “Israel is My firstborn.” Go to Exodus 4:22-23,

### Exodus 4:22-23

<sup>22</sup> ***Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Israel is My son, My firstborn.”*** <sup>23</sup> ***So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.”*** ’ ’

Now, symbolic. Understand spiritual ramification – Israel is God’s firstborn. Jesus is God’s firstborn. The Church is the Church of the firstborn. “Let My Church go. Otherwise, I will kill your firstborn,” that is the world. “I will destroy it completely. Let My firstborn go. And because you touch My firstborn, I will destroy this earth, this world, burn it into cinders because of what you did to all My people all these years. Nothing will be left.” Understand what God is saying. Israel and the Church. Every nation, God used other nations to discipline Israel but every nation, even the physical Israel, even the nation that harmed Israel, God destroyed them. There is no history of them left. Though it is physical and they were never really loyal to God, but God is a Covenant-keeping God. If God told Israel, “You are My firstborn, You are My firstborn even if you don’t walk with me and obey Me, I will use nations to discipline you and disperse you but be very careful, you guys – I will destroy you for what you did to My firstborn.” Understand this.

In *Colossians 2:17*, you have to understand all this in terms of Old Testament, which is the shadow; New Testament is the reality. Everything in the Old Testament connected to Israel,

### Colossians 2:17

<sup>17</sup> ***which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.***

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This is the shadow; the substance is Christ. I have to be there for you to see my shadow. But the shadow keeps changing but I am the truth. In the morning, my shadow may look very long; in the evening, my shadow will look long to the other side but when the sun keeps coming; when the sun is right above me, there is no shadow at all. Read *Psalm 37* today – *I will make the justice of Your cause shine like the noon day sun*. There is a day when the Day of Judgment comes and we will realize – there is no shadow. I have been declared righteous in the image of Christ Jesus. No shadow. The shadow becomes the substance but there is something.

So, the shadow is there and everything is there in the Old Testament. It's a shadow, real events that happened, real things that God did but these are all shadow, representing what will happen to us and in the New Covenant age and is still happening till today. So, in *Colossians 1:15*, "Israel is My firstborn, let Him go." Who is Jesus?

### **Colossians 1:15**

**<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**

Now, He was God always but when He voluntarily chose to be born, He became the Firstborn of all creation.

### **Romans 8:29**

**<sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

So, there is the shadow and there is the substance. So, Israel is the Firstborn. So, when God is telling the Pharaoh, "Let My son go," you need to understand, it's Christ coming in the flesh, living in man. That's why, when Saul of Tarsus, on the Road to Damascus, is going to arrest all the Christians and he falls under that brilliance of Jesus' appearance and He asks, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" He didn't ask, "Why do you persecute My people?" Understand our God.

So, if you go to *Hebrews 12:22-23*, you will understand this. "Israel is My firstborn."

### **Hebrews 12:22-23**

**<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...**

Don't fight for this earthly Jerusalem. There is a heavenly Jerusalem who is our mother. That is in the *Book of Galatians*.

***...to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn...***

What are we? 'Church' means – set apart, ecclesia. Church of the firstborn,

***...who are registered in heaven...***

See, we may have no numbers, no power; meaning – nothing here but we are registered in Heaven. But if you go to *Colossians 1:18*, if I'm right; then, you will understand the full picture.

### **Colossians 1:18**

**<sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.**

Now, when a child is born, the head comes first, right? Almost all normal delivery, what comes out first? The head comes out first. Isn't the body the part of the head? He is the head; the Church is the body. What is the other delivery called? Breech, right? Some memory is there. He is the firstborn. The Church is the Church of the firstborn. He is the head; the Church is the body. When God was telling Pharaoh, "Let My people go," God is telling the devil, "Don't touch My people. Let them go." Pharaoh said, "No." The powers and the rulers who have ruled this world for 2000 years, all these Caesars and Maos and Stalins and these Kim Yung Sun or whatever their names were, all these one; they all have the same message – "Let My people go." Because Jesus is the firstborn. What is God telling His people? Do you see what is happening? When these judgments are happening in Egypt, that is what made the Israelites ready to go. If the Pharaoh was nice; remember after many years

later, they will be sitting and romanticizing their past, “Oh, we remember how we sat around the fires of Egypt and we had fish, leeks and garlic, cucumbers, free of cost.” As if they were vacationing at Luxor, by the Nile on the beach and they were sitting in those beach chairs and the Egyptians were serving them. How we romanticize our wicked past, our slavery and our bondage to sin! “How great those days were! How good it was!” And we don’t appreciate the deliverance Christ has brought from the deliverance of sin. That’s our problem. You need to understand – Israel’s slavery in Egypt represents our slavery to satan and to sin. God has set us free from the power of sin and has asked us to come and enjoy Him but we don’t like that. People struggle in enjoying God, His Word, worship and songs and fellowship and fellowship of saints. They don’t like it. My question to you is: where is your fellowship now? Everybody is shut in, right? Where are your theatres now? Shut in, right? Everything out in the world which you liked, everything has been locked down and locked out. And it doesn’t matter to the world. God is not speaking to the world; God is speaking to the Church. Now that the physical reality has been shut down, are you going into the virtual reality and enjoying the world still? Because that’s what happened to Israel – the physical reality has been taken away. There are no more Egyptian fires and Egyptian food. So, now, sitting there and they are being given manna from Heaven, which symbolizes the Word of God; everybody’s healthy, nobody’s sick, nobody’s tired, everything is really actually good and they are experiencing virtual reality. See, nothing has changed. Virtual reality. “Oh, we remember the fires of Egypt and all that we ate. I can imagine the taste of the fish fry. From the Nile fish, Roshan, you know, it was really fresh. It tasted really good. This manna, we are just tired of this manna. What is this?” Some people may be staring online, “What is this? When are you going to stop?” This is exactly what ‘manna’ means. What does manna mean? “What is this?” “What, in your Church, of three-hour Service, almost two hours is preaching? What is this?” That’s what Israel also said, “What is this?”

Now, if you go to Exodus 12, before all this happened, the final plague happened, before they are ready, God tells, “The first 9 were to get you ready but only the 10<sup>th</sup> will allow you to get out.” The 10<sup>th</sup> one is important. The 9<sup>th</sup> one is to get you ready and the other fellow to let you go and prepare his heart. All this was there. “The 10<sup>th</sup> is important to you. 9 are important to them.” The tenth, the preparation before the plague, the tenth plague. He says, “You need to know. You need to have a lamb.” We know the details. It’s called the Passover lamb, blemishless, without spot. This much of age. You need to pick it on the tenth day of the first month and keep it for how many days? Four days. On the fourth day, the fourteenth day; so, the Passover is on the fourteenth day of the month. It’s not like our Easter and our Good Friday. For the Hebrews, it doesn’t change. It’s always the fourteenth day of the first month. For us, it’s the Julian Calendar. On one year, Easter, Resurrection Sunday will be in March; another year, it will be in April but theirs never changed. It was always on the fourteenth day. So, the tenth day, you have to pick and the fourteenth day, you have to slaughter it. Ten and fourteen. So, how many days do you keep it? Why four days? Because after four thousand years of human history, the Lamb of God came. Four thousand years. Jesus came after four thousand years and two thousand years are also over. So, He came on the fourth day. One day is like a thousand years. And then, He said, “You have to eat it.” First, you have to kill it, take the blood and put it on the doorpost of your house, representing your household. There is a physical house and there is a spiritual house inside. Today, we don’t put it on the doorpost of your house; we put it on the spiritual house where we and our family reside. So, your children could spread out in the world but still, it is one spiritual house and you apply the Blood. Like in my case, none of my children are with me but by faith, you apply the Blood that this pandemic passes over them. They are not asked to put the Blood as the head; I am asked to put the Blood. Even if they don’t believe, I need to believe. Then, He said, “You do one thing. Don’t eat it in these ways. Don’t boil it.” He gives a couple of instructions. “Don’t eat it that way. It should be roasted over the fire and be eaten with bitter herbs.” We won’t get into all that tonight. But go to verse 8-11. Just look at one thing and see.

### **Exodus 12:7-11**

***<sup>7</sup>And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. <sup>8</sup>Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails.***

Fire, unleavened bread and roasted – three things. Let’s leave that aside. That’s another message. Don’t eat it raw. Don’t boil it. Don’t boil. Don’t water down the Word of God. That is what is happening in the world. Why is nobody prepared? Because they have watered down the Word. They took out the essence of the Word. They took it out. Either they ate it raw, went legalistic by the letter because they didn’t understand the Spirit or they watered it down – boiled and boiled and took all the essence out. Roast it.



***<sup>10</sup> You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. <sup>11</sup> And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.***

Basically, the Hebrew rendition is – your cloak tucked into your waist, which you guys won't understand. We mallus understand it very well. We wear our mundu dhoti but when we walk, one is taken and we walk like this. Why? It gives free movement to the leg. If we go further, we take it and fold it like this – ready to fight means or fight or flight. That's what he is basically saying. He is saying,

***...with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet...***

It's a long walk. It's a walk of peace. Sandals on your feet represents peace with God, peace with man. You are living in peace. That's why I always say, when you leave, leave in peace. You are not leaving angry with Egypt. Egypt has served its purpose in your life. Don't forget the good that the Egyptians did to you under Joseph. We are not angry with the world because the world is a set of people. We are not angry with them but we are ready to leave them. Leave in peace.

***...and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste...***

Because you will leave in haste. Don't tarry over your meal because you don't know when you will have to leave. Meaning – when it comes to this alone, don't delay. Today. Don't delay with this. Don't delay. You never know. Get ready to go any time. Like Rebekah, always prepared. She was ready.

So, unless we read the parallels, you need to realize – by the time Israel left Egypt, Egypt was devastated. By the time the Church will leave this world, this world will be devastated. You know why the world will be devastated? Because of what they did to the Church. You know why Egypt was devastated by God? Because of what they did to Israel. The true believing Church, not the false. There's a parallel Church also up there. The false Church. The simple illustration I always had given you is when the Titanic came and crashed against the ice berg and it started sinking; do you know why the Titanic sank? There was this ice-berg, this huge ice-berg. This portion of the ice-berg was above water and there was another portion which was below water. Now, ask this question: why did the Titanic sink? Because it hit the portion that was above water or the one below water? Below water. There is an underground Church which nobody sees, which is crying out to God, day and night, "Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus. We have lost everybody. We've been beaten. We've been killed. Heads have been cut off; hands have been cut off; tongues have been cut off. We've been burnt. We've been massacred. Our women have been raped. Our daughters have been raped. Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus." God say, "I will, one day, destroy this world which did this to My Church." And history has never changed. From the beginning till today, they do it to His children and nobody raises a voice. No system. No government. Nothing. You know how many tens and thousands of innocent people have been massacred in China? Innocent. Everybody knows it is true – Christians, Muslims, poor people. Religiously blind but they didn't harm the system. They have been taken into labour camps, killed; organs have been harvested when they are alive – all these things, everybody knows it is true but nobody will do anything. You know why? Because everybody wants China's money. So, God said, "I don't need China's money. So, I will deal with China if you don't deal with China." So, at the end of it, nobody will want to trade with China. You all sold your soul, as Christian nations, to the money of China when they were millions and millions being killed and made to work like animals so that you would make your money. And you all made money. You know what, western nations, Christian nations? The blood of God's innocent ones are upon your hands. Even if they were not Christians, they were innocent. They were innocent for what they were suffering. They did not know. That's the truth. You go around the world. What is every product you buy? "Made in China." So, He sent a virus which was also made in China to humble other nations. That's the truth. Truth hurts. Why is everybody buying Chinese? Because it's cheap and you are making your profits. Everybody shifted their companies there, right? Did you ever ask what is happening in that country? You didn't know the truth? Blinded. Every year, in Congress America, you had this list and this declaration about persecution of minorities and all. Why were you silent about China? "Because you needed the Chinese' money. You said, "We are a nation under God," but you acted as if there is no God. You said, "We are a nation under God," and I will tell you – there is a God and I am that God and I will shake you. Every nation, I will shake you." That's what is happening. That's why we looked on the first day, "If My people who are called by My Name... you said you are Mine. Then, humble yourself and you pray and you turn from your wicked ways. Will you? Will you turn from your wicked ways?" No. Once this is over, they will go back with their markets and factories to another country, which is even worse than this because it's about money. You know what we

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read about satan? “By your trading.” We talk about all the wars, the animosity you have in North India, especially Babri Masjid, Ayodya and all these things of history. They are not able to forget our history and all. But why do you think the Muslims came here? Why do you think the British came here? Trading cheap. To take our blood away. Nobody came here for the Gospel. Everybody came here for the money, wherever they went. The white men went into Africa. The Muslims came to India. Religion was just a cover. Everywhere anybody went – religion was just a cover. The real thing was money. It was money. Any culture, any nation, everywhere – it was trading.

As we close, we go to the *Book of Revelation*. Let us read about Babylon’s fall. Chapter 18. Let me give you the verses because we will look in more detail tomorrow.

### **Revelation 18:1-4**

***<sup>1</sup> After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. <sup>2</sup> And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen...***

It’s talking about this world’s commercial system – Babylon.

***...and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! <sup>3</sup> For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.” <sup>4</sup> And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.***

If there is one thing that is being sent – the Word, God being sent to His people is – “Come out of her.” Worse is coming and you will share in her plagues. Let your soul not be yoked to this system. Come out of her. Be in the world, do not be part of the world. One word is going out from God – “Do not love the world or the things in the world. Whatever you need, I will give you. You seek My Kingdom, you seek My righteousness.” Otherwise, He is saying, “This plague is nothing. This is nothing. There is something much bigger that has been prophesied that will come.” And then, He will talk about the nature of it. I will tell you the verses that we will read.

### **Revelation 18:9-13**

***<sup>9</sup> “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, <sup>10</sup> standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’ <sup>11</sup> “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:***

John, in his vision, when he is seeing, even when he interprets the vision, he has to read it and write it according to his times. So, we can take it and translate it into our times.

***<sup>12</sup> merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; <sup>13</sup> and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.***

You see? At the end, God puts two things – bodies. What was happening? Why did everybody put their factories in China? Because they were trading in the bodies of men and women, paid a pittance. Sit like 21<sup>st</sup> Century slaves to make your products and you make your money. An atheistic government, absolutely brutal government and another government, whichever presidents were there all these years, saying they were under God, “You all came together at the top, right? And you were trading in the bodies and the souls of men. This was in your trade.” So, Babylon. The prince of Babylon is the devil and he was violent in his trading. And his human counterpart sitting over there in rulers and presidents and prime ministers and kings and all the leagues sitting at the top; it doesn’t matter – the Republicans and the Democrats – all of them are the same, showing their opposition and all. At the real level, they are all the same, except the believers who are separated, who will fight for righteousness. Almost all of them are the same. They only pretend all these things. They are all the same at the top and they join with their sorcerers and magicians. Of course, today, they are called ‘masters’ and ‘wizards’ and ‘butterflies’

and 'warlocks'. They all gather at the same place. In the nights, in the dens, when they gather, you will see, there is no Republican, no Democrat there; no congressman or BJP there, they all gather at the same lodges and they have their magicians and their enchanters who are called 'masters'. And they are trading in violence, souls and bodies. You think the terms that are being used in the natural realm originated in the world? No, it originated in these dark dens. So many things. And you know what? Religious system became a part of it. Much of the Church is part of this. They are trading in souls. That's why I've always openly said, "They are masters by night and pastors by day." And every day, I pray, "Let them be exposed and be brought down," because they are trading in the souls of God's children who are blinded, sitting in Churches and jumping. God says in *Jeremiah 8:11* and He says that in the *Book of Thessalonians* too. What does He say?

### **Jeremiah 8:11**

***<sup>11</sup> For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace.***

They changed the message, made the message about this world, about prosperity, about wealth and health and no pain and no suffering and they healed the sins of the people very lightly. You know why? Because they were joined with the other side. And that's exactly what God says in the *Book of Thessalonians*, "When they say 'peace and safety', sudden destruction will come." It will come. And that's why God told the Church, "You are the light of the world." Then, He said, "If the light in you is darkness, how great is your darkness!" See it differently. And all you, believers, who are sitting in your house, God is giving you an unprecedented opportunity – lockdown. Let the children eat three times a day. You fast at least one meal. Fast one meal. Spend time before God. Let there be peace in homes. Let there be a time of prayer and worship in homes. Put things right before God and say, "Lord, when these things come through, a Church should emerge out of it, purer, cleaner and whiter. More vibrant so that when the Church steps out, it should shine because, Lord, we see this as a God-given opportunity. We set our lives right before You." Get rid of Netflix and Amazon Prime and whatever all these things are called. Get rid of all these things. You don't need it. If you give your life over to Netflix, one day, God will flick you to hell. You don't need that. A waste of time. Because that's how they do it – you see, the plot is gripping; you are caught but through it, they pass on fornication, adultery, homosexuality, murder, violence and all these stuff; you watch it and you watch it and what is happening? You are being sensitised to sin. So, what happens is – when these things actually happen, you don't react the way you are supposed to react. That's the difference. You get sensitised. When you are sensitised to failure and defeat and sin, and then, when Goliath comes out, you all run away and you hide. But a guy who was not sensitized, who had lived in the wilderness and never seen sin or defeat and fought his battles, when he comes out and hears Goliath come out, he says, "Who is this fellow?" You know why? Because he was not sensitized to sin and failure. That's the power of the wilderness. Now, everybody is in the wilderness. Your house has become the wilderness. God has taken you in the isolated place – a wilderness, shut away from the world, to prepare you so that you can come out and tell Goliath, "You come against me with a spear and the javelin and the sword but I come against you in the Name of Jehovah." O, we read earlier, "You came like bees. Your nations came and I cut them off." That is later, as a king. You know why? "Because as a young shepherd boy, when the bear came and when the lion came, I cut them off in the Name of Jesus. Then, when Goliath came, I cut him off in the Name of Jehovah." He had a life history of fighting the battle and knowing the power of His Name. That is only learned in the wilderness. It is not learned in the world. For years, you have heard this – don't go into the world. Don't get sensitized into the world. Don't get sensitised from the world. Stay away from the world. Go to your family members. Meet your family members but when you go to your unsaved family members, you should have such a reaction over them that either they love you or they hate you. They should never say or feel, "You are just like us." You love your unsaved loved ones but you don't become like them. What is that? Your very light of Christ in you is the life you reflect. *In Him was life and that life was the light of men*. Light doesn't have to do anything to dispel darkness. It just has to stand there. Daniel did not have to do one thing for the other princes to hate him; he just had to stand there as light and the darkness around him hated him. That's what Jesus said and that's what we need to know. We stand there because our convictions are very true. We love them but we love our God more. We pray for them. We stand in the gap but we do not ever compromise on the truth – this is the truth. "And if this is true and You are true, I'm willing to live or die. Both is gain for me. If I live, I live for You. If I die, I die for You. For me, I'm not dying for a cause. You are my cause." Because all these people have causes. They are fighting for Green energy and they are fighting for conservation. I'm not worried about, "Oh, look at that! After the plague has come and everything, the river and the canals of Venice is clean. Wuhan, the sky is cleared up; seas are cleared up." So what? They are all going to be burnt up any way. Those causes don't move me. It's good. They are trying. But it doesn't move me. But what moves me is – have the lives of people become clean? Have souls turn to Christ Jesus? Then, I will say that the virus has achieved its purpose. Because Jesus died for people; not for the environment. When He comes, in a second, He will clean the world. In one second, He will clean it up and He showed us the power of it. Nobody stopped Him when as a young thirty-year-old

Carpenter, He came into the temple and turned everything, nobody stopped Him. There were hundreds of Levites and priests and everything, nobody dared stopped Him because they sensed the authority and the power. If in one day He could clean up a physical temple, in one day, He will clean up this world. That is why Scripture says, "On the seventh day, He rested and He hallowed that day." Six days are over. A day is like a thousand years. The seventh day is coming. On that day, He will clean it up. I don't have to worry about it. I have to be a good steward of my surroundings and how I use His earth because the earth is His but I am not running after these causes; I'm fighting for souls. You and I are fighting for souls; not for the environment. So, don't get fooled, Christians, believers. We don't fight causes; we fight for souls. We fight because we are zealous for His Name.

So, this night, as we close, we look to the Lord once again. We will be back tomorrow morning. Tomorrow morning, I will preach. In the evening, Pastor Vijay will preach. We will come back. We will finish this portion. We will come every day as long as the government allows and there are no restrictions. We will keep coming. We will pray. We will encourage you. We will teach you and please use this time to put right things with God and with man. When this curfew, this quarantine (I don't know how many days it would take) is over, we will look at it as God given. You, believers of GTC, should not be afraid of essentials. If you had practiced what you were taught, you have practiced to live a life of fasting. We have feasted very well. One Church in the city that feasted very well. Every Sunday was a feast. Every fasting, after that, we feasted. We ate well but we also made fasting into our lifestyle. So, there are no complaints. We can go through without food. Any days. It's a 40-day quarantine, God-given. God is giving it to us. We read it differently. It's a 40-day fast. So, we are not worried or scared by any of these things. But by faith, we come today before God.

### **Closing Prayer:**

*Father, we just come to You, Lord. I stand before Your people as Your shepherd. And I pray, at every place, at every home, the believing father and if there is an unbelieving father, the believing mother will rise up and by faith, apply the Blood upon the doorpost of our spiritual houses. The Blood of the Lamb of God over our spiritual houses. A sister or brother who is watching, if your spouse is not saved, Your Word says, "By your faith, your unbelieving spouse is sanctified and your children are holy." If your child is not saved, God says, "According to your faith, your child is holy; your spouse is sanctified." Apply by faith. Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God. The power is in the Blood. Apply it by faith. It took a little. They did not apply it with the hands. Scripture says, "They took hyssop," a little plant that grew up inside wells. A little plant that was dipped in the blood and applied it on the doorpost. The hyssop stands for your faith. Even if you have little faith this night or this morning, whichever part of the world you are living in, take, by faith, the Blood of Jesus. Apply it over the spiritual doorpost over your house and by faith, hold your spouse, your child; hold them by faith. They may be far away but in your spirit, in your soul, they should be near. Hold them close and stay under the Blood. As the head of the household, whoever is there – man or woman – spiritual; as the spiritual head, stand there and acknowledge the sins of your unbelieving children. You take responsibility. If Jesus died on the Cross and took responsibility for the sins of the body, today, you stand there and take responsibility for the sins of your unbelieving family and say, "Lord, I stand and I confess their sins and my sins, Lord. I plead the Blood over them and over myself. We come under the Blood." All my spiritual too, Lord. So many children, too, who do not have parents. I bring them all under the Blood. And I believe as You have said – this plague will pass over us. And when it has passed over, we will see that all our children are alive and our firstborn is alive and we will have our strength intact when we come through this – to serve You and to worship You, Lord. Thank You, Father. Thank You, Lord. We just rest in Your promises. We just rest in You because God is not a man that He should lie and every promise is 'yes' and 'Amen' in Christ Jesus. Through this exceedingly great and precious promises, we enter into the divine nature of God and we escape the corruption that is in this world through this lust. We escape. We are safe and secure under the shadow of Thy wings, O Lord. Cover us and keep us. Thank You, Father. Thank You, Lord. We praise You. We worship You. We glorify You, Lord. For in Jesus' Precious Name we pray, Amen.*

Love you, brethren, everywhere. You are looking. We love you. Whether you are those who are watching who are part of the Church or part of some other Church or somebody who left the Church, you know me. You know my heart. I love you. We love you – Pastor Vijay and I, we love you. And let me give you the benediction –

### **Benediction:**

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us, Amen.*