

## Looking Ahead, Pt. 2

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This is the last sermon I wanted to give before we go into one that's tied into this that's going to follow, a sermon series. So, this will be *Part 2 of Looking Ahead*, and the final one, *Part 2 of Looking Ahead*. It's our last one. The second one since the Feast. It's great that everybody has made it back. Everybody is getting back into the swing of thing and slowly but surely having to get back out there in the world and things in the jobs and so forth, so that's always fun after having that much time off and being able to enjoy the kind of fellowship we had. But have to get back in this old world.

Anyway, we started this is *Part 1* by looking back at the Feast we just observed here and focused upon the importance of what God tells us to do every Feast, and that is to rejoice. And to me this is an exciting thing because never really thought about it in these terms at all, but to realize that this is a product of how we think, it's a product of being thankful, and if we learn to be more thankful and focused upon those things this is the product.

You can't make up rejoicing in your mind, in your being in the way you feel about things. It's something that has to be there because it's just natural. And this kind of rejoicing is a result of God's spirit. It's not something, again, that you work up, as an example going to the Feast and you're able to do many different things physically as far as activities and so forth. This is not about that. This is about that which is on a spiritual plane in a relationship with God and a relationship of fellowship with others.

So, to me that makes it exciting, to understand that what we feel inside toward God... Because that's what it's about, it's how we feel toward God and God's purpose and God's plan, about our calling and the excitement of that, the enjoyment of that, of what we're able to see in others as well as we grow and as we mature.

This is what helps us to have that deep inside of us that's a matter of even deeper gratitude and thankfulness actually. They kind of work with each other. But there's a rejoicing inside of us that's on a spiritual plane. It's not something physical. But you sense it, you obviously have it because it's inside of you, deep inside, not like other kinds of things that you might enjoy in life on a physical plane.

So, we're going to build upon that just a little bit more because this is what we need to do in looking ahead. This is to be worked upon in this following year. We're to focus upon those things of what it means to be thankful to God, to practice that more in our lives, to include it more in our prayers.

That's why the Psalms are so great. You know, if you have difficulty at times with some kind of a prayer or what to pray about, go to the Psalms. Start going through a Psalm and praying about it, that ... Because they're written in such a way that this should be what we are experiencing. The things that David was inspired to say are things that God blessed him in saying and speaking and writing about that filled him.

And candidly, they are for all people with whom God works. It's a part of a process on a spiritual plane that God helps us with that kind of thinking, with that kind of a mind. And so, you can start praying about it and then it becomes as you go through it, it brings up thoughts, ideas, a relationship with God that stirs up more in the sense of what it's saying in the Psalm that you are feeling. It's your prayer.

So, it's an awesome thing to be able to do something like that, go through a Psalm that was written by David so long ago and then as you go through it in prayer at times it becomes you, it becomes what you feel and want inside, what you desire. It helps strengthen your focus.

There are Psalms that start out that are difficult, things that people are going through or that David was going through, or others were going through, and then as you work toward the end of it God gives the answers. It's awesome, it truly is.

So, let's go on to Psalm 28. We ended there last Sabbath; we ended in Psalm 28 but I'm going to pick up a few more verses, just those last few and then continue on here.

**Psalm 28:6—Blessed be the Eternal.** Just right there alone, things that when you're going through a Psalm, you're thinking about what's being said, ask questions, "What does this mean? How does this relate to me?" Make it personal. What does it mean, "Blessed be the Eternal?" Well, it has to do with you. It has to do with your thinking toward God. So, if God in the sense of what it's saying here, why...why is it... When you talk about a blessing or giving a blessing to someone, what does that mean?

Well, God can do that to us and there are things we can do towards other people, but this is on a different plane. "Blessed be the Eternal." So, it's something you should be saying inside of your heart, inside of your being toward God. It's a gratitude and a thankfulness toward God. It's akin to thanking God. "Blessed be the Eternal." It's like, "Thank You, Almighty God, for what You're giving to me, for what you're giving to us, for the plan and purpose you have, for all the things from Passover to the Last Great Day that we can see, and we can grasp, and we can understand that the world doesn't, that gives us strength and focus and help." Truly looking ahead, especially when you think about the Last Great Day and what's going to take place and the end of that and finally, God's Family is together forever.

Awesome!

So indeed, "Blessed be the Eternal." He is blessed, His purpose, what He's working out. Because it's in us. He has called us with a holy calling, "set aside for holy use and purpose." And so, God gives us that opportunity to become His Family. And to think of what's being...what's taking place as we yield to that and we see that taking place in others we think, "Awesome! Thank you, Holy Father, blessed be the Eternal." And He is truly blessed in those things that He is accomplishing, that He is creating, that He is doing, because it's going to happen. Whatever God sets out to do, whatever God does it's accomplished. Awesome!

**Blessed be the Eternal, because He has heard the voice of my supplications.** So, even in that a thankfulness, a gratitude toward God. That's what it's about. "Thank You for hearing me, for hearing my supplications, my cry to you." Something we need to think about often. Do we cry out to God as we should, as often as we should? Do we do it on a regular basis? Maybe just in a matter of thanking God for what He's given to us. And then also the things we go through.

I don't care whether they're little or big. Generally, we tend to go to God when we have something major happen in our life. That's easier to do. But when they're smaller things, that you're including God in your life and the things you're doing from day to day? And keeping in mind that you're His creation, a part of His creation.

That's what's so incredible about a creation. We think about the seven days and mankind but for the last six thousand years creation has been going on, the most important part of creation. Because that doesn't happen quickly, it's something that happens over time in the minds of those who yield to God, of those who want God.

**The Eternal is my strength and my shield.** It's easy to say those things or to read something like that but how true is it? Is He really our strength? When we pray do we feel strengthened? Are we praying on a regular basis so that we can be strengthened more, so that we can draw closer to God and be stronger inside in our fellowship and relationship with one another, and especially our relationship with God?

"The Eternal is my strength." So, we can't say something like that unless we believe it. How can we say that to God unless we believe it?

"The Eternal is my strength," Yahweh, "and my shield." Do we pray about protection? Do we pray about those things in our life from day to day? For ourselves? For one another? Not just on a physical plane but on a spiritual plane because there is a being out there that wants us to fail. All the more reason we should be praying to God, drawing closer to God, seeking God in our life.

"The Eternal is my strength and my shield." So, these can't just be words if you're praying about it, it's because you're doing it. It's because you believe it. Has to be a part of you.

**...my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped.** What a beautiful thing if we have that kind of thinking. We trust in God, and we recognize that He helps us. We may not get the answers we always want. We may want certain things from God, desire certain things of God. Sometimes the answer is no. But we have to understand that if we truly trust in God, if He's truly our strength and our shield and that we have this relationship because He has called us to succeed, He has given us everything we need to become part of His Family, this is our time now to grow, to conquer and overcome.

And if we truly believe all those things about God then indeed, we should be able to trust Him with things in our life and to understand we are helped. And if we don't see those things then how are we

going to thank God? If we don't realize the places that God helps us and intervenes in our lives how can we thank God, what are we thinking in our minds?

So again, these are very personal things when you go through a Psalm like this that David was given an ability, a strength to write things, to feel things, to know things. Because God molded Him. God molded him to be a man after His own heart. That's the way He molded him and fashioned him and worked with him. And that's what we should all become — man or woman — after God's own heart. That's what we should want to live, want to be like.

And so, this makes things come alive in the sense that if we see these things and understand these things there are things we have to do, there are things we have to accomplish. We can't just read words like this without it having meaning to us. If God is our shield, how do we know that? Do we really believe that? If we're praying about it do we believe that God is there to help us, to protect us?

That's why I mentioned last Sabbath, there are so many things in our lives we don't even know, we haven't been shown, that God has protected us from. An angelic realm — that's much of their job. That's much of their function, to serve God's people, to help God's people, to be there for God's people. Incredible.

"The Eternal is my strength and my shield." You can't pray that unless you believe it. It has to be true. So, if you're asking for strength and you're seeing how God is blessing you in growth? If you can look back in your life and realize there are things that you have conquered and overcome? If you understand there are truths that God has given to you that you hold on to with all your being, and you know that you're so awesomely blessed because you know that not even Philadelphia and Laodicea had so much of what God has given to us now at this time? How blessed are we? Sometimes we don't recognize the riches of what we have on a spiritual plane.

**...and my shield. My heart trusted in Him.** Again, that's something we have to be... If we say that, it has to be because we're doing it. And so, sometimes these things can be a matter of examining ourselves, just as we're going through it in a sermon. "My heart trusted in Him." So, do we do that regularly, trust in God? Our prayers will reflect that. What we pray about will reflect that, if we do indeed trust in God.

And if something happens in our life and we prayed about it and God hasn't intervened, do we trust in God that this is something that's good for us? So often as human beings we go through hardships or trials, and we don't grasp that God uses these things to help mold and fashion things within us. But it depends on how we respond to God in those matters, too. And so, if something isn't removed, to have a confidence "This is good for me; there is something I am to learn, I can learn. There is something I can be strengthened in — strengthened in — even more by going through this."

It's the hardships of life that really, if we are looking to God, trusting in God, crying out to God, those are the things that give us greater strength. They truly are. That's why I've mentioned so often I don't care,

you know, whatever I've gone through in life. I wouldn't exchange any of the hardships for anything because they've been positive, because it brings about change up here. And so, we have to look at our own lives. Is it bringing about change when we don't get something we desire and want from God, and understanding there is a greater purpose and plan for various things happening.

Sometimes it might be prayers for others, perhaps in our own family, whatever it might be, or friends or whatever. But if it's not their time, it's not their time yet. But God will take care of it if you trust in God and believe what God says. There are going to be those occasions for people in the Great White Throne or on into the Millennium, whatever it might be. That's in God's charge. That's God's choice and how He does those things because He knows what's best for every one of us. He knows what is a bad time to call someone and what is a right time to call someone or a better time, or He has a plan and a purpose for calling now.

Just like for all of us, we're here because, well, we don't know. God called us. We believe it. We trust in that. He's giving us that opportunity for whatever He's going to mold and fashion with us. So, we have that opportunity and that's up to us to jump on to that and to put all of our being into it!

That's what's so hard sometimes, is watching... I'm trying to get in the next sermon. It's so difficult sometimes, it truly is, just watching various things when individuals aren't applying themselves as they could be or should be. This is our time now and we don't have... Well, we don't know how much time. Which gets into the next sermon. It's all over the place here right now but this is getting us ready for it even more so.

But what an incredible thing that we are looking at things now and we're looking at things ten years up the road. More than ever before in our lives this is a unique period, to have this mentality of how we're thinking. Because you have to be, really, striving to be ready right now for what happens next. We don't know what's going to happen next. I'm going to read some of the news articles coming up. Things could happen as soon as the elections take place. Things could happen another week up the road, another month up the road, we don't know. It's all in God's timing and God is in control.

And we take a peace of mind in that, but we have to be ready. We have to be looking to God, making sure, indeed, striving to be ready for whatever takes place. That means you've got to fight for this way of life. You've got to fight. We're not through this yet.

I was thinking the other day here, what an incredible thing if we could just have, if we have a year in front of us yet and we have a Feast next year, and everybody is there. That would be incredible. It'd be the first Feast ever in the Church of God where everybody stayed in for the whole year, or weren't put out, or whatever it might be. Are we thinking like that? Are we fighting like that? Is that something every one of us wants?

Because if it is then we have to grow and we have to be making changes and we have to fight for what's in front of us. We have to fight not to be one of those who goes by the wayside. Because, as I mentioned over and over again, every year. And it's been that way since very early on in the Church. Didn't take too long after 31 AD people started going by the wayside. Doesn't take long. Others may be in the Church for a long period of time and then something happens, and they're gone. Going to read some of that next week.

"The Eternal is my strength and my shield." How deeply do "I" believe that? That's what we have to ask ourselves. This is us on our knees or praying, whatever it is, before God, and going through a prayer like this, speaking these things to God. And we have to know them, what's inside of us, what's up here. "Is it true or am I lacking in some of this? Do I need to apply myself more in certain areas?"

**My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore, my heart greatly rejoices.** It's a spiritual thing. This is not a physical thing. It's about a relationship with God. Why? Because of what we just read. If these things are true and real in our life and we're thankful – because that's the response – "Blessed is the Eternal" because we're thankful, we're thankful because we "see" what God has given to us, we "see" what God is creating and what we have the opportunity to be part of.

And because of that then, because it's real to us and we see it in ourselves, what God is doing, you can't help but rejoice and be up, even in bad times, even in difficult times. Not to be down and gloomy and life isn't going right, and life is hard. Well, yes, it surely is, but how do we respond to that? Do we see how blessed we are in the midst of all that?

So, there are battles we have to fight because we have to fight against this human nature.

**...therefore, my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song, I will praise Him.** Now, so often in the Psalms they're written in the context, a psalm, a song that's sung to God, can be sung to God. It's also a writing that we can pray to God about and it's inside of us.

Music has a melody to it. There are those things that are uplifting and encouraging by it. And it's not about the song per se, as it is on a spiritual plane, it's what's inside of us. It's as if, saying it in a different context, perhaps in a poetic way if we can see it that way, that we're singing inside, we're rejoicing inside. That's what rejoicing is about. There is that which is... This is what this is describing. It's something that just comes out of us and comes up before God because it has power in it.

And that's what God wants. He wants us to have this kind of thinking and this kind of mind toward Him. So, when we're deeply thankful for various thing and we have this rejoicing inside of us, a fullness inside of us because of that relationship, because we see what He's giving to us and we're thanking Him for it, this is what is going to come out of us, praising God. Doesn't have to be in a song you sing. That's not what this is about. This is about something on a spiritual plane. A song that we can grasp on a physical plane is to help us to understand this on a spiritual one.

Like so many things. Like unleavened bread. We understand the spirit of it. We take it every year, we're supposed to do it for seven days, and we learn spiritual things from it. Well, it's the same thing here. A physical song and a praise to God in a psalm is something that we can live inside of us and have come out of us toward God, a rejoicing. And so much of that comes out truly in thankfulness.

So, how often do we thank God? Do we thank Him for various things every day when we pray, whatever it might be? Candidly, it's hard not to. But sometimes we have to work on that so our minds are thinking along those terms until it becomes part of us. And the more you think about what God has given to us, how God has blessed us, what we truly have, and we're thankful for it and we're telling God that...

Because, you see, it can't be something we're just on the receiving end of. It has to be something that goes back to God to be true, to be meaningful. We're thankful, and so we tell God what we're thankful for. And the more you learn how to do that, the more you practice it, the more you think about it, the more you ask for help in it, the more it'll become a part of you.

"And with my song, I will praise Him." Inside. We will praise God. It'll be something automatic. This matter of rejoicing is not something you work up, it's automatic. We're talking about the same thing, being able to rejoice in God.

Going on now to **Psalm 30:4—Sing praise to the Eternal**. Now, we can get out the hymnal, you can... Every once in a while, you think of a song or whatever or a song comes into mind, you're singing part of it, the melody comes to you regardless of how long it's been since we've had those things and we hear them, some of it, Sabbath to Sabbath before services. And this is more than that. This is good, but what is better is that which is inside of us.

"Sing praise to the Eternal." A lot of that is done through prayer, the praises, the thanks. That's what thankfulness is about, praising God for what He's done. It's an understanding of what He's given to us and what opportunities we have before us and His plan for us and His plan for His Family. And we pray about those things and we're thanking God for it, and if that comes out of us in that regard, in that light, it becomes more a part of us.

And so, at the Feast time we have eight days of focused intensity that God gives to us, of fellowship, of opportunities to be together, but also because of what we receive every day, and apart from the world. We don't have to be out there in the world. We're blessed to be able to be separated from, in that regard, we're able to be alone as it were focusing on other things.

Now, not taking into account sometimes we're not able to be there or whatever with everyone else, but if you're able to... you know, you're of a particular age or whatever and you're able to be away from your work or school, or whatever it is you're a part of and doing in your life and training, whatever, and you're able to be apart from the world in those things and you can focus on what God is giving to you. It's just something that can life you up powerfully so, awesomely so. And to thank God for those things, to see

that we receive something like this in a small part of our life each year. But to grow in that, to exercise that more?

See, this rejoicing isn't just for the Feast of Tabernacles, it's a way of life. It's a way of life with God in our being toward God, in our thinking toward God. And if we can carry that away from the Feast, we've carried a lot away. If we can begin practicing that more, exercising that more in our life it's going to be much, much greater next year, it truly is, and throughout this year.

**Sing praise to the Eternal, you saints of His.** Just to know what we are. Saints. This is about all who are called of God, being molded and fashioned by God, who are set apart for holy use and purpose. That's the word that's given, "saints." "Set apart for holy use and purpose." Special, unique as it says, a peculiar people, a special people before God. We need to really be able to see ourselves in that light.

God isn't working with the world; He's working with you. He's working with us. What more could we ask for? And yet He gives us so much more.

So again, "Sing praise to the Eternal, you saints of His." So, if we see what He's given us, that we are set apart for holy use and purpose, what it means that God has looked down and called us out of the world and He's training us now, giving us opportunity now, that should be incredibly exciting, inspiring.

That's why if somebody really sees that, how could they ever leave, how could they ever let down, how could they ever back away from what God has given. How could they ever go off on some tangent of sin? That shows, that reflects clearly that that is lost in the mind. An inability to see God, an inability to be thankful to God and to grasp what He's offering us. Because if we really see it and we really latch on to it with all of our being we're not going to let go. Never ever.

**...and give thanks.** This all goes together. It just says it in different ways over and over again. **Sing praise unto the Eternal, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.** That we're blessed to know Him, that more and more He's revealed Himself.

I think of the last of the Thunders and I think of how much God has done that since 2005. Powerful, what God has given to us since that time period. We talked about some of those things at the Feast as well, in 2010, 2017, parts of it being looked at, and then this last year focusing on some of that again, that God is revealing Himself more and more to us.

I think back at the time of Moses when He told Moses that the forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and going all the way back, they never knew God as Elohim. Only El Shaddai. Now, it uses Elohim before that but that's because it was written later and they know who it's about, the Eternal.

So again, what an incredible thing that God has shown us more and more about Himself. Now, I hope we all find that exciting, to be able to see more. Because we don't see God but in a very small way. There is so much more before us that will be a continual revelation in time. It's not something we're going to be



shown immediately, right way, God Almighty. There are things we're going to experience, know, and have, but there are going to be certain things of understanding that are going to take time for us to receive even in the God Family.

Now, to understand that is an awesome thing, it truly is. God is so powerful, so almighty, and so great it's not something we can grasp quickly. And if we really understand some of those things it'll help us to better understand what we really are. Pretty small. Nothing to be haughty about. Nothing to be lifted up about. But God wants to lift us up powerfully so and give us more and more.

And just in that are blessings, thankfulness that God helps us to see what we really are, how small we really are, and that He wants us to become great. To become Elohim? We really don't grasp the magnitude of that yet. We can see it in part, but we don't really see it powerfully and clearly yet, and we won't until we're there. You've never experienced it. We've read about it. Knowledge is one thing, but experience is another that gives understanding.

And we don't have a lot of understanding of that yet do we, because we've never experienced it. We experience a portion of it because of God's spirit that dwells within us, because of God dwelling within us and Joshua dwelling within us and we in the Body. But those are still very small things that we grasp. Think of how God has revealed things over six thousand years, a progressive revelation.

How can we not be dumbfounded by thinking about what they had in the beginning. Very little! Noah had very little. And then Abraham, ten generations or whatever it was after Noah. Noah lived another, what, three hundred fifty years after the flood and Abraham knew him. And you have to say it ten times, I think it's ten, great-great-great-great-great... anyway. You think, how incredible the one who built the ark, the one who came through the flood, the one who's stories about what God did and mankind growing again in numbers on the earth.

And then God telling Abraham now it's time to get up and move. And it says, and Abraham went, in essence. He just obeyed God. He just did it because of what He'd been trained and taught in, prepared for. He'd been prepared for that. God prepared him through Noah. That's how he learned these things. And so, God was working with Abraham, or Abram, a long time, and finally came to that point where he told him and his family to go, to leave everything behind, to leave his family and all the people he knew in that region and to go to another area of the world at that time. It says he went. He just did it.

But they didn't understand a lot. They had no knowledge of the things that Christ told when he came along hundreds and hundreds of years later. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and then you come up to Moses and then God begins to reveal more. He gives the law. He gives things having to do with the Levitical system which didn't save them, but it worked with a nation of people to look forward to, to foreshadow something that would happen later. They built a temple. They had a Levitical system. But it wasn't about the Levites, and it wasn't about that temple in the wilderness, it's about another one that was spirit. But they didn't know that.

I mean, when you look at things like that and realize over hundreds and hundreds and thousands of years God just revealed a little at a time and there's a purpose in that. Which is good to meditate upon and think about and ask why. And we should understand. And we'll grow in understanding of it.

Then Christ came along after about four thousand years, and then the Church for nearly two thousand years. And now we're at the end of an age, the end of six thousand years and God just continues to reveal more. But we have so little still, if we could see it, so little. But it's a lot compared to what others have had before us.

There is going to be so much revealed during the Millennium and then the Great White Throne and then in the God Family after that. But God isn't telling us a lot about it because we're not there yet. We don't need to know all those things yet. We need to work on the here and now, what God's given to us.

So again, things to think about, to meditate upon, to thank God for and that we're at a time where He's revealing Himself more and more to the Church, to us to see. Because when Christ comes this knowledge is going to be there for the world to grasp hold of, to begin seeing and understanding.

All the garbage has been weeded out; so much has been cleansed out of it. And what is there now is something to go forward into a time now where everyone is going to have an opportunity to see the truth. Whether they choose it or not is another matter but they're going to be given the ability to see it if they will. But if they want something else God's going to let them have something else. And if they don't want to keep the Feast of God, they're going to see something else.

And if they keep being stubborn and resist God, God says He's just going to destroy them. In the Millennium. Isn't that amazing? In the beginning of the Millennium there are going to be people who are going to be destroyed because they won't obey God, because they won't keep the Feast. That's what God says. It starts out by them not being blessed, by them going through some horrible, horrible things in their own physical lives. And then if they continue to resist God just makes it clear He'll destroy them. What a horrible thing. But that's how horrible the human mind is, human beings are that don't want God.

So again ...**you, His saints. And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.** You know, there's really a lot there. You can have a whole prayer about that. To make it personal, to make it your prayer, to think about this to God, you can have an entire prayer out of that verse alone, truly.

**Verse 5—For His anger is for a moment.** So, what should be one of the first things we see or think about if that's a part of your prayer? "For His anger is for a moment." What I see is that this is a lousy translation. What I see is mankind translating something and trying to make God seem like man, mankind, or the gods of mankind that were angered and ready to strike out at a moment's notice. That's not what this is about.

God loves His creation, and especially those He calls and works with, because that's when He truly begins to love us with His love, with the blessings of being able to be forgiven of sin and all that's associated with that in order to become part of Elohim. But the rest of the world, He's not pouring that kind of love out upon. But nevertheless, within the midst of six thousand years there are times, many of times, especially with Israel, that God had to intervene and execute judgment. And so, they want to call that anger, that God is angry, God is an angry God. No, God executes judgment. Yes, because that's what they deserve.

And so, this... Well, for me that's where I start because I know the more you come to know God the more you know that God is not an angry God. What kind of... Anger to us should mean a certain thing. When you become angry, you're losing control. When you become angry at someone and you begin to be that way in your thinking toward them, your mind isn't right toward them. That's human beings. But that is not God.

So, out of His love God executes judgment. Out of His love for what He is doing in the world there are times He's executed judgment. There is a time that He executed judgment and flooded the entire world, and they were worthy of, deserving of death. Incredible, that people would want to find fault with that and say, "Well, that was an angry God. What kind of a God is that that would destroy all of mankind?!" Well, He has a plan, and His plan is that they weren't called to be saved then. And so, rather than their minds becoming worse and worse and the world becoming worse and worse and for the ability to have Elohim come out of some of that in time...

You know, time will tell. And it won't be a whole lot of time. Was all mankind determined by God to become Elohim? We need to understand that, no, all of mankind has not been determined to become Elohim. Just because people are born into physical life does not mean that they're owed Elohim or that they should even be called in some cases into Elohim. Depends on what we do with what we've been given. Depends on how far we go in the mind and how far that mind goes, whether the mind can become so corrupted.

That's what was happening in the time of Noah. Minds were becoming so corrupt, so evil that if that hadn't happened there wouldn't have been anything left. Noah, or anyone else in the sense of not having corrupted minds. That was the last. That was down to the last that could be worked with, that could be molded and fashioned to continue on with a different world. And what came out of that? A lot of people who hated God. That's the truth of it.

Noah's own sons, what do you think they were like? Do you think they taught about God and what happened in the flood and how mankind was so bad that this is what needed to happen? Or do you think they had a different story? Noah knew, and there were only a few. Well, we don't know how many, but we know Abraham was one of them who could listen, who was going to be called out of that mess of

still humanity, even after the flood, it's just like going through the Red Sea. It doesn't take long, people turn against God, start finding fault with God. But they don't call it God.

Moses? They were mad at Moses. "You brought us out," you know, "to die. Your God. You brought us out here to die in the wilderness. What is this?" They're hungry. They're thirsty. Doesn't take much to make a human being turn against God, does it. You have to laugh at the foolishness of mankind, of what we're like if we don't get it. And obviously, they weren't called to get it yet, were they?

But it shows what's inside of us as human beings and it's not a pretty sight. I know when God called me it wasn't a pretty sight. I know what I was like. I know what my mind was like. And if I hadn't of gone through some very hard things I never would have listened. I would not have listened. I would have thought anybody having anything to do with that is nuttier than a fruitcake. I know that.

So, to experience those things and the change that needed to take place, to realize the humbling I need to go through in order to at least have a little bit of wax taken out of my ears so I could start hearing a little bit, I had to go through some things first. Awesome. And I'm so thankful for that. I'm so thankful I flipped that car two and a half times and made it look like a ninety-degree angle, whatever it was. That's what it was in the junkyard, just a ninety-degree angle, the whole frame hitting with that kind of force. Don't know how fast I was going. Mustang. Everything was on the frame, it bent.

What it was like to have a good friend shot in Vietnam. There are things that I can grasp and understand about some people who go to war and lose people around them, because you feel guilty. "Life was not fair. Why him?" And so, you start learning different things. You start putting things in a different perspective when God begins to show you His truth and His purpose. And several other things that happened at the same time but I'm not going to...

Sometimes we have to be hit upside the head with a four by four. We really do. So, if we can understand what we were like, understand what our human nature is like, it helps us to better understand what the battle is because that nature doesn't just go away when you're called. Thankful to God. Thankful to God for all of that. For, what are we without God? Who are we without God?

And yet we can have some of the haughtiest attitudes sometimes thinking our way and the way something should be done or whatever it might be, and we get puffed up by how we think about certain things and that's when people leave. Because that's what happens in the mind. Horrible.

**...and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. For His anger is for a moment.** So, I look back. I look back at certain things in my life, just like at that point in time, just as I was getting ready to be called. And it didn't last that long if you look at human lifespan. It doesn't last that long. But for to be called sometimes there are certain corrections, things that have to be done, obviously, in the beginning. There are things we have to begin correcting in this and it depends on how we yield to that process.

But understanding here what an awesome thing to have that mindset, God is not angry like we think of anger. He doesn't lose control. He chastens for a purpose. He corrects for a purpose. He will allow destruction for a purpose, people to be destroyed for a purpose, command that nations be destroyed for a purpose. When the children of Israel went in the promised land, they were told to kill everything. And some people think, "That's an angry God." No, it isn't. We have problems to this day in the world because they didn't do their job. There are mindsets in people who think in a certain way and developed a certain religion that is heinous and sick and perverted, and it destroys the mind. Think it's going to be an easy thing that a lot of people be called out of different backgrounds and different religions?

But God allows those things in a physical carnal world so we can learn from it. And ever who has the opportunity to escape that, to see that, to be called out of that, how blessed are they? Because all are not going to be. Instead, they're going to be resurrected later on, and those minds are already set, and they will not want God.

Can you imagine for a hundred years not wanting God, not wanting the truth after seeing everything that they're going to see? It's hard to imagine but that's why there are going to be so many. It finally has to come down to a reality that God lets mankind know at that point or lets the God Family learn at that point in a magnified way that all the earth was never meant, the populations of the earth were never meant for everyone to be called and be in Elohim.

So, to have such a blessing and such an opportunity of life is a very precious thing and that you haven't gone too far in your mind, that you've been blessed to grow up where you've grown up. There are some people who have grown up in some environments and God allows it to happen. Is it His choice to do with His creation as He wills? Tough thing sometimes to answer and look at. God is righteous, God is just, and God is filled with a mind of love that we don't even comprehend that level of love. But you can't give it to everyone. You can't give it to everyone who's born.

**For His anger or His correction, the judgment is for a moment, but His favor,** I could say love, **but His favor is for life.** And so, if we're able to receive favor from God and we're able to respond to that? Because that's what it takes, grace, being given grace, an opportunity to change and repent, and accepting that. That's the beginning of life, of life that God wants to give to those who can receive it.

**Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.** So, it's just summing it up in a quick way like that showing that something may happen but after you've slept on it sometimes just the refreshing part of that and thinking about it and including God in the picture and then we begin to see. A little bit of time passes, and the sorrow can leave, and we begin to put things in their proper place.

What a blessing. With God's purpose and God's plan, with whatever it might be that happens to us in life, and we have sorrow, have weeping, whatever, and yet small period of time is going to pass and if God's in the picture and we're trusting in God and looking to God He's going to help us deal with it. He's

going to help us have the answers we need to have that are up here already but it's a matter of the experience in putting it together and then seeing God in it, His plan and purpose.

**Verse 11**, jumping on down, **You have turned...** Is it "from me?" I copied something wrong here. **You have turned for me my mourning into dancing.** I don't know what translation I was using on this one, but it didn't come out well.

So again, understanding that God can turn our mourning into joy. There are things we have to rejoice in even when we have mourning. You can learn from that. Hardships, you can learn from it. Sorrow, you can learn from it.

I'll go back to a friend was killed in Vietnam. A lot of mourning there. I remember having to take a – never had it before, never had it since – had a valium so I could deal with some things. And they basically let me know it's going to knock you senseless, help me sleep. But when God's way began to be shown, began to learn from it and you begin to understand the timing God has and you think of a Great White Throne...

And so, that's why I mentioned at the Feast this year there are different ones I look forward to being able to go to, to share with, to talk about what I have been given and why I am where I am now, in the Great White Throne.

And so, we go through things like this and that's a rejoicing that is awesome. So, later on I was able to rejoice in some of those things, to know the truth, to realize there is coming a time when they're going to be awakened, and to understand the purpose of death and how death, that people don't go off someplace and they're just in the ground. They turn to dust and then in God's time He gives them a body. What an awesome thing! And to be able to be there? Inside, there's a rejoicing and a thankfulness and a gratitude for that that's awesome, truly is.

So, a form of rejoicing, because generally this kind of dancing is because of what's inside of you, what you're feeling and so forth. It's not like going out to have a good time someplace. It's something that comes from deep inside.

**You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.** So again, there are things we have to go through in life. We have to go through times of sorrow. We have to go through times of mourning before God and fasting and whatever it might be of something we've experienced, something we've gone through and we're crying out to God for help and strength.

So, "You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness." So, there are always answers to everything as part of God's plan. Everything fits into God's plan if we're called, if we have the power of His holy spirit living and dwelling within us and growing in the mind. All for a positive purpose, to become part of Elohim.

So, often the result then, obviously, as it's talking about here, gladness. Something like this is a matter of another form of rejoicing inside. It's something that comes from within, deep inside.

**...to the end, so that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent.** So again here, it's as though that you feel something so deeply you can't be silent about it before God. You're anxious to thank God; you want to do it. And that's the way this kind of rejoicing is, there's a rejoicing that is a thankfulness that's just there inside and the rejoicing because of what you see that God has given to you, the opportunities, the blessings, the favor, the calling we have that should lift us up, truly.

It's not a fake thing where we have to make up some kind of fake rejoicing or whatever and have to talk a certain way and say, "I'm just really rejoicing before God at this Feast." You understand what I'm saying, hopefully. Something someone in a protestant world might do when you know it's not real. It's something that's shared between you and God. It's, in some respects, private as far as that expression or that kind of rejoicing inside.

**O Eternal my God, I will give thanks to You.** It's the summation of what's just said. It's about thankfulness. Praising, rejoicing, being glad for what God is doing and you see it, it produces a thankfulness. And they feed each other. Thankfulness – rejoicing, rejoicing – thankfulness. Incredible.

Let's turn over to Ephesians 5:8. So, all this is a part of looking ahead, from this past Feast and ahead. And it has to do with so much of the message that was given throughout the Feast, of what we're covering again here in that respect in a different format with a different outlook, looking ahead into the following year of something we can grow in.

That's what we have to understand. When God gives us things, there are some things that God focuses upon more in the sense of what He inspires to be given to us to mold and fashion us that we are to think about and to focus on ourselves. Because this is the area that God is working with us in to grow more and this is our opportunity to grow more in these areas.

So, that's what's exciting about this as well, to understand God's giving us that opportunity to be able to grow in this more. This should be something we all want to grow in more, to have this kind of rejoicing that's deep inside, this thankfulness to God that's greater than ever before. You can grow in that. That's what God is showing us.

**Ephesians 5:8—For you were once in darkness.** I don't have to be convinced of that. I know what I was in. Dark, dark, dark, dark, backward, backward, backward. Until God starts showing us what is true, until God begins to work with us and...

**For you were once in darkness, but now light in the Lord.** What an awesome, awesome blessing that we be able to see this, that we be able to see it as a continuation in our life regularly, thinking about those things, a relationship with God, that we have this light that is on a spiritual plane and this lightens up our life, it gives us a life that the world can't experience yet.

And some never will. And maybe the majority, maybe the vast majority never will experience something like this because they're going to refuse it. Going to be large numbers who refuse it. If it happened within the Church of God over the past two thousand years we need to understand this is going to happen in the future as well because it's just the carnal human nature of mankind.

"For you were once in darkness, but now light in the Lord." And that's the only way we're in the light. Again, things to think about. We're light and we have this light as long as we're in the Lord, in Christ and in God the Father. And that's up to us! That's up to us as far as our response to what God teaches us, gives us, molds us, to the effort and the work we put into it, to the kind of thinking in our own minds that we want to be transformed, we want to change, we want to think differently in the mind, we want to fight against the things that are wrong that come into the mind.

Because wrong things come into our mind as human beings. It's just normal because we have this "lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life."

**Walk...** I mean, these things just follow each other. They're all there. **Walk as children of light.** So, that's the choice we have to make, to walk as children of light. There's a way of life we have to walk in, and if we're not walking in that, and not living it, because that's what it's about, what are we doing?

**For the fruit of the spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.** So, if we're growing in God's spirit and we're becoming stronger in God's spirit these are the things that are going to be happening. It's going to be "in all goodness and righteousness and truth." We're going to be able to see the things in our life that are right and the truth that we have and that we believe, and we hold on to and we're in agreement with.

And where we're not, where that isn't the case, we have work to do. We have repentance in front of us. Choices of.

**Verse 10—proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.** So, this is about putting into practice then, that the more we put into practice the things that God says and shows us, just like what we're talking about as this matter of thankfulness and the more we strive to do it and practice it and asking God for help that it become more a part of us in spirit and in truth, well, that's what we're talking about here. Proving.

So, the more you do that and it becomes a part of you then there can be that period of time afterward, perhaps next year's Feast, you'll be able to look back and say, "I'm so thankful that God gave us that opportunity to focus on this aspect of life that's made us closer to Him, that's helped us to rejoice more, to be more filled."

It's something we should want deep inside of us, to want this fullness of God, a rejoicing inside of us that's just automatic because of the thinking that goes on in our minds because of what we see and what we believe.



**Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. Even having no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.** So, we know when we're not doing what's right. We know, we should know, and if we allow certain things to continue on and we ignore them then we can become set in that. It's a dangerous thing to become set in something that's wrong in our life and we don't really change and repent and fight against it day by day until it's conquered.

I don't care if you have to fight something every day of your life, you just keep doing it until your change comes because we're human beings and we have carnality. So, there may be things in life you just have to fight every day of your life and that's what's expected and that's what we do if that be the case.

"Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness." So, I feel for people who have in times past especially—I'm not going to talk about now—in looking back in the past and people when they leave or whatever and realizing that when you step out that way, when you make a step in a wrong direction and you turn away from what God is giving to you to something else that you hold in your mind that is against what God has revealed is right and just the damage that does in the mind, in the human thinking. But people do that. People have done that over and over again.

And again, people know when they're not doing what's right. They may have to justify it in their mind of why they have to leave and why they no longer believe and have to find fault with something in order to justify why they're doing something different.

That's why it blows my mind how some have left in PKG and gone back to some of these groups that they have nothing. They have nothing of God's spirit in them, not one thing of God's spirit working with them leading, guiding, and directing them. They have been cut off ever since the Apostasy. That's just a reality.

Had an email from someone in Europe, someone that's read something on the site or whatever and they were talking about how that they just...they longed. They kept the Feast at home, and they just longed for, "Why can't we all be together as one? Why can't the leaders get together and work out their differences so that we could be one again?" And I thought, you poor person. You can't see. You don't see. You're not going to comprehend and you're not going to receive if I answered that, gave them the answers to it. I can tell them what to go to to read on the website, but again, to be able to "see" it?

And the reality is that can never be. None of them want to have those things. They'd be the closest, the different ones out there, of the numbers of groups that are there, they'd be the closest to being able to say, "Well, we can build this bridge," or whatever they want to call it, and some have tried in times past. But you think anyone is going to give up their authority in one organization in order to have a unity with another organization? Or how are they going to be able to share in that? And what differences do they have? And then how do you address those differences?

The reality is, they have a hard time getting along amongst themselves with themselves. That's why there are so many splinters and splits on a continuing basis. It's still going on. Horrible, how people are

without God's spirit. And the truth is we could never, never get together with any one of those groups to discuss anything about being together again, and as she was bringing out, to be able to have a Feast site together. Think, you have such little understanding of anything.

I felt for them because I know what they're wanting. Something of the past. They want old Worldwide back or whatever it is. And the truth is, you can't have it. It's gone, long time ago.

How thankful are we for all that God has given to us since the Apostasy and that we're not a part of that anymore. That's why it boggles my mind when I see some go back to some of those different groups or whatever, to be with them, to be a part of them. Think, what is wrong with you? Is there truth coming from them? And the resounding answer should be, absolutely nothing, no, can't be. It's against God's spirit and how God's spirit works.

So, it says, **even have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.** So, that can be in the world or wherever God is not. **...but rather reprove.** And that word means "to expose." And it's in the context in the Greek language here of not just exposing but something that we're to come to see, "reproved." It's better it be exposed, those things be exposed in your life, to bring them to the ... acknowledge them because it has to do with this sense of being convicted as well. This is a part of it, to be convicted of the wrong.

And that's something we can only do in our relationship between ourselves and God, to be convicted of the darkness, how evil it is, how wrong it is. Because you have to learn to hate evil—darkness, if you will—to conquer it, to get away from it. You have to be convicted that it's evil, that it's wrong.

That's why I used to use such a simple example. I think of... I'll use Erie, Pennsylvania, and was it Franklin, the two Church areas. And yeah. And I think of all the people in the Church couldn't even get the concept you really, you got to quit smoking. If you want to be in God's Church, it's a simple thing. And if you want to—I used to use the example—just build a giant cigarette out here and have something like red at the top where you can have smoke coming out of it and just bow down to it, "My God, my God." Because you put that in front of God.

And they never got the concept. They never quit as a whole. Just kept doing it. Find themselves in a pickle sometimes because they'd forget about, they'd done it so often, they'd come to Sabbath services with a packet still in their pocket. Now, that's a very small thing but a very big thing too. If we allow something so small in life to come between us and God we're not even on first base. We haven't even run down to first base yet. We're still back there thinking about it, at home place, what should be home plate if you went all the way around. You can't get off the plate. You can't even start to walk because you're doing something you know, you've been told, is not right. And it's a puny, small thing.

It's like a refusal to quit eating pork. "I like my bacon in the morning. I can't give it up." It's like getting a great, big thing like bacon and just bowing down to it. That's your God. You can't quit. You can't live

God's way of life and embrace God because of a piece of bacon or a cigarette? Those are physical things! All kinds of people in the world have quit without God's spirit, things that are unhealthy for them, things that aren't good for them.

Think you get the drift of what I'm talking about here. It's a mindset and how we think toward God and the relationship we have toward God, whether we're truthful to God or not. And if we're not being truthful to God, God will take care of that in time.

So, "expose," "be convicted." So, it's a very small thing. If you can't be convicted that... So, I made the comment to different ones, the problem is that you love smoking more than you love God. "Oh, no, I don't." It's like, how could you say such a thing? It's pretty simple. You don't get that? I can't help you. If you don't understand that simple, little concept that you love that more than you love God because you won't give it up for God, who do you love more?

So, what is it? Sometimes it's something really small, something so insignificant and yet people will do it because they're so attached to it and they just won't quit, they just won't give something up in the world, whatever it might be.

**Verse 12—For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.** And so, when somebody, especially... Now, we're not talking... The world, as a whole they don't care. But if you're talking about the Church and somebody is doing something wrong, then there are certain things that are done in secret. That's where the secrecy is. Hiding something. Not wanting to be seen. It's just the way we are.

**But all things are reprov'd.** It's that same word again, exposed or convicted. **...are made manifest by the light.** It's the truth. And so, if we see the truth and we want that then that'll help us to be convicted of how wrong it is. We should be able to see that. And then we have to make a choice. It's that simple.

**Therefore, He says, Awake, you who sleep, and arise from the dead.** And sadly, sometimes that happens within the Church. If we continue in a certain thing or sin or whatever we can fall asleep spiritually. Look what happened to all of us that were a part of Laodicea during the Apostasy. We all fell asleep. Incredible! Tough to acknowledge. Tough to admit. Tough to come face to face with.

But when you realize that this happened to God's Church, and the only way this could happen to God's Church is if we sinned. Because God has certain promises and so forth. So, we had to come to acknowledge we're the ones at fault. It's not God's fault. Yes, it's His Church but what happened? Well, we all sinned. We all fell asleep. It's a sin to fall asleep. It's a sin to become lukewarm and drift away from God.

**Awake you who sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.** What an awesome thing we have the blessing of being able to repent before God and God receive it, receive us, and live and

dwell within us, to forget everything of our past when we come before Him and ask maybe every day for help to change, to help to fight.

**See then that you walk circumspectly.** The word means “with exactness.” We have to be very careful to do it exactly the way God says. Not the way deviating a little bit here to the right or to the left, to still have something in it that we want to do that isn’t quite...you know, it’s not really right yet. That’s not enough. It’s got to be exactly the way God says. And He gives us the help and the power to do that.

**...not as fools.** Because if we do it our way we’re fools. But if we do it God’s way, **but as wise,** it says, **redeeming the time,** making use of the time we have. And that’s very much about where we are right now if indeed we have a short time, and if indeed we have a long time. Now, I consider ten years a long time because I don’t know if I’ll be around. Ten more years? I don’t know. What do we have? Could have died a couple times already, had once anyway. Wow. Incredible.

**...redeeming the time because the days are evil.** Well, it’s the world we live in, but God gives us the opportunity to repent, to change, to become something different.

**Verse 17—Therefore, do not be unwise but understanding what is the will of the Lord.** So, we’re given that every day of our life, to learn God’s will, to exercise, to strive to do God’s will. What is God’s will? Well, next Sabbath we’re going to start another series that tells us even more so what we need to be doing and how we need to be doing it. That’s what He wants us to focus upon right now because of maybe a short time we have or maybe because of the long time we have. I really don’t know. But I know that’s our focus.

**Do not be drunk with wine, wherein is excess.** So again here, it’s giving a physical example to teach something on a spiritual plane. **But be filled with the spirit.** The point being is you can’t have too much of God’s spirit. We can always grow more in the power and the strength of God’s spirit in our life. And we have that opportunity now just by this two-part sermon in itself and what it’s about and what its focus is.

**Speaking within yourselves** is how it is. “Speaking yourselves,” it’s **within yourselves, in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.** It’s that same language of the book of Psalms. It’s not a physical thing it’s about a spiritual thing that lives within us in the sense of how we respond to God, how we think toward God, the life that it gives us that makes our life more fulfilling, more exciting, more with rejoicing in us that can be in us more of the time. That’s what we have the opportunity to grow in right now, that we’re filled more with God. That’s what it’s about. With the being, the mind of God, the fullness of life because of what we’re striving to live and having the rewards and blessings of that and the more we draw closer to Him because He gives us that opportunity.

**...and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart.** It’s not with your mouth. **...in your heart to the Lord.** It’s how we think toward God. And the more thankful we become toward God, the more we acknowledge what we’ve been given, the more we “see” what we’ve been given, the more we

hold on to what we've been given because we treasure it more, we truly treasure it more and we're not going to let it slip out of our fingers, we're going to hold on to it with all of our being, the stronger we'll become, the closer to God we become, the more excited we become, and the more fulfilled we become by things we hear and see. What an awesome thing.

**Giving...** Again, this all just goes together. **Giving thanks... Giving thanks always...** Because that goes with everything just said. **Giving thanks always for all things unto God.** What are all things? Just what it says. You don't have enough time in a day to give thanks for all things. You can't even remember all things that God gives to us and pours out upon us. But we can think about them from day to day, the different things we have to be thankful for, thank God for it. The simplest of things in life, whatever they might be. But if we see God in it, what God's given us the opportunity to share in what an awesome thing.

I was thinking the other day just walking through the subdivision seeing the different colours of the trees. How can you not but thank God that we can enjoy this at one time during the year when it's starting to change. And you see the sun if you get up at an earlier time, and you see the sun going through the leaves like they do and you see the different hues and the different colors sometimes even coming off the trees onto something else, that color is there. Think, what an incredible creation and the beauty that's there that we're able to drink in. But God gave it to us. And on and on and on it goes, everything that God planned for us to have a richer life, a more fulfilling and enjoyable life day by day.

And if we see those things and thank God about them our life truly does become richer. It helps us to get through the difficult things because there are plenty of difficult things in this world to deal with.

**Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Joshua the Christ.**

The opportunities, the blessings we have all made possible through our Passover and our High Priest. Incredible.

Thought I'd be through long before this. I'm going to have to fly through the news.

Psalm 25:4. So, this following year to focus as we need to, to look ahead as we need to, to be on guard, to fight because that's where we are right now in a very, very meaningful way, whenever the need arises to be ready for that, to be doing it.

**Psalm 25:4—Show/Make known to me know Your ways, O Eternal.** This is something we should pray on a regular basis. Not every day but it should be something in our prayers from time to time so we can grow more in these things, letting God know we want to see more, we want to understand more of what's already been given to us. Because none of us understand it all. It's impossible.

**Teach me in Your paths.** And that word "teach me in" is a word having to do with "exercise; to be trained in." That's what we want. We want to be trained. And so, He's showing us right now how to be trained in some of this, of having more rejoicing is learning how to be more thankful, is exercising and practicing that. Incredible. Because they feed each other. And asking God then for the power of His holy spirit to

accomplish that on a spiritual plane, that's what it's about. Because it's not something we can do physically, it has to have God in it.

**Lead me in Your truth.** And you think, thank God, hasn't He been doing that to us for a long time now, ever since the Apostasy? "Lead me in Your truth." More and more and more God's been doing that.

**...and teach me.** How thankful are we? **...for You are the God of my salvation/my deliverance. On You, I wait all the day.** So, it's just the way we are day by day is probably a better way of even expressing it here. "We wait on You every day." "We look to You every day." "We know we need Your spirit every day. We need You dwelling in us so we can dwell in You, You and Your Son."

**Verse 9—The meek** (lowly; humble; poor) **will He guide in judgment.** That's a prayer in itself, to ask for help to see ourselves, that we have a humble spirit and a humble mind and humble attitude, lowly. Because we're pretty small if we can really see it, and then acknowledging that what God has given to us as very great because everything that's great comes from Him that He gives us treasure of.

**The meek He will guide in judgment, and the meek He will teach His way.** And His way is what? His word, the truth. Every word He's given to us is more about Him, more about His purpose and plan, more about what He is doing, how He is doing it.

**All the paths/all the ways of the Eternal are mercy and truth.** So, just like when we read in scripture like "His anger," or "His fury," or whatever it might be, to understand this is not the concept of the thinking of human beings. When it talks about this flame, this... Some of the base of some of these words, where it comes from, that fills His life, it's that for His purpose and His plan and His desire and to protect His people and a desire to protect His purpose and His plan for Elohim. And so, there are times He measures out judgment to human beings.

**...unto such who keep,** which is a word for "guard" or "watch" **His covenant and His testimonies.**

Well, there is more but we're going to stop there because, again, it's about a close relationship with God, it's about praying to God day by day knowing that we can't accomplish anything without His strength, without His spirit so we seek that every day of our life.

So, we're looking ahead. We're looking ahead in a unique way to what can happen soon or maybe ten years from now. We have to think that way. But there are times past when we've looked ahead, where we were told to plan out ahead ten years. But never at the same time to look now as well because any week, any day, any month things can happen. Primarily, focusing in on the events of the First Trumpet and on and on it goes.

So, we're very unique in that regard because we now are looking ahead to what? To being ready for ever how much time is in front of us. If it's a week, if it's a month before things start happening or whether

it's ten years it doesn't matter, but we have to be more on guard and more focused in these things than ever before. That's what it does mean.

So, going to look at some news. Sometimes you wonder how it's holding together. Well, I hope we have the answer to that. The only way it holds together is because God is holding it together. It's not time yet. When it's time you'll know it. When it's time for that first event of that First Trumpet we're going to know it. Everybody in the Church is going to know it whenever it happens, whenever it comes. But sometimes we do wonder, amazed that this is holding together. Incredible.

The financial system in this world? Absolutely nuts what human beings are doing. Banking system, the thing between BRICS now and what's taking place as far as the petro-dollar is concerned and you think, the handwriting is on the wall! Incredible.

**“Hungary’s Orban Highlights EU Dysfunction with a Surprise Trip to Georgia”<sup>1</sup>** Now, that’s not the state of Georgia, it’s the country. A lot of things are happening in the world and Hungary is, Orban is the leader of that country. He’s also the leader right now – not the leader, necessarily. It’s kind of hard to describe some of the things that happen in the EU, but he’s given the one year to be basically a figurehead as a president or whatever of the EU. This will come out in some of what we read here but anyway.

“Prime Minister Viktor Orban is again highlighting how dysfunctional the European Union’s family of 27 nations can be...” Now, the reason we’re looking at this is because he’s stirring up like a hornet’s nest in Europe on a regular basis. He’s doing things ever since he got into this new position that includes his reign or presidency over Hungary, but now as a part of, for one year, because they have a rotating process where they go from country to country and have a leader then take up. But they’re supposed to represent, basically, the EU. At least that’s their hope.

And he’s not representing them like they want to be represented so there are a lot of people pretty furious over there right now toward him and what he’s doing, and they’re saying some things that aren’t really even true on some occasions because they want to paint him in a bad way.

So, he does have some common sense as far as the world is concerned. He’s close to Russia, he knows it, he’s close to the other side of Europe, he knows it, and he sees what’s happening and he sees the dysfunction that’s taking place within the EU because it is like this metal, iron and clay, and it frustrates people over there. But he brings it out in the open, talks about it more, and they really don’t like it to be talked about.

“... is again highlighting how dysfunctional the European Union’s family of 27 nations can be with the Hungarian leader defiantly going against the flow in reacting to Georgia’s contested election.” So, it’s like

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<sup>1</sup> [Hungary's Orban highlights EU dysfunction with a surprise trip to Georgia](#)

if you're going to represent the EU by things you do or say then you shouldn't be doing this. That's basically what they're saying. You shouldn't be getting involved in what's happening in the country of Georgia right now.

Now, the reason Georgia is important here is because there is scuttlebutt, rumors, whatever it might be, and oh, what's the other one. It's not coming to mind right now. Moldova. And those two countries, that Russia may be looking at them next, to move in. So, they're worried, and they're concerned, and they're having elections. And Orban sees the potential in some of these things so he's trying to walk a tightrope between Vladimir Putin and the EU. And anyway, it's a mess.

So, it says here, "Orban, Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest partner within the EU..." So, right away they want to smear him in a bad way and that's not the whole story. It's not a fair comment in that regard. Yes, he does have communication and so forth, but he's dealing with things in a more of a realistic manner because of where he's located. Their whole country has revolved in centuries around wars because it's a crossroad to all of so many of the battles that have taken place in Europe.

Anyway, "...closest partner within the EU and Europe's longest-serving leader, currently holds the rotating presidency of the EU, which often is the bloc's global bullhorn and which Orban has used in ways that highlight internal divisions." See, so if you're going to be the bullhorn for Europe and "Rah-rah-rah EU," he's not doing a good job. And so, they're... They'd like to shut him up and some have tried.

Anyway, "The Hungarian leader has played the spoiler on showing unity in confronting Russia over its war in Ukraine. Now, another point of contention has emerged in the disputed election outcome in Georgia, where the opposition alleges vote-rigging by the populist ruling party." Where have we heard that before? It happens in the world all the time, especially when things are close. It's happening in Europe on a constant basis, and the reality is the truth, things like that take place because human beings lie and cheat. Surprise. Surprise. All sides do.

"Orban's office said he was taking a surprise trip Monday to the Georgian capital to meet with his allies there." He didn't waste any time at the very beginning going off to China and going off to Russia too. So, they weren't really happy about that.

"EU institutions, meanwhile, had spent much of the weekend carefully weighing a diplomatic statement that would show their displeasure with the claimed win by the Georgian Dream party, which they feel is increasingly leaning toward Moscow and away from Brussels even as many in the ex-Soviet nation favor embarking on a path toward joining the EU."

We read things like this and maybe we don't see what's taking place but there is pushing back and forth taking place in these areas that is really quite powerful in many respects, pushing Europe to a point that one day they're going to fulfill what we understand is going to happen in the Fifth Trumpet.



And those things are happening on a regular basis, pushing back and forth. They won't make assertive decisions; they struggle with different ideas and so forth and they're not cohesive and they're not bound together and so there is this constant struggle that's taking place. And Orban is talking about it and causing more things to get stirred up.

So, again here, there are some who what would it mean if more of those satellite – used to be a part of the Soviet Union – become part of the EU. Well, it's just that much closer if it doesn't happen before that, that it's pushing people more to a nuclear war, a greater war in Europe.

It says, "EU institutions, meanwhile, had spent much of the weekend carefully weighing a diplomatic statement that would show their displeasure with the claimed win by the Georgian Dream party..." Well, anyway.

Another one here: ISW Press / Institute for the Study of War Press, **"Possible Russian Gains in Georgia and Moldova"**<sup>2</sup>

Now, we don't even get this news in the States as a whole, but we should be aware of different things that are happening and why they're happening and how these things affect thinking in Europe and the leaders in Europe. Because this has to do with their choices and decision that are coming. When? When they finally get pushed into the corner and they can't go on any longer.

Anyway, it says here, "The Kremlin continues to pursue its longstanding hybrid warfare efforts to regain effective control of the territories of the former Soviet Union even as it seeks to gain control of Ukraine through military force. The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine is, in fact, supporting Russian hybrid warfare efforts in former Soviet states, particularly Moldova and Georgia, as pro-Russian local political leaders and influencers benefit from the implicit threat of Russian aggression against their own states. Moscow seeks to regain momentum in its efforts to reconsolidate control over the post-Soviet space through the ongoing elections in Moldova and Georgia and will seek to capitalize on successes in those elections to advance its objectives in Ukraine and elsewhere in the former Soviet Union."

So, why are they doing this? Because if they get enough people or people that are leaning toward them then they have a reason to go in and "save" them, if it starts... Just like it did in Ukraine. In the eastern part of Ukraine, they claimed that "Well, these people are wanting us to come in and they're being oppressed by the Ukrainians, and they were part of Russia, so we got to go in and help our people." Same thing as what they're looking at here in Georgia and Moldova.

"The European Union (EU) may further halt Georgia's EU membership progress while taking additional steps in response to allegations of widespread electoral irregularities." So, here now to become part of the EU, so they're looking at that. Russia doesn't want that, obviously, because what's the next step after

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<sup>2</sup> [Possible Russian Gains in Georgia and Moldova | Institute for the Study of War](#)

that? Well, things generally move toward NATO, which is a thorn in the side of Russia, obviously, and pushes them closer to a greater war.

But anyway, “The atmosphere of instability in Georgia will likely derail the Georgian peoples’ Euro-Atlantic aspirations while enhancing Russian influence in Georgia and the broader South Caucasus.”

So, it’s a matter of understanding they just keep pushing. This is what Putin wants. He wants those countries back. He wants the former Soviet Union. He’s getting to be an older man, but he wants it in his lifetime. What will he do? How far will he go?

That’s why things seem so very, very close in so many respects, because they keep rattling the sabers of nuclear warheads and the use of them, and it just gets stronger and stronger and stronger what’s coming out of Russia. They feel they’re being pushed into a corner and time is short, as far as they see it. I doubt very much if he’s looking ten years ahead like we may be. If it has to be, it’s supposed to be, it’ll happen that way.

Another article here from *The Hill*: **“Putin suffers another massive defeat, this time in Moldova”**<sup>3</sup>

“Russian President Vladimir Putin is having a really bad week. White House National Security Communications advisor John Kirby confirmed that Russia’s military is losing 1,200 soldiers a day in Ukraine. Failing to win on the battlefield, Putin is now desperately resorting to trying to buy his would-be empire with rubles. But on Monday, Putin’s motley crew of oligarchs failed him yet again. This time it was in Moldova. Russia allegedly spent \$15 million to bribe Moldovan voters against moving toward European Union membership. Moldovans, however, narrowly approved changes to their constitution that commits the country to joining the EU.”

So, with that happening how does Russia respond? Well, it’s not going to be good. That’s why there are concerns they’re going to go in and try. At some point here they may attack, they may do the same thing they’re doing in Ukraine. Who’s going to stop them? Hmm. Elections. Who’s going to be in power? Incredible world we live in.

Another one here... So, we get a little bit of a glimpse at something. We don’t know where Moldova is on the map. We don’t know where Georgia is on the map. Maybe you ought to go look. But anyway, it shows there are things going on in the world that to this country they seem unimportant. But they’re not. They’re at the forefront right now of an individual’s mind who is not stable, who is thinking about using nuclear weapons.

**“Moldova faces multiple threats from Russia as it turns toward EU membership, foreign minister says”**<sup>4</sup> “Since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, its neighbor Moldova has faced a litany of crises that have

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<sup>3</sup> [Putin suffers another massive defeat, this time in Moldova](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Moldova faces multiple threats from Russia as it turns toward EU membership, foreign minister says | AP News](#)

at times raised fears the country is also in Russia's crosshairs. These included errant missiles landing on its territory..." So, supposedly off course or whatever, but still landed in their country with this war with Ukraine.

"...a severe energy crisis after Moscow dramatically reduced gas supplies; rampant inflation; and protests by pro-Russia parties against the pro-Western government. Moldova has also taken in the highest number of Ukrainian refugees per capita of any country." That's incredible, "Moldova has taken in the highest number of Ukrainian refugees per capita of any country." Wide open door for Russia as far as they're concerned.

Here is another article entitled, "**The guardrails are gone': Full throttle as Europe tries to Trump-proof itself**"<sup>5</sup> This is from France 24. So, just to show a little bit of how Europeans think. I'm going to spend time going through this whatever the time is because we need to understand that we are that close but to understand too if God, if the time isn't to be yet it won't be now, it'll be whenever God allows it to be. But we need to understand just how close we are so that we're moved and motivated and maybe very sobered...maybe even a little fearful of where we stand and are we doing what we're supposed to be doing. Are we totally committed to God's way of life? Are we fighting for this way of life? Are we really putting everything we need to into our lives day by day by day in our relationship and our convictions toward God and the truth? Hopefully, we all are.

This is a rather long article but I'm going to read it. "Trump has vowed to pursue certain aims if he once again becomes president of the United States, and his proposals, however outlandish..." You can see how they already think. This is France 24. Shock. Shock.

"...however outlandish are generating concern abroad. He has vowed to end the war in Ukraine "in 24 hours" by negotiating with Russia's President Vladimir Putin, ask Europe to foot the bill for billions of dollars in US aid to Ukraine, pull out of the Paris climate deal (again), and impose steep tariffs on foreign imports – up to 200 percent in some cases." I hope when we hear things like this, we grasp what is going on. Tariffs, 20% is a lot. 200%, that's war. I hope we understand that.

I don't know if we know history or know what has happened in times past when people start throwing around this matter of tariffs and taxation of goods coming from other countries and what has led into some wars we've already had. This plays a huge part in it, and especially today on the global scene because it's a global economy. And you start doing things like this it comes to a point where someone isn't going to take it anymore, whether it be China or Russia or Europe or whomever.

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<sup>5</sup> ['The guardrails are gone': Full throttle as Europe tries to Trump-proof itself](#)

Because Europe isn't happy about this either because they know they're going to get hit too. Some of the main one's going to get hit are Audi, BMW, Volkswagen is part of Audi. Who are some of the others? Mercedes, whomever. Because of cars and so forth. Because Michigan is going to start producing cars again in a big way.

200% though?! It's just like, to me, it's like begging for a war. It really is. It's like who is going to push the button first. It's insanity! There has to be... It's like—what's that one show—the *Shark Tank*, “There has to be another way.” I don't know if any of you have ever watched that but anyway, that's an expression they use on there once in a while.

“With the prospect of Trump coming to power again, there are two things keeping Europe up at night...” So, a little bit of insight into what's happening in Europe. “...The war in Ukraine and US commitment to NATO.” Can they trust NATO? Can they trust whoever is at the helm in the US?

“Trump has reportedly vowed not to “give a penny” to Ukraine if he wins and will instead seek a “peace deal” ...” So, whether all of this is actually factual is immaterial, this is how they see it all. This is how France sees it. “...by negotiating with Putin. But any such deal would likely force Ukraine to make some very painful concessions – including ceding parts of its eastern territory – and it is feared such acquiescence would only increase the Russian threat hanging over Europe.”

“To off-set this possibility, steps have been taken on both sides of the Atlantic to “Trump-proof” support for Ukraine, providing it with enough financial and military assistance so it can continue to resist Russian encroachment in the long term. NATO this summer announced it was establishing a special mission, known as the NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine (NSATU), which would be headquartered in Germany. Its creation essentially means that from now on it will be NATO itself, rather than its biggest contributor the United States, that will coordinate training Ukrainian troops and providing military equipment.” This just gets worse and worse, what's taking place.

“The European Union is also taking steps to underpin its sanctions on Russia in the case of a Trump return. But there is a hurdle to overcome here, too, since Hungarian leader Viktor Orban – who is pro-Vladimir Putin and pro-Trump – has threatened to block EU aid to Ukraine and has said he wants the sanctions lifted. EU sanctions measures must be unanimously approved by all 27 members.”

So, the reason going through this is to show this is a dilemma for them. They're having a hard time over there. They don't know where to push, where to exert the most pressure, how to go about exerting that pressure. They are clay and iron, and they are not united at all until we finally come down to a point where they are united. And by that time, we'll obviously be in the Fifth Trumpet event. But there are things pushing them to this point.

“The second thing Europe needs to do to help Ukraine and shield itself from the Russian threat is to boost its own defence capabilities. Not knowing whether they will be able to count on the US for much longer, a number of European countries have increased defence spending and drastically ramped up domestic arms production.”

So, they are changing and it’s because of some things that have happened in the past in the former presidency and things that they see are a possibility now. So, it all centers toward the fact they’re drifting farther and farther away from a relationship with this nation. That’s what it’s about.

Something has to lead up to the Fifth Trumpet. So, because of that more and more they have to make choices of what they’re going to do. And it’s not a hard thing to see why when it comes down to a nuclear war being fought, they don’t want it fought in Europe. How do they stop that? Pretty simple.

“The other European headache is NATO. During his first mandate, Trump repeatedly said he wanted out of the alliance. According to EU Commissioner Thierry Breton, Trump even told European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen so in no uncertain terms. “Trump said to Ursula: ‘You need to understand that if Europe is under attack, we will never come to help you and to support you.’” Now, that’s what she said. I don’t know. Very possible. Who knows. I don’t know.

“And by the way...” This is what they believe so this affects their thinking in a big way. “And by the way, NATO is dead. And we will leave, we will quit NATO’,” Breton cited the former president as saying.”

““Hit back hard” The final Trump headache for Europe is his pledge to impose steep tariffs on imported goods in a bid to revive the US economy. For China, that would entail slapping its exports with a 60 percent surcharge, and 10 percent for European-made goods. Economists have warned that it could trigger an outright trade war.” So again, trade wars lead into real wars, and it would trigger one, obviously.

**“North Korea Launches New, More Agile ICBM”**<sup>6</sup> This is from CBS News. “North Korea launched a new intercontinental ballistic missile Thursday in its first test in almost a year of a weapon designed to threaten the U.S. mainland, days ahead of the U.S. election. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered the missile test and was at the launch site, calling the launch “an appropriate military action” to show North Korea’s resolve to respond to its enemies moves that have threatened the North’s safety, according to its Defense Ministry.”

This gets worse and worse because he is such a paranoid individual, and you think he has the power now, as some headlines have brought out, to strike anywhere in the United States. So, with that kind of ICBM, Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.

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<sup>6</sup> [North Korea launches new, perhaps more agile ICBM designed to reach U.S. mainland in first such test in almost a year - CBS News](#)

Then it goes on to say, "The United States, South Korea and Japan had also identified the weapon as an ICBM and condemned the launch as raising tensions. Following a call later Thursday by the three allies' foreign ministers, the countries issued a joint statement saying they "strongly urge the DPRK [North Korea] to immediately cease its series of provocative and destabilizing actions that threaten peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and beyond." And I'm sure that made him shake in his boots.

North Korea is a pawn, and very possibly the primary one that is going to start this whole mess before it's said and done. They've sent soldiers now into Ukraine and you think, what a mess. And so, they sent southern soldiers into... The northern soldiers are obviously fighting for, going to fight for Russia, but the South sending different ones up there as well to show the strategies of how they fight in wars, the North Korean's, and their thinking. So anyway, it's an absolute mess getting stirred up more and more, but it shows that they're being pulled into a sphere, and Russia has an influence over them that's growing stronger. All it takes is a little bit of a shove and a push in a wrong direction and we are in not just a world war, but what is about the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Trumpets.

**"EU tells citizens to stock up for nuclear disaster"**<sup>7</sup> This is from RT, which is Russian Television, but still they report things that are true in basis for what's being done, what's being said. They like this kind of reporting here.

"EU citizens should start stockpiling three days' worth of goods in order to be ready for various potential disasters, including a nuclear conflict, a report has warned. Published on Wednesday by former Finnish President Sauli Niinisto, the initiative is part of the EU's push to make the bloc more resilient in the face of supposedly mounting threats, ranging from natural disasters to a major military conflict. The report encourages EU households to stockpile "basic self-sufficiency" goods that would last for at least 72 hours for fear of potential shortages in case of "armed aggression through conventional means" or other hostile activities such as "cyberattacks or the use of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons."

So, I have so much more but I'm not going to go into them. I think of some of the headlines. I'm just going to read through a few headlines. **"US Ready to back South Korea with Nuclear Weapons."** Just wonderful. So, what does that do with North Korea? Launch them first.

**"Iran said Threatening, Painful Response to Israel likely before US Elections."** Again, the Middle East is an absolute nightmare and very much a part of prophecy. Things can start in that area as well at the same time here and push into the others.

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<sup>7</sup> [EU tells citizens to stock up for nuclear disaster — RT World News](#)

Threat after threat after threat. I'm not going to go through these. They keep talking about the potential of using nuclear weapons coming out of Russia, different leaders talking about it. And you think, when does this end? Well, that's what we're watching, alert to.

So, we ought to be sobered and realize that yes, we are prepared, whatever God says. If it's ten years, so be it. I don't care if it's twenty years, it doesn't matter. God is in charge. And so, we do what we must do. We prepare ourselves, fight, continue this as we have for the last almost thirty years now. Isn't that incredible? This December it'll be thirty years since the Apostasy. Amazing how far we've come. Amazing what's taken place. Amazing what God has revealed to us through this period of time. But we also have to be ready at any time for what's ahead. Awesome to understand such things.