

## Will God Hear?

Pastor S. James

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*Father, we just thank You. We praise You and we worship You for this incredible opportunity You have given us, Lord. Another twenty days to be with You alone, away from the world. Thank You. Thank You, Lord. You used governments to lock Your people in. We just want to thank You, Father. We just want to thank You, Lord. We want to look at things that are happening with different eyes and that our God and our Father is in control and He's giving us this incredible time to spend with You to learn of Him, to grow stronger, to be prepared for His Son's coming any hour, any moment that none of us should be unprepared. O Father, thank You, thank You for this time Lord. Thank You for this time. You have not given us the spirit of fear; You have not. Therefore, we will not receive it. There's so much fear outside because of the pandemic and of the brutality on the streets of the people called to enforce this lockdown. So, there is fear of all kinds, but we will not be afraid. We stay within the law of both God and man, we do not fear whether this virus was forged in the pits of hell or in the labs of wicked men. We do not fear the pestilence that flies by day or night, we do not fear because we know that our God is in control and our God has said, "No weapon that is formed against us will prosper. Every lying tongue that rises against us in judgement we condemn it in the name of Jesus." For the reason, also, You said, "Because our righteousness is of You." Not of us, not of the law, but of You. This is our inheritance as the servants of God. We are hidden in Christ. You have hidden us in the cleft of the rock. So even as this pestilence creates fear and havoc in the world, we just see the glory of God passing us. We see differently, Lord. Your presence, Your glory, Your power, Your might, and Your sweet, sweet Word is what we are looking for, Lord. So, I pray all those who hear, wherever they are, and also see and hear with different eyes and different ears connecting our spirit to Your realm, the real realm. Thank You, Father. Speak to us once again. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

So, as we look into the Word and continue to meditate on the Word, we had an incredible session in the morning and all those who are listening online, I really hope you have been challenged that how you can look at the Word with the naked eye or with an electron microscope and see how God speaks to us and teaches us constantly and how we as children, God's children, look at situations differently. Our job here is not to look for natural solutions. Leave that to that government and medical authorities. They will try and they will find the solution appropriate to each field. Medical field connected with healing and vaccination whatever. Financial world, the governments and the systems let them do their work. That's not our work. Our job is to look for an eternal solution to every problem. Spiritual solution. We've been given by God's grace 21 days of social isolation. I love it. The government can mandate 21 days to stay inside. But it's still left to us what we will do with these 21 days when we are inside. Two choices are taking place: a choice by flesh and a choice by spirit. Something is happening. Like God said, tares are becoming tares, and wheat is becoming wheat. So even though the message is streaming live for 30 minutes and Facebook and YouTube, I'm not talking to the world, but to all the brethren within different groups, still a choice. Every time it's a choice. And if you're listening to someone who is encouraging you and edifying you connected to the kingdom God bless you. But if you are watching a movie, God have mercy on you. That's why Jesus tells the last Church, be hot or be cold. And we don't even realize our choices are showing where we are. Like I said, our intention is always to give a permanent solution that goes to the other side of life, beyond this life. *Hebrews 9:27*; any solution that is permanent should go there. Scripture says,

### **Hebrews 9:27**

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

The government and the system are looking for a solution on this side of death. We are looking for a solution with any problem beyond this to the other side of death. Judgement time; it could be today for many people who will die today through the same virus. You should be on that side without fear and confident. Bible talks about three ways God's people reach the judgement seat. One says, "In fear, with terror." The other says, "Ashamed." The third says, "In joy." One of these three stages people will reach. Our job as servants of God and personally is that we go with exceeding joy to that side. We are looking for permanent solution and the problem what God has actually shown in these two months since it has happened, it is the third month now, is the futility of the fallacy of success on this side of life alone. If you're really successful you need to be successful in God's sight. So, the rich man at the end of the day is looking at himself and patting himself on the back and looking at his next acquisition, a merger in today's term, and God calls him you fool! Your life will be demanded tonight. We saw the other incredible story Jesus said, a real-life story I believe and not a parable – Lazarus and the rich man = because in parables, He never gives a name. So, we have a poor man, a beggar on this side and a rich man who went to the other side.

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Two: one man is dressed in purple, eating and drinking and living life as the world tries to sell it to us. And the poor man sitting there outside with sores from head to toe and dogs licking his wounds, looking for scraps from the rich man's table. And Scripture says, "On the same day, both died." And there is a separation. The bible doesn't even describe who took the rich man when he reached hell. The demons took him. But the bible says, "Angels took the poor man." So, we have two things over there. The first thing you need to realize is Lazarus had faith, that's why he reached the right place and that he was absolutely, totally poor. So, poverty on this life has never kept anybody outside of heaven. Wealth is not a qualification to enter heaven. So, the poorest man in that context reached the right place. He was sick from head to toe. So, health is not a qualification to reach heaven. So, this health and wealth gospel is demolished by Jesus in that not parable, but an actual story. The rich man is not given a name, because in hell there are no names like in prison there are only numbers. That's why in the end the anti-christ will give everyone a number. Your identity does not matter, who you are in hell. But in heaven you have names because the lamb has a book of life where names are written, no numbers. So, you have a name for the poor man and no name for the rich man. And the fallacy of success on this side of life and all those who are rich and if you are proud of your success, this is a very good time to sit back and reflect, because this can make us absolutely short-sighted. Once this crisis passes, then what? After twenty-one days, then what? Like here, shutdown is till April 15<sup>th</sup>. And April 16<sup>th</sup> god willing it will be open. And it's interesting April 16<sup>th</sup> is when Passover is over this year. 16<sup>th</sup> Passover is over and you can go out. It's a coincidence may be, but a beautiful one. So how will we emerge out of this 25 days? Five days are already over. How will we emerge? In *Ephesians 5:15-17*, this is what Scripture says.

### **Ephesians 5:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> ***See then that you walk circumspectly, (carefully) not as fools but as wise...***

God is saying, "I have done everything possible to bring you to Me, to give you time to spend with your family and with Me." With Me and with your family. Peace with man and peace with God. Peace with man and holiness with God. I'm giving you this opportunity. Make peace first with your closest neighbor, your spouse, your family. You are both locked in together. So make peace. Make peace.

<sup>16</sup> ***redeeming the time, because the days are evil.***

Redeem the time. You've been given 25 days. Five days are already over, because the days are evil literally. The cops are chasing people to go inside, because the days are evil. There's death floating in the air.

<sup>17</sup> ***Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.***

That by the time you come out in 21 days, like Daniel did, we should be able to understand what the will of God is for us other than the general will of God—abstain from this and all, but the personal will of God. You know, knowing that takes the weight off your life. Once I realized the will of God for me was to serve Him, "Hallelujah Lord!" At least I know what to do with my life and the when He narrowed it down and said, "I have called you to strengthen believers, teach only My children and not evangelize," it became easier. So, I never do evangelism, which is a huge load off your shoulder because evangelism is difficult. Try it with somebody and convince that Jesus is the only way. I'm not saying, "Teaching God's children is easy." Stick to this way. Stay there. It makes it easy. Once you know the will of God in your life and then the weight is gone and all you need is to stay there and do it, because that's what is happening. Redeem your time. Will we redeem our time? So this is as far as God can go and put us all inside, because He respects our free will. He uses the system. He got us all inside and locked us all up inside our homes. And He used corona virus and the system to get us all inside and saw to it also that no cure has come yet. That's why we are all quarantine that the virus dies in the host's body. Now Christians know that we got shut in and we got all this time in our hands, what will we do? Will we redeem it or waste it? Because time has to be redeemed. It can be only redeemed, like Bible says, "We were not redeemed with gold or silver." In the Old Covenant, something had to be redeemed with gold or silver. Okay? Meaning, we can redeem the time with only what we consider as valuable or precious. That's how we redeem time. Like Pastor Vijay was telling very clearly: somebody considers this important and precious and they redeem their time with that. Sports, music, movies, work. Some people will say, "Work is worship." For us God is worship. Our work becomes worship only when we do it as unto the Lord. That's when our work becomes worship. So are we redeeming that time? Because I don't think this opportunity will come. God has different ideas in our lifetime again. So what will we do? Many Churches around the world have risen to the occasion. They're all live-streaming. Many Churches are live-

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streaming and we are also live-streaming twice a day, giving almost four hours of teaching each day. Four hours if not more. And the purpose of teaching the body of Christ is the same as Jesus said to the disciples whom He taught.

*John 15:3*; the purpose of teaching is this:

### **John 15:3**

<sup>3</sup> ***You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you.***

He did not say, “You’re clean because of the miracles you witnessed and did in My name. You’re clean because of the ministry you partook off.” That’s the purpose! The Word of God should clean us. In *Ephesians 5:25* onwards. Now remember, the Word in itself does not clean, it’s only those who receive it and apply it. There were 12 with Him at the end, one did not get clean. The Word did not work on him at all. Only 11 got clean.

### **Ephesians 5:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> ***Husbands, love your wives...***

It’s a good opportunity for all husbands to love your wives, except Pastor Vijay and me.

***...just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word, (What is the purpose? )<sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself...***

So, we are trying as servants of God to sanctify and cleanse the Church through the washing of water by the Word, that we can present or God can present to Himself.

***...a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.***

There are different things mentioned over there. Clean, by the washing of the water by the Word, so she’s sparkling white, having no spot, or wrinkle. You see now because we are now on camera what we do is that before we put it on and come or when we go we put the ironing board and put on the iron and we spray some water and steam and iron the wrinkle out. So God uses fire, heat to take the wrinkles out. There’s so much heat now, pressure of the situation, to take the wrinkles out. God uses different methods: launderer’s soap, refiner’s fire, washing of the water by the Word. He uses water. He uses soap. He uses fire and heat. Everything He uses so that He can have a glorious, spotless, wrinkleless Church. He’s using all our terms so that we understand. He’s using man’s language so that we understand. So that’s what He did—the sanctification by the Word. That was *John 17:17*, His prayer.

### **John 17:17**

<sup>17</sup> ***Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.***

Sanctification means cleansed and made pure and set apart for a holy use. That’s my prayer at the end of these 21 days, Passover is over and we step out into the world, this is what we become in His sight. Don’t worry. We don’t have to worry about the world. We just need to be blameless in His sight. Let people say whatever they want. If God says, “As for now, you’re okay.” That’s enough. He doesn’t ask us to be okay for tomorrow today. Today, each day, one day at a time. So we saw, yesterday last night, we continuing the natural and the eternal, the unseen and the seen. How we learn from the seen what is happening in the unseen. The shadow and the substance. The Old Covenant picture and the New Covenant doctrine is explained through the Old Covenant stories, pictures and the history of men. We saw when the intention and the purpose of God behind plagues. So, we had seen a few days back when the first plague is mentioned, it’s because Pharaoh had taken Abraham’s wife Sarah. He said, “It’s my sister.” And the Pharaoh took her into his house. And the Lord plagued Pharaoh’s household so that Sarah could be released. Plagues are always connected with His people coming out of bondage of the ruler of this world. From beginning itself He said, “Let My people go.” My people should know that now that we’re living in a different dispensation altogether, that was physical, this is spiritual, we need to have the desire to come out of the bondage of this world. Exercise our freewill and use all that God has given us to come out of the bondage of this world. Satan is the ruler of this world. The symbol is there as pharaoh. Not all pharaohs, but that pharaoh. After that, we saw again after Israel has been in Egypt for four hundred plus years and again God is telling them, “Come out.” And the thing was that the ten

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plagues was for one purpose: let My people go. For what? That they may worship Me and serve Me in the wilderness. So we look at that now, the question is, how do I see this world?

### **1 Peter 2:11**

**<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,**

How do we see this world and how do we see our life? That's the question. Do we see this world as a wilderness? Then I'm a pilgrim or do I see myself as a citizen of the state. Then I'm not a pilgrim. How do we see? If we see this world as a wilderness, then we are pilgrims and stranger and we're okay with it. Look at Jacob, when he's an old man and he's brought to Egypt to Pharaoh in,

### **Genesis 47:9**

**<sup>9</sup> And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years;(He called the hundred and thirty years of his life itself as a pilgrimage.) few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."**

The pilgrim is going with a very clear religious purpose, passing through the wilderness. His focus is not here. His focus is something connected with God. He says, "My whole life is a pilgrimage."

So, we are aliens, stranger and pilgrims in this place, so where are we then at home? If we are not at home in this world, we should be at home in another place, the spiritual reality.

*Ephesians 2:19.* That should be our spiritual reality.

### **Ephesians 2:19**

**<sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God**

Now, both has to be true. It's not enough to be come apart. You also have to be joined with something else. We have come apart from the world and apart with God's people. That's why this has happened. When we are live streaming, few of you who are here, and through them we all have come out of the world, aliens and strangers and sojourners, but we are now fellow citizens with whom? The saints and the members of God's household. On earth, there are members of God's household. We are pilgrims and we know God is our Father. And it doesn't matter there is no race, no difference. Nothing. It doesn't matter which country. We have no distinctions here. We know we are one family. And if that isn't there then it still hasn't worked. We just got separated from the world, but we did not get separated unto God and His people. Often Christians' struggle is this, to get separated from the world and to be separated with God's people. They struggle with this. Some of us don't struggle at all, because we made this choice over and over until it's become a habit and it's a part of us and we're very comfortable with it. Now we are very uncomfortable when we go out. Yet we know we need to go out. We do our work, but we very consciously don't belong here. We don't even belong in the supermarket. So many shelves and so many products. We just go pick what we want. We already know what we want. We go in, pick it and we come out. We don't loiter around over and over with a cart, which is bigger than you. We don't do that. We just go in, pick it and come. Shopping is so easy for us. I believe everybody who's hearing, for every child of God shopping should be an easy thing. Not at times like this, but at normal times, shopping is a very easy thing because you're very clear in our mind what we need from the world. So this morning Pastor Vijay was trying to look deeply into the concepts of what God is trying to do with us as individuals and as Church or Churches that when God uses the Word punish it is to visit and to pay attention. He used it wonderfully. Abigail if you're watching, my sympathy is with you. Mathematically inclined, your father is, what can I say? Don't go to Princeton honey. Don't go. All these high-flown universities have become dense of the enemy. Stay in a safe place. And one thing he said if you realize, your posture, spiritual posture, physical posture, you see all of us who had tough parents, he got it from his father. I got it from my father. We're very careful how to walk. My father used to make me walk before him. Don't let your knees knock. Keep them straight. When you sit in the class. All kinds of things parents used to do in the old days. Keep a book on your head so it doesn't fall. You sit straight. Your back is straight. All those things you're not allowed to lie down and read. None of those things we were allowed. It's all got to do with posture, because of the physical posture. And now God is telling us about the spiritual posture. The spiritual posture is incline your ears. There is an inward reality which only God sees. So what does it mean spiritually to incline my ears? How can incline my spiritual ears? Physical ears, you can go to the extreme

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level of standing like this. But how do I incline my spiritual ears? What is the inward reality that God is looking for? Remember a few days back, all the Churches and every Church has to go back to that core area when you're going through a situation like this.

2 Chronicles 7:13-14, where God says,

### **2 Chronicles 7:13-14**

***<sup>13</sup> When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,***

So, drought, famine and plague. When I do it, He says. He's in control overall. Please understand that. Drought, famine or plague, He says, "There is a solution." The solution doesn't lie with the world. Temporary solutions are with the world. They will try and try. Spiritual solutions are only with God's people.

***<sup>14</sup> if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.***

And He says four things—humble, pray, seek and turn. Simple. Remember that deep in your system. But the first thing He says is humble. That is an inward reality of how you incline your ears. The first thing God looks for is not pray. The first thing God looks at is not whether you are seeking. First thing God is not looking whether you will turn. The first thing He's looking at is the attitude of your heart, your spirit. Humble yourself. Why is it so important is because the opposite of humility is pride. Now we know very well, but for those who are hearing.

### **James 4:6**

***<sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."***

### **1 Peter 5:5-6**

***<sup>5</sup> Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time***

Read Scripture very carefully. Twice it is repeated both by Apostle James and Apostle Peter. What is that? They don't say God ignores the proud. That would have been better. It doesn't say that. He never ignores the proud. He opposes the proud. Ignoring and opposing are two different things. It doesn't say He will ignore the proud. He says, "I will resist, I will oppose the proud." So, one of the first things a child of God needs to have, if you are looking for any solution with God, is the right attitude of the spirit. Why is it so important for God? It's because we have different kinds of sins. There are fleshly sins and there are some sins that are connected with the spirit. Now a portion, which we have looked at, a couple of days back, this is about satan—

### **Ezekiel 28:14-15**

***<sup>14</sup> "You were the anointed cherub who covers;***

So it is talking about satan.

***<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.***

If you remember 'sin, iniquity and transgression', sin is the outward and iniquity is what empowers it. So it's not enough to deal with sin; you have to deal with iniquity. If you don't deal with iniquity, what will happen? You will forever cry and keep on repenting upon your sin, but you are caught in a circle, never able to come out because you did not deal with iniquity. Lying is outside; fear is the iniquity. You need to realize. It's fear that causes people to lie and makes people to do a lot of things. So don't take fear lightly. That's why God says, "I have not given you the spirit of fear." In *Revelation 21:8*, in the list of people at the end, all those who are outside heaven, the first mention is the 'cowardly'.

**Revelation 21:8**

***<sup>8</sup> But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."***

It's not even the unbelieving, abominable, murderers and sexually immoral; we would put all these people first. Not even the sorcerers or the idolaters; the first that is put are the fearful. Do you know why? It's because all these people actually became this because they did not have the guts to resist the devil. They are fearful. They are unbelieving. Why are people unbelieving? It's because they are so scared of what people will say if they accept Christ though they know it is true. Do you know how many millions and millions are there in this world and in this nation who know Christ is true but they will not accept because they are so afraid of their family, their 'khandan', their society? He says, "They are cowardly. They are fearful."

How many millions are there in the Islamic community, who really know 'Isa' is the true one? You should ask dear Muslim brothers, "How many times is Muhammed mentioned in your holy book? How many times is 'Isa' mentioned in your holy book?" You should ask them. "You don't know? Have you read? Muhammed is hardly there. Who is there? Isa! What does your book say about Muhammed's birth? Ordinary! What does your book say about Isa's birth? Born of a virgin! What does your book about Isa's life? Sinless! What does your book talk about Muhammed's life? Normal! What does your book talk about Muhammed's death? Normal! What does your book talk about Isa's death? Supernatural! What is Isa called in your book? 'Ruhullah'! You know the truth but you are a coward because you are not ready to declare it." You know the truth. Hell will be full of cowards. That's why it is put in first.

These are the things which you need to understand because it's there in every book. Any man who searches, he will know there is only one God and He sent His Son and His name was Jesus. It is there but the problem is, you are fearful. So, God puts 'fearful' over there. Understand these concepts very clearly. There are certain things which God ignores. There are certain things that are very, very important.

**Ezekiel 28:15-17**

***<sup>15</sup> You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. <sup>16</sup> "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, 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...***

So, what was his iniquity? Pride! "Your heart was lifted up; your heart was proud!" Twice it is repeated. If you look at *Ezekiel 28:2*, when the address begins.

**Ezekiel 28:2**

***<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, 'I am a god...***

This is the problem. This is where sin originates. This is what we say in theological terms, mother of all sins is pride. Its manifestations come out in different ways, as anger or jealousy or hatred or murder; it's all connected with pride. Why do you think Cain killed Abel? It's because he was very proud of his work. He was a tiller of the land. He was very proud of his work. He brought his best and gave it to God and when Abel brought by faith and God accepted, his (Cain's) pride was hurt. He was very angry. That's why the first question outside the garden- "Why are you angry? Why is your countenance fallen?"

Have you noticed 'proud people', to recognize them, all you have to do is complement somebody else, their face falls. When offertory is going on, somebody is singing well, I don't look there, I look at the faces of singers, "How is your face? Are you happy that somebody is doing well or your face is falling?" That's where it originated. Cain was proud, he was angry, he was jealous; then, hatred and murder – this is a cycle. This is all connected with the devil. It originated in heaven with the devil. Pride originated with Lucifer or satan. So, satan and demons are spirit beings. They have no flesh. So, original sin – 'pride' is spiritual; it is not fleshly. That's why in the Book of *Corinthians*, it talks about cleansing the flesh and the filthiness of spirit.

**2 Corinthians 7:1**

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***Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.***

'of the flesh'- everybody understands but 'filthiness of spirit'? What is that? Pride! Kill it. Why also is it so important? Because God is the exact opposite of the devil. The devil is proud; God is humble, the real God, not the other gods. None of the other gods are humble. That's why you will never see any Egyptian gods or Greek gods or Roman gods are humble. You will see none of them are humble. They are never portrayed in any picture that shows anything. Note the saints who worshiped them, they were also not humble. None of them were! They don't have any characteristics that causes them to be humble because these were gods shaped in the image of fallen man; fallen man is proud so he created 'proud gods'. But Jesus is a different God altogether. He is humble. God is very, very humble; the opposite of devil. Devil is not a god by the way; he is just a created being of God. So if you look at *Isaiah 57:15* and *66:2*, you will see about God. Incredible God! First He declares who He really is. When God talks about Himself, He is not boasting; He is just speaking the truth. This is what He is.

### **Isaiah 57:15**

***<sup>15</sup> For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity,***

It's like me saying, "I have been living for last 5 days in the Church office." Am I boasting? No! It's a truth! So, when God says, "I inhabit eternity," He is telling the truth but if I say I am inhabiting eternity, then it is boasting.

***...whose name is Holy...***

Is He boasting? It's a truth! But then, He says,

***...“I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.***

There are two places God dwells – in this holy habitation called 'eternity', third heaven and He also dwells in everyone who is really, truly humble. Why? Because God is humble.

### **Isaiah 66:2**

***<sup>2</sup> For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist,” Says the Lord. “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.***

Do you know what God is talking about? Imagine! What are all the scientists sitting, doing and investing all our money, billions and billions? All kinds of telescopes, all galaxies and rover and 'chandrayaan' and 'mangalyaan' to Mars and everybody's eyes looking at Mars and Saturn and all; God created all these and what we cannot see also, He sees stars and space and the Milky Way – everything, the glory of His creation but He says, "All these, I created but My eyes are not on them." Where are His eyes?

***<sup>2</sup> For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist,” Says the Lord. “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.***

What a God! "All these incredible things are there, but it doesn't catch My attention but if I see somebody is poor and contrite in spirit, somebody who is humble, it gets My attention immediately." So, do you want God's attention? Do you want to catch God's eye? It's not a boasting thing or anything, it is true. When you have a Sunday service and then service is over and when I get down, there are lot of people try to catch my attention for different reasons because pastor has finished and come down. I go by this rule, 'first come, first served'. God doesn't go by that – 'first come, first served.' He doesn't go by that rule. He has only one rule. His eye is always looking for who is humble. How do you know you are humble? The answer is there – that man trembles at His Word. That's how he values God's Word. He trembles at His Word. That's one of the reasons I posted in our group, when the live streaming is going on, please do not post anything or forward anything. It's irreverence, not to me, but to the Word. Because actually, it's a revelation of your own inner man that when the Word of God is going on in a situation like this (we are sacrificing for you, not for God; for God, it's a pleasure!) and we are preaching the Word of God, you are

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sitting there and forwarding without even being bothered. So, you are showing irreverence; it's a judgement upon yourself. You can either choose to listen or not to listen but not to interrupt.

That's what God is talking about. That's what God is. David knew this. *Psalms 51:17*, this is what David says.

### **Psalms 51:17**

***<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.***

Did you see? This is a New Covenant man caught in the Old Covenant and we should be grateful. If this guy had been in New Covenant, he would have put us all in shame. We would have all put our heads down in shame before this man. He could have given us a run for our money. Without being born of the Spirit or being baptized in the Holy Spirit, this was what he was, without having the New Covenant. He had only the Old Testament and that too, he did not have most of the Old Testament. He had only the 5 books of the law and Joshua and probably Judges, nothing else. Do you want to bring an holy and acceptable sacrifice to God? What is the sacrifices of God?

### **Psalms 51:17**

***<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.***

We have preached this earlier. God does not look at the words of our mouth; He looks at our inward parts first. He doesn't look at the words first.

### **1 Samuel 16:7**

***<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."***

God looks at the inner man. Outwardly, everybody may look same but inwardly, only God knows. When God looked at 8 sons of Jesse, He looked at David; He knew that this guy was a humble boy in the house. Humble boy! He has got a contrite and a broken spirit. He is a humble person. A humble person has a broken and a contrite spirit. So we know this simple truth, which we have said. A lot of people in the Bible, confronted in their situations, said, "I have sinned." Pharaoh said, "I have sinned"; he got destroyed. Balaam said, "I have sinned"; he got destroyed. King Saul said, "I have sinned"; he got destroyed. Judas said, "I have sinned"; he hung himself. But David said, "I have sinned" and God said immediately, "Your sin is removed." Why? What was the difference? God was not looking at his words, He was looking at his heart. The minute He heard the words, He looked at the heart, "This guy's heart is broken over what he has done." He is the only one with all of them outwardly similar confessions. That's what it says, "*God does not see as man sees.*" Outwardly, every one is saying the same words, "I have sinned!" and David also says, "I have sinned!" and to David, God says, "Forgiven. Your sin is removed." Do you know why? Because He saw the inward man. He was humble. He had a broken and a contrite spirit. So this is the unseen realm within us. God who is unseen, who is invisible, who lives in the third heaven and also He looks for a place on earth to inhabit. What does He look for? According to His character!

### **Proverbs 16:18**

***<sup>18</sup> Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.***

You don't have to look for holes or ditches ahead. All you have to look into your heart. If I am proud, then there is a ditch ahead of me. I never have to look for a ditch ahead, I have to look into my heart because it is written, *pride goes before destruction*. So God in His mercy, says to all His children, "I know you struggle with this. The old man is there and the new man is there. The old man is made and shaped in iniquity in the nature of your father, the devil." I didn't say it; don't get mad with me. Jesus said, "there are only two fathers. One is God and the other is devil." Those who are of the devil has his own nature. Outwardly they will look very good, nice and all but they are proud, they are murderers; when real situation comes, it will show out but those who are of God are also being transformed like Him. They are humble, they are contrite, they are broken and they can walk with God and they will take correction. They tremble at His Word. You can correct them. They don't get offended. Offense is a big thing in the Bible. God says, *Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me*. Even John the Baptist got offended. Moses got offended. Old Covenant people, most of them got offended. Offense! These are all connected with the old man.



**Proverbs 16:18**

**<sup>18</sup> *Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.***

So, watch out for this. I am getting tired by all these prayer requests from all these Christian chains, prayer chains, world council of Churches and pope and all; everybody will use this text saying, let us pray. What are you praying for? Plague to go away? Do we even understand or search, "What is Your purpose behind this?" Are the people including me, who pray, have we trembled at His Word? Before He will answer us, can God consider you and me humble? He didn't (first) say pray. First He says, "humble yourself." Are we humble? We don't look at what man is doing. We are looking at what God is actually talking to us.

We may not see it but God sees.

**Daniel 5:20**

**<sup>20</sup> *But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him.***

It is talking about Nebuchadnezzar. When our heart is lifted up, there is hardening that takes place inside. Though you may be a believer and you may call yourself a 'royal priesthood' called to have dominion and serve God, you are taken off your throne. He takes His authority and His power from you. That is a trap, which many, many pastors have got into. When they began, they were humble and God gave them an incredible ministry. When that ministry got into their spirit, pride came in and the power was gone. So they needed power to sustain what they have started and they found there is another source for power. That's how secretly I keep on telling you, on TV, 'they are pastors by day and masters by night', including this city. They go there in the night and they get their power. They are split personalities. They are literally split into two, demonically into two!

We all have split personalities. Jesus was the only one who had one personality; He was always the same; we are not and God is trying to make us one. Honestly, when we come to Church, we put on a different front, when we go home, we become something else and when we go to the office, we become something else. We are not talking about this. This is something else that is demonic. 'Alters' have been created; 'personalities' have been created. That particular personality that is created went to Bible college. They can preach fantastically but the power source is somebody else. They serve somebody else; they don't serve God. Bible said that. *His (devil's) servants also will come in clothes of righteousness.* If you don't have the spiritual discernment to see it, like crowds you will follow them. I don't know who all, I am not mentioning but I am saying you have to be very, very careful. Listen to what they teach. Are they taking you to a life closer and closer to God, into holiness and peace or are they taking you subtly into the world? If you look at them, are they humble or are they 'superstars'? Look at signs.

That's the difference between king Saul and king David. King Saul also was anointed and God gave him a different heart and he also started well. David was also anointed but king Saul, after a point, Scripture says, built a monument for himself. He blew the trumpet- "*Hear O Israel!*" Somebody else fought the battle and he took the credit and then the Philistines came and before he knew, he ran and his people also ran. After that he is trying to get power and power is not coming. God refuses to speak to him. So you will see, at his end, he ends up with a witch, hoping for power to defeat the enemy. So there are two sources of power. People have to be very, very wise and very, very careful. Whom do you serve? How do you serve? Because look at spiritual things. What is the spiritual part? It's humility! Scripture says,

**Daniel 5:20**

**<sup>20</sup> *But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride...***

**Daniel 5:18**

**<sup>18</sup> *O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor.***

It was God who gave this but what happened was it got into his head. Who gave all these glory, honor, perfection, beauty, wisdom and everything to Lucifer? It was God but it got into his head. He decided to exalt his throne above God. A fight

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settled! The same thing is happening. Nebuchadnezzar was given. At the lowest level, all of us whatever we have achieved, God has given it to us. That is why in the book of Revelation, 24 elders will take the crown and put it at His feet. "This is not our crown. Our crown is not even fit for Your head. It is only fit for Your feet." It's not even fit for Your head. I cannot even take my crown and put it on Your head, I can only put it at Your feet because if you look back, everything is the work of God. Outside of God, there is nothing.

So, when he was given this honor, majesty, glory and what happened? His heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened. This is where we have to be very, very careful about it. You always have to ask- what does power and authority do to you? What if you become a manager in your company and you have 500 people under you, how do you deal with them? Suppose if you have full-time maid, how do you deal with her is what God is watching because you have somebody you have power over. She probably is working for a pittance; for you it may be a big amount. For you it doesn't matter, but she is struggling because she needs that money. You look at her condition and you realize you have power and you have authority and God is not dealing with her as how you deal with your husband and how you deal with your pastor. He is not looking at all of them because with all of them, you will be good. He is looking at somebody who is actually below you. That's who we are, not how we deal with others above us; it's how we deal with others below us. That's why Jesus' last ministry is to wash the feet of His disciples.

That's what is happening in the streets. Yes, it's a calamity and people need to be in their houses but do you think you are constitutionally allowed to beat up people like this to make them get into their houses? What happened to the procedure of law? You don't have that authority. Who gave you? Is that what done? Push them in, beat their bikes, break a few headlamps also but you can't beat. At the end of this when virus is over, you will finally realize that 10 or 15 people died in Telangana and 5000 people were injured by the police. It's not nice. The pictures are not nice. It doesn't look good on us. The problem is when these things happen in India, it's going viral in the world and our image always keeps going down that we are a nasty, brutal people but they are not!

One thing I appreciate about Hinduism. Hinduism is a very tolerant religion. It was never a violent religion unlike other religions. As a religion, it was never violent, it was very tolerant but now you see only violence even by the people who are supposed to be tolerant. Those things matter to me; not as a believer, it doesn't bother me. As a citizen, it really matters to me. As an Indian citizen, it matters to me. You can't do that! When I see some of them are wearing 3-star or 4-star over there, I know they are IPS officers. You passed those exams and you were trained in the police academy and you were trained better than this. We expect much more from you. They are illiterate people; they don't have knowledge. The news and that thing has not permeated really, really well. This is what power does. At any level. Let's leave the world aside, brutal sites. But I am talking about – what does power do to us, as Christians? What does power do? I am absolutely sure when Joseph was the head steward in Potiphar's house, no servants had any complaints. No complaints! I am sure he was absolutely firm, led by example the way he worked. Very firm but very kind. Firm and kind! Then, he goes to prison and he is put in-charge of all the prisoners, his breaking point – the real breakthrough happens there. There are two people come in there – one is a butler and one is baker. And they have dreams. Now, this is the only innocent guy there actually. He has never done any harm and he is innocent over there. Scripture says, one morning, after the morning, these guy had dreams, he looked at their faces and he says, "What troubles you?" The sign of a real leader. "What troubles you?" People will say, "How does it bother you?" "Me, my agony, my father forgot me. My brothers sold me. My mistress accused me. My master didn't even try to clarify." Nothing. "You got any problems? Can I help you?" That's the actual meaning of what he said – "Can I help you?" Are they above you? No, they are below you. Because this is what made him a prince. This is what will make us princes in Heaven. God is not looking at our talents and our gifts; He is looking at our character – can we be conformed to the image of Christ Jesus? So, all these exigencies reveal who we are inside. Situations reveal who we are inside. When we are given a little power, it will show us. Like if you get a promotion in your company, it will show. Or I say, "Peter, take care of the Worship Team," and tell the Worship Team, "Listen to Peter." Then, it suddenly, it's on Peter – how will he handle these seven, eight, nine, ten people? How do you handle them? In this Church, not other Churches. In this Church, everybody understands authority. They have been taught and drilled. Suddenly, Peter has got authority. What will he do? Anything that God gives power or authority, Jesus says, "All power and authority is given to Me." And He gives it to us. How do we exercise authority? It's a dangerous place to be because God hates pride and He opposes the proud. It's a dangerous place because when our hearts are lifted up, there is a hardening that takes place. And it doesn't matter what happens outside. No plague will change the heart of a proud man. So, the plague is outside but you don't realize – the greater plague is inside. Look at *Exodus 7:22*,

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**Exodus 7:22**

***<sup>22</sup> Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh's heart grew hard...***

It grew hard.

**Exodus 8:15**

***<sup>15</sup> But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart...***

This is my prayer – “Lord, after some time, this will relieve. Corona Virus will go; lives will come back to normal. Lord, when the respite comes, at least, my people, Lord, those who are in my Church, let their hearts not get hardened because of respite. May they not forget those twenty-five-day lessons that I gave them. Let them not forget it. Let them come out more humble, more contrite, more broken. May God bring me through and my family.” When the respite came, what happened? Heart got hardened.

*Exodus 8:19.* So, this is the second time.

**Exodus 8:19**

***<sup>19</sup> Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh's heart grew hard...***

So, here we are, preaching – this plague is from God. This is from God. If it is a universal scale, this is God, putting His finger on the button, saying, “Wake up,” and people's hearts get hardened. One is respite, relief. The heart got hardened. Second – you know the source is God Himself, which is judgment. Your heart gets hardened. It's like the criminal who comes after twenty years of prison, even more hardened. When he was supposed to have reflected and come and repented and say, “Okay, I'm going to the society. I will reform myself. I will be a useful person in the...” but no; he comes even more hardened. So, next time he is caught, the judge throws the book at him and says, “You sit there for life.” He comes even more hardened. This is the finger. All the sorcerers are telling. All his magicians are telling. Those who are connected to realm 2 are saying, “Sorry, sir. We cannot handle it, your majesty. This is realm 3.” You know how many people's hearts are hardened because their sorcerers, astrologers and magicians know it is our God who is God? They have heard but their hearts are hardened. They know who is God. They know it is Jesus. The hearts are hardened. Then, Baphomet wraps his tail between his legs and goes into the abyss in the Name of Jesus Christ. They all know. They have experienced it but still, they go back because their heart is hardened. And they don't even see because of God.

And then,

**Exodus 8:32**

***<sup>32</sup> But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.***

**Exodus 9:7**

***<sup>7</sup> Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh became hard, and he did not let the people go.***

He saw God has made a distinction between His people and Pharaoh's people. Not a single thing belonging to God's people was touched. He realized but his heart was still hardened. Sign after sign before the Pharaoh. Once your heart is lifted up, it is hard.

**Exodus 9:12**

***<sup>12</sup> But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses.***

First time, Pharaoh hardened. Second time, Pharaoh hardened. Third time, fourth time, fifth time, Pharaoh hardened. The time of grace is over. You have exhausted your grace. It's over. Now, God hardened his heart. “I withdraw My Spirit.” A hardened heart is the sign of pride and God hates pride.

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Now, brethren who are sitting here and who are listening online; all my dear children in Christ and God's children, we may not have a hardened heart. We may have portions in our heart which is hardened. You may be hard to your wife. You may be gentle to others. You may be gentle to everyone but be hard with a colleague. The whole heart is not hard. Certain areas are very, very hard. They become hard. Be careful. Ask God to show you. Get rid of it.

*Daniel 4:16.* The warnings are there. So, you need to realize, when God says, "If My people who are called by My Name, humble yourself," it's not easy when you have a calamity like this to pray.

### **Daniel 4:16**

**<sup>16</sup> Let his heart be changed from that of a man, Let him be given the heart of a beast...**

When pride comes in, when hardness comes in, God gives you the heart of an animal. You actually act like an animal. Animals have no self-control. You know that? No self-control. And that's how some men are – they are brutal beasts in their homes, in their offices. That's what we saw on the streets. Like animals. It upsets me very much. I'm very upset. It upsets me as an Indian citizen. It doesn't upset me as a believer because worse things have happened but really, it upsets you because that's the way I was brought up by my father – respect authority. Honor uniform. That's why I have no criminal record in my life. Not even a challan. Never entered into a police station. I was always taught to respect because my dad was a principal and I was a student in his class. Always – time and honor. Honor people in authority. Honor, honor, honor. Always. So, the thing is that – an ordinary man on the street and the man in uniform, I always look at that uniform with respect because that uniform represents power, authority of the state and government and above that, of my God. So, when I see that going haywire, it upsets me. If two people are fighting on the road, it doesn't upset me. And then, God says, "That is what is happening." At a very personal level, men become brutes; women become brutes. They don't physically hit but when they open their mouths, they are like brutal animals. The kind of stuff they say. That's what God is saying. If you look at all of them, it's pride. Pride lifts you up; the heart gets hardened and God says, "You will have the heart of an animal. You will act like an animal, behave like an animal." Animals inside. When they have the power, they will tear you apart, with words, at least. So, pride and power is a very dangerous combination. While humility and power is God's combination. So, everything that God is trying to do is that – a time is coming, called eternity, where His glorious ones; he, who overcomes, shall inherit all and reign with Him forever and ever. Power and authority like we have never, ever imagined is going to be given but only to the one who has been conformed to the image of His Son. That first thing is humility. Only those who have actually become humble will get power and authority in Heaven because you cannot be given power and authority by God otherwise, in eternity. It's impossible because you will abuse it.

*Philippians 2:5-9.* God as man.

### **Philippians 2:5-9**

**<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,**

*This mind.* Another version will say, "Attitude." Mind has a posture also. The posture of your mind, okay? It's just not the thinking. God looks at, first, the posture how these are coming. Are these words coming from a humble heart? Are these words coming from a lifted up, exalted heart?

**<sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God...**

He was actually God. *In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God and the Word was God.* And all things were created by Him, for Him, through Him. This is Him.

***...did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,***

Like if He said, "I'm equal to God," He was not lying or cheating. It was true. And then,

**<sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation...**

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That should be our whole thing – make ourselves of no reputation. Honestly, I dislike this camera. What I have been trying to run away for 12 years, finally, caught me. I never like the camera. I don't want to because it does things to you. It's simple to be a voice – nobody recognizes you. It is fine. This is guarding your heart in this life. You don't want to be seen. But now, exigency has come; we are out in the public. He made Himself of no reputation. For 30 years, when God became Man, you never knew where He was. He never came out. You never knew where He was. He just lived like an ordinary Carpenter in Nazareth. And that's where Nathaniel says, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Nazareth had no reputation. It was never mentioned in the Bible at all. That's the place He chose to stay and live and work.

***...taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself...***

Not only that, His humility is going further and further.

***...and became obedient to the point of death...***

How much will you humble? To death. And what kind of death?

***...even the death of the cross.***

It's the most shameful, humiliating, painful death, He chose. Because the Father said, "That's Your road." It's humiliating because it's not like what we see in the pictures. He was stripped naked. He was not hanging there like we see – nicely covered. No, this is the Son of Man, stripped naked. It's the most painful death of those days because your feet are crucified and your hands are crucified. So, every breath is painful because you have to lift. The most shameless, the most painful death He chose. That is the way He was humbled. Meaning, in Gethsemane, "Father, please, take this cup away from Me. But Thy will and not My will." Three times. And the Father said, "No." And what does it mean, if Scripture is true for Him? *He trembled at His Word.* "Yes, Dad. Yes, Father. It is well with My soul." And therefore, He humbled.

***<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,***

Now, if He was given the Name above every other Name because He humbled Himself to that point and if we are baptized in that Name, what should we be? You see, we got that Name without anything. He had to go through this process to get that Name and we just got that Name. Now, He says, "You got that Name. Grow in your humility to that Name, to fit that Name and be that Name."

In the *Book of Revelation*, this is incredible. This is the doctrine of who Jesus is and there is a word picture in *Revelation 5:1-6*. This is John in his Spirit in Heaven and he is seeing,

### **Revelation 5:1-6**

***<sup>1</sup>And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.***

This is all about eternity, the future.

***<sup>2</sup>Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" <sup>3</sup>And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. <sup>4</sup>So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.***

Meaning, what? This will tell you what is going to happen and there is this scroll; it is sealed. And there is nobody in Heaven fit to open this because to open this, you need to have a particular quality. Otherwise, you cannot open it.

***<sup>5</sup>But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."***

He says, "The Lion has come. He will open it."

***<sup>6</sup> And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb...***

Power and humility come together – the Lion and the Lamb. He is the only One worthy to open the scroll. The Lion and the Lamb. These are symbols given to us. We associate lion with power and authority. And the Lamb with meekness. Lamb. In Nepali, you say, “Dhuma ko rakat.” The Blood of the Lamb. You see, when we were saved from eternal death, it was not the mighty lion who saved us; it is the Blood of the Passover Lamb. It was not the lion because in every other thing, you will see – to save, it is the lion who comes with power and might, to kill the wicked and save the righteous. That’s how every religion ends – kill the wicked and save the righteous. Here, it is the other way. The Lamb comes to save the sinners. That’s why genuine Christianity is fundamentally different from every other religion because in every other religion, the god comes to destroy the sinners and save the righteous. In Christianity, no. The Lamb comes to save the sinners and leaves the righteous alone. He says, “That, for you, I will come as a Lion. First, let Me do the work of the Lamb and save you. Later, I will come as a Lion but I will give you so much time.”

So, *Romans 8:28* is very, very clear. God is conforming us to the image of His Son.

**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.***

What is the first image? *Have this mind or attitude of Jesus Christ.* What is that? Humility. Humble because Christ is humble; God is humble because pride hardens; humility softens. How do you know? Humble people are very easy to teach, very easy to teach. Proud people are very difficult to teach, to correct them, humble people, very easy and God is conforming us to the image of His Son. How does He do it? Through all the situations and the trials and the testing we go through, He is trying to mold us in the image of His Son. So, nothing is wasted, not even this pandemic is wasted on us. God wastes nothing. So, Pastor Vijay was talking yesterday

**2 Samuel 24:1**

***<sup>1</sup> Again the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah.”***

He is angry with whom? Israel. So, what did He do? He moved David against them, against whom? Against Israel. Be very careful about our God, you never know, God moved the king against his own people, you will never understand our God, He can use prime minister Modi against his own people, to humble his people, his own people means the Church because the Church gets too proud, He can use Chinese president Xi to go against the Church, to humble the Church if they are getting too smart and use David to go against Israel and He said, “Number Israel and Judah.” Now, you go back to *Chronicles*,

**1 Chronicles 21:1**

***<sup>1</sup> A Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.***

So, see, satan can’t do anything unless God takes His hand off. So, if Job has to be tested, God has to allow. So, God says that and allows satan to work and how does satan work? Satan doesn’t work through humble people; he cannot. So, he works only through pride. So, he caused pride to come into David and said, “Number your people.” Numbering is always about pride. “You know how big my congregation is? You know how much my flocks are? Do you know how much our company earns?” All numbers. Smart handsome boy with five figure salary, alliance interested. It’s all numbers and if the salary is a little less, 6 feet 3 inches. So, increased this side numbers. It’s all numbers, number is always a sign of pride, numbers. You see, God was angry with Israel because now they are thinking, they are prospering under David but they are prospering under David because David is a humble man and God is blessing them but they became proud. You could be under a humble king and become proud, be very careful, the man is very humble and God is prospering his work and people got very proud; they

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thought, “You know what? We are the cat's whiskers. That’s why we are winning every battle. We have never lost a battle. Every battle, we win.” Even the Philistines are living in fear. All these guys are fearing. “You know what? We are really good. We are really smart,” without realizing all the victories are because the king is humble and the God is giving him victory; people became proud; pride had set in as a nation. Pride sets in as a nation, China’s target, “We will become the number one economy and the greatest super power in the world within these years. So, we are going into the ocean. We are going to make manmade islands and we will have all these bases.” They are all going gag a gag a about their number, economy, people, only China can do this. Then, the virus hit them, America was saying, “We are the world’s most powerful army. Nobody can beat us.” Then, the virus hit them. Italy thought they were the world’s religious head and, “I’m going to bring the unity of all the religions together and we will have one world.” So, Italy was hit, economy, military and religious pride was hit and three nations were hit worst, God says, “You know what? I will use a little virus to humble you.” If you learn the lesson, because the proud prophet sitting over there and there was this shade over there, God used a worm to teach him that, “You are an angry, proud man. You know, Jonah, one little worm to teach a prophet a lesson. I’m using you, despite you, in spite of your rotten attitude; I am still using you. Be merciful.” None of us take any pride in the results of our work, because God is using all of us despite us. You think God thinks all these workers to preach, one angel, everything will get evangelized. That’s all He needs. You read the *Book of Revelation*, the final evangelism was given to an angel, fair, one angel, God says, “I’m using in spite of you, hoping that you all will become like My Son – humble.” Here, the most difficult work that God does it with man, is not saving man; it’s humbling him, because only humble can be saved. So, the first step of salvation is humble. I believe and he won’t bend his knee. First step of salvation is – “I believe. I’m a sinner. There is no other way, religion means nothing. My works means nothing. My good works mean nothing. All this is like filthy rags before You. Lord, have mercy on me. You are saved but you need to humble first before you can get saved. One step.” That is what God has been trying for the past 6000 years – to get man to humble himself so that he can be saved. 4000 years didn’t work. Then, He said, “You know what? Let me give them a real picture – I will send My Son and he will come and become the most humble,” and looking at that, we say, “God is humble, I can be humble.” Still, they will not be humble. See, if I am humble, it is easy for you to be humble, right? “Okay, Pastor is humble. So, I will be also humble.” It’s okay, I don’t have to feel bad. Pastor is humble. So, everybody in the Church can be humble with each other, because Pastor is humble, the head is humble. So, Christ came and said, “Look, God is humble.” So, people are saying, “If God is humble, so what? I’m not going to be humble. We don’t want that kind of God. Release Barabbas. Release Barabbas. We don’t want humble kings. Release Barabbas,” and we struggle with this every day. Some of the basic fundamental struggle. We want the plague to go. God says, “I will look for one man who will stand in the gap. You mean when people are praying, is there not even a single humble man who could stand in the gap and pray so that I could hear his prayer and take it away? There is no even one person, I didn’t find one. In the *Book of Ezekiel*, not one I found.” He said, “Not one I have found, whose prayer I could answer, whose heart met My standard. One man, I couldn’t find. So, My own right hand work the salvation,” He said, “let My Son go. Nobody here. My Son, go. So, God looked at His nation and said, “Wait, wait, wait. You are My nation, right? You got My Name, right? You are My people, right? And you are proud! I need to humble you, because you are very bad testimony.” That’s why people ask, “Why do terrible things happen to Christians?” Because you need to have a testimony that you are humble. Your testimony is not prosperity; your testimony is your humility. You cannot have a testimony of Lucifer; you have to have the testimony of Christ. So, God is working everything around us to make us humble. So, He dealt with Israel. There is no record of God dealing with China, India, Ethiopia. Nothing in the Bible, only with Israel, “Because Israel is My Son. So, only I need to spank the daylights out away until he looks like Me.” So, what happens? *2 Samuel 24:10*. Once he is counted, God takes the influence of satan away from him. He moves satan out, “You did My work. Now, step out. Don’t touch My son.” Scripture says,

### **2 Samuel 24:10**

***<sup>10</sup>And David’s heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So, David said to the LORD, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O LORD, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly.”***

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God does these things, you know on the road to Emmaus, He blinded their eyes, they couldn't recognize Him, he walked with them, talked with them, ate with them, they couldn't recognize him, he can do all these things, why because He got some other agenda, when he broke the bread, their eyes are open and He disappeared, they ran back to Jerusalem saying, we met the Lord, how do you know, when He broke the bread, our eyes were open, that's a different message, so as soon as the numbering is over, God removed Satan out of the way and he came back and said, oh my God, what did I do, what did I do, what did I do, extent, don't you feel like that, I feel, sometimes when I have said something from here and I know when I go back and I listening the next time, you are going to listen the next day, when I reach over there, I know that was flesh, I shouldn't have said that, in that message, that one line, like people will say, Pastor, what a message, what a message, what a message, I am not bothered about that message at all, because I know that in that message in that one line I should not have said, should not have said, that was not of God and that messes up my day, everything of that day's ministry, everything is forgotten, it is all gone, the joy is gone, everything is gone, one thing upset you, one line in that has upset you but you are not serving man, you are serving God first, man is happy and God is not happy then what is the point of your ministry, right, he said, please please please, I have done terribly, I have done terribly, oh Lord, take away iniquity of your servant for I have done very foolishly, now it was David's sin, God could have taken it away, he did know, when he asked, God took it, but its got nothing to do with David, its got to do with the people, it's got to do with Israel, he says, ok fine but I am not going to take my hand lightly, so I will give choices verse 11-16

### **2 Samuel 24:11-12**

***<sup>11</sup> Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, <sup>12</sup> "Go and tell David, 'Thus says the LORD: "I offer you three things (multiple choice question, a, b, c); choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you."'"***

Why would God say, he would do it you, because he knew this man's heart is connected with the people, he loves the people, if it was Ahab, he wouldn't have believed how many would have killed out, 70000 only kill 100000, I am not bothered, kill them, that's what I said, I am not being negative and all but I am saying, are there really leaders in this world who care, I saw the Italian prime minister crying publicly, I made a goof up, I made a mistake, my people are dying, are they real leaders? Who go into the closet and crying, Lord, my people are dying, have mercy, one thing, I liked about, I mean in prime minister Modi's speech was that he appealed so many times to people, so many time, please please stay inside, those signs are nice in any man, you have to look at those signs and say, at least something good he is showing, because always have to appreciate humility, whether it is real or not, humility has to be appreciated because it is something connected with God and not connected with devil, ok, you can have three choices, multiple choice,

### **2 Samuel 24:13**

***<sup>13</sup> So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, "Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."***

What a Choice! What a question! a, b, c, seven years of famine, David calculated, that's too bad, the death and seven years and after that, billions will die, suffer, it's a long standing suffering, three months before the enemy, its death, humiliation, destruction, the name of God, God's people and army was defeat, he had begun his career talking as I come against you in the name of Jehovah Sabaoth and then to run before his enemies three months is a shame to his God, he is very zealous about his God's name, that's why God was upset about with him and Bathsheba, why did you do this to me, I'm upset with you because I would have given you all the other king's concubines, if it was sex you wanted, I would have given you as many women, you messed up my name because my name and your name are connected because I know you love me and I love you, so for God, it was not simple case of adultery, it was more than that,

### **2 Samuel 24:14-15**



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<sup>14</sup> **And David said to Gad, “I am in great distress (what a multiple-choice question is this). Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man.”** <sup>15</sup> **So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time (why did I bring this? Because there is a plague in the land). From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died.**

God has set an appointed time, if this is from God, God has set an appointed time, who can stop it, one man or women we don't even know, somewhere in some closet who is absolutely connected with God and he says, Lord, let it fall on me, that's what he said, why lord this people have sinned, you will see later, I am not reading it, why Lord, it fall on me and my family, what have these innocent people done, I am the one who counted, they were just following orders, can you find a president or a prime minister or a king or a queen in this world who will stand up like that man before God and say, I goofed up, I did not shut the borders, I did not invest in medical infra structure, in education, if I had invested during those time I had in education, medical infrastructure and all that, when this came, my people would have been prepared, I didn't do that, it is my fault, I took the decisions, seventy thousand died,

### **2 Samuel 24:16**

<sup>16</sup> **And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction...**

Death is going tak tak tak, you have to look at seventy thousand in terms of that times population, its huge number, China is not telling us any numbers how many people died, but suddenly they are saying what happened between December to February that latest news is 23 million subscribers have gone from China telecom, what happened to all the subscribers, because it was only going up till December and now January, February number, 23 million cellphone subscribers are missing, so is that the actual number who died? because they didn't go off also, why because the government tracks you through your cell phone, its not like India, they track you through your telephone, that's how you are connected to the grid, the system, you even get points based on everything, they can be buy this, you are denied from buying everything is through you, so latest news is around 23 million subscribers are missing, how many died? People were dying dying dying dying but God relented his hand, it doesn't begin with man, it begins with God, Scripture says, when the angel stretched out his hand over Jerusalem, oh you have come to the Zion, the Church of the first born, the heavenly Jerusalem, when the angel starts touching God's own chosen people, that's may be when He will relent His hand, He alone knows who His people are, that's may be when this plague will stop, till they stop it, don't kill My people, I'm not talking about those who go with a Christian name, I'm talking about the Church, the bride that is prepared when it is about to touch them, God will say stop, stop, that's my girl, don't touch her, that's the apple of my eye, Scripture says,

### **2 Samuel 24:16**

<sup>16</sup> **...the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, “It is enough; now restrain your hand.” And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.**

That's where it stops. Awesome, right? What a God!

### **2 Samuel 24:18**

<sup>18</sup> **And (Gad the prophet ran to David) Gad came that day to David and said to him (Gad came to David and said, “Sir, your majesty”), “Go up, erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.”**

Judgement has stopped, prophet knows, the judgment has stopped and where has it stopped, it has stopped at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, that stopped there. So, run and build an altar where judgment has stopped.

### **Luke 3:16-17**

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<sup>16</sup> *John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose (who is coming, Jesus is coming). He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire (but where does He wait? In the spiritual realm). <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."*

What is the threshing floor? The threshing floor is where the oxen will go. The harvest is brought in, pounds of the stone will go round and round and round and round. The labor of oxen is terrible, going round and round. That's why the Bible says, "Do not muzzle the mouth of the oxen. Let him also eat a little of that produce. Don't muzzle it. And Paul says, "I'm not talking about oxen; I'm talking about people in the ministry because the ministry is going around in circles, and people are getting cleansed and getting the people ready for the harvest. Get the shaft out of them and it's a circular journey all your life." And God says, "Let them have some of the produce. Don't muzzle their mouth." Then, when it is over, the wind will separate at the threshing floor and winnowing fan. It's a high place and there, the wind will come. You know, in the olden days, people will take it and throw it in the direction of the wind and the wheat falls down. So, what is the threshing floor? The threshing floor is the place of judgment where the shaft in me that is the useless part of me is separated. The wheat and the shaft are separated. He takes the wheat and puts it in the barn and throws the shaft into the fire. Getting the picture? Where does the judgment stop? At the threshing floor! That's where the judgment stops.

Where is the Solomon's temple built? At Araunah's threshing fold. Where was Isaac offered? Same. Where was Jesus crucified? Same. So, where did judgment stop? On Christ. He took the judgment upon Himself. Now, what is God doing? He is doing the work of the Holy Spirit. Cleaning us, removing the wheat and the shaft. Unless we see all these things, we will do all these chain prayers and all these prayers without even understanding what God is doing. The purpose of the plague is nothing to do with the world, it has to do with the Church because only the Church can read the plague and get rid of the plague. Even if somebody finds the breakthrough it's because someone who nobody knew prayed and got the breakthrough. There is something that is happening on the other realm. Are we being separated? He said, narrow is that way. Are we moving out of the broad way into the narrow way? Are our ways changing constantly to the ways of God? Inside, constantly allying ourselves with Him? *Can two walk together unless they are agreed?* We heard so many times and Pastor Vijay spoke about it this morning. God doesn't have to agree with me. I have to agree with Him on everything. Not what I like but what I dislike also, if I have to walk with Him. Remember *2 Samuel 6:1* onwards?

### **2 Samuel 6:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> *Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand. <sup>2</sup> And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, (that's how actually they went) whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. <sup>3</sup> So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. <sup>4</sup> And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. <sup>5</sup> Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals. <sup>6</sup> And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.*

All of them were coming with band, bhaaja (music and sound) with everything are everybody starts singing balle balle Judah. Bale Judah, that was the first balle, balle! Happy merry making and excited. Simple people all excited. Their excitement or the innocence of David did not matter to God. Ignorance in the things of God will cost you because you are dealing with a Holy and a righteousness God. My ignorance of the holiness of God is of no excuse.

<sup>7</sup> *Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.*

All excitement, celebration, everything is gone. What was supposed to be a greatest day in David's life became a tragic. Why did Uzzah die? And why do we die? Uzzah died because he became very familiar with holy things. We say, Pastor it is an Old Testament things about the ark. But wasn't ark not a virtual representation of the presence of God in their midst? Yes. But connected with our own situation, have we not been hearing about *Hebrews 12:26*,

**Hebrews 12:26-29**

***<sup>26</sup> whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” <sup>27</sup> Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.***

You know what is gone in the Church and in our lives? Reverence and godly fear. We have celebration, excitement, music, song, we have it all but we are missing two things. What is that? Reverence and godly fear. And what is the warning at the end?

***<sup>29</sup> For our God is a consuming fire.***

So, God hasn't changed. The God who destroyed Uzzah is the same God that will destroy His people in the sanctuary. He hasn't changed. *God is a consuming fire.* This is New Covenant. So, the God of the Old Covenant is the God of the New Covenant. Our God is a consuming fire, so where has the reverence gone and where has the godly fear gone? We all know the history, there was a terrible priesthood many years ago in Israel called Eli with very ungodly two sons called Phinehas and Hophni; sons of Belial as God called them. Two sons of the devil are in charge of the ministry in the temple. This is God's evaluation; two devils are in charge of ministry. Today's modern-day translation, Baphomet's servants are running the Church now, not Christ's servants and masters pretending as pastors. I have no issues with masters outside; I have issues with masters that get into the Church. These astrologers, soothsayers, witchcrafts and all are there from the beginning you go there but you get into the Church and pretend to be a pastor then I have issues. You are like Phinehas and Hophni, sons of Belial ministering in the name of Yahweh.

Philistines, battle and first battle lost. They took the ark of the Lord and Hophni and Phinehas also went and they made such a sound because ark has come. And a lot of people make such a sound in the house of the Lord because they think the presence of God is there. But the presence of God is not there is only sound. Like Shakespeare said, sound and fury signifying nothing. All the jumping and dancing and all the hungama(drama) making, but the question is, the ark and the holiness connected with God in His sanctuary. But the Philistines were scared saying that the ark has come knowing that this is the ark because they respected each other's gods and they really respected Israel's God saying, what God has did in Israel, what God did to Egypt; they all know the history. We have to fight because the ark has come into our midst. Next day they fought like crazy and they killed how many Israelite soldiers? Thirty thousand die and they took the ark also.

Hophni and Phinehas were also killed. Eli heard and he fell backwards not forward and he broke his neck. Its donkeys neck, break it. We heard in the morning, stubborn as a donkey and broke his neck and he also broke his neck. Now, the Ark, the Philistines took like anything the Babylonians; they took the Ark and put it in their temple. They always did and honored and all our dear Hindus in India and will do that. They take Jesus picture also and put it among their gods, they are like that. You can't blame that because they respect all gods. But when they came they saw that all their gods were fallen down, Dagon has fallen down. Next day they came and saw that Dagon has fallen down and his head and legs were broken. And then the people were all having tumors. Actually, they say it was piles. The modern translation is piles. It was the worst disease to have. All the Philistines were suffering with piles because Israelite God was between them. So, they said, we need to get rid of this God from our midst because we brought Him to our temple and now we are all under judgment. But they are very nice people, like our Indians. Honestly, they are nice people because they were sending with some gifts. So, they made gold tumors, I don't know what shape of the tumors were, it's very funny! But they made all this gold tumors and they did something, it's all there in 1 Samuel. They put this ark in a new cart, got two milk cows and they put it with all the offerings and said, if this milk cows and their children are there because no mother will leave their calf's and they go straight into the Israelite territory then you know we are right and there has accepted our offering. I have preached many years ago that the cows have more sense than the Israelites and how God can speak and how cows can show the way. They took off like rockets and went straight to Israel territory and stopped at the border and reached a place and the people were very excited saying, Oh, it has come and they looked into the ark. Fifty thousand of them if I am right. Let's go to *1 Samuel 6*.

**1 Samuel 6:19-20**

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**<sup>19</sup> Then He struck the men of Beth Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. He struck fifty thousand and seventy men of the people, and the people lamented because the LORD had struck the people with a great slaughter.**

See, God doesn't allow people to fool around with His holiness. Everybody looked into the Ark and everybody died. All you see is the ark on the stone sitting in the middle of them and all dead people around. Why? Because they looked into the holiness and God had told them Moses can but these people cannot see Me. So, nobody had lived to give a testimony of how it looked like inside the Ark. Otherwise, they would have given the testimony saying, "Pastor, can I come and give a five-minute testimony?" Why? "Because I want to tell how the inside of the Ark looked like." Everybody died.

**<sup>20</sup> And the men of Beth Shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? And to whom shall it go up from us?" <sup>21</sup> So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath Jearim, saying, "The Philistines have brought back the ark of the LORD; come down and take it up with you."**

That's exactly what God is saying. "Who can stand before Me?" He who has clean hands and a pure heart. We are busy washing our hands, right? We have learned how to wash our hands. I have never washed my hands like that before but now we have learned a new thing. I don't go outside anywhere, I am here quarantined but I still wash my hands carefully. All new ways. Question is, what about our spiritual hands? The attitude when we are doing our work? Am I sloppy? Am I serious? Am I humble? Proud, angry, irritated? The attitude, intentions and why am I doing it? Am I testing the work of my hands? That's the question. Put a muzzle over my mouth. "God, I don't want to say anything. If I say, let it be edified. If it's a rebuke, let it be from You. My lips are just instruments. Covering our face with mask nicely but God says, "What about the virus inside?" Corona Virus outside is not the problem but the problem is the virus inside when it comes out.

### **1 Samuel 7:1**

**<sup>1</sup> Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.**

Have you got it? That is where the Ark of the Lord was, consecrated and kept. And who was consecrated as a priest? Eleazar. Now you go back to 2 Samuel 6.

### **2 Samuel 6:3-4**

**<sup>3</sup> So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.**

"Wait a minute, David; where did you get this idea of a new cart?" He got this idea from the Philistine. "Where did you get the new forms of worship?" "From the world." "So, you are having Philistine worship in the house of God?"

**<sup>4</sup> And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and (who was there?) Ahio went before the ark.**

And who is missing? Eleazar, the fellow who was consecrated for this work is missing but two other fellows are sitting there. Where is this fellow who was consecrated? Eleazar? He is not there, he is missing. Now, go to *verse 1*.

### **2 Samuel 6:1**

**<sup>1</sup> Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand.**

And how many people died that day when they saw the ark of the Lord? Thirty thousand. So, how many will bring it back? He got all these ideas from the Philistines, all are Philistine ideas. Philistines killed thirty and we will go with thirty thousand people and we will get the new cart and put the ark over there. But God says, I Am not interested with your ideas. Now, go back and check My book, how My ark should go. I don't want your ideas. God doesn't want at our ideas of how we should worship. God already told us to worship Him in reverence and fear because I am a consuming fire, I'm Holy. God is not excited of our new forms of worship and light and smoke and big screens. God is not interested in all those things or the traditional format. He is not. He is looking into the spirit to see, who is in the spirit and walking in the truth. That's all He looks for and

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then have told you how you have to get the ark because those people can be taught how you can worship Me. Now you go further to *1 Chronicles 15* after 3 months.

### **1 Chronicles 15:11-15**

***<sup>11</sup> And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. <sup>12</sup> He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it. <sup>13</sup> For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order." <sup>14</sup> So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. <sup>15</sup> And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.***

So, this was told, 400-500 years earlier but God hasn't changed. Entry period all this has happened. Judges has come and gone. Joshua is dead. Judges period is over. Samuel is dead, Saul is dead. God's word never changes, His ways never change. He said, it was your duty to know from the book how His presence should be taken from one place to another. It should have been carried on your shoulders, don't even touch it, there are hooks over there; put it over there and it should be carried on the shoulders of His people, the consecrated Levites. And we didn't do it and that's why we did it the Philistine way. But the question God is asking to His servants: are God's servants sanctified, set apart and carrying the burden of God's glory upon their shoulders and trying to bring it to the God's house? That is the question God is asking or are you trying to imitated the ways of the Philistine? Or are you upset that the plague has broken and people are dying? The question is to us. How do you bring the presence of the Lord? Are you trying all these jugards (alternatives)? Or are there the appointed ways of God? God of Israel has not changed.

God's Ark was always kept in the Most Holy Place. Eleven tribes, because of a judgment, the first time when Moses came down, were not allowed to enter from that. They were in the outer. So, only one tribe was allowed into the Holy Place – the Levites. And there, you have the Holy Place – the change of garments. You enter over there. You all know what is there – the Table of Showbread, the seven-branched light and the incense. It is almost there at the border between the Most Holy and the Holy Place. This is over there. That's where the priests were. But when you went in over there into the Most Holy Place, God had told Moses, "From there, I will speak." He did not speak in the Holy Place. He did not speak in the outer courts. He said, "I'll speak there." And in the New Covenant, when Christ goes in and He dies and the curtain is rent, He says, "There is still a place from where I speak that hasn't changed and that place is open. It's not closed anymore." The atonement has been made. Nobody will die. You can come. I speak from there. And therefore, God says, "Faith comes from hearing." Do we hear? When we hear, somebody else is speaking. God is speaking in the New Covenant ministry. God is speaking. Do we hear or are we satisfied with the Holy Place ministry? Teaching and we are satisfied. That is good to live a holy life, a righteous life. That is Lot. Righteous man. Struggled with all the ungodly in his righteous soul and struggled every day with his righteous soul but never heard. And the day he heard from two angels, he still doesn't want to leave because he has never had the life of hearing; while there is another man who heard from God and God is telling him, "Can I keep from Abraham what I'm going to do?" Two righteous men in a land and Scripture says, "When the judgment came upon that land and Lot and his daughters were rescued (wife died)," Scripture actually says in that portion, "God remembered Abraham and brought Lot out." He had nothing to do with Lot. He had everything to do with that one man – Abraham who heard. Everybody will pray. Everybody, when the plague is over, they will say, "God heard our prayer." God only knows whose prayer God actually heard. It might be some wrinkled old lady, sitting in some dunghill in China, crying out to the Lord because in the Spirit, she sees what is happening; or some poor sister, believing sister in some underground dungeon in Afghanistan or Iran or something whose family has been untouched by the plague, is broken. Nobody has died but she's broken before the Lord, crying out and God hears her prayers. And every Church will say, "Our chain prayer worked!" God would say, "Your chain prayer only brought more chains." God remembered Abraham and brought Lot out. It's interesting, right? God remembered Abraham and brought Lot out. That's what God is talking about. How do you carry the presence of God? In God's appointed ways. So, all these things are not a judgment or a sign or a warning or a trumpet call to the world. It's all to the Church and the Church should be more upset. "Lord, we know what is happening is because of us, the Christians." The Christian nation should be weeping and crying, not other Gentile nations. Gentile nations will put down their head in shame if they knew what was happening in so-called Christian nations. What did we make our God into? Is this what He died on the Cross for? He gave you freedom. You took that freedom which is the essential core of Christianity called 'liberty' and ran wild with it. Liberty is a Christian concept. What are you praying for? What are we praying for? Do we even know the will of God in this situation to pray for? All we can say

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is, "Lord, Thy will be done. I have no clue, Lord, what Your will is. All I say is – You be glorified. Be honored and be lifted up through this all. Who am I?"

Can we intercede outside of who God is? That's what Abraham stood before God and said, "Lord, will You destroy the righteous with the wicked?" God said, "Of course not!" "50?" No. "40?" "No." "30?" "No." "20?" "No." "10." God said, "No, and walked away." You know why? Because this is what I believe – Lot had four daughters. Not two; four. Two married, two unmarried. Four and the unmarried ones also, probably had boyfriends. So,  $4+4=8$  and husband and wife. At least, 10 should be saved if this man has a testimony. At least 10.  $4 \times 2 = 8 + 2 = 10$ . Because before that, there was 8 – man, wife, three sons and three daughters-in-law and all got saved. So, Lot, one righteous man. Four daughters – their husbands and boyfriends. No. Because the men to whom his daughters were married, that's what is written, they laughed at him. So, those men and daughters didn't come out. Only two unmarried ones came out. So, at 8, God said, "Stop. That's enough. If a man cannot bring his own family to the Lord, leave it." We are not talking about today's times; we are talking about those times. God had chosen Abraham that he would command his children to follow him. "But, Lord, let Me see what he has done with his children." And God walked away. When we make our intercessions and prayer, do not forget who our God is. Just fall at His mercy. That was David always who understood the mercy of God. That's what I said, "I'm not even choosing A, B or C. All I'm saying is – let me fall into the hands of God." One thing I know – He is merciful. So, David said, "Plague." Not seven years of famine, not to fall into the sword of your enemies but plague. And in the appointed time, 70000 died. That's all we can say, "Lord, mercy! I will not interfere in this and try to change who You are."

And in *2 Samuel 6:12-17*, as we close,

### **2 Samuel 6:12-17**

**<sup>12</sup> Now it was told King David, saying, "The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God."**

That's the entering period. Three months, it was there.

***So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness.***

Earlier, it was celebration. Now, it is gladness. Gladness, he is bringing.

**<sup>13</sup> And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the Lord had gone six paces...**

Now, they are carrying – one step, two steps, three steps, four steps, five steps, six steps. Then, what is there? There is a sacrifice. So, if you bear the testimony of the Living God from Monday to Saturday, on Sunday, when you come, there is a sacrifice, right? Otherwise, the Worship Leader has to pump, "Lift your hands. Open your mouths! Praise the God." You know what? Monday to Saturday, there was no lifting up of the Ark of God, the presence of God. Six paces and on every seventh one, there was a sacrifice. Now, you understand where we struggle?

***...that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.***

Look at Old Testament shadows and the substance in the New Covenant, okay? This is what happens. Come further down.

**<sup>14</sup> Then David danced before the Lord with all his might...**

I always tell everywhere I go – please, when you dance, be careful what you are dancing about. What are you dancing about? There are all kinds of dance – soulful dance, body dance and spirit dance. Body dance is Herodias and Salomi, right? At the end of the dance, here is a prophet's head in a platter. That is the body dance. What does it mean? You will dance during the worship and when the Word comes, you are not hearing. The voice of the prophet is cut out in your life but you like worship. "Hallelujah!" But you can't hear the voice of God. You can't sit for the preaching. You have to always go out. Your mind is rolling out but for dancing and worshipping, if you see, of course, you are better than Herodias. But the voice of the Lord is in the platter. You shut your ears to it. So, you need to realize how you are dancing and then, when good things happen, that is the dance of the soul. That is Miriam, with her tambourine, "Hallelujah, Lord. And our God is a warrior. The horse and the

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chariots.” All that is nice and three days later, she is murmuring, “Why did you bring us here? Weren’t there graves in Egypt?” Dancing in Church and fighting all the way home. That is Miriam. And then, there is David. He danced with all his might.

*...and David was wearing a linen ephod.*

He took his royal robes off. “There is only one king in Israel. Let all the world know. I don’t care what people think of me. There is only one king and that king is not me. The King is here. His presence is here. I’m just as ordinary as the others.”

***<sup>15</sup> So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. <sup>16</sup> Now as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. <sup>17</sup> So they brought the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.***

God said, “You have contempt about My son and My worship? I’ll shut your womb forever. You will bear no fruit,” because the first fruit of a believer is worship and if you have contempt on true worship, you will not bear anything in your life. You are dead. Your womb is dead because *Hebrews 11* begins, “By faith, Abel offered a sacrifice and worshipped.” After that, Enoch walked. And after that, Noah built. And then, Abraham lived. If you do not have the fruit of worship, you will bear nothing else because God is not looking for people who will do other things. He is looking for a set of people who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth. And when we hear all these things, we don’t get frightened. We just go before God and say, “God, I’ve goofed up. My name is goofy and I goofed up. I hear the truth and I want to change. I don’t have in me to change. I need Your grace. I repent. I’m sorry. I know You have paid the price. Now, I need grace to change.” You and I can’t change on our own strength. With His grace. That’s what. By faith, we have access to grace. “Though I was the least of the Apostles, I had worked harder than all of them; yet, not I but the grace of God that was in me, made me the greatest Apostle.” If any man should never have become an Apostle and never finished the way he finished, it was Paul. And he understood what grace is. This is Christianity, true authentic Christianity and that is how we read everything that is happening around us.

I don’t even want to get comfortable speaking to 3, 4, 5 people and the camera. It’s not in my head at all. I was always comfortable with live, real people sitting around. I’m getting comfortable with the camera. Not nice! Not nice, James. You were not made for this. You always hid in the baggage. Any way, God’s ways are different and David danced before the Lord with all his might. That’s how we should end – David danced before the Lord with all his might and he was wearing a linen ephod. He was just like an ordinary man. The king was like an ordinary man. So, it doesn’t matter what we are in the world. Let the world, our achievements, accomplishments, titles and honor and all; when we come before the Lord, we are like an ordinary man, with all our strength, all our might, we worship Him. There is only one King. There are no two kings. My worship is acknowledging – I am not autonomous. I am not a king. “My worship is acknowledging – You are King. I am not king.” That’s why God looks for worship. That’s why Abel is commended because in his act of worship, he is saying, “Not my way but Your way. I don’t understand Your way. I cannot even figure out Your ways. It is very painful for me. I brought up this lamb this whole year. I carried this lamb on my shoulders. It was the tenderest in my fold; yet, my spirit says – this is what You require. So, here is it. Have the blood, Lord.” It was not easy for Abel to worship but he worshipped by faith. He was the first worshipper, representing a shepherd offering his lamb. A little later, his brother comes and kills the shepherd, signifying what would happen. For 4000 years, shepherds would offer a lamb and then, raise them with the hand of man and kill the shepherd and offer His Blood, Jesus Christ – the Shepherd. In *Genesis 4*, it’s all there – the Lamb, the Shepherd who will die for sin. It’s all there.

So, we will pray. The Church has to return back to its original ways of God as shown in the Bible. We can’t fool around God after this virus is gone. We need to get back with God. As David said and Moses said, “Teach me Your ways. Show me Your paths.” God said, “My presence shall go with thee and I will give you rest.” Every day, the Bible says in *Hebrews 4*, we have to labour to enter into that rest. We have to struggle with our man, fight our flesh to retain the presence of God in our lives and see that we are walking in His presence because there is rest only in His presence. The virus doesn’t bother us; the quarantine doesn’t bother us; the lockdown doesn’t bother us; grocery shops shut doesn’t bother us. Supermarkets closed don’t bother us because in His presence, there is rest. And He said, “Come to Me, I will give you rest.”

**Closing Prayer:**

## Will God Hear?

Father, we just come to You this evening, Lord. All of us here and all who are watching from wherever they are, Lord, Your children. Some of them, if they do not know You, I pray, they will cast their burden of sin at Your feet because they don't have to bear it. You bore it on the Cross for them that they would call upon the Name of Yeshua, the only Name – Jesus, save me. There will begin a journey where You will start moving things in our lives, where we will come to true repentance and salvation. But it all begins with a simple cry – “Yeshua, save me!” One cry. Heaven will move on your behalf to save you from eternal fire to eternal glory. Teach us, Lord, through this quarantine, lockdown and whatever they call it; we call it as fasting and prayer; spending time in Your presence with our families, with You above all. A time of peace and restoration. A time of being in the threshing floor, allowing God to use His winnowing fan on us, removing the shaft and the wheat. Allowing the oxen to tread us out. Everything that is unpleasant in Your sight will be removed one by one. How painful it may be, so that one day, we can bear the very glory presence of God upon our shoulders wherever we go and one day, we can truly worship You with all our might, with all our strength before our King with a bang, with joy, with celebration. That's Your intention behind all this, Lord. We see the plague differently. That's the intention. A cry for mercy for India. Mercy for Hyderabad. Mercy for Telangana. Mercy for all the nations. Mercy, Lord. Let people not die without knowing You. Death doesn't hold any fear for us. Our prayer is – let no one die without knowing You without hearing about You because Your Word says, “It is not Your will. You do not desire any man to perish.” You don't desire that. Not even the wickedest of wicked. Even Manasseh, who filled the streets of Jerusalem with B=blood, when he repented, You brought him back and he walked humbly before You the rest of his days. That's the God. We cannot fathom Your mercy. As we cannot understand Your holiness, Your righteousness and Your consuming fire, we cannot understand Your mercy too, Lord. We would have chopped Manasseh's head off but You restored him. So, all we can say, Lord – Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Thy will. And have mercy, Lord. Mercy, mercy, mercy. When You walked on earth, You were the most compassionate being ever and I pray, You reach out, O Lord. Touch people in your compassion and mercy at Your point of need; wherever they are, struggling for a breath in an ICU; yes, the Corona virus is before our eyes but there are others suffering more than the Corona virus – with cancer and other diseases – HIV, AIDS. They all have been ignored. But You have not ignored anybody. I pray, Lord, You reach out and touch people at their point of need; people struggling with sickness, an emotional problem or a suicidal thought; whatever they are struggling with, Lord, there is only one answer in Heaven – that is Jesus of Nazareth. I pray, Lord, reach out and touch Your people, Lord. Release them. Set them free. Whatever the bondage that is and if the enemy has bound people who are listening, I command the powers of darkness to release His people now in Jesus' Name. Take your hands off. I command every demonic entity to leave people who are crying out while they are watching. Leave now in Jesus' Name. Now. Leave now. If they are people in the circle who are crying out, leave now. Baphomet, go down into the abyss now. Go down now. Along with all your demons, leave. Every occult, every spell, every demon be released by wizards and warlocks and witches. I send them back right to you. It will not come near us. It will not come near any of our dwelling places. It will not come near our spouses or our children. They are under the Blood. Every occult will fall to the ground. Every spell will fall to the ground. Every witchcraft will fall to the ground and the demons you released will come back and destroy yourself. Your Word says, O Lord, “Even if an evil hand joins with evil, it shall not prevail.” Because You have given us power and authority to trample down every snake and every scorpion. You said, “You shall handle snakes and they shall not harm you.” We are snake-killers because our Brother, Jesus, is a Destroyer of the serpent. So, you will all fall to the ground. You will either repent or you will die. You have no power over us. we are not afraid because there is no fear in us. Because death itself has been overcome on the Cross. There is nothing you can do to us. Every day, every minute, every hour for us is a celebration of our salvation and our victory in Christ Jesus. And our Word says, “He takes us in triumph in Christ Jesus.” My Christ is a Man of war. From generations to generations, He has fought battles. He has never lost a war. In the Book of Genesis, when Abraham, with 318 servants defeated four armies, it was the Man of war who was leading that army. He defeated them. From there till Revelation, when He comes with His saints, crowned with many crowns and the Word will go out like a sword and destroy His enemies, my Lord has never, ever lost a battle. He does not know what defeat is. And even today, you are a defeated foe because my Word says, “Your head, that is satan – that that God of peace shall soon crush satan under our feet.” So will all his minions. You are defeated and I proclaim the defeat of the enemy now in the lives of His people. Let everyone who is addicted to some sin, let the power of sin be broken over your life in the Name of Jesus. Let those addicting demons leave you now in the Name of Jesus, whether it is sex, pornography, whatever it is – I see the cry in your heart; leave now, in Jesus' Name. You demons of lust. You demons of anger will leave God's people in the Name of Jesus. Hatred and bitterness, leave. Leave in Jesus' Name. we are the temple of the Living God. There is no space for uncleanness or hatred or jealousy or envy or anger or pride. Nothing. Leave. Leave God's people in Jesus' Name.

Wherever you are in your rooms, put your hand on your head right now. Repeat with me –



## **Will God Hear?**

*My soul and my spirit to Jesus Christ. I am the temple of the Living God. There is no room for anything here. Everything that is unclean will leave in Jesus' Name.*

*Father, I take authority in the Name of Jesus and I pray, now, that the fire of the Holy Spirit fall and cleanse everyone, Lord. Starting with me. Every one of us, by faith, let fire that John the Baptist said, "I am not worthy to untie the thongs of His sandals, the One that comes after me shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire," let that cleansing fire cleanse Your people wherever they are, sitting in their rooms, in their homes, whichever nation, whichever country. Let the fire cleanse and remove everything that is demonic in their lives, let fire cleanse. Let them be holy in Your sight, Lord. Pure and holy and as they hear and meditate and worship, fill them with Yourself. Let it not remain empty. Fill them with Yourself. Let every person become a true abode of God Himself, Lord. Thank You, Father. We praise You. We worship You. We glorify You, Lord. The Living Word, the Spirit has sanctified and cleansed us. In Your presence, we lift up holy hands. We bless Your holy Name. And we proclaim – Thine is the Kingdom, the power and glory forever and ever. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

### **Benediction:**

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

God bless you.