

## The Beginning of God's Church, Pt. 1

Ronald Weinland

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Today we're going to begin a new series, which will then lead into yet another series. And kind of interesting how these are going to all fit together as we go along, but we're going to be covering an incredible story in itself. It needs to be received more than just a story flow, as we go through some of this, because we're going to cover some events, some of the greatest events in human history that has paved the way for others.

This sermon is entitled, The Beginning of God's Church Part 1. *The beginning of God's Church Part 1.* We're going to go back and begin where it all began, back in Acts. So if you want to go back there and we'll pick up things as we go along. But we're going to read much of the story flow of how the Church began, and it'd be good to try to get into the mindset of thinking about some of that, of what they went through, of what they experienced.

That's kind of hard to do when you read something together as the story continues on, but to think about that, what God was doing and how God was specifically working with them. Because this is an incredible change that was taking place, as far as what God was doing, as far as what Christ was given to do and accomplish in the Church, The Body of Christ.

And all those things then that had to do with the changing in that particular area, as far as Jerusalem was concerned, the Jewish world, because it wasn't well received by them. And especially having to do with things being said about our Passover, Joshua the Christ, because that's what they did, and that He was the Messiah. So again, putting yourself in their shoes sometimes as we read stories or other people's shoes is a little harder to do, but I hope we can do that as we go through this because it really brings more of it alive. Especially to see how God works, because that's what a lot of this reveals. God's working now in a different way because of where we are in time. God worked in a specific way back then because of what was taking place. And to me, that's always awesome to see how He works and to learn from that. Acts Chapter 2, down to the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D.

**Acts 2:1 - Now when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord.** It's a compound word here, meaning basically *all of the same mind, same purpose* in other words, as to what they were doing. They were told to stay in Jerusalem, they were told, in other words, at that particular point in time, that they were to be there and they did that.

So it says, **They were in one place, then suddenly came there came a sound from the sky as a rushing mighty wind, and filled the whole house where they were sitting.** So again here, just as they got together at different times here, but at this particular time then, as this is going through the story it says, **Then there appeared to them divided tongues like fire, that set upon each one of them.** So again, hard to imagine seeing something come down. This is a wind that comes in that they feel inside of a house

and a room that they were in and then to see something that appears like flame and it comes down and sets on, on their heads.

So, this is the only time that this has happened in this way. There's nothing you can read about it before, in the Old Testament, in the same manner, but here it was taking place, something that they were being encouraged in. That's why God did it, to let them see something more than just experiencing it and feeling it in the sense of the things we go through sometimes when we're called.

We learn knowledge that we've never received before and we begin to deal with it. But this was something that had to begin rather quickly; it's the beginning of God's Church. There are things that God is going to do to make it clear to those with whom he's working, especially the Apostles that this is of God and they've never experienced anything, and yet they were able to see this and then record it. Awesome!

**Then there appeared to them the divided tongues, and set upon each one of them so they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and begin to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them to speak out.**

So again, it's something that God did to them to experience something that they had never experienced before, and they began to speak in that which they were being moved in and inspired in by God.

So God communicated with their minds and gave them this ability to see and understand things in a way that they had never seen it before. And that's similar to some of us when we first hear something that we have never heard before and all of a sudden we understand it, and we can begin to talk to someone about what we now see, in the mind. But this was stronger by the power of God's Spirit. Awesome.

So they begin to speak out in those things that God was giving to them "in different languages", it says. Incredible! And I think of how, through the last 50 years, so many things have changed because when people didn't have the kind of communication or the ability and literature that we have today, everything is out there on the Internet. You can go to different sources. Of course *Strong's Concordance* came along and people began to learn more about certain words back then. In the Hebrew and in the Greek, and what they really meant.

And yet, there was this concept for a long time, especially with those who would supposedly *speak in tongues* and they didn't use it in the right way. And candidly, one of the very reasons why Paul basically, in essence, had to put it to a stop because of people misusing it. And anyway, giving themselves to spirits, but it wasn't God's. So it goes on here then to say, this is experience. This is what they were experiencing now. **There were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.**

So, in other words, in the regions where they were, scattered all over the place Jews in different regions and it goes to then and mentioned those as we go along here. It says, **Now when this sound occurred, the multitude came together.** So, it's like it drew them, whatever the sound was that went with it and

they came together and they were confused because everyone heard them speak with their own sounds in their own language. So here they were hearing them speak whether they went outside because they couldn't have stayed in the same room there, because they couldn't have gathered around. So they had to have moved out, whatever. And then, because of all the people gathered in Jerusalem because it was a holy day, it was the day of Pentecost and they were there for that purpose. But now they're coming across these individuals who are speaking out the way they are and they hear the different ones, because they all had this ability. And so here they are, possibly spreading out, we don't know. But it says people heard them.

So they heard them speak in their own language. **Then they were all amazed in wonder, saying to one another, 'Look, are these not all who speak Galilean?'** So again, Galileans, as far as that area of Jerusalem was concerned; they weren't noted to be, well, they were looked down upon. They weren't looked upon as being educated, not like some of them were there in Jerusalem and the like. So again, people basically look down upon them. So it's like "How is this happening?" They, so they were in wonder they, and wondering what was taking place and kind of in awe of it. **'So how is it we hear each in our own language in that which we were born?'** So they were speaking it as well as, obviously, perfectly in that respect, of whatever their native language was, whatever area they were from. Incredible!

**Parthians, Medes, Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs. We hear them speaking in our own languages, the mighty works of God.** So they heard things that were being said, probably of the Old Testament prophets, and they were talking about the various things that had just taken place in Jerusalem because this is what they preached.

And so they were being inspired in that, and so they were moved by the things they were hearing about a Messiah, because that's what led them up to this point in time anyway, when Christ came into Jerusalem and all the thousands of people there that were waiting and they began to rejoice in the way that they did. Crying out things about, in essence, the descendant of David, the Christ, the Messiah because of everything that had taken place and the news that had spread around like all the miracles that are taking place in a week and a half, two weeks before he ever got there, and this stuff spread like wildfire.

And then, of course, Lazarus, that was the last one that took place there and that was right next to Jerusalem there, and what, two miles away? And so they all heard this because that was noise abroad quickly, someone was raised from the dead? And so again, awesome things taking place here, and now they're hearing things spoken to them about this, but in their own language, incredible!

And what an awesome miracle that God was giving to get this off the ground. To get something moving that would affect people and draw people and that He could then work with individuals to draw them into the Church. Because a lot of these, a lot of these, hundreds of them, came into God's Church. That's how it began. So this is what God was doing. Christ was doing, because this is given to Christ through Christ to accomplish.

**Verse 12 - So they were all amazed and perplexed.** It's like, "How can this be?" Saying to one another, **'What can this mean?' Others mocked and said, 'They're full of new wine.'** because it shows an attitude right there. Some who are willing to listen, some who are considering what is taking place knowing that "This isn't normal, this isn't natural, by what power?" Well it leaves you with "This has to be of God", that wonder in certain people's minds. Now others who didn't want or care about the things they had been hearing in the first place, mostly religious individuals of the Sadducees, Pharisees and other types of zealots that were there in that region, they would hear it, and so naturally they'd come up with something like this. Kind of remind you of the news today, which isn't news, where they twist and distort things and try to throw something out there that's different. I'm gonna get to it later here, but it's just like, Jeremy sent me something today that was some news taking place up in Germany and what's taking place in that region of the world and how things are moving to the far right more and more. And someone was reporting on this and talking about the, if I get this right, I've written down here because I don't want to mess it up. But it's a particular party, if I can get this out here, let's see, probably not. Yeah, the AFD, it's the *Alternative for Deutschland Party*.

So some others are reporting on this and the guy standing before a big mic, and like he's a reporter of some sort, and he's having these other things come in of other scenes as this video is going on. And they have this ominous music in the background and things that are kind of reminiscent of the time of Hitler, before World War II. And a matter of fact, there are times when this party has slammed so much, it's just... there's no party that's good. But the point being is what the other side, or the people do sometimes to besmirch, to put down, to try to destroy, because they see a rise in this popularism taking place to the far right and people swinging that way. It's happening all over Europe. It's happened here already. And it's happening in Europe in different places, South America, in different places as well.

So here, this ominous music is in the background, almost through the whole thing. And these things that they're trying to twist and distort to cause people to be fearful. And candidly, listening to it, it sounded a little fearful. It's like, but then you realize what they're doing because of what they're saying and how they're addressing it. So here you have... people, people are people, human nature is human nature, and you have people who do not agree with things that are being given there. They can only find or see things that are wrong.

So, "These guys have to be drunk. They have to be drinking, nine o'clock in the morning and they're already drunk." Now, when you think about it, isn't that a dumb thing to say when you hear people speaking in a different language so fluently and somehow you're going to come up with this dumb idea?

And sometimes when people twist and distort things you think, “How dumb can you be?”, and yet there are people out there who lap it up. There are people out there listening to that kind of stuff and they lap it all up. They just you think “Use your brain!” Anyway, it's frustrating sometimes.

So here it is, they're saying, **They have to be full of new wine. But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice, and said to them, ‘Men of Judea, and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to my words: For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it's only the third hour of the day.’** In other words, 9am. **But this is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel.** So now, this opportunity, so this wasn't by accident. You just have to marvel at things that God has planned, worked out, in a certain way that they're going to be accomplished in a certain way, and using this in a very powerful way to bring in what Joel had to say. Awesome!

And then he starts quoting some of the book of Joel. **‘Now, it came to pass in the last days, says God’,** so this is what Joel had to say. **‘...that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh.**

So this is prophetic into the future. Here's where it begins. This is the beginning of it. This isn't the fulfillment of Joel, but it's spoken of by Joel because this is where it starts, where God is beginning to pour out His Spirit because of the Church and the way God was going to begin working with mankind. No longer just working with individuals himself, but this was going to be done through our High Priest to what was given to the Church, and those who would go out and preach the different things that God had given to them.

And so, this is that example, and began to pour out His spirit upon those who are being drawn, those who are being called. Not everyone yet. These who were talking about being drunk, you must be pretty certain they weren't being drawn, because they already had attitudes, they already had their mind made up and they were not going to be worked with easily by God. That's reserved for another time, the Great White Throne. People like that, they can't be worked with now because they don't grasp enough, they are too tied into the world, and so God has a time for them. But then He's going to offer His spirit to be poured out upon all flesh at that time, whether they'll receive it or not is up to them. But that's when He's really going to pour out His spirit upon all flesh and, beginning with a millennium, offer mankind, everyone, the opportunity. Awesome.

**Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.** Now, I was thinking about this, this morning about this word for *prophet* and how it's been so misused in times past and that's why it was such a hard transition, even when writing the first book and talking about some of those things, because it's not a prophet like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Joel and when certain things are given like even to John, in that respect. Because John was worked with as a prophet in a unique way, but you look at the Old Testament prophets and they had things given to them that were for things to happen in the future. And so the things written in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the minor prophets, all those different places Daniel wrote about so much that was going to happen later on, those are things that are given that are in different ways that God has

worked, just like Joel here, he's a prophet, but there's going to come a time when this is going to be fulfilled.

Now, there's also, in the Greek language especially, and in the Church then, that which is referred to as *prophecy*, *prophesy*, or *a prophet*, it's not the same. John was unique in all that because of what was given to him, and nearly the whole Book then, obviously, has to do with prophecy and things that were, like Joel or Daniel or whomever, but that word has to do with inspired speaking, understanding, being given understanding of what is written. Of being inspired according to what has been written about various things, as in the book of Revelation or as in Daniel and so forth. And candidly, a lot of this stuff prepared us for where we are now, began with Herbert Armstrong as God began to reveal things about Europe and begin to reveal things about we were in the end time. And candidly, he fits into that category, but he didn't want to receive this idea of being a prophet. Because there was a bit of a discourse at headquarters about some of that with an Evangelist who said that he was, or made a comment about that and then he said "No", basically, he wasn't.

But that was with the concept in the mind, the present truth at that time, of what a prophet was. There was no understanding, candidly, about this. He came to write about that a little bit later on, about it being *inspired speaking*, but not with full understanding yet, but it had to do with prophecy and the ability, because everything that God has written throughout the Old Testament about the Messiah, about things that are going to happen and all the things, candidly even written in the New Testament that have to do with prophetic things that will happen later, if... All of us have that spirit, all of us have that ability, that spirit and it talks about that in Scripture. That we grasp those things and we're able to speak them to one another in the same way because we understand it, whether it be about, just like Europe. We understand that there are going to be 10 nations, we can talk about those things and that's inspired because you couldn't know that and be convicted of that and speak with it dogmatically, as we're able to, except that God's Spirit is here. And He gives us then that ability to communicate such things, to talk about such things. So we have the spirit of prophecy in us, because it's not a matter of a prophet for telling the future, it's about being able to interpret those things or written about the future because that's the time we're in. Just like understanding we're almost there. We're almost there. Awesome!

**Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.** Speak with inspired interpretation. It's not about, like some people think, that all of a sudden they're going to start telling about prophetic things that are going to happen tomorrow or next week or next month or next year or a hundred years. Most people have a concept that's pretty soon, because this concept of something happening a hundred, two hundred, a thousand, two thousand, three thousand years from now, it's not too much in the mind of human beings, anyway. So again here, they're gonna be given the ability to grasp sons and daughters, into the future, whenever that happens. In the millennium, throughout the millennium, people are gonna have this ability, sons and daughters.

**And your young men see visions.** And so again, what's conjured up in the mind? Well, a lot of these words are translated this way and have definitions according to how traditional Christianity has taken a lot of this. That's been an amazing thing, even seeing what happened in 325 and going on from there, and what the Catholic Church, even the word *Revelation* and how it came to be, and how it was used in times past and some of the crazy ideas that people have come up with. And then this thing of *seeing visions*, "I saw a vision." They go back and talk about various things that have happened in times past to some, whether it be from God or from a demonic being, whatever. And so there's this thing of people seeing visions. Well, if anybody in God's church sees visions, you're in trouble. You have some problems because God is not working that way in His Church.

So that definition needs to go out the window and be one that would be fearful that it would ever happen. Because we've had people who have had those things, who aren't with us. **Your young men shall see visions.** The act and ability, if you will, of seeing things come to pass. To envision the things that were given for the future, to be able to envision them and then they're going to experience it, they're gonna see it come to pass. That's what this is about. **Your old men shall dream dreams.** Again, with the hope of what's going to be accomplished, what's going to be fulfilled when they begin to be given this ability to see and understand.

I think especially of those who are old that are resurrected in the Great White Throne. What would you call them? A lot of them are very old men and very old women, very old people. They're going to be resurrected with a younger body. Awesome. Not on their death bed, not on their last few gasps for air like they were when they died, but made healthy and whole. Well, that's what this is referring to. They're going to have the hope that, finally, of things they're going to be able to see, experience, have as a result of God's promises of what they've seen God do up to this point in time, of what the world is like.

I think of what it's going to be like when those 144,000 see what mankind is, what God has brought mankind to in the last 200 years. Jets, rockets, satellites, freeways, like Dallas, you know, just need another, here's another intersection, "Well, how are we going to do this? We'll just go over the top of the other four underneath..." You know, and then all these vehicles out there, insane. What a shock! That's nothing, *nothing* compared to what it's gonna be like at the end of 1,000 years, it's nothing. We're just, we think we're so far along right now. No, we're not.

This is just the beginning of technology and what's out there to be able to be accomplished. At some point in time there won't be vehicles with lots of batteries or gasoline or other things. There's gonna be the ability to have things perhaps in a very small container. Anyway, with power, I mean, we're just beginning. And so when people are resurrected at the end of that period of time, after a thousand years into The Great White Throne and they see the kinds of cities, the kinds of world, the beauty that's there, of how mankind has been blessed to make deserts bloom, to make areas that are nothing but sand and blowing dirt and mounds of sand that you can take a ski board down if you want to, and all that's gone as

a whole, disappeared, things have been reclaimed, made right, by obeying God. Anyway, dream, dreams indeed.

**Then on my man servants and my maid servants, I will pour out my spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy.** Inspire speaking. They're going to be able to do what we do. When you know the truth, when you understand what's happened and what's going to happen, they're going to have... Those in The Great White Throne, those who receive the truth of God, those who become truly convicted and converted and fight for this way of life, they're going to have the hope of what's going to happen at the end. Being in Elohim and the thankfulness that those who won't receive it, those who fight against it, we don't have to worry in the God Kingdom, that they're going to be allowed in. God isn't going to give that kind of power to those who are against Him. On the contrary, He's going to destroy those who have fought against it for billions, perhaps, of years. The demon world and Satan. Incredible.

**And I will pour out my spirit in those days.** So the things recorded in Joel here have a far-reaching effect all the way to the end of The Last Great Day. But they had their start at the beginning of God's Church here, Pentecost 31 AD, that's what Peter said. This is what's spoken of by the Prophet Joel. **Verse 19 - I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs on the earth beneath; blood, fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and,** it's not awesome, it's clearly **manifested**, has to do with *manifestation, able to be seen* is what it's talking about, **...Day of the Lord.** So first of all, it's talking about what's going to happen at the point in time where Christ and the 144,000 intervene and the things that are taking place on the earth as mankind is destroying one another and the kind of war that's taking place, that they come to stop and put end into, as they begin to destroy themselves, everyone else who's destroying the earth, who won't quit.

**Now it shall come to pass, whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.** So that's God's plan. Whenever that time is for different ones, for God's Spirit to be poured out upon them, for the Church and for those called into the Church in the next 2,000 years. For those in the world during the millennium who are going to have this opportunity, God's going to begin pouring out a spirit finally to the whole world to those who will receive it, and then The Great White Throne, incredible. And those who do then respond to that and call out on God, they have the ability then to be saved. That's what it's talking about, beautiful! So that's God's plan in a nutshell, very quick, from Joel. Inspired by Peter to talk about to them at that time, as the Church was beginning, as people were being drawn to it. Awesome.

**Verse 22 - You men of Israel, hear these words;** so he continues on, **Joshua of Nazareth, a man approved or declared or attested to, if you will, by God among you by miracles, wonders, and signs.** So in other words, he's saying God gave the proof and the testimony, if you will, and made it manifest, clear to you, that you were able to see, **...of miracles and signs through Joshua, which God did through Him in the midst of you, and you yourselves also know.** So these things that spread around. You know, when people are healed of things, lepers are healed, the blind are able to see, and then finally Lazarus raised from the dead, these things move fast throughout Judea, truly, and throughout Jerusalem.



**Him being delivered by the determined purpose, *predetermined will*** is what the word is, **and knowledge of God**. So it was making it clear here, this was God's purpose. Joshua and what He did and the things that God did through Him, it was all predetermined. It was according to His will and His death was according to His will. Everything is happening according to his will. **You have taken, and by lawless hands have nailed to a pole and put to death**. Pretty strong language. Pretty strong, because everybody there knew what had just happened. They knew what had taken place, the one they looked to, the thousands that were out there, thousands who cried out concerning the Messiah that was coming into Jerusalem, because of what they believed, because of things that had already taken place.

And then there were thousands who didn't, but the point being, there were those who did. And so he's telling them the story of that which they're fully aware of. It just happened right at 50 plus days, whatever it was right here, before that, of what had taken place. That He was nailed to a pole. You killed him. **Whom God raised up**. He didn't raise Himself up. He was dead. No life. That's why this concept of the Trinity is so ridiculous. Anyway, **Whom God raised up, having loosed**, in other words, *released* or *removed the pains*, the birth pangs, or the agony of death. That's what the word has to do with here, the pains that's relating to that kind of pain, suffering, but this that leads for Him to death.

**Because it was not possible that he should be held by it. For David spoke concerning Him**. Now this is an awesome prophecy. This is one that God has blessed us with in a very powerful way to unlock so many things that we didn't know before. And it reveals who Yahweh is, it reveals who Christ is, and to me, exceedingly inspiring. **For David spoke concerning him**, Christ, this is from Psalm 16, if you want to jot it down, 8 through 11, it's recorded in the Old Testament, it's what it's referring to. **I foresaw the Lord**, but it's quoted from Psalm 16, the Eternal, the Lord, the Eternal Yahweh. So when it says, **I foresaw the Eternal always before my face**. So again, it's going through all this and realizing, because they felt that this was about David, the Jews did. They didn't grasp and comprehend we in the Church didn't grasp and comprehend for so, so long, that this is a conversation, this is something that's going on between God the Father, Yahweh, and Joshua, something being stated back and forth. And that David, it's not about David, but the Jews thought it was about David. In the Church we thought it was about David, in large part in times past. So, **I foresaw the Eternal**, it's prophetic. I, speaking of Christ, **I saw the Eternal**, Yahweh, His Father, **always before my face**. It's Christ saying this. It's a prophecy about Christ.

**For He**, God Almighty, Yahweh, **is on my right hand**. It's so clear in Scripture. This is what I was talking about, Christ. And given all power and authority until everything is brought into subjection to him. And then it says in Corinthians, when that's accomplished and fulfilled, that it's all given to God, it's all God's. But He's accomplishing it all to the very end, to that point in time, to the point of the end of The Last Great Day. And then it's all fulfilled. Elohim exists, all humanity is gone. No demonic world any longer.

**For He**, Yahweh, **is on my**, Christ speaking, **right hand that I should not be moved. Therefore did my heart rejoice and my tongue was glad**. A kind of belief and conviction that was so strong and yet He had, He had a battle His human nature because of, which is hard for us to grasp, He went up to pray, there

toward the end, and He was out there, what, an hour? Three different times? And He's saying to his father, "Father, if there is any other way, take this cup from me." Now, we should be able to try to appreciate that, to try to grasp that, to understand that though He had the most powerful conviction of any human being who's ever lived, a mind that was filled with God, He had to battle this, the human pulls.

When you know, when you see something that clear in your mind and you believe it so strongly, as absolute truth, you know what's getting ready to happen to you. You know you're about to get beaten, you know you're going to have skin ripped off your body, you know you're not even going to be able to be recognized because of what Isaiah says, and you're going to be nailed to a pole. You know, this is going to take place. Who on earth is not going to be moved by that? You know, so much so it was, to me what an incredible thing He was, this was so much a part of Him, that he perspired blood in thinking about these things because it was so powerful and real in His mind. We've never agonized like that.

**Moreover, my flesh shall rest in hope.** Well, three days in the tomb, it's going to rest there for a while. Nothing in existence until God brings life back. **Because you will not leave my soul, my life, in the grave.** Awesome. The word hades, just a hole in the ground. **Neither will you allow your Holy One to see corruption.** Beautiful! So he knew his body wasn't going to even decay as bodies do after a length of time. He knew how long he was gonna be there; three days, three nights. **You have made known to me the ways of life.** And ways that are far beyond what we can grasp because it's so much more than what we have by a calling and a gradual process of change and growth and learning, and having the Word of God abide in us, something He had from the beginning. Awesome!

**You will make me full of joy with your countenance.** Because He knew that was just the beginning. And we're going to learn from these things and be inspired by these things because we realize, that's why, we're told so clearly, we had to fight that's carnal human nature till it's over with and the battle isn't over with. You've got to fight it constantly. You've got to fight against selfishness and that is the battle and we've got to be close to God, we've got to draw close to God because we can't do it on our own and if we try to do it on our own... well, we're going to be a mess and we're not going to be around long. So these are things we have to become convicted of. We grow through that through experience, and it takes a long process for this mind to be transformed, to go through this. But we know what's going to happen at the end, that confidence. We have, we have a firm belief, we're going to be in Elohim and that's where we want to be, that's what this is all about becoming a part of God's family forever. This isn't what it's all about, this present life. The thing that this present life is about, for those of us in God's Church, is that this is our time now and we have the opportunity now and we can fight for it.

**You have made known to me the ways of life.** That's what He does to us, different process when we have to grow in by choice. **You will make me full of joy with your countenance.** We know it's going to happen. **Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David.** So this is where he drives the point home. Something the Jews can never understand, what this is about and still don't

understand what this Psalm is about. They haven't received it. And many in God's Church that are scattered don't understand this, though it's plainly spoken here. But until God gives it, you can't see it.

There are things you can't see and can't know until God gives it. And yet with our minds, and when God has already given it to us, it's like, well, "Why haven't we always known this?" Well, you know it because that's the present truth. And when God calls you into the present truth, that's what you're able to see and be convicted of. But when it doesn't exist, you have to wait until God gives it then He gives something more and that's the present truth. It just keeps growing.

**Let me speak freely unto you the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried.** Making the point this is not about David because he's still in his grave! This is about someone else. This is about the Messiah. This is about Joshua ...**and his scepter is with us until this day. Therefore being a Prophet,** speaking of David, **and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to Him that are the fruit of His loins, according to the flesh,** physical, **He,** speaking of God, **would raise up the Christ, the Messiah, to sit on His throne.** Awesome!

**He, seeing this before, spoke of the resurrection of Christ.** So he just spells it all out. **He, seeing this before, spoke of the resurrection of,** the Messiah, if you will, **the Christ, that His life was not left in the grave.** Beautiful. And we are able to see it. This is what it's about. It's not about David because He was given life after death. Incredible. Did ...**not leave his life in the grave, neither did his flesh see corruption.** So he's saying this is what the prophecy was and this is what's been fulfilled. He never saw corruption. He was there exactly like he said. He'd be in the tomb for three days and three nights.

**This Joshua has God raised up, whereof we are all witnesses.** So this was their job in the beginning. This was, this was the big change that was taking place from Judaism. This was where God was beginning to reveal things, on a spiritual plane, to people with whom He was going to call in larger groups as far as the organization of a Church that could begin to spread out through the Roman Empire and other places. So, this is the beginning of it. Awesome. **Therefore, being on the right hand of God exalted, and having received the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He hath poured out this, which you now see and hear.**

So, He's saying, this is what the Prophet Joel had to say, "In that day, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, all who will receive it." In context we learned that, and so that's the beginning of the process and with God's spirit we can understand that. It didn't all happen on that day. There were a lot of things Joel spoke about that are going to happen just at the time of Christ's return, because that's what it leads up to and then all the way through.

So in these verses Peter made it clear again that David was recorded as being a Prophet. Those things in Psalms are prophecies which are about God, Yahweh, Yahweh Elohim and Christ and Peter went on even more here beginning in **Verse 34 - For David has not ascended into the heavens.** That's why he said he's in a grave his sepulchre is with us to this day, he's dead! ...**But He said himself,** and Peter quotes Psalm

110. Basically that quote is, **The Eternal said into my Lord.** David saying, "He's my Lord, the Christ is my Lord." That's who he's referring to, **Sit you at my right hand.** So this is, he's saying, he's making it very clear here, "This is what God said to Joshua." This is what God said concerning the Christ, about my Lord. **Sit on my right hand until I, God, make your foes your footstools,** what we just talked about in essence, of what's stated later on in Corinthians and other places. **Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this same Joshua, whom you nail to a pole, both Lord and Christ,** the Messiah. Powerful words!

So again, we can read stories like this, but to be there, to think about being there and what it was like as people begin to hear this, to recognize the kind of power that God was giving to the disciples, and especially to Peter here at this point in time, and what Peter was saying and inspired to say it through the power of the Holy Spirit, and Peter continued, **verse 37 - Now when they heard this, they were pierced through to the heart.** Not everybody, but those who were going to begin making a change. To be pierced through to the heart means there are things you begin to accept yourself. You begin to accept personal responsibility.

We come to understand we killed Christ. We're all guilty of it on a spiritual plane, because of our sins. That's why He died, so we could be forgiven of our sins. So, in essence, spiritually, all mankind, because all have sin, are guilty of the Blood, the Death, of Christ. It's a hard thing sometimes for people to grasp. But that's what we have to repent of, and to understand we're all guilty. And when we start accepting that personal responsibility, we begin to be pierced through the heart. We begin to see what kind of lousy, if we're called out of the world, sick, perverted, mixed up lives we lived.

And we begin to embrace a different way of life that is filled with what is right, what is morally right, and it's moral because God says it's moral, not because human beings say it's moral, but because it comes from God Almighty. We become convicted of that, and so that's so much of our calling. There are times we see certain things and we should feel that way. So we'll, it's a part of repentance, acknowledging, admitting what we are. "I'm a selfish...", whatever. You know, "But I'm thankful for the power of God's spirit that's helping me to...", this mind to, "...be changed, to be transformed, to become something different." Awesome!

**Then Peter replied, 'Repent.'** So they ask here, says they were, they were pierced through to the heart and asked Peter and the rest of the Apostles, men and brethren, "What shall we do? What's next? What can we do?" In other words, they grasped that. Now, there are a whole bunch of others who didn't. And they weren't concerned about that. **Then Peter replied, 'Repent, every one of you. Repent.'** "Think differently", that's what he was telling them, "think differently than the way you are. You've got to change. You can't just come the way you are." Isn't that an incredibly sick perverted lie that Satan has hoisted upon the world of traditional Christianity? "You can just come as you are. Just whatever you are, whatever you are that disagrees with the scriptures, whatever it is, change what God made you by nature to something else." "That you're not even, he or she anymore. You're something in-between and

call that whatever you want. Be whatever you want. Just come before God that way, that's fine. Everybody's accepted." No, they're not! People have to repent and people who have certain proclivities in life, spiritually, they have to do something different. They have to fight against that the rest of their life to repent, repent and fight against it. It's a horrible thing. But if you're convicted of God's way of life, it's like similar to what God says men, or women, but I think it's more a thing of men than women, you have to repent of adultery, fornication in the mind. It's a spiritual thing.

And so, some may have to fight more than others, like alcohol. Some may have a proclivity there. You may have to fight more than others because of something you've received through your genes, you know, through whatever, before you and generations before and breakdown of, whatever, as things are passed along. That may be your battle all your life! But some people look down upon certain ones who have certain other proclivities when it becomes of the *same* sex, if you will, and think, "Well, that can't be in God's Church." Well, yes, it can! But they have to fight that and not give into it, never do it!

Just as much as anyone, man or woman, who is inclined to... I think of some of the stupid, it doesn't matter, any kind of show on TV practically, and people so easily go out and commit adultery, and people go on the job, and all of a sudden, because someone else they, whatever is not working right at home, or they've had it, and all of a sudden there's someone that listening to them at work and "I finally have someone to hear me and listen to me, and they're really concerned", and all of a sudden they're off somewhere and you think, "Adultery." You know and so if that's their weakness, or whatever it is; alcohol, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, you have to fight against that the rest of your life, if that, if that has to be the case, whatever your proclivity is as a human being. And as you grow and as you mature the battle will become less and less. Fight it you must if you want to be in God's family. That's the choice and God says this is what you must do. So sometimes, when people look down upon others because like they're so far out they can never yeah, they can be.

It's like this southern type of thing and all the music that's there. There's so much of that music. It's like you rewind it and you get your dog back, your cat back, your wife back, your children back, and you know... And if you're not careful you become your own grandpa, or whatever that one song is, I don't know. I mean, that's not how crazy life is out there. And yet in the south, I say the south because that tends to be the Bible belt more, and you think "This is where people go. They have these great big nice buildings and have all these thousands of people all these cars," and it's like "...it must be right because look at all the cars out there. There are a thousand cars out there. So this must be a good place." And they all go to not all but a lot do the same things they get to know each other, and they get in these different programs and they're involved in the same thing. And after a while, we know some people that, well, I don't even want to go into that. But it's a common thing you hear of when people are associated like that in their lives, go haywire. I'm just thinking of one where a guy's wife went off with some other woman, and then another one his wife left him, I think for another man in this case, but, you know, it

just happened. So that's the way of society today. There are very few, it seemed like there are very few people who work together, even on a physical plane in marriage.

I remember a dance we had one time, up in Spokane when I was performing a wedding up there. And they got everybody out on the floor as a whole and, and as they called different age groups or different periods of how long you've been married, we got to twenty twenty-five or whatever it was. That's where my wife and I were at that point, and we were still out there and I think what, two of the couples? Out of all the people, and there were a lot of them a lot older than us, but they were on their second or third marriage or whatever it might be. And it's like it's just the way of the world, but when you're called into God's Church that has to stop, and that's what you have to repent of. That's what your battle is.

So like I was saying concerning people in the south, can talk about being religious and so forth, and yet living horrible lives of things they've got to change, they've got to work on. Horrible, horrible world. Choices, choices, choices. And sadly, these things have crept into God's Church in times past. There isn't much I haven't heard of or seen in God's Church. The people, human beings have done in the environment of God's Church. Sick and perverted things, because they gave in to their pulls of the past that they were supposed to have repented of, and kept repenting of, because that was their primary pull that they should have kept fighting.

But as long as you keep fighting, every one of us, we're changing and we can continue to change. We don't have to give in to our old self, the old carnal nature, and that's where the battle is. Anyway, so Peter said, **Repent every one of you and be baptized in the name of Joshua the Christ for the release from the bondage.** It's not *remission* here that means I mean different things, different people especially in the Protestant world, the word means a *release from the bondage*, literally. A release from the bondage of sin. That's what we want. That's why we repent as often as we do and fighting this mind and our selfishness and repenting of those things when we see them. Because we recognize if we keep there, if we stay there and don't fight against it, we're in bondage. We're just in bondage to sin if we don't repent regularly, to fight and conquer and overcome what we are.

**And you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** So in essence here in the beginning, which should continue on through the rest of our life, this is where it starts. You repent, but you don't stop repenting. And you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, but you have to keep receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. You have to, there's the impregnation, that's one thing, but the continual flow of God, the Father and Joshua, the Christ living and dwelling within us, that can begin to be quenched and cut off the flow of that spirit and the amount of that spirit. And that's up to us about how much we cry out to God and what and know we need His help every day.

**...the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.** So God does the calling, what an awesome thing! That's something that was lost during Laodicea. It was lost in God's Church, that God does the calling. And you

can pretty much tell by things you do whether or not God is calling people. We know that God isn't calling people right now. There's a purpose for that. We also recognize there was a period of time where he did, because he knew what was going to come to pass. He knew there was more cleaning up that had to take place in the Church. He knew the minds and the attitudes and the sins of some. And there were going to be those who would give up their crown, but we didn't know that. So God added more to the Church, for the sake of the Church, for the sake of fellowship, for the sake of the ability to grow and have that comfort of those things wherever we might be scattered.

But also to prepare for what's coming, obviously, most of all, to fulfill what he's going to fulfill in the temple, and for those who are to be able to live on into a new age. God has that down, I believe it's probably down to the very number of how many are going to actually go into the Millennium. Just as much as those who are yet being worked with to be a part of 144,000, is down to a specific number. Because when you build something as meticulously, as meticulously as God does, as thoroughly as God does, it's exact! Everything is exact, exact, *exact*. You look at different things God has done through times past, exact, exact, *exact*. Because God is doing the creating and the building, of everything. Awesome!

**Verse 40 - Even with many other words, He testified and urged them, saying, 'Be saved from this twisted generation.'** See, that's all through 6,000 years. Twisted, distorted, messed up, confused, blinded, in bondage, don't even see it, don't recognize it, and twisted indeed. The minds are twisted and only God can untwist it and make it right. **Then those who gladly received his word were baptized.** See, those who gladly received it, because reality is we know of some others the ones who would like to find excuses; "They're drunk. This is a bunch of nonsense", different things that come into human beings' minds. "...this doesn't agree with what the Prophet said", you know, because they had their own interpretations, the Jews did.

It's amazing, as we go through some of these stories, to realize there were people who *knew* that God was doing certain things, and they rejected it. Incredible to be of that kind of a mind, even in a carnal, physical world, without access or being drawn by God's spirit, but to be able to see something and say, "No, I know that God did this," basically. That's what's going on in the mind, and then reject it, incredible how the human mind is. That's why it shouldn't be so incredible to grasp what's going to take place during the Great White Throne. That's why it's such a large, large, *large*, incredibly large group at the end, who just, they had two lives and that was it, that's what they chose.

**Then those who gladly received His word were baptized, and that day about 3,000 lives were added.** Now what a way to start the Church. 3,000 people, can't grasp that. That's incredible! All of them being baptized, hands laid upon them to receive of the Holy Spirit because that's an example that's given later on. And maybe they didn't know that present truth then, but God gave them the impregnation of the Holy Spirit. So it might have been done differently. I don't know. It doesn't say they're later on. It's very clear that they did understand the laying on of hands and God's Spirit being given. **Verse 42 - Then they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' teachings and fellowship.** So here's the Church starting out with

3,000 people immediately. More continue to be added as we go along here because this isn't over with yet. Just right there in Jerusalem alone. And they're going to be spreading back out into different regions because they were converted there. But they go back into different regions where they were from because they're here in Pentecost for a particular reason.

So already God has purposed and planned that there be others that are going to be scattered in different places in the Church, in the beginning of the Church and there will be those who work with them that primarily for the Jews, Peter and the Apostles. That's going to be their job going out to these different areas and working with and teaching people. Working primarily first and foremost and getting things established in Jerusalem. **Then they continued steadfastly in the Apostles teachings.** Isn't that incredible to read that here to think, and when does that stop? Never should stop. Never, never, *never* should stop. It shouldn't have stopped for anyone who was baptized during the days of Herbert Armstrong. Never should stop in a person's, if they don't continue in what they're being taught through God's Apostles.

**...steadfastly in the Apostles' teachings and fellowship and the breaking of bread and in prayers.** So this is new, this is something that's exciting and they've never experienced before. And so we go through different things. But for them and what was taking place, such a powerful thing, awesome experience! **Even fear arose into their lives**, a fear that wasn't there before, **even as many wonders and signs were done through the Apostles.** So it means a fear of turning from, of not doing what is being given, because it's so clear to you that; "God is here, God is working with us, Christ is working with us, and we're experiencing things we've never experienced, we're seeing things done that have never taken place in Judea, or in Jerusalem before." And they're witnessing these things and there are also warnings that begin to come along.

**Now all who believe were together and had all in common.** Says *all things*, it just says "all in common." It's like mixing everything together in the sense of what they had as food or properties or the value of them and so forth. This began here, because they didn't know what else to do. They started there, and so they were just getting established, and they didn't want to go back to certain places right away, obviously. That would come in time, but there was a beginning, as anyone would need in God's Church, to become grounded in what the Apostles were teaching. So they chose to stay together and this new beginning in the Church, by God's spirit in that decision, that choice, obviously.

**Verse 44**, so they began to share things they had in order to stay there. - **Now all who believed were together, and had all in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and distributed them among anyone who had need.** So again, keeping in mind, this is the beginning. I think of when PKG got started, and we didn't have much. We didn't know what to do even. I didn't even know I was supposed to be traveling to different areas. And then when I did, it made others mad. Because I began to see that others were being worked with, we began to send things out on the Internet, finally, a group down in Georgia, so we went down there.



And that was a tough, that was a difficult choice and decision to make, but saw that people were down there and they were being worked with. Their minds were open to what we were doing. And then there were some there in Toledo and Detroit area who said, basically, they wanted various control and it's like, "You're *our* minister, and basically, "you shouldn't be traveling to other areas, shouldn't go down to Cincinnati." Those things came a long later on it's like so, "You're gonna tell me where I should be going with what God has given to me?" And basically if you could think it through is like, "And where are you learning various things here? Where are you learning some of these things? That the Apostasy has taken place, that Joe Tkach is The Man of Sin?" And on and on it goes. "Where are you learning those things?" But it didn't sink in because there was a different motive behind those things.

I think of when we went to Europe for the first time. The only reason we went was because we were invited and had our flight paid for. Incredible! And different ones then, we went over to London with 19 people that one night there, in a kind of Bible study. And I don't think there's not a one of them with us, but it started the process of us going to different areas and working with different areas. And then the same area of the Netherlands there, north of there, because we were first and foremost in Belgium there. But the Netherlands began to open up. We visited someone, that didn't work out, but others related or, and/or familiar with them, began to come along. God was working with that.

I'm telling you these things because to show that there are things that God does with us and works with us that otherwise, I would never probably have spent the money to go to Europe is my point. But then I began to see something of what God was doing, and if there's a need, and they're not learning it anywhere else, then there's a need we should be there. So we began to do that. And then Australia came along. But I wouldn't have done those things if certain things hadn't happened. So again here, God works with us in different ways, but it's His church. It's the Church of God. It's the Body of Christ and as God begins to reveal certain things we have to yield ourselves to that process.

But to me, I don't care when the beginning is, and the reason for telling the story was, in the beginning there were people who did this in a huge way; 25,000, 50,000, 100,000, in offerings to the Church. I still get chills up and down my spine thinking about it. People so moved by God's spirit, they knew this is what God was doing. They knew that the Church was here. That's why they did it. And I mean a lot of people sacrificed a lot to begin. Incredible! Gave us the ability to do things. Now we're at a point I have no, I don't have the foggiest idea what to do with all we have. And it's a hard thing, it really is. I think there are seeds being planted, that's what I believe, but no one's being called and that's fine because there's going to come a time for that.

I wasn't planning on this, but... I've started another book, started writing again. I wasn't gonna tell it. I was gonna wait at least until I got the first chapter done, but I'm requesting prayers about it. It's not gonna be like the others at all. And that's because advertising has shown a lot of this, that there are a lot of things we say because of what's coming that isn't kosher with the world. So this next one is going to be about, is things about, things about God period. About Christ and showing the difference between

the false things in the world that have been taught and what the Truth is. So anyway, it's still gelling up here. I hope it gels faster, but it's in God's time. But anyway, starting to move in that direction, and that's for the purpose of advertising to a world that might receive some of it, at least, and not kick us off immediately. More seeds to be planted in other areas.

So again, there's coming that time as people get moved, motivated, or whatever, stirred up because of what's happening in the world, and that happens somewhat. But this is not a time for people to be drawn into God's Church. I hope we all understand that too. This is not a time to work with individuals who are new. This, that's going to be when Christ comes. This is a time to finish what we've been given. I hope we understand that. A time to complete our growth, our changing, our yielding to God, our being molded and fashion, because this is it. This is it. That's why the body is being cleansed in the manner that it is, being cleansed from top to bottom. That's the way it is.

So anyway, stories like this when you go through it and you think what people did in the beginning, we should be able to understand that. They wanted to stay together. They knew the need to stay together. They knew the need to be taught by the Apostles because they were with Christ and they'd been taught much. And now they were able to teach things that they didn't even fully grasp at one time, and now they're able to reveal it and show it and teach it on a spiritual plane, and people were being moved by that mightily. And so here's where they got their growth, they're beginning here.

**And so they put their possessions together and distributed among anyone who had need. So they continued daily in one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and singleness, as it is, of heart.** There's more here in the Greek language, but again, it's just unique expressions. Basically, it's a word that means *without rocks*, something that's *done smoothly*. So things were going very smooth. Had to in the beginning. People were working together, people were cooperating, and things we're getting off to a great start. Praising, so when it talks about praising God, so often some of these things can be conjured up in the human mind of how the world is about praising God and stuff, and it's a matter of thankfulness and gratitude.

It's how it's expressed, whether it be in prayers or in talk, and especially, it's hard for us to imagine, can we imagine a beginning like this and things they were learning, how exciting it was that they could talk about these things amongst themselves because they were all together and this is new to them, and the disciples just keep teaching them these things, and it's becoming more reinforced in their minds and the disciples are being given more so they can teach more in a stronger way? That's what was taking place.

So it's a word that's associated then with, in with a matter of thankfulness and expressing that to God, being thankful to God, which is something we're to do all the time. That's how we're able to... That's why I love what we went through recently. Our ability to rejoice is a matter of our, the level to which we thank God for what we have. Because then that belief, we grasp it, we see it, and and that rejoicing is in us, it's a spiritual thing. So again here, **Praising God and having favor.** It's a word for *grace, receiving*

*grace*. They knew what God had given to them. **...toward all the people**. So again, here all the people brought together in the same body, speaking of the Church. **Even as the Lord added to the Church daily**. Can you imagine? I mean, this started out with 3,000 and people were being added, and because of this was spreading and people were talking about it and people had relatives and some of them listen. God worked it out in a big way and a lot a lot of areas in the Church in doing the Philadelphia era in that way that God worked with families a lot, and different ones were called out of families. Incredible what took place, what we experienced. **Even as, again, the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved**. So ever who God was calling, those who were going through the process of salvation, repenting, changing, that's what this is about.

Let's go onto Chapter 3. So again, this is a way the Church responded to what God was building from the beginning. And just to see how God was doing that is awesome as well because they were responding to God's spirit and God's influence in their life. So the way the Church became strengthened and began to grow, it's a start. Never been a time like that. It's been some similar to it, different ways of things have happened through time and even with PKG and how things got started, some spiritual analogies there. **But Acts Chapter 3:1 - Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour**, or at the time of prayer in the ninth hour around 3 p.m. in the afternoon, so it's talking about this period of time, **...and then a certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple, which is called beautiful, to ask for offerings from those entering the temple**.

So there were individuals who asked for help, asked for offerings, and this was a situation where one individual was being carried up regularly to this one area. So people were very familiar with him as they went up to the temple, **Who, when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for an offering. Now, as he and John looked toward him, Peter said, 'Look at us.'** So they were there, he was there, they were coming along, and a lot of times there's not a lot of eye contact or conversation that starts in those things, obviously.

It's a matter of giving something and continuing on. But here, Peter wanted a connection, and that's why he said, "Look at us." **Then he turned his attention to them**, because that's kind of the way it is when these kinds of things take place. People are uncomfortable in them, candidly. In our world today, we don't know whether it's true, real or not. Most times it's not real. But anyway, **Then he turned his attention to them expecting to receive something from them**. So he's looking upon them that they wanted to be seen in this particular case. And so he's eager, desirous. **Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold, I don't have, but what I do have, I give to you. This is awesome; In the name of Joshua the Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.'** What an awesome thing, all these years being brought up there like he was, and now all of a sudden "I don't have this to give to you, but what I have...", incredible!

Now he had to know, he had to been moved by God's Spirit to do this. You don't just go out and do things like this. You don't just go into a hospital and say, "Okay," because some people do. They go into a hospital and they do prayers and they want to anoint people and so forth and it's like "God's going to

work through us..." and then when it fails, like anyway. But if God's going to do something, you have to know and that's an awesome thing that God does. If something is to be done or accomplished in a certain way and it's just purpose, He'll give it in the mind. And Peter had it in his mind. He didn't say these things just of his own volition. That's not the way it worked.

**Then he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he sprang up, stood and walked, and entered the temple with him,** walking in a *springing stride*, is what the word means, **and praising**, you know, crying out in thanks to, **God**. But if you had something like this, isn't that what you would do? If you realize all of a sudden, "I can walk, I'm springing, instant strength!" You don't even have to go through rehabilitation. You know, most things, if you have an injury or something, you have to have some time in rehabilitation, building up your muscles, and man, it was right there, everything you needed. I think the normal reaction would be of wanting, thank God. Because, you know, this isn't normal.

**Now all the people saw him walking and praising God**, those who were there. What a sight. They knew who he was. They knew that he, see him every day, whatever day you might go in there, he's there. **Then they knew that it was he who set for offerings at the gate, beautiful of the temple, and they were filled with amazement and astonished at what had happened to him. Now as the lame man who was healed, held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together toward them in the porch, which is called Solomon's, wondering about what had happened.** They wanted to hear this. How this, what took place?

**Verse 12 - So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people, 'Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently upon us as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?'** That's an awesome thing to understand. Everything that is of power and strength that God gives, whatever it be, teaching whatever God gives to us, it is from God. It is through Christ to the Church and then to any who receive it if God's calling, whatever takes place. And those whoever fail to give that recognition and understand it with all their being, God doesn't work with, so it stops. **The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers glorified his son, Joshua, whom you delivered up and denied.** See, over and over again here in the beginning, reminding them of what just took place that they were all aware of, and then telling them, **You delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate when he had determined to let him go.** So again, just reminding them of what took place and what had happened.

**Verse 14 - But you denied the Holy One, and the just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you.** You think, "How sick was that?" You know, really, in every way, to recognize what they did, and sometimes that mob mentality of how people, human beings, can work. And they just got worked up about these things, incredible. **And killed the Prince of Life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.** So they said they were witnesses of the resurrection that he was dead. **And his name through faith in his name has made this man strong.** it's about Christ, it's about the Messiah, it's what

he did, **...whom you see and know; yes, the faith given by Him**, it's not which comes through it's, it's more direct than that in the word. **...yes, the faith given by Him, has given him this wholeness in the presence of you all.**

So again, you know, what incredible things were taking place because it just kept happening and it kept inspiring those who were being called in the Church and gave them confidence because they lived in a world, this change wasn't well received. It wasn't being well received by others around them, and it got a whole lot worse as time went along, and that's what the story goes into. But God was giving them a lot in the beginning to encourage them, to give them boldness, to give them strength, to give them confidence, to witness these things, to know of these things, to know of this individual here, and it had to move them mightily. Truly did. This is all in the very beginning. See how God is working. Awesome.

**Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance as your rulers also did.** What an awesome thing to say. **But those things which God foretold, through the mouth of His prophets that the Christ would suffer, He has fulfilled.** So it's part of God's purpose. He had to die, to be resurrected, in essence to become Passover, and on and on the story goes. **Repent therefore, and be converted, turned or returned,** it's a word used both ways, turn basically to God. Return to God to receive what God intended from beginning of time, **...That your sins may be blotted out, so that so that the time of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Joshua the Christ, who has preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things.** When I read this, I think of Atonement, because it talks about this example in Leviticus 16 and what this pictures, in essence, when the priest had to go into the temple and he wasn't to come back out until his work was finished, until it was, until everything had been, in essence, just paraphrasing, reconciled to God, as it were, for His household and so forth.

That's what Christ is doing, His household, the Body of Christ, the Church of God, working with 2,000 years, and doesn't return until this is complete. Awesome, beautiful. **Which God He's spoken through the mouth of all His holy Prophets since the world began.** So again, it's about the plan of salvation and things that the world wasn't given to understand. I'm going to stop there for today because I do want to go through some news things here. Come back to Part 2 next Sabbath.

But an awesome thing to go through the story here and see how the Church began to see how God was working with people, what Christ was doing through the Apostles and giving to them, because it's a building process. It's a process of preparing for the future and how He was working with and beginning the Church, and starting the Church and, and giving them what they needed. Awesome, beautiful!

There are different things that come along in different times and, to me, I marvel at how sometimes we go through a period of time where the news is a certain way in the world. And then there's like a time where it just kind of levels off. And then there's another time that starts popping up again. To me, it's so akin to the example we've been given, birthing pain, and times of contractions and so forth. They come

and they go and they get strong and they get stronger, and I hope we're seeing these things are taking place in the world around us. I think of, well I won't even go there.

**“Former CIA Officer Warns: 1,000 Al Qaeda Fighters In The United States For Next Homeland Attack.”**<sup>1</sup> I'll tell you what, there are some dumb things that have been done and it's not, it wouldn't be shocking at all that on a certain time on a certain day things can happen in this world so quickly in this country, just because of the stupidity of certain decisions and choices that have been made. Here's one from Deutsche Bank, it says: **“A Wake-Up Call For Sixth Gen”**<sup>2</sup>

It's amazing that the bank is addressing this, what we're getting into. This has to do with sixth-generation technology and so forth is what it's about.

“Following the release of footage last week showcasing, this is what they're saying, China's next-generation fighter-bomber on social media platforms like X, Deutsche Bank analyst Scott Deuschle issued a stark warning to clients. In his note, *“A Wake-Up Call for Sixth Gen”*, that's what it was titled, Deuschle characterized China's rapid advancements in sixth-generation combat aircraft as a serious ‘wake-up call’ for the United States Air Force.”

You think, over there in Germany, and they're saying this about the U.S., that this is something the U.S. should recognize? Yes, it is. We're not too bright on a physical, in a physical way, as far as what's been taking place for several years now.

“This development comes amid a race between the US, China, and Russia to produce fifth- and sixth-generation fighters, bombers, and hypersonic weapons. ‘Emergence of this video and imagery follows several years of USAF inaction with respect to procuring sixth-generation aircraft other than B-21,’ Deuschle said.”

I think, yeah, instead, it's been about, it's not political correct. What is it, some of these movements have been taking place in the military and with all this perversion and sex changes and had to be paid for, and people have to be treated in a certain way. And it's where people quit even joining up for the military. I mean, who wants to be a part of that? Anyway, dumb, dumb, dumb.

“The analyst outlined the impacts on his defense coverage following China's big reveal of the next-gen stealth tactical fighter bomber with a “diamond-shaped wing design.” He also noted a potential risk for commercial aerospace.”

So in other words, they're seeing things even probably more on a matter of economics and economic scale worldwide and what the impact this can have. But he's saying “they're out there and they're

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<sup>1</sup> Durden, Tyler (2025, January 1). [Former CIA Officer Warns: 1,000 Al-Qaeda Fighters In US For Next Homeland Attack | ZeroHedge](#)

<sup>2</sup> Durden, Tyler (2025, January 2). [Deutsche Bank: “A Wake-Up Call For Sixth Gen” | ZeroHedge](#)

ahead.” I don't know how many of you saw that new carrier they came out with here a week or two ago. China did, huge. It's the largest one in the world, and for both aircraft and drones. We're so far behind that's not even funny, and I mean it's just it's, it's worse than pathetic. It's, it's hideous. Anyway, for a carnal physical nation to let all this go down the toilet. Doing it to ourselves. It's amazing and it being it's like not gonna be that hard of a target.

**“Over Half of , another one here, Half of Countries Worldwide Embark on Boycott of Greenback.”**<sup>3</sup> Almost said Greenland, anyway. 52nd state? What's the 51st? I'm not gonna say that, I don't wanna, I'm just kidding. “More than half the countries across the world have declared a boycott on the US dollar.” Now this is from a Russian source, but you know what? Most of its true. You can call it propaganda if you want. That's what people like to do. Well, that's from Sputnik or that's from RT or whatever, and they cut these off in different places.

They try to keep people from hearing a lot of he sings, and yet there's a lot of truth in some of the things that come out. You have to wade through some of it, you know, when they're definitely have a slant given to it and why, but you know, sometimes when the truth is there, the truth is the truth. “More than half of the countries across the world have declared a boycott of the US dollar, an analysis conducted by Sputnik showed. In 2024, 14 more nations embarked on de-dollarization, according to the analysis.”

Well, it doesn't take a whole lot to realize that there are people moving away from the US dollar. And I'll tell you what, on some quarters, they're not saying a whole lot, but if you pick up a little bit being said here and there, they are deeply concerned about it. The new administration is deeply, deeply concerned about it, because they know what that means. I mean, why do they want Greenland in the first place? It's got *a lot* of minerals that China has most of right now. The ones that are the most needed in a lot of areas of technology.

Before that, in the Middle East, they say wars weren't about oil. Yes, they were about oil. They were about power. It was about the power of the dollar, the petrodollar. That's why it had the name, became known as that. We play these games, incredible. And the world was sick of them. Says, “There are 94 states that did not introduce any restrictive measures against the use of the greenback. 46 countries that switched to making connections and national currencies in 53 countries that openly oppose the US currency the research shows.”

So it doesn't matter exactly where it is or how many are doing it. There's a lot and it's having an impact and it's changing. There are people who see this and what it means to the world. It's about power. And when you lose that power and that influence and that control, which again the world is sick of. Another

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<sup>3</sup> Burunov, Oleg (2025, January 5). [Over Half of Countries Worldwide Embark on Boycott of Greenback](#), Sputnik International

one here, **“Global Collapse Accelerates, Happening Faster Than They'll Admit.”**<sup>4</sup> “The global economic collapse...”,

It's amazing how so many of these things parallel each other. It's like, there it goes, just a little push, a little blow. That's where we are. Just a little bit of blowing, it's there. In God's... “The global economic...” but it's, it's all coming together faster and more of it on a constant basis whether it's 10 days 10 weeks 10 months or 10 years is immaterial we're at the doorstep truly are.

“The global economic collapse is accelerating—and it’s happening faster than they’ll admit,” warns Taylor Kenney. Kenney reveals three critical forces driving the crisis: 1. Global Debt: Over \$100 trillion, matching global GDP. “Interest payments alone rival the U.S. defense budget,” she explains. 2. Market Fragility: Just 10 companies make up 40% of the S&P 500.

You think of some of the power that some of these have wielded for so long and yet what they're doing and; “This is worse than the dot com bubble” she warns.” The third one here; De-dollarization: BRICS.

I don't know what the word is now, but it's growing, it's getting bigger. I don't know what letters are they're forcing in there now, but it's gonna be too big to pronounce after. It's like *supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*, anyway. “Bricks nations are pushing to dethrone the dollar, threatening catastrophic fallout. The warning signs are flashing red.”

But if you listen to some of these shows and what they talk about and different stocks and what to invest in, it's like, “Nothing can happen. It'll never happen.” “Just hold on to it. Someday it'll get better.”

Another one here. **“Countdown to the European Collapse.”**<sup>5</sup> Now, this is something that's coming up more and more where countries amongst themselves over there are talking about the European Union is about to go under. This is a fear that some have. Some are outright saying it's going to happen soon.

So if you have some that don't want this to happen and some of the powerful ones who don't want this to happen, well, that's where we are. And things are moving quite rapidly, more to the right. In some cases, to the extreme right. And those extreme right ones, they're tired of what the U.S. has been doing for years and years and years. They're sick and tired of how they've controlled NATO. So it's coming down to all this. And it's coming pretty rapidly right now. Whether it slows down a little bit don't know, but it's really going fast. Going on here:

“With the ban on the flow of Russian gas to Europe through Ukrainian territory, ” Now, there are Europeans who are really put off by this. Zelensky has asked for lots of money from Europe and they've been giving a lot, and then he is the instrument that cuts off the flow through the Ukraine, if I

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<sup>4</sup> ITM Trading (2025, January 5). [Global Collapse Accelerates: Happening Faster Than They'll Admit | ZeroHedge](#)

<sup>5</sup> Durden, Tyler (2025, January 6). [Countdown To The European Collapse | ZeroHedge](#)



understand this correctly, which I think I do. And because of that, Europe isn't real happy. And we should know why. Because its wintertime, and it affects their money, it affects commerce, it affects a lot of things, industry and so forth. And now, just like what happened with Germany, they stopped to hold several billions of dollars going over there now. Because they're ticked off. So a lot of things are happening in the world very fast.

“Little remains before the absolute economic and social collapse of the European continent... Sanctions, the terrorist attack on Nord Stream, and the closure of the Ukrainian route to Europe are events that are part of the same strategic context: in all these cases, Anglo-American strategists want to provoke an energy collapse in Europe to enable deindustrialization and the subsequent economic and social crisis.”

You think, you think that's true? There are people out there who are nuts. Anyway. “The final goal is a ruined Europe, not only unwilling but also incapable of establishing any future strategic ties with Moscow. With the fall of the Ukrainian gas route, it can be said that the U.S. won an important battle in its economic war against Europe.”

Did you know there was one going on? They're not happy campers right now. I'll tell you what, this thing in the last three years or so to see this sway of sentiment and thinking toward the United States. It's, it's really taken on more, more power more energy more strength. And that's why things are moving farther to the right in large part besides what has happened because of what have to have done to Europe, just like what they've done to California, just like what they've done to New York, just like Chicago, just like the United States. Anyway, that's not taking sides. That's just a reality of conditions that have happened. Generally the world is, if one is liberal, it's in the mind. If one is conservative, it's in the mind. And how you react to certain things or do things stem from that. So people can talk about different parties but the reality is there is that which destroys a little faster. Anyway again here:

“With the fall of the Ukrainian gas route it can be said that the U.S. won an important battle in its economic war against Europe. The total collapse is merely a matter of time.” This is what many believe over there now. They just believe they're not going to be able to do it. And yet you know that there are 10, going to get together, make certain decisions at one point.

“On Average Germans...”, another article here, **“On Average Germans Are Poorer”- Shocking Report For The EU's Largest Economy.**<sup>6</sup> It says: “Germany could enter its third year of economic recession in 2025 according to a report out of the Handelsblatt Research Institute cited by the Mandiner news portal. Meaning, it will face the longest economic crisis in the post-World War II history.” So, so again here, this movement as I talked about this AFD in Germany and the popularity they have in some areas and how that's growing. Incredible things are taking place over there in different countries.

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<sup>6</sup> Durden, Tyler/ [Authored by Liz Heflin via Remix News](#) (2025, January 6). ["On Average, Germans Are Poorer" - Shocking Report For The EU's Largest Economy | ZeroHedge](#)

Another article here: **Flu, COVID, RSV Cases Spiked This Winter. The Official Term: “Quad-Demic”**.<sup>7</sup> There are some who just look for something to do, to reinforce masks or whatever it might be. It's still out there. “Quad-demic” encompasses four infectious diseases: influenza, COVID-19, RSV and norovirus coexist in high numbers. Add in whooping cough, walking pneumonia and bird flu, people are getting sick and may not know how to distinguish among overlapping symptoms.”

That's a problem. You think “Man, this world is just so screwed up.” And some of these things on the edge, you don't wonder what's going to break next. Just like some of this stuff going on in China right now. Its like, “What's that going to spread into?”

Another article here: **“Austria's Far-Right Rattles the Gates of Power.”**<sup>8</sup> This is just right close there to Hungary and they've been rattling, he's been rattling some things for a long time in Europe. But now, it talks about Austria. Austria, and I'll tell you what, a lot of this has to do with migration and allowing people to come in, by the millions. Now, we should have learned from that. That's what, that really has, in many respects, ruined Europe from being Europe anymore. Great Britain is no longer Great Britain.

And by the way, I found out that I will not be going over there this year like I thought I might be. Anyway, they have this new system that put in place that's called ATA, or something like that in order to enter. And for whatever reason, did a little reading and realized that there's no sense in even trying. Anyway, so we are going to the mainland there, to the Netherlands. They're talking about their program coming, too. But I don't think it would be as strict, but we'll see. Maybe between state-to-state before long. I don't know, stay at home, stay at home. It's not gonna stop things. We have a sets, Starlink or is it Skylink? I never can remember the scar, star, Star! I always want to call it Skylink. I don't know why, could be either one.

**“America's Far-Right Rattles the Gates of Power.** Austria descended into political disarray over the weekend following Chancellor Karl Nehammer's surprise resignation, a step likely to lead to the far-right Freedom Party taking control of the government for the first time. A lurch to the right in Vienna would further threaten the stability of the EU at a perilous moment, creating a Russia-friendly, Eurosceptic populist bloc in the centre of the continent, encompassing Hungary, Slovakia and Austria, with Czechia poised to join after elections in the autumn.”

So there's a move to the right here, but some of these things aren't totally true. That's not why they're doing all these things. But anyway, people will throw in slants. This is like CNN, anyway. “A rise to power by the Freedom Party (FPÖ) would dispel any lingering doubts that Europe’s populist forces remain resurgent amid a worsening economic outlook and continuing backlash against the political establishment’s failure to resolve tensions over the arrival of millions of migrants from the Middle East and Africa over the past decade.”

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<sup>7</sup> Soriano, Ashley (2025, January 5). [Flu, COVID, RSV cases spike this winter](#) | NewsNation

<sup>8</sup> Karnitschnig, Matthew (2025, January 6). [Austria's far right rattles the gates of power - Euractiv](#)

You can't mix religions. You can't mix certain things in the world because they don't mix. It's just a sad reality and the world's being brought face to face with that. That Christianity and Islam, they'll always clash. They will never, never, never get along. They'll never, never agree with each other. And the lifestyles and the way people live are totally so far different that it creates a lot of problems in society.

Anyway, another one here: **“Iran Nuclear Program Nearing Point of No Return, Francis Macron Says.”**<sup>9</sup> How many years have we been hearing that? But the reality is supposedly they are there, there at the doorstep and six to eight nuclear weapons that... So we'll see what happens. Everything is happening so fast. **Iran Warns Israel of Potential ‘Large-Scale War’**.<sup>10</sup>

I think Iran realizes here that with a new administration coming in and what they're saying about what's taking place in Israel right now, or in some of the areas there, obviously, that he talked about intervention and some of this if they don't release the prisoners by the time he's there. But we'll see what happens. But that would mean I ran as well. And I think they know that 2025, another article; **“2025: A Year of Uncertainty Ahead as the Old World Order Crumbles.”**<sup>11</sup> Now this again, this is from RT, Russia. It's their perspective. It's what they're putting out there, but there's truth in it.

“The past year has been a “turning point,” but the next 12 months will bring even more upheaval. Elections across the West revealed that the old elites – the architects of the first quarter of the 21st century – are losing their grip.” So that’s true here and it’s true over there. “For the first time in decades, they failed to sell an inspiring vision of the future. Faced with the risk of losing power, they compromised their own principles, resorting to undemocratic tactics, such as censoring media outlets and using legal means to stymie opponents.”

This is happening a lot in Europe right now where they're trying to really control a lot of the news that's going out and some of the shenanigans going on. Just like in Britain, I don't know if you know now, there's like the Word Police going around and you can go to prison for saying certain things that don't agree with, well, anyway. Let's leave it there. You can find it going on.

“In some cases, these efforts resulted in humiliating defeats; in others, they barely clung to power, but at great reputational cost. The liberal democratic model, once cherished by the United States and Western Europe, now stands weakened and questioned.”

So these are big changes and it's amazing. They're happening all at the same time, but we have a perspective that you need. We can understand why because we know what it's building up to. That's why we know what to watch, that's why we recognize what's coming and we recognize that this is going

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<sup>9</sup> Reuters (2025, January 6). [Iran's nuclear programme nearing point of no return, France's Macron says | Reuters](#)

<sup>10</sup> RT World News (2025, January 6). [Iran warns Israel of potential 'large-scale war' — RT World News](#)

<sup>11</sup> Ryumshin, Vitali (2025, January 6). [2025: A year of uncertainty ahead as the old world order crumbles — RT World News](#)

to produce greater attitudes of resentment toward the United States and that eventually 10 are going to try to save the EU block.

Another one here. I just thought I'd throw this out: **“Saudi Arabia's Holy City of Mecca Flooded After Being Hit By Extreme Rain.”**<sup>12</sup> There are some crazy things going on in the world. And you think, dry as it is out there, you wonder, I wonder, if they get 10 hundreds of rain a year. Anyway, inches. “Austria is far right, set to form government for the first time.” These things are happening fast. Another one here: **North Korea Launches Suspected Hypersonic Ballistic Missile in the First Test of 2025.**<sup>13</sup>

This is sad. I mean, really, when you look at a country like North Korea, and I know where they're getting it from, they didn't do this all by their own ability, but you think, how pathetic can it be that they're way ahead of the United States with hypersonic ability as far as constructing certain missiles and the like. And you think, not too hard to lob some over to the west coast at some point something like that's going to happen.

Another one here: **Are Turkiye and Israel on the Verge of Going Toe-To-Toe Over Syria?**<sup>14</sup> Tell you, there's some crazy things going on with Turkey right now and his desire to have the Ottoman Empire, just as much as food, and wants Russia back to the old USSR, those countries and so forth.

“This week, the Nagel Committee, convened by Tel Aviv to assess defense budgetary needs, issued a stark warning: Israel must brace for a direct confrontation with Türkiye, which is reportedly intent on “restoring its Ottoman-era influence,” as The Jerusalem Post put it. The committee asserted that collaboration between Syrian factions and Turkiye may pose a serious security threat to Israel that could be “even more dangerous than the Iranian threat,” and thus proposed increasing the defense budget by roughly \$4 billion.”

I mean, some of this stuff is absolutely insane. I hope we're keeping abreast of some of it. But to understand what's happening over in the Middle East right now, because that's a big focal point, always has been for the end time, for prophecy, for things to take place, because we know that that place is to get, get far worse soon. Not necessarily anything that has to do with what happens here in the first Trumpet first five, but Anyway. Thought I'd read this one:

**“Exclusive | Why does Donald Trump want Greenland? It's not as crazy as you might think.”**<sup>15</sup> The US is currently locked in a three-cornered fight with China as well as Russia over the Arctic region's natural resources — such as lithium, cobalt and graphite, according to the Wilson Center, a foreign policy-focused think tank in Washington. There are two main reasons [to annex Greenland].”

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<sup>12</sup> Krasteva, Gergana (2025, January 6). [Saudi Arabia's holiest city of Mecca flooded after being hit by extreme rain | News World | Metro News](#)

<sup>13</sup> Dyrden, Tyler (2025, January 6). [North Korea Launches Suspected Hypersonic Ballistic Missile In 1st Test Of 2025 | ZeroHedge](#)

<sup>14</sup> Sputnik International (2025, January 8). [Are Turkiye & Israel on the Verge of Going Toe to Toe Over Syria? - 08.01.2025, Sputnik International](#)

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You know, people hear these things, and they sound outlandish, but things have happened in times past where things didn't turn out so outlandish. But if you look at a carnal physical world, there really is a lot of wisdom and such a thing because otherwise Russia and China, they win. So if you realize what kind of world we live in and you have a better, decent perspective of that, there are certain things you're going to want to do. They might sound outlandish, but anyway, doesn't mean to say it's going to happen or, anyway.

“There are two main reasons [to annex Greenland]. The first is the large deposits of rare earth elements needed for critical defense and electronics manufacturing,” Atlantic Council nonresident fellow Alex Plitsas told The Post. Second, Greenland has a legitimately large claim to the Arctic and that would provide the US with a stronger position as competition there heats up for navigation and resources.”

Anyway, that's not all. It's about weapons, it's about military. That's the big part too, but they don't put all these things down. Another one here: **“New Figures Reveal Dollar Reserves. Dollar Reserves Crash to 30 Year Low as Bank Stockpiles Gold,”**<sup>16</sup> Another article: **“New Evacuation Orders for as Palisades Fire Expands East,”**<sup>17</sup> Anyway, it spreads east. It's been going west, now they're talking about winds are changing out there. And Monday, they expect them to be back up again. You think, you know, that is really an insane thing that's taking place, but shows how fragile we are and shows the kind of decisions people make sometimes of how foolish they are and things that they should have been doing a long time ago to prevent it.

But it's all about power, politics and money and people get hurt and you think, and then someone comes along and just makes everybody on the East Coast feel really happy when they say, “We're gonna help pay for all that. We're gonna help restore it all.” Poor people, they were declined by insurance. Insurance companies pulled out recently here and they're not covering them. We've got to take care of that.

And then people over here still suffering. Not even being talked about anymore. Florida, the Carolinas. I mean, oh, sick world. Really long for God's Kingdom truly. I just thought I'd read this: “Five devastating wind-fed fires have killed at least 11 people and swept through 37,900 acres in the greater Los Angeles area, destroying entire communities and more than 12,000 structures.”

I mean, that's mind-boggling. It really strikes inside when you look at some of the photos of certain things and you think all the families, Thousands and thousands and thousands of homes and all the families that lived in them, schools and so forth and they get up there And they talk about some of these things and it's gut-wrenching. You know what? It's just the beginning it's just a beginning of sorrows if you will, things that are going to get worse and harder and we live in some horrible times.

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<sup>16</sup> ITM Trading (2025, January 9). [NEW FIGURES REVEAL: Dollar Reserves Crash to 30-Year Low as Banks Stockpile Gold | ZeroHedge](#)

<sup>17</sup> NBC News (2025, January 11 – Continuous active/changing updates). [California wildfires live updates: Death toll rises to 16 as Palisades Fire expands east to Brentwood and Encino](#) | NBC News Live Coverage

“Dry conditions and powerful winds fed at least five blazes, causing unprecedented damage in highly populated areas not known for fires. Officials anticipate fierce winds to return Monday. The Palisades Fire, which has burned through more than 21,000 acres, is 8% contained. Evacuation orders for the blaze expanded Friday night to parts of Encino. The Eaton Fire in the Pasadena area, which has burned across nearly 14,000 acres, is 3% contained.”

In other words, they can't get this contained by Monday. And that means if the winds are really bad, it can split into other places, different directions throughout the LA area and crazy. Some are making comments about that. I think was the Eaton fire that the city of Altadena is basically gone. So anybody that knows those areas out there, insane what's taking place.