

*The Three Appearances
Of Christ*

THE
Three
APPEARANCES
OF
Christ

The Three Appearances of Christ
JOY THOMAS
© GSF

APRIL 2007

Published by
Good Samaritan Fellowship
H2 / 22, Mahavir Enclave
New Delhi - 110 045
India
Tel : 011-2503-4946 / 2503-2928

www.oilnwine.org
joythomas@oilnwine.org

Printed at
New Life Printers Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi
011 - 27651897

Joy Thomas

Contents

1. Light Out of Shadows ————— 1
2. The Day of Atonement ————— 15
3. The First Appearance ————— 31
4. The Second Appearance ————— 45
5. The Third Appearance ————— 63

Preface

The substance of this book is incorporated from the messages spoken at the Summer Camp Meetings in 1989 at New Delhi. This book was first published in 1991. We are led of the Lord to reprint these messages because of the demand from the saints. These messages are presented with little editing and hence accounts for a free spoken style than that of a meticulously literary form.

The Three Appearances of Christ in the Book of Hebrews chapter 9 and verses 24, 26 and 28 have much to minister to the hungry heart that seeks after the Lord. This and other progressive revelations of His purpose must continue until the “eternal purpose” is fully consummated in the people whom He has created for His own glory.

I always have felt that some people today seek the knowledge of what God is doing, while at the same time they may have no particular desire to walk in the light. Let us understand that knowledge in itself is only vital and meaningful to us, if it affords us a glimpse of God’s desire for our lives, and if we intend to pursue the revelations of His Word in a walk of total obedience to His revealed will.

Otherwise, it will only amount to a knowledge that “puffeth up” without “edifying”.

I sincerely pray and trust that God may speak to every soul and open their spiritual eyes while reading these pages and that God’s people may walk with Him in a greater measure of commitment and dedication experiencing the present ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Heavenly High Priest, in these last days.

Joy Thomas

March, 2007



Light Out Of Shadows

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

(Heb 9:22-28)

THE FEASTS OF ISRAEL

We may have read the verses from chapter 9 of the book of Hebrews several times before, we may have even heard anointed messages based upon these very verses from the Scriptures; but as it often happens, there are occasions when the Holy Spirit of God reveals familiar truth to us in a new light, in a new depth and in a broader dimension, with freshness and fragrance that only come from Him. Beloved, as we commence this study of God's Word, let us sincerely pray that the Holy Spirit may minister to us in all the fullness and beauty of God's Word. And let us keep our hearts open to receive His truths.

Before we embark upon the study of Hebrews chapter 9, it would be beneficial to recapitulate certain aspects of the Aaronic priesthood and the 'set feasts' of Israel.

In the Old Covenant the people of Israel celebrated three major feasts of the Lord. These were called the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23). The Feast of Passover was divided into three minor feasts – Passover, Unleavened Bread and the First Fruits. Similarly, the Feast of Tabernacles consisted of three minor feasts, which

were called the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles (Numbers 29).

These Old Testament feasts of the Lord are symbolic and prophetic of the New Testament experiences. In our consideration of the Old Testament feasts, it is our desire to establish that they are prophetic and that they are related to progressive spiritual experiences, that is, the continual appropriation of the Christ life into our being. Being prophetic, they have a corresponding time and place or venue of fulfillment. We can see the fulfillment of those feasts occurring firstly in Jesus Christ, secondly in the church historically, and thirdly in the believer. Fulfillment in the life of our Lord Jesus was perfect and complete, while fulfillment in the Church historically, and in the believer experientially, has been only partial.

The Feast of Passover was held in the first month (Nisan) of the Jewish calendar/year. It was instituted in conjunction with the Israelites deliverance from Egypt.

“And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.” (Exodus 12:1-2)

Israel had a new calendar from this date. For Israel, it was a NEW BEGINNING: it was a time of new birth, deliverance from bondage and freedom from servitude.

Another significant event was the sacrifice of the lamb.

*“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”
(Exodus 12:13)*

Enlightened eyes can readily see Jesus, the Son of God, without sin and blemish, being appointed by the Father to become our sacrificial Lamb.

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)

The Feast of Passover is fulfilled in the church by proclaiming and participating in the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the cross of Calvary, and accepting it by faith in our lives. So it is the cross of Christ that becomes the new beginning for every believer. Old things begin to pass away and all things begin to become new. The old life-style of serving the lusts of the flesh and of the mind, is left behind. We now live to Him, seeking His will and purpose for our lives. Thus we see that the Passover was prophetic of something experiential in the life of the believer.

The second major feast in the Hebrew religious calendar was the Feast of Pentecost or the Feast of Weeks (or the Feast of Harvest). This feast occurred at a separate point of time from the Passover and was different from the first feast. While Passover was held at the time of the barley harvest, Pentecost

was held at the time of the wheat harvest. (Exodus 34:22). Therefore, we see that the feasts were associated with the progression of the harvest, and thus speak of the continuous process of sowing and reaping in the believers walk with the Lord. We do not receive the life of our Lord in full measure upon conversion, but we continually ‘put on the Lord Jesus Christ’ (Romans 13:14; Ephesians 4:24). We are to be progressively changed into His image, until we arrive at a place of fullness, ‘unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ’.

This Feast of Pentecost was held in the third month. Pentecost is a New Testament name, because it means ‘fiftieth’. An examination of Leviticus 23:15-16 will show why this feast is called ‘fiftieth’. It was because the Feast began on the 50th day after the Passover. In Acts 1:3, we find that after the resurrection, Jesus appeared several times to His disciples for a period of forty days. The Lord told them to wait for the Holy Spirit. And when the day of Pentecost (the fiftieth day) was fully come.... they all were filled with the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:1, 4). Thus the disciples experienced ‘the Feast of Pentecost’ individually, and collectively as a body. We have now seen that the Old Testament Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), like the Passover, was prophetic in nature, and has its corresponding New Testament fulfillment, both in the church historically and in the believer experientially. These two feasts in the Old Testament were not synonymous; and neither are the corresponding experiences in the New Testament order. In an individual’s life, ‘salvation’ is the beginning of the harvest

of the life of Christ, and the Pentecostal experience represents a further ingress of the Christ life in the person through the Holy Ghost. Those who have **experienced only Passover are expected to believe God for a genuine ‘Pentecost’ in their lives.** Truly, there’s something more than the initial experience of salvation, and the hungry shall experience the fulfillment of the Feast of Pentecost in their lives.

We proceed with a deep conviction that if the first two major Old Testament feasts were prophetic of the New Testament experiences the third one is also prophetic and also experiential. We proceed also with fear and trembling, for we have only a small measure of insight and revelation, and what we have reflects the imperfections of our partial knowledge and understanding. Yet we offer what we have into the hands of the Master, that it may feed, challenge and inspire God’s people. Much more will follow, as we hold these matters before Him and allow Him to speak further.

After the third month and the Feast of Weeks, Israel went through three dry months! Indeed many believers having received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, have experienced a spiritual dryness and a withdrawal of blessings in their lives. We are not called to hold back after the first harvest festival in the first month, but we are to move on to the seventh month. The dry months are followed by rain during the seventh month, which is also the beginning of Israel’s ‘agriculture year’ (civil calendar). The Scripture says, ‘be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you

the former rain..... and the latter rain in the first month’. (Joel 2:23). The first month referred to in this verse is the seventh month according to the calendar of feasts. There was a greater harvest in the seventh month, than in the third month. In the third month it was only the first-fruit; but in the seventh month it was a great ingathering of the harvest. What we have experienced in the ‘Pentecost’ is only a down payment of what we shall experience in the Feast of Tabernacles, individually and collectively as a body. Hallelujah!

The Feast of Tabernacles is divided into three minor feasts: firstly, the Feast of Trumpets on the first day of the seventh month (Numbers 29:1-6; Leviticus 23:24); secondly, the Day of Atonement on the tenth day of the seventh month (Leviticus 16; 23:26-32) and lastly, the Feast of Tabernacles which was held for seven days from the fifteenth to the twenty-first day of the seventh month. (Leviticus 23:39-40).

One of the signs that tell us that the church has entered into the seventh month is that the sound of ‘trumpets’ can be heard, heralding the coming of a yet more glorious feast. The messages to the seven churches in Revelations are of a great voice, ‘as of a trumpet’, that constitutes the voice of God or the burden of the Lord toward His people.

This is no time for pretty sermons and soothing words to a backslidden and decaying church; it is the Day of Trumpets. And God’s true people who hunger and thirst after Him, are hearing a trumpet call to repentance, endurance, holiness and

to righteousness, patience and love. It is a call to prepare for battle and to move on into their inheritance and possessions. God's appointed ministries are sounding these trumpets today with clarity. Dear friend, do you hear God's trumpet call?

On the tenth day of the seventh month the people celebrated the Day of Atonement. It was a day of cleansing, a day of afflicting their souls and a day of atonement. According to God's calendar, the true church is now experiencing this day prophetically. We shall explain this in greater detail in the next chapter.

The Feast of Tabernacles, also called the Feast of Booths (tents), was held for seven days, from the fifteenth day to the twenty first day of the seventh month. At the celebrations of Tabernacles, not only were the barley and wheat harvested, but also the same could have been possibly served as food and drink. The earthly harvest was completed and consummated. There is much to speak about this final feast. But in short this feast speaks to us of the FULLNESS OF GOD, and therein lies the challenge to move on 'unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ' (Ephesians 4:13).

Deuteronomy 16:16 says, "Three times in a year shall all the males appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the Lord empty." As God's Israel, we have appeared before the Lord only twice, at Passover and Pentecost,

prophetically as a church, and experientially as an individual. We have to appear before the Lord one more time! We have to see the fulfillment of the feast individually in our lives and collectively in the church.

At this juncture, many readers face a choice in their spiritual growth. Will you stop with the experience of Passover (salvation) and settle in the camp of the fundamentalists? Or will you build your final tabernacle around the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit and settle in the realm of Pentecostals and Charismatics? Or will you open your hearts to the full harvest of His life in your being, and embrace by faith and obedience the challenge of the Feast of Tabernacles? God will certainly have a company of people on the earth who will go on to appropriate the fullness of His life and purpose. Will you be part of that company?

THE PRESENT WORD

"Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith). Today if ye will hear his voice.

"Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness." (Heb 3:7,8)

The 'Today' means the present times. 'Today if you hear'—this is a prophetic word. God is speaking to His people this day, in our time NOW!

The children of Israel obeyed God in the things that He spoke to them in the past or 'yesterday'. But they failed to obey God in the things He spoke to them in their 'today', their present times.

For instance, when God told His people to follow Moses and come out of Egypt, they readily obeyed God. But when God spoke to them in their 'today', they were rebellious. Again, in the book of Joshua we read that the people were pleased to do what God had told Moses in the past (their 'yesterday'), but they found it difficult to do what God was speaking to them through Joshua in their 'today'. That is why the Lord said unto Joshua, "This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee" (Joshua 3:8) The same thing happened in the days of prophets. So also in the days of Jesus Christ. The Jews were obedient to what God had spoken to them in their 'yesterday' through Abraham, Moses and the prophets; but they refused to accept what Jesus was speaking and telling them in their 'today' (present times). They carried the books of the Law under their armpits and accepted what God had spoken in the Law (yesterday); but when God spoke to the Jews through His Son in their 'today', they refused Him. The people appreciated what God had spoken in the past, but they refused to pay heed to His voice in the present. Even in our generation, the people of God are obedient to the things that God had spoken to them at one time, in the 'yesterdays' of their lives; but they are extremely reluctant to hear what God is speaking now, in the 'today' of

their lives.

The truth of Hebrews 3:7 is also applicable to the church. People are willing to accept what we say regarding the truths that God had revealed in the past, such as that of justification by faith, repentance, baptism and the in-filling of the Holy Spirit. What God had spoken to the church in days gone by, has now been accepted as established truths. No one in the church today questions the truths revealed by God through Martin Luther, Wesley and others. But if we were to tell the people what God is speaking to the church in the present times, the people would reject us. They would reject us and call us false prophets and false teachers. If we were to tell the people that God desired His church to move on beyond the experiences of Pentecost, they would ridicule us and make us a laughing stock! The people would even go so far as to persecute and harass us and anyone else who would talk of such things. This has been the experience of many radicals who stood for the truth.

Beloved, it is easy to stand for the truth that was spoken in the past and which, through the years, has become acceptable and even popular. No one will throw stones at you today if you preach about the Pentecostal experience. But it is difficult and trying to stand for what God is PRESENTLY speaking to the church for this would require faith in the living God. The Word says, "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh" (Hebrews 12:25). The Amplified Bible expresses this well, "See to it that you do not reject Him or refuse to listen to and heed Him who is speaking

(to you NOW).”

We read about men like Luther, Wesley, Fox and many others, who preached the ‘present word’. In their days men would fall on their faces in writhing pain, because of the awesomeness of God’s holy presence. What moved the then generation to the Lord was the ‘present word.’

The early years of the Pentecostal revival were known for the fiery, consuming presence of God. Men’s hearts would be smitten as they agonized under the conviction and reproof of the Holy Spirit. But today we are building monuments of the memories of those days of visitation, in the same way the Jews they built sepulchers for the prophets in the days of old. While those prophets spoke the mind of God (the present word) and exposed the secrets of man’s heart, they persecuted them and killed them. And afterwards, they built sepulchers for them!! Sepulchers are harmless things! While Wesley was rejected by men in his day, we would have no difficulty in inviting ‘Wesley’ for a convention today. The twentieth century has excelled in building more sepulchers than all their forefathers. The church today is willing to print all those messages of Wesley or Luther or others, and even to distribute them freely all over the earth. Yet she WILL NOT DO ONE THING: SHE WILL NOT WALK THE WAY or the PATH THESE MEN WALKED. What does that mean? She refuses to seek out the ‘voice of the Lord today’, (the present word), just like those men of old. She is feeding on the husks that the swine eat, instead of returning

to the Father’s table. Dear readers, as in the pattern of the parable of the lost son, may we ‘come to our sense’ and ‘rise up’ to return to the Father’s table.

The Lord has not given up speaking to His people; He is speaking to His church this very day. He is sounding a clear trumpet call that can be heard by all those who desire to do His will and move on in His purposes. We may recollect with gravity and soberness, that there were a people of God who had hardened their hearts when His word was ministered to them. And we know that God dealt with them ever so severely. How much more shall God judge those who harden their hearts and refuse to hear Him who speaketh now from the heavenlies. The Bible says, “Today if you hear Him”, do not refuse Him. It is ‘today’ we have to accept His voice and move on, in obedience to His voice. We have a God who speaks to His people in the present. He is a living God. He voices a ‘present truth’ to His people. Let us receive this truth in our hearts this day. If there is something that will put life into His people, if there is something that will cause them to open their eyes and sit up, if there is something that will stir up God’s people and bring an awakening in this generation, it is going to be the ‘present word’ from God’s throne for His people.

‘Today’ we can hear His voice. There is something special about the ‘today’ in which we are living. God has prepared His people for this day. And if we hear His voice and are obedient to His voice, God will even permit us to enjoy the fruit of this day.

Let us be aware that we are living in the days of the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement. God wants to speak to His people 'today' (the Day of Atonement).

Let us keep our ears open to hear His voice, and our hearts open to obey His word.



The Day of Atonement

"Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD"

(Leviticus 23:27)

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

The Day of Atonement was observed on the tenth day of the seventh month. The seventh month was the Sabbath month – the month of rest. The Day of Atonement was the most solemn of all feast days. It was a day of national and sanctuary cleansing.

The Feasts of Israel, we may recall, are prophetic of the church in this day and age. The interval of time between the Day of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement points to a time of great trials and sifting for God’s people. The number ‘ten’ signifies trials and testing. The Day of Atonement was a day for the people to afflict their souls (Leviticus 23:32). Remember the words of the psalmist in Psalm 119:67, 71. “Before I was afflicted I went astray.....”, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted...”. It was a juncture when the Lord dealt with the soul realm of man and cleansed him of every work of the flesh (Leviticus 23:29). And so it shall be in these days.

The Day of Atonement was also a day of many washing (Leviticus 16:4, 24). On this day there were special washings in the water as a preparation for the sacrificial offerings. Aaron washed himself before he entered into the sanctuary, and then

washed again in the ‘Holy Place’, after the sanctuary had been cleansed. Dr. Alfred Edersheim says in his writings: “Altogether he (the high priest) changed his raiments and washed his whole body FIVE times on that day, and his hands and feet TEN times”... This is portentous for the church today, for we read in Ephesians 5:26, 27, “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water...”, and in Hebrews 10:22, “.....And our bodies washed with pure water”.

The Day of Atonement was a day of many sacrifices, (Leviticus 16:3,5-11,14-28). All these sacrifices point to the PERFECT AND ONCE FOR ALL sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

There were many rituals and ceremonial rites on that solemn day of the Day of Atonement. The Lord shall open your eyes to the significance of the Old Testament feasts, if you seek to study the scriptures pertaining to the feasts. There are hidden treasures there.

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF ATONEMENT?

The Day of Atonement was a very special day for the High Priest and for all Israel. Once a year, on the tenth day of the seventh month, after much cleansing and preparation, the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle with the blood of the sacrifices to make atonement before God for the sins of the nation. Leviticus chapter 16 tells us how the

High Priest entered behind the veil, and the manner in which he made sin offering for himself and for the people. On this special day, the High Priest of Aaronic order took the blood of the bull and the goat and went behind the veil into the Holy of Holies, that he might cleanse the sins of the nation.

*“And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.”
(Leviticus 16:14)*

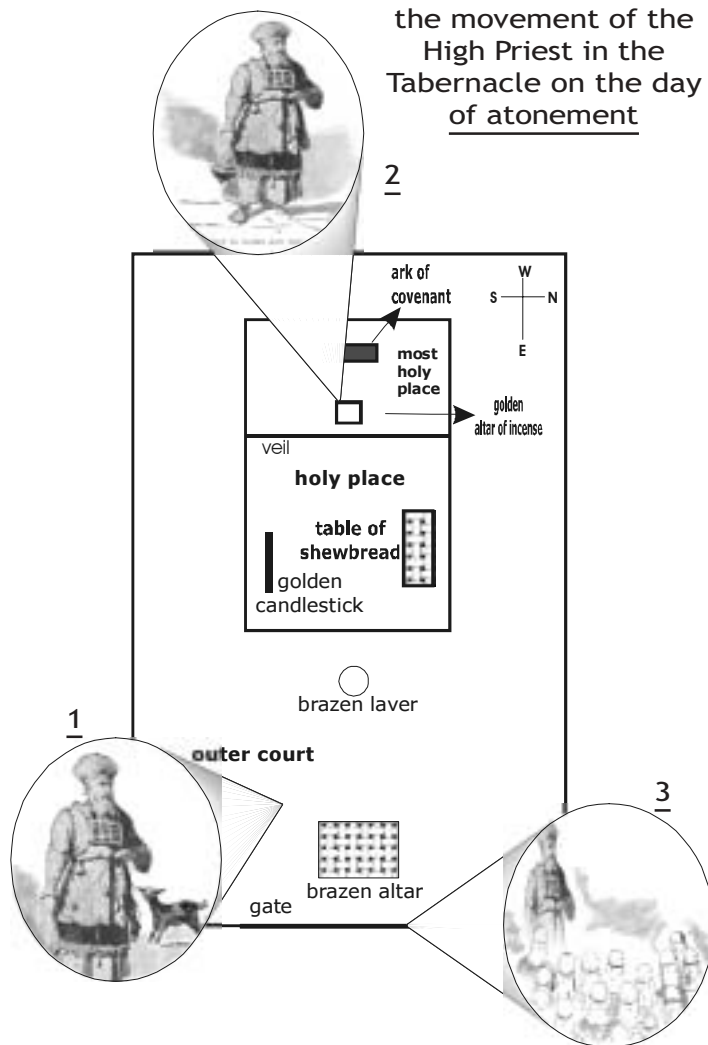
Dr. Alfred Edersheim, in his book, *The Temple-its Ministry and Services*, writes,

“Once more he (the High Priest) entered into the Most Holy Place, and sprinkled with his finger once upward, counting as he did so: ‘one’ (upward), ‘once and once’ (downward), once and twice, and so on to ‘once and seventh time’, always repeating the word ‘once’, which referred to the upward sprinkling, so as to prevent any mistake.”

The one time sprinkling upward signified that ONE sacrifice that would make an end of all sacrifices. The sprinkling of the blood seven times on the Mercy Seat was prophetic of the atonement that Christ would bring to His people. Throughout the Scriptures the theme of ‘the seventh time’ becomes prophetic of the end of the age and

that which finds its ultimate in the ‘seventh day of the Lord’, the kingdom age. Number seven speaks also of fullness and perfection. Thus the seven times sprinkling of the blood becomes symbolic and prophetic of the perfection that the blood of Jesus will bring to His church in the end times and at His coming. Remember, in the Passover Feast, the blood was sprinkled upon the door; in the Pentecost Feast the blood was sprinkled on the people and the Covenant Book; in the Feast of Tabernacles the blood was sprinkled seven times on the Mercy Seat. The Day of Atonement in the church will augur the fullest manifestation of the power of the blood of Jesus. It will bring the church to perfection, making an end of all sin, all iniquity, all transgression and all uncleanness.

A careful reading of chapter 16 of the book of Leviticus shows that after the High Priest had sprinkled the blood of the sacrifices upon the Mercy Seat in the Most Holy Place, he returned to the gate of the Tabernacle, to declare and announce, as it were, God’s faithfulness in cleansing and delivering the nation of all its sins. In other words, after the High Priest completed his ministry in the Most Holy Place, he came out and once again manifested himself to the people at the Tabernacle gate. We have represented the movements of the High Priest in a diagrammatic form, to have a clear understanding of what the Holy Spirit desires to minister to us.



1. The High Priest takes the blood of sacrifices
2. The High Priest sprinkles the blood upon the Mercy Seat
3. The High Priest returns to the gate to bless the people.

WHAT DOES THE ATONEMENT MEAN TO US ?

A full and complete atonement was made for the whole human race by Jesus Christ upon the cross. But it is only too evident, as we consider our own individual lives as well as the church, that we have not really appropriated the full measure of the great atoning work of the cross. And it is this experiential appropriation of the atonement that the church must now enter into. Just as we have a historical Pentecost as well as an individual 'Pentecost' experience for all who will believe it, so it is with the Atonement. We testify on the one hand that God has taken away our sins and nailed them to the cross - and that is true - but the next moment we are beset by sin and suffer defeat. We rejoice in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, but how little of that righteousness have we been able to grasp and appropriate. How little do we know and experience of real, vital holiness of life, and purity of thought, word and deed. All through the ages men have by faith, reached out and appropriated some measure of deliverance from sin; but as a body and as a church we have never really done so. Yet the deliverance from sin of the church, as a body, lies just one step ahead: in the fulfillment of that great Day of Atonement, by way of experience.

The sins and carnality of the church during her long career must be taken away from her midst, before she can enter into the full blessing of the Feast of Tabernacles. Thank God

for the Passover, when God ‘passed over’ the sins of the saints, not imputing their transgression unto them. And thank God for the Feast of Pentecost when God gave power to the saints to overcome their sins. But the church has nevertheless been groaning ‘as in the anguish’ of the Apostle Paul for almost two thousand years, “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death” (Romans 7: 24). God has certainly heard our cries. Beyond doubt He shall soon bring His people unto a ‘glorious liberty’ of the Spirit, wherein they shall be fully and completely delivered from their sins and their carnal nature. Beloved, this shall be the experiential fulfillment of the Day of Atonement for the church.

JESUS CHRIST OUR HEAVENLY HIGH PRIEST

Let us now see the fulfillment of this in Jesus Christ our heavenly High Priest, and what our heavenly High Priest did. We first see Him at the cross of Calvary, which is symbolized in the brazen altar. Our High Priest, after the order of Melchizedec, took His own precious blood and appeared at the brazen altar. The Just died for the unjust. When we were yet sinners, Christ died for us upon the cross of Calvary and demonstrated God’s love for us.

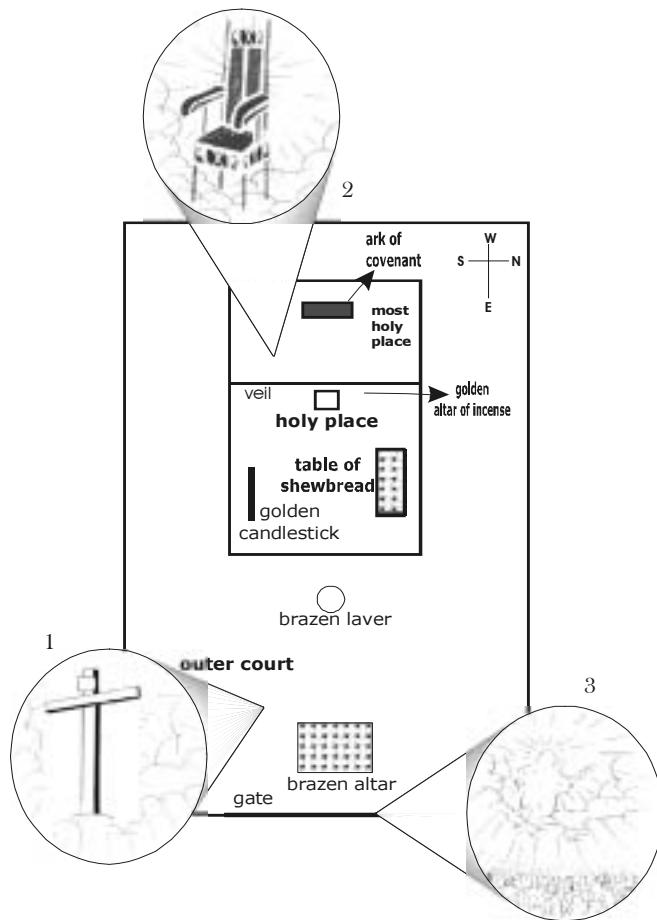
This High Priest took His own blood and entered the Holy of Holies in the heavenlies before the Father. He is NOW appearing before the Father.

Let us not forget that the Aaronic order was given by God as a shadow of the order of Melchizedec which was to follow later. The Tabernacle services were instructive types of the New Covenant services of our heavenly High Priest. The Aaronic priesthood and the priestly services were ‘a figure for the time then present’ (Hebrews 9:9), which were fulfilled by Jesus. “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building” (Hebrews 9:11). **Aaron was the copy; Christ is the original. Aaron was the type; Christ is the reality.**

Therefore, even as the Aaronic High Priest manifested himself before the congregation of Israel after entering the Holy of Holies, so shall our heavenly High Priest return and appear before His people. Christ is now appearing before the Father, so that He may appear unto us in the fullness of time. *Hallelujah!* (See diagram).

In the book of Hebrews, the Apostle Paul, writing to the Jewish Christians, shows the imperfections of the Aaronic ministry (the old order), and explains the efficacy of Christ as the **Perfect** Priest. In chapter nine of *Hebrews*, Paul writes specifically about the ministry of the High Priest on one particular day, the Day of Atonement. Paul compares the services of the Aaronic priesthood on the Day of Atonement to those of the new priesthood of the order of Melchizedec. The book of Hebrews, which is also known as the ‘Book of Better Things’, tells us of the better High Priest, who is none other than Jesus Christ.

The three appearances of the Lord Jesus Christ



1. Jesus HAS APPEARED at the cross
2. Jesus is NOW APPEARING before the Father
3. Jesus SHALL APPEAR again unto those who look for Him

Jesus Christ, our heavenly High Priest of the order of Melchizedec, took His own blood and entered the Tabernacle that was not built by human hands. He took His 'better' blood through a 'better' sacrifice and entered into a 'better' Tabernacle, to give us a 'better' covenant, a 'better' promise and a 'better' country. We have a better High Priest and a better priestly order. We are therefore living in the Day of Atonement, the day in which our High Priest shall cleanse His people. Today is the Day of Atonement: it is a day of cleansing and preparation.

It is a special day for God and His people. Let us be aware of His great grace that 'today'- the Day of Atonement we can hear His voice. Let us be eternally grateful to God for what He desires to speak to us 'today' by His Holy Spirit, on the Day of Atonement.

Finally, a point of interest concerning the Day of Atonement. On this day, the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place, wearing a robe that had bells attached to the hem, (Exodus 28: 33-38) so that a "sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the Lord". The High Priest made a noise whenever he moved, to show that he was alive in the Most Holy Place and had not died. So also, those who are hearing the voice of the trumpet today, can hear a noise in the heavenlies that show that our High Priest, the Lord Jesus, is alive. And they shall wait for Him to appear again. **The same Jesus who went into the Most Holy Place in the heavenlies, shall return unto His People again.**

AN UNCHANGEABLE PRIESTHOOD

“For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world HATH HE APPEARED to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.” (Hebrews 9:26)

The Lord Jesus Christ “hath appeared to put away SIN”. He has already appeared once at the cross of Calvary, to deal with our sins once and for all. This was His first appearance unto mankind. Let our hearts be filled with gratitude for what JESUS has already done at the cross of Calvary. He has faithfully suffered and appeared at the cross, in order that we may be delivered from the curse of sin.

“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, NOW TO APPEAR in the presence of God for us.” (Hebrews 9:24)

This verse quite clearly points out that He is now appearing in the presence of the Father. So the second appearance of Christ for us is in the Most Holy Place in the heavenlies before the Father. Our Lord is standing before the Father for our sakes NOW - at this present time.

Many people know, acknowledge and confess that Jesus has appeared for them, as a substitute, at ‘the brazen altar’, which is the cross of Calvary, so that they may be forgiven their sins. But few realize that there is a Jesus who is alive, and who is standing before the Father NOW for His people. We

need to be aware that Jesus has not only appeared for our sakes in the past, but that He is now appearing before the Father for us. Several of us are satisfied that Christ appeared for us once upon the cross; but the Word says that He is appearing for us before the Father now, in these very times. This is explained very explicitly in the Amplified Bible:

“For Christ (the Messiah) has not entered into a sanctuary made with (human) hands, only a copy and pattern and type of the true one, but (He has entered) into heaven itself, now to appear in the (very) presence of God on our behalf.” (Hebrews 9:24, Amplified)

The Holy Spirit would like us to understand that Jesus Christ has a ministry even at this present juncture, while He is before the Father. Most of us are aware of the ministry of the Lord upon this earth, but few know that there is yet another ministry of the Lord, while He is in the heavenlies. Our High Priest has entered the heavenly Tabernacle to continue His ministry to His people. He has a dynamic, on-going, progressive ministry even NOW, before the Father’s throne, in order that we may come into full salvation.

“But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:24-25)

Jesus Christ ‘ever liveth to make intercession’ for us. He

is alive in order that He may make petitions and intercessions for us. He is actively engaged in an ever-present ministry. Let us not think that when Jesus ascended into the heavens, He ceased to minister to His people. This Jesus Christ, having ascended, is not resting; but He is appearing before the Father to intercede for His people. He shall not come into rest until the purpose for which the Father sent Him to the earth, is accomplished and comes to pass.

We must realize that Jesus is standing before the Father now, only for us, and not for the people of the world at large. In John chapter 17:9, Jesus prayed thus, "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine". He is appearing before the Father for His people only; for He is our intercessor even now. Again, the Amplified Bible puts this across very clearly:

"Therefore He is able also to save to the uttermost (completely, perfectly, finally and for all time and eternity) those who come to God through Him, since He is always living to make petition to God and intercede with Him and intervene for them."
(Hebrews 7:25)

Our High Priest also had appeared at the cross of Calvary, which is symbolically the brazen altar, to put away sin; then He entered the heavenly Most Holy Place with His precious blood, where He is now appearing before the Father to intercede for His people; and finally, He shall also appear before a people who are waiting for Him. Beloved, may the Holy

Spirit reveal to us all that our High Priest did for us, is doing for us, and will do for us!

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him SHALL HE APPEAR the second time without sin unto salvation". (Hebrews 9:28)

The Scripture says that 'he shall appear a second time without sin unto salvation'. This refers to His second coming, insofar as the world is concerned. But insofar as His people are concerned, Christ is appearing now for them before the Father, as High Priest; and in the parallel sequence of the Aaronic high Priest, He shall also appear a third time before those who are patiently waiting for Him.

Thus, there are three appearances of Christ:

He 'HATH APPEARED' at 'the brazen altar';

He is NOW APPEARING before the Father;

and He SHALL APPEAR another time, 'without sin unto salvation', to His people.

With this introduction, we shall now go on to a more detailed study of these Scriptures and the truths that the Lord has placed before us.





The First Appearance

"For then would He often have had to suffer (over and over again) since the foundation of the world.

But as it now is, He has once for all at the consummation and close of the ages appeared to put away and abolish sin by His sacrifice (of Himself)".
(Hebrews 9:26 Amplified)

HE HATH APPEARED

Let the truth of this verse be embedded in our lives. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son...” God hath appointed Jesus to appear the first time; that He might save us from our sins, by sacrificing Him upon the cross of Calvary. The Lord Jesus bowed to the Father’s will and faithfully presented Himself at the cross, that He might be a perfect sacrifice to redeem mankind.

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.” (1 John 4 : 9)

Jesus came to the earth to redeem us; He appeared that we might LIVE THROUGH HIM. He came not only to set us free from the bondage of sin, but that we might LIVE in newness of life through Him. He loosened and untied our fetters and bonds, so that we might hereafter live a life free of oppression or bondage, through Him. We are called to walk in the benefit and the grace of His first appearance.

A LOOK AT THE TABERNACLE

In the Tabernacle sin and sacrifice were dealt with in the outer court. The sacrificial animals were brought to the brazen altar which was in the outer court. The bull and the goat of the sin offering were then taken outside the camp and burned (Leviticus 16: 27). The same thing was fulfilled by Jesus in His first appearance. He was a perfect sacrifice at the cross of Calvary, which was the antitype of the brazen altar. The Lord was crucified outside the city of Jerusalem.

“And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits.” (Exodus 27: 1)

It is quite revealing to compare the brazen altar of the Old Testament and the sacrifice of our Lord; for we can see several beautiful fulfillments concerning Jesus. The brazen altar upon which sacrifices were killed was five cubits long and five cubits broad. In Bible numerology the number five talks of grace. The Bible says, “but grace and truth came by Lord Jesus Christ” (John 1: 17), There was grace at ‘the brazen altar’ upon which Christ was crucified; His sacrifice is the source of our grace. Paul wrote that we are saved by the grace of God. We see the grace of God in all fullness upon the cross of Calvary. Jesus had five wounds upon His body: his hands, his feet and his riven side. When God gave the dimensions of the brazen altar to Moses, He had a vision of that Perfect Sacrifice that would

hang upon the cross of Calvary. The Father was looking into the future for visualizing the manifestation and demonstration of His grace towards mankind. Jesus Christ suffered five wounds upon the cross, whereby the grace of God would flow down freely to us, even two thousand years later. Let our hearts rejoice at the bountiful grace of God towards mankind.

‘The altar shall be foursquare’. In the Bible ‘foursquare’ talks of the ‘four corners of the earth’. The perfect sacrifice of Jesus was adequate for the whole world; for His sacrifice of Himself was acceptable and well pleasing to God. He was the ultimate and final sacrifice for the sins of mankind, enabling the whole world to turn toward God’s redemptive plan. That is why Jesus said that the gospel must be preached in all corners of the world; for His sacrifice was enough for the entire world and the world does not need any other sacrifice or any other gospel.

“And the height thereof shall be three cubits”. The number ‘three’ stands for ‘The Triune God’: the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. The triune God was involved in this perfect sacrifice. **Firstly, the Father provided the sacrifice. Secondly, the Son was the sacrifice. Thirdly, the Holy Spirit reveals the sacrifice to us.** The altar was raised up by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit together. That is why this one sacrifice was a perfect sacrifice and put an end to all other sacrifices, for the triune God took part in it. Let our hearts rise up in gratitude toward God as we remember that God so loved the world that He GAVE His Son to die upon the cross for our

sakes. We have a loving Father who GAVE His Son that we might live. The Son GAVE Himself for our sakes. He was the sacrifice, and He willingly GAVE Himself to the Father’s will. The Holy Spirit GIVES (reveals) the Son to us. No wonder, Paul writes that we have been redeemed by the ‘precious blood of Jesus Christ’, for the triune God was intimately involved in the sacrifice.

“Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God.”
(Hebrews 10:6,7)

The Son was the sacrifice. He did the will of the Father and became that precious sacrifice. The Father did not want bulls and lambs as sacrifice. The Son offered to be that perfect sacrifice; He offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice that would satisfy the heart of the Father.

Even though the Father GAVE the sacrifice, and the Son WAS the sacrifice, it is the Holy Spirit who REVEAL the sacrifice to us. In our human mind we cannot understand the sacrifice of the Son even though we may read about it many times. We need to have a revelation of the sacrifice through the working of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus told His disciples that it was expedient that He went away, so that he

could send them another Comforter. The disciples could not understand how they would be benefited if Jesus went away. They did not understand many things while the Lord was with them in the flesh. But after He had left, they began to understand things which they did not even understand before! The Holy Spirit is come that He may reveal the Lord Jesus Christ to us. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals Christ's work, His sacrifice, His ministry and His promises to us. He has been sent to reveal all things concerning Jesus to us. **That which the Father hath given and that which the Son hath come to give and is given to us and made real by the Holy Spirit of God.** He takes the things of Christ and reveals them to us.

These days the name of the Holy Spirit of God is so often misused. Many things are ministered in the name of the Holy Spirit. Often messages do not have effect upon God's people because it's spoken in the strength of the flesh rather than with power of the Holy Spirit.

Many preachers talk of the Holy Spirit, but as often happens, those who talk most vociferously about the Holy Spirit, are not themselves open to the ministrations of the Holy Spirit. Their hearts are totally closed to receive any fresh revelation of the person of Christ, His work, His sacrifice and His promises from the Holy Spirit. No wonder there is no 'life' in their preaching. It is the Holy Spirit who really opens our minds and our understanding to the things of Christ. Beloved, we need to have a great hunger to receive a

revelation of the sacrifice of Christ even today. We need to pray to the Father to reveal His Son to us; we need to allow the Holy Spirit of God to reveal the things of Christ to us. While we are reading these pages, let us keep our hearts open to receive a revelation from the Spirit of God about the first appearing of Jesus at the cross of Calvary; for there is much more than what we know that God wants to unfold to the hungry. The Father gave the sacrifice; Jesus was the sacrifice; and the Holy Spirit reveals the sacrifice. Heaven and earth may pass away, but this foundational truth will stand the test of time. Praise God!

A WORD STUDY

In verse 26 of Hebrew chapter 9, we have read, "...but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin...". The Greek word for 'appeared' here is PHANEROO, which literally means 'manifested'. Therefore, if one were to correctly paraphrase from the Greek, the verse would read, 'but now once in the end of the world hath he manifested himself to put away sin.'

The word '*phaneroo*' is derived from a Greek word PHOS, which means 'shine'. In other words, instead of saying, "He hath manifested", we could say, "He hath shined forth". In Isaiah 9:2 we read of a Messianic prophecy that makes clear the meaning of 'phos'. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined". The people were in darkness

and in the shadow of death. But they saw a light 'shining forth'. The Lord manifested Himself as a light shining forth. We have a similar Scripture in the New Testament, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). We were in darkness, discouraged and without hope. But there was a shining forth of the light of Jesus Christ in our lives. Christ is the light. He shines forth in darkness; and they that live in darkness see the light of Jesus, and live. The light of Jesus removes the darkness. He hath appeared as a source of light from the Father.

Another instance of the use of the Greek word PHANEROO is in John 17: 6, "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world. . ." One translation of the Bible puts it this way: "I have appeared Thy name unto them...". We may paraphrase this as follows: "He said, 'I have shone forth Thy name to the people.'

There are many names for God in the Bible. In the Old Testament names, such as Jehovah, Adonai, Elohim, Jireh etc. were given to God and Jesus says, "I've manifested your name." While praying to the Father, Jesus said that He had manifested the Father's name to the people. What does that mean? He had manifested, shown and revealed the Father to the people according to the various attributes of the Father's name. Jesus had 'appeared' or 'manifested' the Father in all His diversity and in all His forms or names. When the people had nothing to eat, Jesus manifested the Father as Jehovah Jireh, the

Provider. When the people fell ill, Jesus manifested the Father as the Healer. Jesus was manifesting the Father throughout His earthly sojourn. He was manifesting the Father in different ways, so that the people would know God the Father. Jesus said. "I have appeared Thy name": He had shone forth the nature of the Father. In the Gospels we see Jesus manifesting the Father in various ways on different occasions. Beloved, this very same calling is resting upon the church today, even to manifest, to reveal and to show forth Jesus to the world around, in all His fullness.

" And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (I Timothy 3:16).

Here also the Greek text uses the word PHANEROO for 'manifest'. The word here implies that Christ was the very embodiment of the Father Himself.

Christ appeared in the flesh. God was manifested in the flesh. He shone forth the divinity of the Father in the human form upon this earth. This was the great mystery of godliness: that God had appeared or manifested Himself in the flesh through the Son.

"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;..." (John 14: 9). The disciples asked Jesus

to show the Father to them. But Jesus answered that he who had seen Him had seen the Father, for He had manifested the Father in every way. God the Father had cloaked Him with a body of flesh and bones. He had given Him a face that He might dwell among men. Jesus said, “..... he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.....” It seemed mysterious to the disciples. But Jesus clearly pointed out that He had appeared in their midst to manifest the Father, to shine forth the holiness of the Father, the righteousness of the Father, the perfection of the Father, and even the name of the Father.

In Revelation 1:5, Jesus is called ‘the faithful witness’. In the Greek Bible the word ‘witness’ is the Greek word PHANEROO. So here we get the idea that Jesus was witnessing the Father to the people. He is the faithful manifestation of the Father. Jesus Christ told his disciples to be witnesses for Him. **We are to witness the Lord Jesus Christ, just as Jesus witnessed the Father.** The Lord Jesus Christ appeared the first time upon this earth as a complete, true (hundred percent), faithful witness of the Father. We are called to witness Jesus in no less a measure: **He has witnessed, that we may witness Him; He has shone forth, that we may shine forth His light; He has become us that we may become Him! What Jesus was to the Father, we are to be to Him (Jesus).**

When Jesus appeared the first time, He appeared in the Father’s name. He came to manifest the love of the Father. He did not come to demonstrate or show forth human love; but

He showed the world the scope of the divine love of the Father towards mankind. In Christian circles many have a warped understanding of love. They imagine the Father has a human kind of love, and so their attitudes toward others are confined to a very superficial degree of outward love. God in this hour, however, would like His people to have a true expression of the Father’s divine love - a love that would show forth His righteousness, His holiness and His life. This is what Jesus did: He manifested that pure, holy love while He was upon the earth. Jesus, while praying to the Father at the end of His earthly ministry, told the Father that He had manifested Him in every way. He had manifested His name, which implies that He had shone forth the Father’s very nature among men.

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

“Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (I Peter 1: 18-20)

The Word says that Jesus Christ was manifested for us. He had appeared to save us. In the Greek text the word PHANEROO is used for ‘manifest’, which means that the Lord came forth in these last days to redeem us by His blood. We are a people redeemed by His blood, because Jesus manifested Himself for us. We have not been redeemed by

perishable things, but by the blood of the Lord in that He hath appeared in flesh and blood for us. Beloved, we have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

Those who have been redeemed and saved by the, imperishable and incorruptible blood of Christ, who was manifested at 'the brazen altar', which is the cross of Calvary, display a life-style that is so very different. Praise God that He hath manifested Himself in these last days for us.

"For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;" (I John 1: 2). Here again we substitute PHANEROO in Greek is used for the English word 'manifested' or 'appeared'. John writes that the life of Jesus appeared to them.

In Jesus' first appearance He appeared to the people in the form of His life. We see Jesus in life. He said, "I am the life..." He did not say, "Come, I will show you life." Life (that is Jesus) appeared upon this earth in His person. In His first appearance 'life' came upon this earth. Everybody who came in contact with Him came in contact with 'life'. He came to bring 'life.' We who have seen this 'life', even manifested in us, are a witness to that eternal life of the Son.

"And ye know that he was *manifested* to take away our sins; and in him is no sin" (I John 3 : 5). The Lord appeared, manifested (PHANEROO in Greek) among us to take away our sins.

"... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3: 8b). The Lord came into the world that He might destroy the works of the devil. He had manifested (PHANEROO in Greek) Himself the first time, not only as a shining light and to show us the Father, but also to take away sin and destroy the works of Satan. 'To destroy' means 'to loosen', 'to untie' and 'to restore something that is disintegrating'. The Lord appeared the first time to untie the knots that the devil had tied around people; He came to set free the captives. He not only showed forth the life, expressions and nature of the Father faithfully as a witness, but also to defeat the devil and to release people from their bondages.

Beloved, aren't you glad that the Lord Jesus Christ appeared at 'the brazen altar' that He might loosen and deliver His people and destroy the works of Satan? The living Word says so. Let us lift up grateful hearts, for He hath already appeared that we may live, for He is 'life.' Let faith rise up in us, as understanding dawns. Let us be thankful for what He has already done when He first appeared unto us. Let there be a release of praise and worship unto God, for the salvation that the Lord has already obtained for us at 'the brazen altar'. Let there be freshness in our praise and worship, because He has already appeared to remove every sin from our midst and to destroy the works of Satan. You may be one who has known the truth of forgiveness of sin and walks in the same; **but have you been able to see that in His first appearance, He has**

done so much more than just forgiveness? Are you still bound? Are those chains and fetters still binding you? You do not have to be bound. He has appeared to break those very bondages; He hath appeared to renew and restore that which is decaying and deteriorating in your life.

Surely, that is a good news, beloved.

And with this, we shall move on to see Jesus as He is now appearing in the heavenlies.



The Second Appearance

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:"

(Hebrews 9:24)

HE IS NOW APPEARING

“For Christ, (the Messiah) has not entered into a sanctuary made with (human) hands, only a copy and pattern and type of the true one, but (He has entered) into heaven itself, now to appear in the (very) presence of God on our behalf.” (Hebrews 9:24, Amplified)

We have seen that on the Day of Atonement the High Priest took the blood of the bull and the goat and went behind the veil into the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle, to intercede on behalf of the people of Israel.

The second appearance of Christ is in the Most Holy Place of the heavenlies, in that perfect Tabernacle of God. Jesus, our High Priest, had already appeared at ‘the brazen altar’; **but now, He enters behind the veil to fulfil yet another ministry before the Father, on our behalf.** Christ “ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25) before the Father. Jesus is in the Most Holy Place making intercession for us NOW, at this present time. Our Lord is praying for us. This intercession of Jesus before the Father for us now, will certainly have a far-reaching effect. His intercessions will surely result in the impartation of something eternal and incorruptible in us, for our Jesus is praying for us... Jesus is praying for us that we may

bring forth fruit (that we may receive the truth) in our lives that will not wither away, but will remain. The kind of spiritual fruit we produce will surely depend upon what Jesus is praying before the Father. Jesus has a continuing ministry before the Father.

We have often heard messages concerning Christ’s first appearance at the brazen altar! But we need to know that there is a Jesus who is appearing behind the veil right now before the Father, with a ministry of intercession for us, that is aimed at producing some deep and permanent changes in our lives. Our Lord is not sitting idly; nor is He resting: He is engaged in a hidden ministry for His people. But how long shall this ministry last?

*“The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.”
(Psalm 72:20)*

There was a definite occasion, in time and space, when David’s prayers came to an end. Psalm 72 shows that David was not only praying for the kingdom of Solomon, but for Christ’s rule and reign upon this earth, of which Solomon’s kingdom was a type and shadow. Almost the entire psalm points to the eternal kingdom of Christ. In verse 19 David prays: “And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen!” And then David’s prayers ended (verse 20). There was nothing more that David could pray for. By the eye of the Holy Spirit, David was able to look into the distant future and see the growth and establishment of Christ’s kingdom. In that time when the

enemies of Christ would 'lick the dust' (verse 9), He would 'break in pieces the oppressor' (verse 4). 'And they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth' (verse 16). What a beautiful vision of His glorious reign. We are aware that David typified Jesus Christ. Just as David's prayers came to an end, so also will the prayers of Christ the Son of David (Matthew 22:42) come to a definite end in time and space. "But when shall that come to pass?" we may ask, "**When shall Christ's intercessions in the heavenly Most Holy Place come to an end?**" **The intercessions of Christ are not going to continue for ever; He is praying with a definite end in mind.** There is a directive purpose in His prayers which point to a specific time of closing.

The intercessory prayers of our heavenly High Priest shall come to an end when He shall see a people upon this earth, who are worthy of ruling and reigning with Him. His prayers therefore have a definite purpose and goal. He shall continue to intercede for His people till He brings a people unto full salvation, till He raises a people who shall rise up and put His enemies under their feet; and they shall be a glorious church.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, it may be noted, is not interceding to fulfil our selfish desires. Many carnal believers think that the Lord Jesus is interceding before the Father for their materialistic and earthly blessings. He is interceding in the very presence of the Father for the burdens upon the heart of His Father. He shall continue interceding till that which is upon the heart of the Father is brought forth and birthed.

Until that time, the Son of David shall not cease praying. There is a realistic goal before our High Priest. David's prayers came to an end when he was able to visualize the everlasting kingdom of God upon the earth.

But Christ is actively engaged in prayers, and His prayers have not come to an end as yet. He continues to pray for His people; He is praying that His people may come into full maturity and the full stature of His own being.

In chapter 17 of John's Gospel, one cannot fail to notice that upon this earth: Christ's concern in prayer was for the unity and oneness of the church. The goal of that prayer was 'That they may be one' (John 17:21). Jesus' prayer has not yet been fulfilled and therefore, we can be certain that even now, our Lord is praying that this may become a reality. Jesus is interceding before the Father for His church, very much on the same basis as He prayed while upon the earth.

In the Levitical order, the High Priest went behind the veil to intercede before God for the people of Israel and came out soon after. He could not remain within the Most Holy Place for any length of time. But our High Priest of Melchizedec's order is so different. He is seated in the Father's presence; He can stay there as long as is needed. He shall continue to be seated in the Father's presence, interceding for us, as long as He chooses to do so; He is in no hurry to complete His prayers. He shall intercede for His people till the object of His prayers has become a reality. The important thing for us is

to move in the Father's burden. Our High Priest is immortal; He is the Alpha and the Omega. Aaron could not stand before God for more than one day. But our heavenly Aaron has no limitation that binds Him to a fixed period. Instead our High Priest is waiting, watching and praying for a people who shall put their enemies under their feet.

On the Day of Atonement the Israelites came to the gates of the Tabernacle with great expectation upon their hearts. For them, the Day of Atonement was the 'Day of the Lord', because once a year their High Priest would come into the presence of God on their behalf for the atonement of their sins. We, in this era, may also consider this day to be the Day of the Lord because our heavenly High Priest is interceding for us before God. We too should have a hope before us that our 'High Priest will pray for spiritual growth and maturity, till we come into the Son's fulness. We too should rejoice and be glad in it! For this is the Day that the Lord has made! Our confidence is in Him who stands before the Father. Praise God! For that which we see happening among God's true people, in this hour, is the fruit of His intercession.

A WORD STUDY

In the previous chapter we studied the word 'appeared' (Hebrews 9:26) and the Greek word 'PHANEROO'. This word study enabled us to see the first appearance of Christ (at the cross) in a fresh light.

In verse 24 of Hebrews 9 the word 'appear' in the original Greek text is *EMPHANIZO*. Here the expression is in the present continuous tense. A word study of this Greek word will give us an insight into the present ministry of Jesus Christ before the Father.

“And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

“And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and ‘appeared’ unto many” (Matthew 27:52-53)

The Greek text here uses the word '*emphanizo*' for 'appeared'.

The saints appeared as witnesses and as infallible proof of the resurrection life of Jesus to the people. In other words, Jesus appeared in His resurrection power before the Father. He entered the heavenlies in the power of His resurrection.

Jesus Christ now appears before the Father as an infallible and undeniable proof of the purpose for which He came into the world. **He is ever-living before the Father as a witness until He shall bring a people together in the same resurrection power.** He is witnessing for us in the resurrection power before the Father.

Let us turn to Acts 24:1, which reads,

“And after five days Ananias the high priest descended with the elders, and with a certain orator

named Tertullus, who informed the governor against Paul”.

The same Greek word ‘*emphanizo*’ is used for the English word ‘informed’. Tertullus informed against Paul; or we may say he ‘appeared’ before the governor against Paul.

The appearing of Christ for the second time before the Father is for the purpose of giving ‘information’ to the Father. The word ‘*emphanizo*’ is used negatively in the above reference. But when the word ‘*emphanizo*’ is used in Hebrews 9:24 it is used in a positive sense. **Jesus Christ is appearing before the Father to tell Him the good things concerning His people.** He is informing the Father about the spiritual progress of His people. The Lord Jesus is before the Father to keep Him informed of the positive changes that are happening in His people by His grace. Jesus is a faithful advocate as well as a constant intercessor.

Let us also not forget that there is also an ‘accuser’ of the brethren’ (Revelation 12:10), who ‘accused them before our God day and night’. The devil knows that he ‘hath but a short time’, and therefore he informs the Father negatively. While Jesus tells the Father of only the good things, the devil informs the Father accusingly.

In the worldly sphere, amongst the many people we meet and contact daily, there are several who accuse us of radicalism; there are many who criticize us for having no love, or being too dogmatic and rigid. Satan uses them to discourage us and

then the accuser generates ‘false’ reports to the Father concerning our attitudes and our conduct. But, praise God! Jesus our faithful High Priest ‘informs’ the Father of the good things concerning our lives and He tells the truth unlike the accuser.

Many get discouraged when others say wrong and false things about them. They cry out in self-pity and remorse. **Remember that self-pity is the devil’s ‘baby sitter’.** Satan provides a ‘baby sitter’ free of cost to take care of us when we are discouraged and downcast. Satan rejoices in our self-pity. So when people accuse you and bring reproach upon your testimony for Christ and your reputation as a believer, remember always that Jesus is standing before the Father to give Him a good (correct) report about you that shall nullify the false accusation of Satan. Yes, and the Father, caring greatly for each of His sons, enquires of Christ how we are progressing in our narrow path. The Father inquisitively asks several questions about the ones He loves, like any human father would. We can see in the natural, that elderly parents, who have their children settled in family life, enquire tenderly about their grand children. They often ask about the little one, “Is he still crawling?”, “Whom does he look like?” They ask many minute details. And as parents we keep ‘informing’ the grand parents of every detail. Even so is our heavenly Father; He keeps asking the Lord Jesus about each one of us. The Lord may then inform the Father saying, “Bro. X has difficulties and trials, yet Father, he is growing...he is learning...he is

progressing...” We praise God that we have such a High Priest who is continually ‘informing’ our Father about us.

Despite what anyone may say regarding our ways, there is Someone who always talks well of us to the Father. In spite of our weaknesses and our failures, Jesus gives good reports concerning us. Let us follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ that we only have good and true things to speak about others.

And remember, beloved, that if we walk in the ways of the world, Jesus our High Priest will not have much appreciation before the Father. He shall not appear before the Father for us when we deliberately hasten after sin.

“He that bath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” (John 14:21)

We have seen that in the Greek Scriptures the word ‘manifest’ and ‘appear’ are analogous. In this verse of John 14, Jesus says that He shall Himself appear before the Father for those who love Him. **The Lord is not going to appear before the Father (in His second appearance) for the people of the world but only for those who love Him.** This supports beautifully Jesus’ prayer in John chapter 17:9; “I pray for them; I pray not for those in the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.”

In John 14:22, Jesus’ brother, Judas, asks a very relevant question: “Judas saith unto him not Iscariot, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not into the world?” Paraphrasing this we may put it thus, “Lord, how is it that You appear in person before the Father for US and not for the world?”

In John 14:23, we read, “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him” Notice the conditional aspect of His appearance.

The Lord is not appearing before the Father in the heavenlies for anyone and everybody; He is appearing before the Father for a people - a people who keep His commandments and walk in His ways. If we love His commandments, if we obey Him; if we live a disciplined life according to His Word, then, and then only, shall Jesus appear before the Father on our behalf. See also how the Living Bible expresses John 14:21;

“The one who obeys me is the one who loves me, and because he loves me, my Father will love him; and I will too, and I will reveal myself to him.” (John 14:21, Living Bible).

If we walk in our own ways, then we will have no Intercessor in the heavens to intercede on our behalf. We shall then be left to our own selves, we shall have to save ourselves from the consequences of our actions !! When we

begin to walk in the ways of the world, in 'the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes and the pride of life', then it virtually amounts to our rejecting Jesus as our intercessor. Why? Because Jesus is not interceding for the people of the world. If we continue to walk after the lusts of the flesh and the lust of the eyes (which are worldly ways to walk in this life), then we are refusing to have an Intercessor who is willing to stand and intercede for us before Almighty God.

Often people wonder why some do not flow according to what God is speaking in the House of God. Why do some sincere Christians fail to grow spiritually? Why do some genuine believers remain stagnant in their growth process? It is so because their hearts are inclined towards the things of the world and the flesh. They continue to indulge themselves in the lusts of their eyes, of their flesh and in their pride and ego. Thus they reject Jesus' ministry of intercession in their lives. They deprive themselves of the prayers of our High Priest, who is not appearing on behalf of those who are of the world. **Jesus is appearing as an Intercessor before the Father only for His disciples**, the disciplined ones, the ones who care to only walk in total obedience and submission. If we walk in the benefits of His first appearance at 'the brazen altar' then surely He shall also continue in His intercessory ministry in the heavenlies for us. If we love and obey Him, we can be confident that He is appearing for us before the Father and giving the Father favourable reports of our walk. Let it be our prayer that we may be a people who turn to God in repentance and walk

not according to the lusts of the flesh and the eyes and thereby accept the intercessory ministry of the High Priest in our lives.

Remember, that when Jesus appeared at 'the brazen altar', the cross of Calvary, He did so for the world at large. (John 3:13). But as Jesus is now appearing in the Most Holy Place He appears NOT for the world but for His own people only His disciples those who love Him and obey Him. For those who are walking in the fruit of that first appearance, for such as them, He is also 'now appearing' before the Father in His intercessory capacity. Saints, let us take these truths to our heart and meditate upon them. Let us rejoice that we have a continuing Saviour and a faithful Advocate before the Father.

He shall not rest till He has a people upon this earth - a people who shall ever be His younger brothers.

THE CONTINUING MINISTRY OF OUR HIGH PRIEST

In the Book of Numbers at chapter 35, the word of God states that upon entering the 'promised land' of Canaan, the Israelites were commanded to nominate and earmark six cities of refuge, "that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares. And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not until he stand before the congregation in judgment." (Numbers 35:11-12). Any person who had committed murder or a revenger could

escape to one of the cities of refuge. He was to abide therein till the death of the High Priest.

“And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: and he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was appointed with the holy oil.” (Numbers 35:25)

There is a man who has sworn to destroy us and kill us even in this day and age. He is Satan, the destroyer and avenger. He is out to confuse us and bring us into the captivity of evil.

But we can take refuge in the Lord Jesus, our High Priest. And as long as He is alive the revenger of blood, Satan, cannot lay his hands upon us. Our enemy may have many allegations against us (remember, he is also the father of lies) but if we are in the city of refuge he cannot do any damage to us. He has no power to lay his hands upon our lives.

Let us rejoice that we have a High Priest who lives for ever, Jesus is our City of Refuge! He is also our eternal, ever-living High Priest. He is alive, for He is ever making intercession for His people (Hebrews 7:25).

Many are of the view that it is sufficient that they have been saved the day on which they believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. They say, “Once saved is always saved.”

The Lord once spoke to a man of God and said, “My son,

I want you to be saved.” The man of God was alarmed. He said, “Lord, do You not remember that day in the meeting many years ago when I responded to the altar call and dedicated my life to You! I was saved at that meeting by Your grace. Why are You wanting me to be saved again?” Then the Lord said, “My son, what you say is true but it was all centered on your self. You came forward at the meeting for you did not want to suffer hell fire. You wanted to come unto Me because you were afraid of many things. Your motive in giving yourself to Me was utterly selfish. And at that time, all I could do for you was to accept your tears and your promises.” And then the Lord added, “But now I want to save you for My purpose. “

Beloved, in the Christian world there are many who are ‘saved’ but in this hour God would like to save us for His purpose. He saved us once when He appeared at the brazen altar. Now He wants to save us from our selfishness, our lusts, our pride, and our carnal nature for His purpose, as High Priest in the heavenlies. If this Jesus is lifted up He shall save His people, even unto His purpose.

Many in these days only know of and lift up a Jesus who saved them at the cross from their sins. But we need to lift up a Jesus who continues to be our City of Refuge and who is interceding for us and who desires to ‘save us to the uttermost’ (Hebrews 7:25). We have a Jesus who is before the Father for us, and not for the world. Let us walk this Christian life in the awareness that Jesus Christ our High Priest is interceding for us (NOW) before the Father. He shall help us to have an

overcoming life of victory over the avenger and destroyer.

He is our City of Refuge forever. We have come to such a city. No one can touch us as long as we are in this city. Even though the enemy faces us with our failures and condemns us before the Father with lies and false reports, we know that we have a High Priest who is ever interceding for us. He is appearing before the Father NOW that we may continue to be saved fully. He ever remains the hope of our glory.

The Lord wants us to be thankful to Him for what He is doing on our behalf as we walk this narrow way. He wants us to rejoice because of His continuing ministry of intercession. As long as He is interceding for us we have nothing to fear. He has an active, dynamic ministry to continuously save us from our weaknesses and failures. Let every believer realise this and be thankful for His mercies. Let us lift Him up in the awareness of this continuing ministry. He lives before the Father that we may live upon this earth. He shall never stop His intercession for us until we come to perfection and maturity.' Let us lift up this Jesus today.

Finally, in Hebrews chapter 10 verses 12 and 13 we read: "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool" Jesus

knew that it was going to take 'some time' for us to be brought into His image.

So, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, thereby showing us that He is determined to accomplish His goal till His enemies are subjugated under His feet. Many desire that Jesus come again this very instant. They are impatient for Him. **But He shall not come until that purpose for which He has entered the heavenlies is accomplished.**

Jesus had a purpose in appearing before the Father in the resurrection power. Now, however, He is seated with the Father. But His ministry of intercession has not changed. Those who are not interested in the full redemptive work of the Father and the Father's will, desire that His second coming be any time and immediately. They can expect His return to this earth again only if they have experienced His second appearance before the Father. Jesus is now appearing before the Father with a purpose and He is determined to bring a people into that full salvation in the earth. **Many people want the Lord to come soon and save them from their troubles and sufferings even if God's people are in their immaturity and infancy and NOT ready for His return. Such thoughts come out of those who have never received the revelation of a Jesus who is now appearing before the Father.**

Beloved, a revelation of this ministry of Jesus will

change your life and cause you to experience victories. Beloved, it's our prayer that you will walk in the light of this ongoing, continuing ministry of Jesus, who is now appearing before the Father and preparing for His third appearance.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear."



The Third Appearance

*"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many;
and unto them that look for him shall he appear the
second time without sin unto salvation,"*

(Hebrews 9:28)

HE SHALL APPEAR

“Even so it, is that Christ, having been offered to take upon Himself and bear as a burden the sins of many once and once for all, will appear a second time, not to carry any burden of sin nor to deal with sin, but to bring to full salvation those who are (eagerly, constantly, and patiently) waiting for and expecting Him. (Hebrews 9:28 Amplified)

Our heavenly High Priest of the order of Melchizedec ‘hath appeared’ at the brazen altar to put away sin. Then He entered the Most Holy Place in the perfect Tabernacle in the heavenlies; and He is now appearing there in the presence of the Father to intercede for His people. And finally we see that He shall appear before a people who are waiting for Him. This shall be His third appearance. The first appearance of Christ was upon this earth; His second appearance is before the Father and His third appearance shall be, once again, upon this earth. Although Hebrews 9:28 clearly states that He shall appear a second time “without sin unto salvation”, let us understand, with the help of the Holy Spirit, that this shall be the third appearance for those who are seeking Him. In the second appearance Jesus is not appearing to us but He is instead appearing ‘for us’ before the Father. The

word ‘second time’ in Hebrews 9:28 refers to Christ’s coming again in glory, as compared to His first-time appearance when He came in humiliation. However, in terms of the sequence of His appearances the correct order is as follows :-

- (a) First appearance at the Brazen Altar (cross) for the world;
- (b) Second appearance: in the Most Holy Place of the heavenlies before the Father for us;
- (c) Third appearance at the Outer Court near the door of the Tabernacle for those that are looking for Him.

A WORD STUDY

We have already seen that the words ‘appear’ and ‘appeared’ figures in verses 24, 26 and 28 of Hebrews 9. But in the Greek there are three different words for the same English word.

The Greek word in verse 26 is ‘PHANEROO’ while the word in verse 24 is ‘EMPHANIZO’. The Greek word in verse 28 is the word ‘OPTOMAI’.

The English word ophthalmology has its origin from the Greek word ‘OPTOMAI’. Therefore, the third appearing has a close association with seeing by our natural eyes.

Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8). The Greek word ‘see’ is *‘optomai’*. Therefore, the paraphrased expression of Jesus would read, “Jesus said, **Blessed are the pure in heart for unto them shall He appear a second time.**” The Scripture says that the Lord shall appear a second time only to those who have a pure heart. **He shall come again, not carrying a burden to save from sin but to bring full salvation to those who are eagerly, anxiously, constantly and patiently waiting for Him.** Hebrews 9:28 also holds the same thought. He shall not appear to all and sundry but only to those who are pure in heart and to those who are seeking Him. A seer, (see-er) is, a person who continuously watches and gazes across space into time to see the approach or appearance of the treasure of his heart. The Greek word *‘optomai’* in Hebrews 9:28 conveys this very concept. To such see-ers and seekers shall Christ appear and to those with a pure conscience which is undefiled by human influence, tradition and strength.

Describing the transfiguration of Christ, Matthew writes, “And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him” (Matthew 17:1-3). In the Greek Bible the word for ‘appeared’ is *‘optomai’*. The disciples were able to see Moses and Elias (Elijah, the prophet).

In Matthew 4:8 seeing was related to those who were pure in heart but here in Matthew 17:3, see-ing is concerned with transfiguration. They shall see the Lord who have been transfigured or changed from their beastly natures and carnality into humble people who are poor in spirit. There is a change that comes, about in our, minds, our reasoning and our ways as we continue to walk on the highway of holiness. And those who are purified, changed and transfigured shall have the, privilege of seeing Him appear in their lives, individually and corporately. This is the message of the transfiguration. To those who are willing to undergo a change; to those who have already been transfigured, so to say, to them He shall appear. And that is what Hebrews 9:28 reiterates “...and unto...them that look for him shall he appear the second time...”. Beloved, the third appearance of Christ in the sequence of the High Priest’s move-ments and actions will be unto those who are changed or transfigured to conform to His image. The third appearance is concerned with a change within our inner man. Are you one who is looking for His appearance? If so, may your heart be pure so that He may appear to you. His glorious church will be a people who are pure in heart.

Let us now turn to John 1:51 which reads, “And he saith unto him Verily, Verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall SEE heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man” Here the word ‘see’ is the same Greek word *‘optomai’* meaning ‘to appear’. If one were to paraphrase this in simple language, we will get this: “Hereafter heavens shall appear open to you.” Those who are eagerly looking out

for Him shall surely see an open heaven, as we come across several times in the Bible. The heavens shall appear open to them; they shall begin to see and behold the things of God, as they seek Him. He shall appear a third time unto those who look for Him.

“Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest SEE the glory of God” (John 11 :40). This is what Jesus told Martha before He prayed to the Father to raise Lazarus from the dead. Here too the Greek word ‘*optomai*’ is used for ‘see’. The Lord told Martha that if she did but only believe, she would experience His glory; His glory would ‘appear’ to her. So also is our Lord speaking to His church in this time, saying, “If only you believe, you shall SEE the glory of God; the glory of God shall appear unto you.” Many Christians are waiting for Jesus’ appearance at His second coming. But only a few are waiting in line with what the Scriptures tell us. The majority are not really looking for Him with transfigured hearts: they are not truly believing the Scriptures; they are not open to change and to the realisation of full salvation in their lives.

The third appearance of our Lord Jesus is linked with desiring of believers to see Jesus in all His glory, for the purity of heart, for the transformation and transfiguration of one’s whole being, and for the appearance of heavenly realms in our lives. Jesus will appear in all His royal glory to the church if she believes and is changed. The church of this day needs to really seek her Bridegroom; she needs to be changed and she

has to put on the beautiful spiritual garments of a bride for Jesus.

Let us examine a few more verses in the Bible that show us and give us a deeper picture of Jesus’ third and last appearance.

(a) I Corinthians 15:5-6: Jesus was ‘seen’ by Cephas (Peter), by the twelve disciples and then by 500 brethren.

Finally He was seen by James and John. The word ‘seen’ here is ‘*optomai*’ in Greek. So, the third appearance of Jesus, as the Scripture shows, is connected with His resurrection power.

(b) Hebrews 12:14: “Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall ‘see’ the Lord.” The Greek word ‘*optomai*’ is used for ‘see’ here. No man shall see God unless he is leading a life of holiness and peace. If we do not follow in the way of holiness and peace then the Lord will not appear to us. His third appearance is therefore, connected with walking in holiness and peace.

(c) I John 3:2-3: “Beloved now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” The verses shows that we shall see (*optomai*) Jesus and we shall appear (*optomai*) as He is. Every believer who has this hope (that we shall appear as He is) shall

purify himself, When He shall appear we shall be like Him: 'for we shall see Him as He is'. In other words when He shall appear again, we too shall appear as He is, that is, in the garments of full salvation. **His third appearance is thus connected to our full salvation.** Is there a contradiction between Hebrews 9:28, which says that unto those who look for Him shall He appear, a second time, (i.e. third appearance) and I John 3:3, which says that when He shall appear, we shall also appear to Him as He is? When we look for Him with this hope and expectation (that when He appears we shall appear to Him as He is) He shall appear to us. The Lord Jesus is in the Father's presence for this very purpose.

When shall Jesus leave the Father's presence? When we are changed into His likeness, that is His nature. So we are justified in our hope that when He comes again we too shall appear as He is, for if it were not so, He would not leave the heavenlies but continue to intercede on our behalf before the Father.

The Hebrew writer tells those who look for Him with hope that the hare shall purify them and change them into His likeness. Note that His coming is not a hope but an objective fact for whether we hope or do not hope the Lord is coming back. He who is to come will come. **But our hope is that when He appears the third time we shall appear to him as He is, in all His purity.** This may seem impossible in our flesh but let us believe it is possible for we have a High Priest seated with the Father, **who is determined to continue to**

intercede for His people until He will see upon this earth a people who rise up with this hope. He shall not leave His Father's presence till His work of intercession is complete.

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;" (Hebrews 6:19). There is One who is an anchor in the Most Holy Place (the Father's presence); He is determined to take us behind the veil. Every man who has this hope purifies himself. Our Forerunner, the Lord Jesus Christ is the anchor; **He shall be immoveable till He has a people who shall be like as He is.** We have a High Priest who is interceding for us to bring us to full salvation and His prayers shall come to pass, for He is behind the veil.

(d) Revelation 1:7: "Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen!" The Scripture tells us that every eye shall see Him. **This does *not* mean that everyone shall see Him, but it means that every eye of those who are looking for Him, from every kingdom and nation, shall see Him.** He shall appear to all who look for Him including the Jews who pierced Him then. He shall appear to the eye that looks for Him; He shall not deny Himself any tribe, kingdom or nation, **but shall be seen by all who diligently seek Him.**

(e) Revelation 22:4: "And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads." This may be paraphrased to

read, "And His face shall appear to them and His nature shall be in their lives." What a calling, dear people of God! **Surely to those who are looking for Him patiently and earnestly, His face shall appear to them in these last days.**

In the Old Testament Tabernacle, on the Day of Atonement, the entire congregation waited at the door of the Outer Court for their Aaronic High Priest to appear before them, after he had completed his ministry in the Most Holy Place. This gives us a picture of the believers of His true church waiting patiently and with eagerness for the return of Jesus, their High Priest, from the heavenlies. He shall bring full salvation to those who are looking forward eagerly to His return. Then we shall appear as He is; we shall have full salvation. Beloved, God desires to reveal Himself to His people - to those overcomers, the glorious church, who are being changed to His likeness.

At first, the Lord Jesus appeared upon the earth to put away sin from our lives. He is NOW appearing before the Father with a ministry of intercession towards the perfecting of His people. This hidden ministry has not been revealed to many believers which is why **most believers want to die and go to heaven rather than live an overcoming life now.** The hope of every true member of the Bride of Christ is that **our final goal is not heaven but that we shall appear as He is, and be brought to full salvation at His appearance upon this earth.**

There is a full salvation for us, even the redemption of

our body, when mortality shall put on immortality. If we believe this, we shall see the glory of God. Eagerly look and watch for His appearance. We are not to be like those who say they are eager for the return of the Lord but do not look for Him. They are busy building their own kingdoms and their organizations, that might just last for few years, and fail to give themselves to the work of God IN THEM.

Some are gripped with the things of this world; they are busy investing their time and effort and resources for themselves, their children and grand-children. They are unwittingly showing by this, that they do not expect Jesus to appear soon. However, they voice the fact that they are looking forward to His coming at any moment for the sake of tradition!

If we are really seeking Him, we shall be changed and transformed. The Lord desires to save us fully now and not merely to save us from our past sins which Jesus did in our lives some time ago.

UNTO A FULL SALVATION

"And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall

hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his family” (Leviticus 25:8-10)

From the fall of Adam to Abraham was 2000 years, 40 time 50 years. Forty Jubilee periods passed over humanity. But that ‘forty’ was not the end. God re-established His promise with Abraham.

Another 40 Jubilees passed and the Lord Jesus came into this world. Even that ‘eighty’ was not the end. With the first appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, God paid the debt for humanity and purchased their redemption. But in the letter to Ephesians the Apostle Paul says that the REDEMPTION OF THAT PURCHASED POSSESSION IS STILL AHEAD OF US. (Ephesians 1:14).

In the letter of Apostle Peter, we read, “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1 :4-5). Beloved, we have already completed 39 Jubilees since the coming of the Lord Jesus and we are close to the 40th Jubilee (2000 years) or the 120th Jubilee (6000 years). 120 in the Bible numerology speaks about the end of all flesh. One can never forget the Glory that filled the Temple of Solomon when 120 priests blew the trumpet. Similarly, at the birth of the early church in the Book of Acts when 120 disciples (priests) gathered together the Glory filled the

‘Temple’. Two is the number of witness or testimony in the Bible numerology while number three is the number of divine completeness. The glory shall fall a third time. This shall be when the 120th Jubilee will be fulfilled in these last days and the High Priest after the order of Melchizedec our Lord Jesus shall appear to His people at the Tabernacle on the Day of Atonement. The last and permanent Temple not made with hands will be filled with all the glory of God this third time.

The Scripture says that the trumpet shall sound and there shall be a proclamation of “LIBERTY... and... SHALL RETURN EVERY MAN UNTO HIS POSSESSION and UNTO HIS FAMILY” While this Levitical ordinance was naturally fulfilled for the children of Israel, this signifies a great spiritual fulfillment today for each one of us. This proclaims a hope to humanity that God had set a day when bondage would cease and everything that God has given to mankind in the beginning would be restored. God has promised a deliverance and victory over Sin and Satan. “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under YOUR FEET SHORTLY” (Romans 16:20). God’s people shall return to their possessions and every man to his family.

When the jubilee trumpet begins to blow on the Day of Atonement on the 120th Jubilee, mankind will start returning to their family, from their fallen state in sin, back to that perfect state of fellowship with God. Surely each one will return to his family, his place in the Lord. It is time to move in! The day is upon us, the Day of Atonement. Be ready, oh dear people of

God. The movements of our High Priest, the Lord Jesus, are being heard. The night is far spent, a new Day is breaking, the darkness is fleeing, and hell's gates are now shaking for He shall appear shortly. His Glory is rising.

Rejoice, rejoice everyone, for the sound that you hear is the voice of our High Priest. All His enemies will go down in the fray, and every pain and sorrow He shall wipe away. Those who believe in His Glory will share that final salvation at His appearance. *Hallelujah!!*



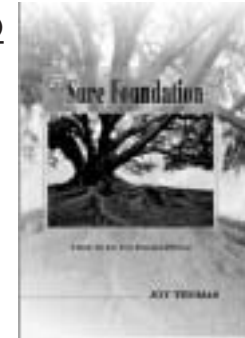
LATEST BOOKS

A PECULIAR PEOPLE .

The calling of God in our lives is to be "His People" and also to be "His Bride". Like Queen Esther of old, the church of God is to prepare herself and do that which pleases the king.

A SURE FOUNDATION (Teachings on the first principles of life)

There is so much confusion and compromise that has set in. In many cases, the foundations that have been laid are so weak because the traditions of men have utterly destroyed and damaged them. In some cases, those ancient foundational landmarks have been marred and changed due to the choice and likings of man. The burden of this book is not to criticize others, but to show God's people their true spiritual plight and condition so that they may turn and return to the Lord of their lives.



CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

The apostasy of the last days is now in full boom. The false and the counterfeit abound in every nook and corner of the world. We have not only to contend with other religions, new age promoters and cults, but also with countless perversions that are mushrooming within the very ranks of so called believing churches. A must read to know and discern the times.



other book by joy thomas

MY FATHER'S HOUSE IS BEING BUILT.

"In my Father's House are many mansions...". These mansions do not talk of buildings with bricks and cement, but an habitation of God in the midst of His people.

THE MARK OF THE LORD AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST (SECOND EDITION)

The book demolishes the traditional teachings on the 'mark of the beast'. The book answers several questions which have confused christians.

THE THREE APPEARANCES OF CHRIST

The Three Appearances of Christ recorded in Verses 24, 26-28 of Chapter 9 of the Book of Hebrews forms the basis for fresh spiritual insights.

CHURCH - THE ISRAEL OF GOD (SECOND EDITION)

God sets aside one nation - the natural Israel to establish another nation - the Spiritual Israel, which is the Church.

I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

As the title suggests, Jesus is the Alpha, the Beginning and He is also the Omega, the End or the Finisher. In the Book of Genesis, we see Him as the Beginner and in the Book of Revelations, we see Him as the Finisher...If we know Him as the Beginner then in these last days we need to know Him as the Finisher as well.

THIS IS NONE OTHER THAN THE HOUSE OF GOD

To-day, many in the Christian world do not have a clear understanding and revelation of the house of God. The common understanding is that of a physical or a natural house. The house of God represents a divine order where the working the cross is central and supreme.

THE NEW GENERATION ARISE! (SECOND EDITION)

In the history of mankind there have been many generations. But there is only one particular generation that the heavens are interested in. Which is this generation? Is there another generation that inhabits the earth in this hour?

YE JONATHANS, CHOOSE THIS DAY (SECOND EDITION)

There are many Jonathans today, who could either continue to remain a part of Saul's house (the organised church) which is decaying and dying day by day or they may arise, separate themselves and be a part of David's House (the body of Christ) which God is establishing by His Spirit. This book is a 'sign-post' to many in the valley of decision.

MY TIMES ARE IN THY HANDS (SECOND EDITION)

While many are keen to know the happenings in the natural, few know how to determine the times in the spiritual. If one does not know the times in the spiritual, one will seldom know what to do or what not to do.

THE PURSUIT OF A HEAVENLY PATH

'Heaven' is not merely a location but a rule, an order, a system and a realm, which is the true one and the ultimate one. Church, the masterpiece of God is of heavenly origin, of heavenly calling and of heavenly destiny.

THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

The book brings out valuable historical background of the Church to portray its ordination, deterioration, restoration and the church's ultimate destination. The Church means more to Christ, than all the wealth of the universe. The Lord loved the Church and gave himself for her.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SON

The word 'Fellowship' is one of the most misquoted and misunderstood words which carries a very shallow meaning to-day. We are called to know the Eternal Son and to have fellowship with Him, without which we will not be able to progress spiritually.

"YE ARE COME UNTO MOUNT ZION" (VOL I, II)

For many today, Zion means a mountain or at best a city in the natural. But Zion is a people in the complete and perfect work of Christ.

I KNEW A MAN IN CHRIST (VOL I, II)

The great Apostle Paul, expressing his deepest yearnings from a Roman prison near the end of His life worded it thus: '...that I may win Christ, and be found in Him...' (Ph.3:8b,9a). What does it mean to be IN CHRIST?

THE RECOVERY OF GOD'S ORIGINAL THOUGHT.

The Church has lost its primal and original character and nature. God's people need to know what is God's original intention for mankind and for the Church.

GOD'S MANIFEST PRESENCE.

If you are hungry for the Lord and nothing but His fulness will bring you satisfaction, then here is a message that will accelerate your steps in the direction of His presence.

PURSUING GOD'S PRESENCE

By showing the way to enter into the very presence of the Lord this book is a signpost for the famished soul in the painful trail of God's presence. It reveals the secret that can unlock the door to His presence, even a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

DISCOVERING GOD'S PRESENCE

God's people have become too familiar with the pleasures of His provisions; they have become too familiar with the blessings from His hands that they have discarded tears of repentance. This book shows how passionate desperation and dependance upon God enters His church, you will discover God in the folds of time!

THE GLORY OF GOD

Here is a gripping 2 part book that unveils the secret of David's tent which the Lord says He will rebuild in these last days. Ezekiel the prophet too was shown a temple not made with hands in which the glory of God descended. Learn more about it in this book.

To order write to

Good Samaritan Fellowship
H2/22, Mahavir Enclave,
New Delhi - 110 045
India
Or
joythomas@oilnwine.org

www.oilnwine.org