

The New Generation Arise

The New Generation
Arise



Joy Thomas

THE NEW GENERATION ARISE
JOY THOMAS
© GSF

First Edition - May 1994
Second Edition - Feb 2003

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

Contents

Foreword vii

Preface ix

Chapters Page no

1. The Two Generations 1

2. Who Shall Declare His Generation 20

3. The Forty-First Encampment 41

4. A New Generation Hears God 61

5. He Brought Us Out To Bring Us In 86

6. Arise And Go Over 109

FOREWORD

Following the days of the early apostles, the history of the church has been something quite discouraging in comparison to what God had designed for it. Before the end of the first century, God was addressing through the Revelation alarming conditions of mixture and deterioration in the churches. For nearly fifteen centuries, the trend would be downward, a terrible deviation from the path ways of God's plan and purpose. The church had fallen into the hands and mold of non-spiritual men, satanic tools steeped in perversion, whose lust for power and control would lead her into a state of darkness and death. 'Ichabod' was again written over the camp of God's people. The glory had departed and terrible darkness would characterize every facet of human existence.

Thank God that we have a God who is eternally committed to His own purpose of having a glorious church, holy and without blemish. Were it not for that, the church could have never recovered from her terrible state. But God began to attack the prevailing darkness by stirring up by His Spirit individual hearts that were open to Him. There began to appear in the earth signs of resurrection and return to the pathway of God's purpose for His church. Reformers began to make positive, restorative contributions to the church's condition. John Wycliffe was inspired to restore the bible to the people and other reformers, Hus, Luther, Zwingli, Calvin and Knox, to mention only a few, became used of God to expose the false system and to restore fresh truth and experience to the church. In more recent history, movements emphasizing sanctification, Holy Ghost baptism and spiritual gifts have represented significant contributions in the process of restoration.

What about the last 40 years and the present climate in the church? Although many would point to greatly increased religious activity and humanly impressive evangelical 'statics', the actual spiritual condition of God's church is one of mixture and stagnation. The process of recovery and forward movement toward God's full purpose is limited today to a very small remnant in the earth. Movements which once were virile have settled for partial truth and partial experience and have now become mired in denominational ruts. A great settling, a standing still, now plagues the church at large and brings into focus the great need of the hour, that of going on to appropriate God's full thought and purpose.

In this present volume, Joy Thomas, becomes part of the heavenly voice which would stir the church the church afresh and restore to her that fullness of vision and purpose which has again been lost. As we read, we gain renewed hope and faith for a generation which will enter into the fullness of their inheritance in Christ, a generation who will remain in the hands of God to be fully made into the likeness and image of Christ, a generation who will not allow God to rest until His full thought and purpose have become an experiential reality in the earth.

'See that ye refuse not him that speaketh!' So admonishes the writer to the Hebrews. As we open the pages of this book, may we be granted an ear to hear that faithful voice which comes to prod us, to lead onward, to say, 'this is the way, walk ye in it...!'

Pastor Sergio Valori
Emmanuel Fellowship Ministries, Leesport, PA, U.S.A.

INTRODUCTION

The following messages were spoken at the winter camp meetings held in New Delhi, India in the year 1993.

During those precious days of waiting on the Lord, He opened up several truths from His Word. The Lord revealed by His Spirit that there are two generations in the earth. The generation of the first Adam and the generation of the last Adam. Just as in the natural generation of Adam, there has been a continual, ever increasing manifestation of the law of sin and death and the curse from the very fall of Adam unto this day, so also in the spiritual generation of the last Adam, there has been, and there will continue to be, an ever increasing and continual unfolding of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus. We can't deny that the law of sin and death hold and exercises a far greater dominion and rulership over the bodies and souls of men than it ever has from the foundation of the world until this day. But, there is yet another generation of the last Adam which is the generation of the last Adam. This generation likewise has been in a continual process of development and ever abounding fullness because of the function of the law of the spirit of life in Christ by which it lives.

Our problem seems to be that we believe in the horrible manifestation of sin and death in Adam because it is a matter of history in the past and of a fact in the present. we reject the glorious manifestation of the life of Christ because it has not been visible in the past and scarcely seen in the present times! Men do not believe until they see. but the generation of Christ, though scarcely visible, will believe what they cannot see! Just as the law of sin and death reached its climax in the generation of Adam, the

spirit of life hastens to its glorious fullness in the generation of Christ. Isaiah cries out by the Spirit, 'who shall declare his generation?'

I, therefore, commit these messages to the Spirit of God to reveal and enlighten all that He has burdened; and I trust that the reader will experience the hastening of the Spirit to be part of the generation of Christ, the sons of God who will possess the land and manifest His fullness in the earth.

Joy Thomas

The
T W O G E N E R A T I O N S

Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever...what has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.'

Ecclesiastes 1:4, 9,10

One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth forever" ⁱ. It is said that history repeats

itself, that man keeps making the same mistakes!! Indeed, when one looks at things and events around us it often seems that nothing has changed. These verses of the scriptures give us the impression that there is nothing new under the sun and that everything remains just as it has always been. Such thoughts can be seductively negative. We need to see how God views such things and to consider what God has intended for His people in these last days upon this earth.

Though generations have come and generations have gone in seemingly similar fashion, yet of one thing we can be sure: that ever since the beginning of time there has been an ever increasing manifestation of sin in various forms. From the very fall of man, resulting in the curses of God coming upon the offspring's of Adam and Eve, there has been a visible display of the increase of sin and death upon this earth. We need to understand and accept this law of the increase of sin and death in the generations of the first Adam to fully understand the purposes of God. For God did not purpose to let things slide downward continuously. We know that He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to avert the tragedy of men living forever in their fallen state. And just as there has been an ever increasing

manifestation of sin, death and destruction since the first Adam, so also there has been a continuous increase of the manifestation of the life of Jesus Christ on this earth from the time of the last Adam. Glory to God !!

In the past men lived for as long as nine hundred years as is evident from chapter 5 of the book of Genesis. But sin robbed mankind of its inheritance, God reduced the days of men to 120 years when men took wives for themselves according to their own carnal desires (Genesis 6:2,3). Today, we see that the law of sin and death has reduced the life span of man to around 80 years! Who can deny that the law of sin and death has exercised and even now exercises a far greater hold and ascendancy over the bodies and souls of men than it ever has in the past, from the very foundations of the world to the present time. No doubt, man is trying to lengthen his life span by the use of modern medicines and drugs, but extending it by four to five years is nothing compared to God's great and wonderful plan for man to live for several centuries! The law of sin and death has also brought about a tremendous fear among the generations of Adam. Despite all the scientific and industrial achievements of mankind, the sad truth is that man

lives in perpetual fear. We may have traveled to the moon and to the mars but we are still afraid of all that lurks in darkness and all that the future holds for us. Sin has brought about in us a spirit of disobedience, rebellion and independence that cuts across God's desires for his creations. So despite all the much talked about progress of man, the fact remains that in the eyes of God, morally and spiritually there has been a great deterioration due to the operation of the law of sin and death in the lives of people. Moreover, why is this so? It is because the law of sin and death predominated and monopolized the life of Adam and Eve ever since they walked in disobedience. Beloved, the effect of this has been so far reaching and devastating; so complete has been the mastery of this death-producing law that it has brought mankind to the very brink of disaster and extinction!

One may wonder why the scriptures referred to above, tell us that there is nothing new, and that there has been no change since the beginning of dawn! "The reason is that Ecclesiastics is the book of the natural man whose interests are confined to the unstable, vanishing baubles and empty satisfactions of those who live merely 'under the sun'. The natural man is unaware that all the

•

affirmative answers to life are to be found in Him, who is above, and not 'under the sun'. The natural man grovels in the dust and finds only earthworms, while the spiritual man may soar up with wings as eagles, above all that is futile and disappointing, and live in the consciousness of Gods companionship, favour and incomparable, everlasting rewards." (Quote from the Amplified Bible). Is it not wonderful that the Bible is a lamp unto our feet which not only shows us the wisdom of God but also the futility of the wisdom of man!! *Hallelujah..*

Beloved, the Lord wants us to know that there is another generation, beside the generation of the first Adam, that is existing upon this earth in this hour! This is the generation of the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ. This generation is coexisting with the generation of the natural Adam, but it is in no way going the same way. There is a vast difference in the two generations. One manifests the nature of the natural Adam in whom the law of sin and death is reigning and ruling; the other exhibits the nature of the last Adam, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. And we all need to know that just as there has been an increase in the manifestation of the first Adam, so also there is going to be an increase in the manifestation of the generation of the last Adam.

•

Just as the law of sin and death is ascending to a climax in these last days, so also is the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus proceeding to its own climax, in these last days. Yes, there is a growing, a developing and an enlarging of this generation of the spiritual minded man, the generation of the last Adam. They are going to experience fullness of the manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the first century, after the days of the early apostles, though there was a general falling away amongst the churches, the Lord brought forth an increase in the manifestation of the life of Christ in the lives of those who were faithful. Despite the heresies, the false teachings, the divisions and even the persecutions that have rocked the church through the ages, we need to realize that there has been an enlargement of the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus. God has always kept a faithful remnant for Himself. In spite of all the conflicts in the church, in spite of the terrible darkness of the dark ages and in spite of the upsurge of rationalism, secularism and humanistic theologies, there has been an increase in the generations of the last Adam. God has moved in a sovereign manner to bring about a transformation and a progression in His people though the forces of communism, liberalism and

•

neo-orthodoxy have brought so much chaos and confusion in the churches. Despite the failures and mistakes of God's people in the past, God has definitely caused an increase to take place amongst his people. And so we can say, with confidence and assurance borne of the spirit of God that there is going to be a generation that will manifest the fullness of the Lord upon the earth. Amen!

THE ENLARGING OF THE TWO GENERATIONS.

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. Revelation 22:11

The scripture here talk of unrighteous people and things becoming more unrighteous and unruly as the days go by. They will go from bad to worse. Similarly, the righteous will go from righteousness to more righteousness and from holiness to even greater holiness. Thus the gulf between the righteous and the unrighteous will increase during the end times. There will be a progressive moral deterioration in the generation of the natural Adam; simultaneously, there will be

•

a progressive spiritual growth in the generation of the last Adam, which is the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the days to come there shall be a greater manifestation of not only sin and death but also of goodness and mercy. There is a progression taking place in both the generations simultaneously. There is going to be a manifestation in full measure of both the wicked and the righteous in the days ahead. The whole creation is waiting expectantly to observe the coming forth of the righteous in all their glory for the scriptures say, 'for (even the whole) creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known, (waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship)'¹. The scripture tells us that there are two kinds of basic laws operating in the lives of people: The law of Spirit of life in Christ Jesus and the law of sin and death. 'For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death.'² The law of sin and death has been operating from the time of the first Adam. It has been increasingly manifested among the generations of Adam. Similarly ever since the Lord Jesus Christ laid down His life upon the cross of Calvary and rose again from the dead and sent the Holy spirit to indwell in the lives of all those who believe in Him there has

been a manifestation of His life in a generation of the last Adam. The clear teaching of the scriptures is that there is going to be a manifestation of the fullness of Christ by the working of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus in a people, which is also known as the manifestation of the sons of God. It will come to a climax in the sons of God upon this earth. This is what the whole creation is waiting to see.

We need to settle one fact firmly in our hearts in these days. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is much more powerful than the law of sin and death. Although the law of sin and death has been operating upon this earth for much longer time resulting in an increase of immorality, ungodliness, unhappiness, and every form of filth and degradation, yet, we need to have faith that there is going to be an increase of godliness and holiness in the lives of a people in whom the law of the Spirit of life of Christ is working. 'For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness

unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”³

We are the generation ‘upon whom the ends of the world have come’⁴. In these very times, the Word of God says, the climax of the ages will be revealed. The law of sin and death will come to climax in the days ahead. The discerning eye can already see the signs of the times. This generation shall not pass till all the things spoken by the prophets come to pass. The days of the climax are here, and upon us have come the days of fulfillment of the ages. The Lord is preparing a people who shall be governed by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ that will surely overcome the generation of the first Adam. Though the law of sin and death is maturing rapidly all around us, yet the Lord has a Word of comfort and assurance for his people, for He says that He will gather in the ripe fruit of iniquity unto His judgements, ‘for the harvest of the earth is ripe’⁵. God is waiting for the grapes of iniquity to fully ripen or become ‘overripe’ before he thrusts in His sickle to reap the earth. He is waiting to make ready a remnant of the Lord so that ‘He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness’⁶. The Lord will do a work on the earth, completing it and cutting it short. In these days there will be progression in the generation of

the natural Adam as well as the spiritual Adam. The Lord Jesus Christ reminds us in the parable of the tares (Matthew 13: 24-30) that the tares and the wheat will grow together until the harvest. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.⁷

“PEACE TAKEN FROM THE EARTH”

What we see around us is that the wicked are multiplying by leaps and bounds whereas the humble and the simple are dwindling and are on the decrease. It is apparent from a reading of the history of mankind that there has been a phenomenal increase in crime, corruption, warfare and lawlessness. Every century has produced greater evidence of the working of the law of sin and death. One has to merely consider the drastic increase in the crime rate all over the world to agree to this, whereas so little is seen and heard concerning the acts of the righteous! We all notice that personal safety has become more and more hazardous; newspapers are increasingly printing accounts of horror after horror, but of the deeds of the good is there seldom any mention. This seems to be the

reality all around us these days. The Lord Jesus Christ told us that in the last days we shall hear of wars and rumors of wars (Math 24:6), iniquity shall abound (Math 24:12); for then shall be great tribulation (24:21); all these things shall come upon this generation (23:26); but for the elects sake those days shall be shortened (24:22). The time is coming when people shall shout for peace but the noise of battles will not cease for these things must happen. We need to know that there will be no peace upon the earth till God brings peace in and through his kingdom. The United Nations may make tall claims for peace and even the bitterest enemies may come together for peace talks but the lasting peace cometh from the Lord alone.

‘And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword’.⁸ We know that this is happening today. The newspapers may proclaim ‘peace, peace’ but the Word of God reminds us that the Lord has taken away peace from the earth and that His sudden judgements and destruction will soon strike the earth. Let us believe the Word of God rather than the hollow words of man. The ‘peace-

less’ state or the state of war and rivalry is going to increase in the days ahead till there is a maturity of iniquity. While one generation will mature as a ‘wild grape’ there will be another generation that will come into fullness which is the manifestation of the sons of God. Let us believe that we are this generation – a people washed by the blood of the Lamb and partaking of the gifts of the Holy Ghost.

The Lord would like us to know that there is much more to this than meet the eye! To the unknowing it may seem that the generations of the natural Adam dominates and surpass all things. Even in the spiritual world, the generation of the Lord Jesus seems to be but a handful compared to the visible multitudes of worldly and carnal Christians. Yet the Lord would have us to believe that the law of Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is far more powerful than the law of sin and death.

THE FULLNESS OF SIN AND GRACE

Many of us find it very difficult to believe that our generation has been singled out by the Lord to manifest the fullness of the law of Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. Several believers accept that the law of sin and death has greatly increased in these

last days. But these very people hesitate to believe that the generation of the last Adam will also grow into a full maturity in these last days. They accept the reality that sin and death have made inroads into every part of their lives; they agree that its tentacles have spread to every area of their body, soul and spirit bringing perversion to the whole being of man. But these very people hold back in unbelief when it comes to accepting that the life of Christ in us is able to bring us into the fullness of His character and nature. They readily see that they are borne of the Spirit of God; that they have the gifts of the Holy Spirit; that the Holy Spirit can lead them to the mortifying of the flesh; that they have the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God to proclaim this truth to them; but unbelief prevents them from holding onto this truth and from experiencing the tremendous power of the law of the Spirit of life of Christ over the law of sin and death.

We know that the children of Israel could not enter into the promises of God due to unbelief; they were not able to believe what God had spoken to them. Let us not perish in the wilderness of our times due to a similar attitude of unbelief. The Word of God says 'it remaineth that some must enter

therein'⁹ and ' there remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God'¹⁰ We need to believe God's Word; we need to believe that the law of the Spirit of life in Christ has been working in us from the time we have been born again by the Spirit and the Word, washing us by his blood and cleansing us by the power of His Word. We shall be transformed and changed by the power of his Spirit until there shall be a generation that shall manifest the life of the Lord in all fullness. We shall be overcomers in every area of our life and we shall be brought to a place of demonstrating the life of the true sons of God as we give ourselves to the reality of this Word in our lives.

Who demonstrated greater power, the first or the last Adam ?

Wasn't the last Adam much more obedient than the first Adam?

And it is He who has given us the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. That same Spirit has come to dwell in us from the day we were born again. *Hallelujah*. We need to settle this truth in our lives. We need to make this a foundation in our lives.

Many academicians and theologians have not fully appreciated the power of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ. They have denigrated the law and made their theories in such a way, that they say that the church which is the Bride of Christ needs to be taken out of this earth because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ has no power to keep it safe from the power of sin and death. But we read in the Word of God ' (The purpose is) that through the church the complicated, many sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.'¹¹ Beloved, the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God will be made known to the powers and principalities in heavenly places through the Church which shall manifest all the fullness of the Godhead throughout the earth!

The law of Spirit of life in Christ has tremendous power and potential to bring us into the full manifestation of the purposes of God through which God will be glorified and lifted up so that the whole earth will be brought into a restoration.

We need to lay aside man's teaching in this respect. Every idea of escapism of the church, every

easy way out for the believers is born out of a spirit of fear. The Word of God says that grace abounds much more in those who are of the generation of the last Adam. The law of the Spirit of Christ has not given us a spirit of fear but a Spirit of love and a sound mind. Let us see the plain teaching of the Bible:

<i>First Adam's Generation</i>	<i>Last Adam's Generation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Born into the family of Adam.</i> • <i>Inherited the curse of sin.</i> • <i>Sin and death by imputation</i> • <i>Grow up into Adam's ways of sin by reason of natural generation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Born into the family of Christ</i> • <i>Inherited the power of grace</i> • <i>God's righteousness by imputation</i> • <i>Grow up into Christ in all things by reason of spiritual generation.</i>

Power and potential is available in the law of the Spirit of life in Christ to bring us to a fullness and a climax in these days. Lets us not merely believe that the law of sin and death is operating

with disastrous effects in the world today; let us also believe that there is real strength in the seed that has been sown in the generation of the last Adam. Let us not underestimate the power and capability that is inherent in the life of Christ which can surely bring us to a place of ripening of the life of the Lord. Why do people so easily believe in the horrible manifestation of sin and death by the first Adam? The reason is simply because it is highlighted in and through history. Our past history gives ample evidence of the manifestation of sin and the resultant death; hence it is easy to accept it. Furthermore in our daily life there is visible proof of the apparent ascendancy of sin in all matters. People easily reject the manifestation of the life of Christ because this is not so easily seen in history and is scarcely visible in the present day. Men will not believe until they see! But the specialty of the generation that the Lord is raising up in this hour is that they will believe without seeing. Their heart's cry will be ' Lord, I don't see any evidence of the fullness of the life of Christ, but I believe that I shall see it soon'. Everything else will pass away but not the Word of God. Generations may come and generations may go but the earth will remain. A generation will stay on in this earth, come what may; there will be a manifestation of the sons of God upon

this earth, and so they shall reign forever and ever and ever! Beloved, 'believe and ye shall see the glory of the Lord'.

Who can declare His generation?

Who can say that they are of the generation of the Lord Jesus Christ?

There is a generation upon whom the ends of the earth have come. There shall be a people who shall declare the manifold wisdom of God.

Let us thank God for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus and believe that it has the power and potential to bring us to the manifestation of the sons of God in this hour. God will give us grace and power as we continue to believe in the working of the Spirit in us.

-
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>i Ecclesiastes 1:4</i> | <i>6 Romans 9:28</i> |
| <i>1 Romans 8:19</i> | <i>7 Matthew 13:30</i> |
| <i>2 Romans 8:2</i> | <i>8 Revelations 6:4</i> |
| <i>3 Romans 5:19-21</i> | <i>9 Hebrews 4:6</i> |
| <i>4 I Corinthians 10:11</i> | <i>10 Hebrews 4:9</i> |
| <i>5 Revelations 14:15</i> | <i>11 Ephesians 3:10 (Amp)</i> |

2

Who Shall Declare HIS GENERATION ?

He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Isaiah 53:8-10

As we enter into this study of the word of God let us pray that the Holy Spirit will enable us to see and cherish the deep and

Who Shall Declare His Generation ?

wonderful things of God that are hid in His word.

In the fifty-third chapter of the book of Isaiah, we have a well-known prophecy concerning the Messiah. It is indeed famous for its Messianic content. Hundreds of years before the birth of Lord Jesus Christ, the prophet Isaiah prophesied that He would be stricken and cut off from the land of the living. We know that this prophecy came to pass when the Lord Jesus Christ was 'cut off from the land of the living' and was crucified at Calvary. In the natural, the Lord died without leaving any seed to carry on His name. The Bible omits all mention of the generations or offsprings of the Lord Jesus Christ. In any earthly sense, therefore, there was truly none left to declare His generation. So, the prophet Isaiah asks ruefully, '*who shall declare his generation?*'. But remarkably, in verse 10 of the same chapter the prophet says that Christ shall 'see his seed' and that His days shall be prolonged. In other words he prophesied that there would be a generation after Him that would prolong His days and bring forth His seed spiritually. *Hallelujah!!* God, the Father had opened a new way, a different way to declare the generation (the seed) of His Son. He was cut off from the land of the living but His sovereign Father had prepared another way from

the foundations of the world, for the perpetuation of the generations of His Son. The Word that was given to the prophet Isaiah was not in the realm of the natural but it was prophetic, a Word for the distant time. I declare to you today, that it refers not to the natural children of the flesh but it is a clear and definite reference to the generation of the sons of God, the overcomers that are coming forth in the image of Lord Jesus Christ to bear His name and continue His life upon the earth.

Has the thought from Isaiah's prophetic Word revealed something fresh to you?

Let us see some other verses in the Bible that tell us more about 'His generation'.

The first 16 verses of the very first chapter of the book of Mathew are the most uninteresting verses to many Christians; many do not read them and some just read through them hurriedly for the sake of it. But God would like to open up these verses to you and reveal the truth. There are 14 generations from Abraham to David, the ancestor of Jesus. Mathew begins the book by giving the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to clearly establish that Jesus had a natural lineage that was ordained

of God from the very beginning. And, the very first verse reads, 'The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham'. Then follows a long list of who begets whom in every successive generation till we come to this verse ' And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon: And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;'¹. Notice carefully that David was the 14th generation from Abraham; and there were 14 generations from David to Jechonias, the last king of Judah before the captivity. But, strangely enough , Mathew says in verse 17 that there were 14 generations from the captivity to Jesus!! 'So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.'². This verse clearly shows that there were 42 generations from Abraham to Christ. But on actual counting we find that the number of generations from Abraham to Jesus turn out to be 41 and not 42! To be precise the count shows that there were only 13 generations from the captivity to Jesus and not 14 as shown by Mathew. Yes, the actual count brings up something startling. We will

notice that there were 13 generations from Jeconias to Jesus and that Jesus was the 41st generation and not the 42nd generation.

Had Matthew made a mistake of is there a missing generation?

Where is the 42nd generation?

Undoubtedly there is a glaring discrepancy. It appears that the Apostle Matthew had made a genuine error in calculating the number of generations from Abraham to Lord Jesus Christ. However, Matthew was no fool as far as mathematics is concerned. Indeed, he was a well-know tax collector! Let us also not harbor any doubts about the accuracy of the Bible. Every Word in the Bible has been inspired by the Holy Spirit. Instead, let us appreciate the work of the Holy Spirit and the accuracy of those who translated the New Testament from Greek into English. Though many truths were hidden from the translators, yet they were honest in translating the Bible by faith.

Let us again, have a look at verse 16 and 17. There is hidden nugget of truth in these verses ' And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called CHRIST. So all the

generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto CHRIST are fourteen generations.'³

Here is the divine revelation that comes to all whom diligently seek the Lord and hunger for the truth of His Word in this hour. In verse 16, Matthew points out that 'Jesus' was born in the 13th generation. However, in verse 17, Matthew says that 'Christ' is the 14th generation. These expressions of Matthew are very important. In verse 17 he says 'from the carrying away into Babylon unto CHRIST are fourteen generations'. In other words, Matthew did not compute the generation unto JESUS but 'unto CHRIST'. Thus, it is very clear that from the carrying away into Babylon unto Jesus is THIRTEEN generations. Where then is the 42nd generation? Why did Matthew seemingly leave the list incomplete with Jesus who left no son to carry on His name or bring in the next and final generation? The truth we are sharing here will have to come to us by divine revelation, and it surely comes to those who love his Word and have confidence in its message.

The 42nd generation is of Christ; it is not the generation of Jesus. In Matthew 1:21 it is written ‘and she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.’ Jesus was of the 41st generation and Christ the anointed one was of the 42nd generation. The 42nd generation referred to as ‘Christ’ in Matthew 1:17 refers to the Christ of I Corinthians 12:12 which says ‘For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: SO ALSO IS CHRIST.’ This verse says that as the human body, which has many parts, is a unity, so it is with Christ. The 42nd generation does not consist of Jesus alone but consists of Christ and all those who form part of the body of Christ, the overcomers, the Bride of the Lord. Note that the Holy Spirit has not written ‘ For as the body is one.....so also is the body of Christ’, but the Spirit of God would like us to know that Christ is the head of a generation of believers, who are the sons of God. They are those who are partakers of the same Spirit; who are being conformed to his image; who are the flesh of His flesh and the bone of His bone. The name ‘Christ’ here signifies Christ along with the body of believers who are joined together with Him in unity.

Beloved, there is no mistake in Chapter 1 of Matthew. It is mathematically correct. There are 42 generations from Abraham to Christ. The 42nd generation is the generation of the last Adam!

Now we can understand what Isaiah meant when he prophesied and said, ‘who shall declare his generation?’ Isaiah said that Christ’s day shall be prolonged. He meant that the name of Christ would be carried on, not by natural children, but by a company of overcomers, sons of God who would form the 42nd generation. *Hallelujah!* God is raising up this new generation even this day. They will declare the wonderful Person of Lord Jesus Christ. There is a generation after Christ, the Anointed One, who will bring forth a full manifestation of the Person of Christ in this hour. Glory to God!

“IT SHALL BE ACCOUNTED TO THE LORD FOR A GENERATION”

The missing generation that was discovered in Chapter 1 of the book of Matthew was none other than the generation of the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of God emphasizes the difference between a natural seed and spiritual seed.

The scripture says 'For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.'⁴ This also means that Jesus became flesh. He could have taken the form of an angel of the Lord, but instead he became the Son of Man in the flesh and the seed of Abraham. Why Abraham and not David? God imputed Abraham with the righteousness and therefore, it pleased Him to make Jesus the spiritual seed of Abraham. In the natural Israel was the seed of Abraham (Isaiah 41:8 and John 8:33). This was duly acknowledged by Jesus in John 8:37 and even Paul says the same in Romans 11:1 of himself. But the Word of God is quite clear that it is spiritual seed that obtains the true inheritance. Paul makes this amply clear in his letter to the Galatians. He says there 'That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT through faith... Now to Abraham and HIS SEED were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy SEED, WHICH IS CHRIST... For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: FOR YE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.

And if ye be Christ's, THEN ARE YE

ABRAHAM'S SEED, AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE.'⁵

The Apostle Paul makes it very clear that not every one, not even all the seeds of Abraham receive the promise: only Abraham and Christ are the seed of promise. Now who is this Christ who is to be the heir of Abraham and inherit the promises? It is that company of people who belong to Christ, who have put on Christ, and who are part of His body. And Christ includes Himself in this company as the head and chief cornerstone.

The Bible is very clear on this point. Moreover, this is not only so in the New Testament, but more so in the Old Testament. We can see this in Psalm 22, which is acknowledged, as a Messianic Psalm. It is a prophetic Psalm, which tells of the death and suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross. The Psalm then goes on to say 'A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.'⁶ How wonderful! How explicit! How prophetic! How true!

A seed shall serve Him. Seven hundred years

before the advent of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the earth there was a declaration that He shall spiritually beget a people who shall serve Him in righteousness. 'They' refers to a people who shall declare His righteousness; they shall tell of the Lord; they shall give Him all the glory; they shall be complete in Christ and they shall know that it is so because of His sacrifice upon the cross of Calvary whereupon Christ said 'it is finished'- this work of raising a seed to form a new generation.

Beloved it doesn't matter what the agnostics, the unbelievers and the lukewarm Christians say, but the Word of God says that a generation shall come forth and walk in His righteousness upon the earth showing what the Lord can do and all the while radiating His life in their daily existence. No one can stop Him from fulfilling this Word. Praise God! Aren't you glad that it was He who said it? Are you not glad that you are a part of the many-membered sons, the body, this generation?

Jesus was that corn of wheat of which the scriptures say, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit'.⁷ It was the Father's will that He be the

firstborn of many brethren. The only way was to fall to the ground (be crucified) and die that there would arise much more fruit, namely the sons of God. *Hallelujah!* Jesus died that He might raise up a new generation of sons who would conform to His image. The generation began with the resurrected Christ and much fruit was brought forth when the Holy Spirit was poured upon those assembled in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. The 42nd generation had arisen!!

'You have said I have made a covenant with My chosen one, I have sworn to David My servant, your Seed I will establish forever and build up your throne for all generations. Selah (pause and calmly think of that)!'⁸ And this is what the notation in the Bible says, *"This covenant most incontestably had Jesus Christ in view. This is the seed or posterity, that should sit on the throne and reign for ever and ever. David and his family are long since become extinct; none of his race have sat on the Jewish throne for more than two thousand years: but the Christ.... will reign until all His enemies are put under His feet: and to this the Psalmist says Selah"*

The Bible gives substantial evidence that the precious Seed from which rich harvest of a new

generation of mankind was to appear is the Lord Jesus Christ. God, the Father had pointed to Jesus when He said in Genesis 3:15 'And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it (the pronoun 'he' is used here in the Amplified Bible to clarify that the seed mentioned is Christ) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.' We know that it is Christ who bruised the head of the serpent, Satan when He triumphed and rose from the dead.

Jesus is the eternal Seed and all those who are conformed to His image are His seeds or His offsprings. What a great privilege! Little did we realize when he turned to the Lord for forgiveness that in the Lord we would inherit something eternal and everlasting. Jesus in a sense is the ' spiritual father' all believers for the source of their spiritual life is the eternal SEED. No wonder Jesus is referred to as the Everlasting Father in the prophesy at Isaiah 9. 'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.'⁹

Why is Jesus called the 'everlasting Father'

in Isaiah 9:6? It is because he is the begetter, the progenitor, the forefather of every Spirit born believer. He is the founder of this new generation and this new kingdom. God's promise to David was ' He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son.'¹⁰ Jesus is the promised descendant of David who is establishing His kingdom.

At this stage we do pray that the Holy Spirit would open our spiritual eyes to see the tremendous purport of these prophecies. All these prophecies concerning the seed are essentially Messianic, that is they point to Christ.

• *Genesis 3:15 – made to Adam: 'seed of the woman should bruise the head of the serpent'*

• *Genesis 22:18 – made to Abraham: 'in thy seed shall all the nations of Israel be blessed.'*

• *Genesis 49:10 – made through Jacob: 'The scepter shall not depart from Judah.. until Shiloh come.'*

• *2 Samuel 7:13 – made to David: 'I will set up the seed after thee.'*

All these promises of God pointed to Christ

in the ultimate sense (Gal 3:16). They all converged upon Christ and brought divine light to focus upon Him. All these covenants of God were unconditional and were not dependent. They are eternal promises that find their fulfillment in Christ, for there can be no failure on Christ's part. But there is something more that the Spirit of God would like us to comprehend, these prophecies have been fulfilled through Jesus, but there is yet a greater fulfillment through the perpetuation of His seed in the sons of God that shall spring forth from Him, in other words through His generations (Galatians 3:29). Glory to God.

God's promise to the seed of Christ is magnificently reiterated by Isaiah thus: 'As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, NOR OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THY SEED, NOR OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THY SEED'S SEED, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever'¹¹. Scriptures after scriptures talk of the seed of Christ, the new generation in Him, born of the spirit of God and spiritual descendants of the Lord Jesus Christ. 'For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit

upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:'¹². As in the Abrahamic covenant the promised 'seed' was Isaac in the immediate, natural sense, and Christ in the final sense (Gal 3:16), so, in the covenant of David, the promised 'son' or 'seed' is Solomon in the immediate sense and Christ in the ultimate sense. So, the 'seed's or seed' refers to none other than the new generation who are the spiritual offspring's of Christ.

Let us rejoice in this that God in His mercy is raising up a generation that shall walk in His righteousness, who is the 'eternal Father' of a spiritual people.

THE FORTY-SECOND GENERATION

There can be no doubt that God has a generation in mind 'upon whom the ends of the earth shall fall'. Paul had a revelation of this privileged generation and declared himself to be a part of it. Many generations have come and gone but the Word of God says most categorically that 'But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:'¹³. This scripture

is not talking about salvation or heaven. It is dealing with the sons of God, the overcomers, those who are conforming to His image, that He might be the first born among many brethren! 'According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: HAVING PREDESTINATED US UNTO THE ADOPTION of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,'¹⁴. The word 'adoption' here is '*huiiothesia*' which means the placing of a son. 'For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.'¹⁵ Glory to God.

Just as a compass needle always points to the north wherever one takes it , so also it seems that the scriptures act as a compass to point us to the truth that a new people have arisen with the Lord Jesus Christ as the harbinger.

Caiaphas prophesied, in New Testament times that the death of Jesus could result in the birth of a new nation of believers.' And this spake he

not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad'¹⁶ Oh what a significant and accurate prediction by even the corrupt priesthood of Jesus' times! God, the Father has predetermined and predestined a people in this day and age to become mature sons of this new holy nation or generation. Let us accept this by reason of the Word and by faith in the Word.

Let us turn to prophet Isaiah to see more about the 'seed' and the 'nation'. 'Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: BRING MY SONS FROM FAR, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; Even every one that is CALLED BY MY NAME: for I HAVE CREATED HIM FOR MY GLORY, I have formed HIM; yea, I have made HIM.'¹⁷. This 'seed' shall come from every direction. God is drawing His sons out of every nation. They are referred to in the singular 'HIM'. This shows us how the Lord is making the many people 'one new man'; that perfect man! The beauty is that both Isaiah and Peter could see that this company of sons

were created and chosen for the purpose of glorifying God and showing forth His praises. Glory to God! This is something that God has brought forth that He might be glorified! God refers to this generation as both 'they' and 'him'. For it a plural company of people who under the headship of Lord Jesus Christ form a singular, corporate body known as the 42nd generation of 'He that overcometh and possess the land.'

'When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory...This shall be written for the generation to come (the one in which you and I live): and the PEOPLE WHICH SHALL BE CREATED shall praise the LORD.'¹⁸ Beloved, there are many generations that have come and gone in the history of men. But there is one generation that God is most interested in, that He has written much about in the scriptures. This message is for those who hungry to move on in God, to reach higher realms in the Holy Spirit and not for the nominal the cold hearted Christian who is satisfied with maintaining a status-quo. The scriptures reveal your identity - who you are, why you are here, how you have got here and where you are predestined to go. So beloved, you can recognize the scripture that refer to you and your brethren in the body of Christ.

The scriptures say ' you are in Zion'. The Lord is going to ... and shall appear in His glory! But when? When He builds up Zion! This Zion is the ' generation' and the people who shall be created shall praise the Lord, even the 42nd generation.

This generation shall not pass away until every promise of God has been fulfilled. God has planned it right down to the numerical perfection the 42nd generation! They are a company of people born of the incorruptible seed, the Word of God (1 peter 1:23). So they are His sons who shall overcome the world the flesh and the devil. They are known as the Body, for they are all in Him. The scriptures call them sons of God, overcomers, God's army, the temple of God, the house of God, a chosen generation, Abraham's seed, living stones and many other names. Sometimes they are called by a plural name and sometimes by a singular one. For it is a plural body of saints making up a singular man with Jesus as the head.

Beloved, God's whole program is geared up to bringing these sons into their maturity. The actions of our enemies, all circumstances and all situations are ordained of the Lord to the intent to

bring out every expression and every spirit that is unlike Him, so that He can deal with it and deliver it. Let no enemy, no hindrances, no well-meaning religious work, hold you back from the high purposes of God. This is the highest calling in the church. This is Mt. Zion.

So 'ye are a chosen generation' the seed that inherit the promises!! Now walk worthy of the vocation where with ye are called.



The Forty - First

ENCAMPMENT

These are the journeys of the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt with their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron. And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the LORD: and these are their journeys according to their goings out. And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the Passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians. Numbers 33: 1-3

-
- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Mathew 1:11,12 | 10 2 Samuel 7:13,14 |
| 2 Mathew 1:17 | 11 Isaiah 59:21 |
| 3 Mathew 1:16,17 | 12 Isaiah 44:3 |
| 4 Hebrews 2:16 | 13 1 Peter 2:9 |
| 5 Galatian 3:14,16,27-29 | 14 Ephesians 1:4,5 |
| 6 Psalms 22:30,31 | 15 Romans 8:29,30 |
| 7 John 12:24 | 16 John 11:51,52 |
| 8 Psalms 89:3,4 | 17 Isaiah 43:5-7 |
| 9 Isaiah 9:6 | 18 Psalms 102:16 &17 |

Numbers 33 tells us of all the places that the children of Israel halted on their way to Jordan. The first encampment was at

Succoth (33:5), the second at Etham (33:6) and so on till they pitched their tents in the plains of Moab by the side of the river Jordan (33:48). The forty-first encampment was set in the plains of Moab. 'And they pitched by Jordan, from Bethjesimoth even unto Abelshittim in the plains of Moab. And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying,'²

We need to remember that the book of Numbers is referred to again and again in the New Testament as 'all these things happened unto them for ensamples'. Paul says this in 1 Corinthians 10:1-12. Specially note these words which needs to be engraved upon our hearts:

- *Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant,*
- *But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.*
- *Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.*
- *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our*

admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

He who knows Numbers well, would be prepared and well instructed for his journey unto spiritual Canaan. Those that take careful note of the prompting of the Spirit will escape many a sad set back. The presence of the typical meanings and representative lessons of this book are a source of rich spiritual nutrition for us today. May we therefore look carefully upon the failures of Israel to enter Canaan.

THE GENERATION THAT WITHERED AWAY

The forty-first encampment of the children of Israel was near the river Jordan, at the very entrance to the promised land of Canaan. It is here that the Lord gave the final instructions to the children of Israel who had been travelling for over forty long years. They had traveled through a howling place, under the most relentless and scorching sun. They had moved from place to place, under the most adverse conditions; they had suffered greatly and tolerated many hardships as a people. But despite this the whole generation

perished and could not come into their inheritance. The underlying reason for this failure was that they lacked a sense of vision of the things that lay ahead. They paid no heed to the sayings of Joshua and Caleb after they had returned from a short visit to the land of Canaan ' If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it to us; a land which floweth with milk and honey'.³

The bulk of the old generation of Israelites could not catch a vision of what God offered to them. So they stoned Joshua and Caleb and provoked the Lord!!

There is a poem by J S Baker, based upon Numbers Chapter 13&14, that tells us something about the vision of Joshua and Caleb in the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites:

*Ten men failed to see God:
they saw giants so tall
But two men looked upon God:
and saw grasshopper's small
Ten men failed to see God
and said, "we're certain to fall
But two men looked unto God
and cried "with God we will prevail"
Ten men failed to see God*

*and said "He cannot give it to us"
But two men had a vision of God
and said " He will give it to us".
Ten men failed to see God
and the strength of His hand
But two men had a vision of God
and said " He will give us this land".*

The old generation of Israelites had become a weary lot. Travelling through an arid, desolate, trackless wilderness, they had become wearisome; a vexatious spirit consumed them; they had become tired, lethargic and exhausted. It is so even in our lives. There are inevitably some empty, unrewarding and unfruitful seasons in our lives; there are winters of hunger and thirst; and there are summers of dismay, dejection and loneliness; there are periods of sterility and waste and there are times of restlessness and anxiety. The children of Israel had not only a few seasons of dryness but they had suffered through forty years of aimless wandering. Many complained and murmured and wished they could return to Egypt! They wanted to turn back having 'put their hand to the plough'.

Why did the children of Israel perish in the wilderness?

What was the real reason for perishing? The Bible says that they were 'overthrown in the wilderness' because of their 'evil heart of unbelief' (Hebrew 3:12,19). They failed to believe the promises of God. They refused to believe that God could or would take them to 'a land flowing with milk and honey'. One of the main causes of their unbelief was that they lacked a vision in their lives. They lacked a sense of purpose. As it says in the poem above, only two men had a vision of God; the rest failed to see God in their situation. And 'where there is no vision the people perish..';⁴

The Israelites could not really appreciate what God had set before them in their lives. They were so caught up with their day to day problems in the wilderness that they could not see beyond the horizon of their present existence. The result was that they became a weary people and gave themselves to murmuring and complaining. They were not concerned with the vision that the Lord was showing them but they were unduly concerned with eating, drinking and making merry. Moses placed the vision of God before them day after day but they merely said 'what is the use of a land that is far beyond that flows with milk and honey, when we cannot even have water to drink now?' Many

times we go along with those who say 'seeing is believing'. We apply human reasoning to our situations and fail to see the hand of God in our lives.

People who lack a vision in their lives will be those who finally perish in the wilderness of their lives, when people come across difficult situations it is the vision they have that can sustain them. Over the years we have seen that people come to the local body, they see that it is the place where they should be, they identify with the environment and the gathering together of saints, they participate in all the church activities, but these are not the components of a vision. When one tells such ones the way of obedience, the way of the cross and when one begins to rebuke, exhort and even correct them, it becomes so difficult to reach them. And in due time a hardness sets in and then it becomes so difficult to reach them. I can say with all my heart that I have seen many people perish in the wilderness of their lives because they have lacked a vision, even a vision of the glorious church that shall enter the fulness in Christ.

The Israelites were a people who constantly looked over their shoulders. They looked

backwards, at things gone and past. They preferred to turn back having put their hand on the plow. Jesus said that one is never to look back. 'And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'⁵ It is most damaging to look backwards; the backward look is indeed, dangerous for it can cause one to fall back. Remember Lot's wife. It was those Israelites who lacked a vision who were most serious about turning back to Egypt.

Many people are in the habit of looking backwards to past revivals in the church. More than often this hinders their progress in the present move of God in their lives. They think about the revival in the times of Finney or in the times of Wesley and look at present times in the light of the past events. They look back to the movements of God in the past and they think that God will do something now in the same way as He did in the past. They are gripped by what happened in the past and they are unable to perceive things with a fresh and open attitude. Many people pray for revival as it had happened in the past. In the days to come God will move in a new and fresh manner so that we may look to Him rather than to the past. And we need to pray for that fresh work of God

rather than the stale work of the dead past. Many get frustrated because they expect to see something happen now as it happened in the past. But God will not oblige such people by merely copying the past. There are several spiritual men who vainly attempt to restore the structure of the kingdom of God as they have known in the past. But God is looking for new wine in new wineskins. God's restoration is always progressive and in the realm of development and unfolding revelation.

Beloved, a vision is not a castle in the air! A vision is not a daydream; it is not the hope of a carnal heart; it is not an ideal in our life. It is what God wants one to be. If we let God fashion us as He wants upon the potter's wheel, then we shall surely turn out to be what He shows us in His vision. But if we murmur and lose heart, then we have ourselves to blame. God had given the Israelites a vision of the Promised Land - Canaan - but the majority of the Israelites had no patience. When God gives us a vision, He often brings us to the valley to break us and prepare us and make the vision real in us. It is here, in the valley, when one is pushed around that we are apt to say, 'its no use to go on'. Often people dwell in the valley or in the wilderness of their lives. They live a defeated, discouraged and

demoralized life. But every vision will be made real if we have faith and patience.

Moses endured not because he had some talent or an idea of what is right and what is to be done but because he had a vision of God. 'By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.'⁶ When we lose sight of God we begin to be reckless; we cast off restraints; to cease to pray.; we cast off the vision of God in little things and begin to act in our own initiative. One sure sign of our going on the downward path is that we begin to act in our own strength and will in the little insignificant moments of our daily life. The RSV Bible quotes Proverbs 29:18 as 'Where there is no vision the people cast off restraint'.

A vision imparts moral incentive; it gives moral impetus to our actions. It is not good enough to have an ideal because an ideal lacks moral inspiration. A true Spirit-imparted vision is the very source of life.

Is there a freshness, a vigor in your Spiritual walk?

Is the attitude you have one that springs from

your vision of God or is it based upon your own ideals?

A GENERATION THAT SHALL ENTER IN

Growth in grace is measured largely by the insight one has as to where he is going. Our spiritual maturity depends much upon the vision we hold of the future. When we are able to see that which God has carved out for us, though it be invisible in the natural, we may consider ourselves to be amongst those who are moving forward. However, if our future is clouded by many worldly necessities then the vision is apt to be blurred. It is the pure in heart who are able to see God in all His glory (Mathew 5:8)

The average believer is not very different from his unbelieving neighbor when it comes to his or her future. He is often more concerned about what will happen in the future, he will labour well into his old age so that his children may inherit 'a little something' for the rainy day. He will even be prepared to rob God in and through his tithes and offerings so that he may be able to deposit more in his banks for his future security or for the uncertainty of the unknown. I have noticed this amongst

believers that the majority of them are insensitive while giving offerings; they stoop down to giving what is easy and convenient. All their lives they keep an eye upon their future. They will work hard not that they would be able to give more to God but that by working harder than usual the extra earnings may be added to their futuristic needs. After the world has squeezed out of them all that is of value, they will generously say upon retirement, " Lord here I am. I have come to serve You and do Your work." They offer the fag end of their lives to the Lord mindless that the prime of their lives have been thrown to the wolves.

The life style and the philosophy of the worldly men are so often adopted by the believer as well. They are influenced by the talk in the offices and the concern that others display about the future. They get caught up in the discussion about problems and safeguards for the future. They become slaves to the systems so that their children may have a small fortune when they die. But, what happens to those children for whom the had worked no end and burned the midnight oil. They invariably turn out to be worldly individuals with little concern for the welfare of their father. Of course not all are like this but there is a growing disappointment and

disillusionment with ones progeny. There are countless cases where the children make every effort to squeeze their inheritance out of the father even before he has died. The wealth that the father had worked so very hard to accumulate is squandered in a jiffy. What is the point of saving and accumulating for one's old age, when just a small sickness and hospitalization can take all that away!

Beloved, there is another way of living – the way of the Bible. When we walk upon this highway we are required to make every investment in the Lord and not in the future. It is a life of faith in God. Believe in the Word of God, which says, ' The just shall live by faith...'. Spend you life, your time, your energy into the purposes of God. The faith life is free of tensions. Let us be a people of vision in this hour. Let us look into Him who is invisible in this wilderness in which we are pilgrims and nomads.

One common fear that most of us have is the fear of the unknown, we are fearful of the future. But it is in this area that one needs to look up unto Him who is invisible so that we may go forward. The Lord desires us to take a step of faith into the unknown and to trust the Lord.

Isn't it true that most of us admire those with the pioneering Spirit?

We have a special admiration for those who have opened up a new way – the pathfinders and the trail blazers – men like Martin Luther, John Wesley, Hudson Taylor, Livingstone, William Carey and lately Elliot. We appreciate their boldness, their courage in the face of odds, their patience and steadfastness. Yet, we seldom move forward with the same initiative and boldness in our lives. In the spiritual life, we know that there are many areas in which we are yet to go progress and many situations and attitudes, which we have to conquer in our lives yet, we lack the initiative and boldness to do so. Like the children of Israelites, we fail to trust the Lord and move forward by faith to conquer the unknown. Some of us are afraid of the dark, the hidden, the new and the uncharted or the little known. We are fearful of the future and that which is unrevealed. We, therefore, need to look up unto Him who is invisible and march forward by faith to conquer the unknown. God is calling His people to take a step of faith into the unknown in our spiritual walk. He is calling us to put our trust in Him, knowing that He is a true Shepherd. It is here that a vision really helps us to ward off the

whisperings of the evil one. And we learn that the vision gives us a keen insight and awareness, even an intuition and a perception concerning where God is taking His people.

Have you received a God-given vision in your life?

Joshua and Caleb were people with a vision in the wilderness. They trusted in the Lord to take them to the promised land. Moses was one who saw Him who is invisible. In the midst of the Israelites there were some who cherished a God given vision. They saw the Invisible One in the wilderness. They endured by seeing Him in the midst of their trials. While a people perished in the wilderness because they failed to appropriate the promise of God, there was a remnant who endured the howling wilderness and the scorpions and the snakes and the waterless places.

Beloved, there is a generation that the Lord is raising up even in this hour. They will look at the invisible One and they will live their daily lives by trusting and believing His Word, even the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. And the Lord will delight in them!! There will be a new generation

that will enter the land of Canaan because they will have a vision of the purposes of God.

The forty-first encampment was in the plains of Moab, on the very borders of the promised land of Canaan. But there is a moving forward to the forty-second encampment under the leadership of Joshua, the shadow of the heavenly Joshua the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord delight in us and He will bring us to this land in our lives.

SUBMISSION TO THE VISION

It is not enough to receive a vision; one must also submit to the vision and pursue it with vigor. Moses 'endured' trials, the snakes and the scorpions, the relentless squabbles of an unsatisfied, impatient people and the uncertain delays due to a rebellious and disobedient nation. Joshua and Caleb were stoned by the Israelites. They suffered the reproach and the rebukes of the people but they did not forsake the vision.

Beloved, have you ever realized that it is easier to serve God without a vision? When there is no calling upon ones life then it is easy to serve God because one does not have to bother about

God's demands. Without God's calling upon one's life one can afford to be guided by common sense and the reasonings or understanding of the human mind. Such people will invariably be successful in the world; they will be liesure-hearted; they will be comfortable and satisfied with the goings on. But once we receive a vision from the Lord then the vision places upon us a binding and a restraint. We will no longer be able to work for the Lord Jesus Christ on the basis of common sense, natural reasoning or the needs of people around us.

Paul said that he counted his life dear only in order that he may fulfil the vision he had received. He says in Acts 20:24, 'But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus...' The Apostle Paul said that his life did not matter; his life was of no importance to him. All that mattered to him was the fulfilling of his ministry or the vision God had given him. If we have not been gripped by God's vision then we will consider the usefulness of our own life to be of great benefit. Herein lies the difference. Paul

refused to use his talent and his boundless energy for any other thing. What do we really count dear ?

The vision Paul had on the road to Damascus was no passing emotion or a fleeting feeling. He had a clear-cut direction and he says, 'I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision'⁷. Through all his travails he looked unto him who gave him the vision. He did not go against the vision from the Lord; he did not fail to obey. He made sure that he did not deviate from that vision. He determined among the Corinthians 'not to know anything among them, save Lord Jesus Christ and him crucified'⁸.

Paul was caught up with the vision and he had eyes only for the Lord Jesus Christ. He did not consider situations difficult or unbearable; he endured every situation with one thing in mind and that was the vision he had received upon the road to Damascus. The restraint upon his life arose from the vision and not from man. He was totally given to the accomplishment of the mission given to him by the Lord. This is what happens to those who have a vision in their lives. They are not their own master; they cannot do what

common sense dictates, they cannot go the way the 'reasonable' servant of God goes! O! how different is this walk!! Paul was submitted to the vision; he was a slave of the vision. He had no end, no aim, no purpose except that of the Lord's vision. He could not grasp or understand all that he had to do but this he knew that he had to be submitted to the vision of the Lord at all costs.

Beloved, the new generation will be those who hold onto the vision they have at all costs. They will live up to the vision. Experiences may come or go but they will endure in the light of the vision burning within them. It is only when we lose sight of God that we cast off the restraints of the Holy Spirit. The new generation will live in the inspiration of the vision until it is accomplished. They will pursue it to the very end. They will not get tired or weary because the vision will be their motivation. The only way to be obedient to the heavenly vision is to give it all you have regardless of anything. There will be some who will definitely enter into the promised land.

God is calling us to be a part of this new generation who will march to the forty-second

encampment under the leadership of the heavenly Joshua. They shall be the 'few' who will travel to the unknown with the Lord of Glory!

4

A New Generation HEARS GOD

And they departed from the mountains of Abarim, and encamped in the plains of Moab by the Jordan and Jericho. And they encamped by the Jordan from Beth-Jeshimoth as far as Abel-Shittim in the plains of Moab. And the Lord said to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho. Tell the Israelites.....¹

Numbers 33:48-51

1. Numbers 33: 1-3

2. Numbers 33:49,50

3. Numbers 14:8

4. Proverbs 29:18

5. Luke 9:62

6. Hebrews 11:27

7. Acts 26:19

8. I Corinthians 2:2

In chapter 33 of the book of Numbers, which gives us a summary of the movements of the children of Israel during their journey from

Egypt to Canaan under the able leadership of Moses, we find that after nearly forty years of wandering in the wilderness, God began to once again, lead His people toward the promised land. Moreover, when they reached the plains of Moab, near the Jordan River, God began to speak to the people of Israel through Moses.

God's desire was that His people might now move into the 'Promise Land'. The last encampment of the people of Israel before they crossed the river Jordan and entered the Promised Land was in the plains of Moab. It was the forty-first encampment of the Israelites under the leadership of Moses; the forty-first time that they pitched their tents around the tabernacle and looked to the pillar of fire and the cloud to lead them on; it was the forty-first time that they halted in their journey to the promised land. There were many that had perished in the wilderness wanderings. There were barely a handful left of that old generation. When they had come out of Rameses in Egypt they had been a people of such tremendous potential and promise. The exodus had marked the beginning of a new life and a new liberty through the law that came to them at Sinai; it had also marked the beginning of a new fellowship with God in and the through the

tabernacle. Now, after many, many years of aimless wanderings, murmuring, unbelief, and rebellion and open disobedience they were a tired and weary lot. They had started as a hopeful, confident people who numbered nearly six lakhs but their number had dwindled to a pathetic, discouraged and disappointed few. What a contrast! What a tragedy! A whole generation had perished in the wilderness; forty years had been spent moving about without getting anywhere!!

Perhaps, some of us ought to look at our lives and see whether the same thing is happening to us? The church, in general doesn't seem to have got very far from the time it had begun, certainly there is a lesson for us here. Although human unbelief and disobedience cannot finally frustrate the purposes of God, they can hold back or delay their gracious fulfillment. *Selah*

Let this be a sobering note before us. Let us just pause and reflect upon this thought. The Lord had brought out the Israelites from slavery with a mighty hand. He had blessed them in every way. There was always the cloud of His divine presence to lead them in the wilderness. At night the pillar of fire went before them. His presence and His

provisions were constantly by their side. Their comfort had been provided for. Their needs had been met, though they continued to murmur without cause. In all their wilderness wanderings, the Lord's divine blessings were faithfully showered upon them in their lives. But despite this, despite the presence of His ark and His divine provisions and despite the cloud and the pillar of fire, the church in the wilderness, the people of Israel, did not get anywhere!! They had simply marked time for about thirty-eight years. During these years, the history of the people of God came to a standstill as it were. They failed to progress or advance forward even an iota. It was as if their progress in God had been held in abeyance. The generation which came out of Egypt with such joy and hope began to wish that they had died in the wilderness (Numbers 14:2). They lost sight of their heritage and of the vision that the Lord had given them. So they faded out and gave place to another generation so that the work of God could be resumed. In thirty-eight years they could not reach the place that God wanted them to reach; they were an obstacle, a delay and a hold up of the purposes of God.

Was their lack of progress due to God's unfaithfulness? Certainly not!

The condition in the church and among the people of God is very much similar to the condition of the Israelites. Despite the magnificent way by which the Lord sent His Holy Spirit upon this earth and filled His house on the day of Pentecost; despite the wondrous workings of the Holy Spirit in the churches; it seems we have not traveled very far. This is a reality that we need to face. When we review the history of the church, all we really see is decay and decadence. Notwithstanding the seminars and the conventions and the revivals, the church has made little progress in the purposes of God. In spite of all the activities and achievements of the church we have to admit that in the purposes of God, the church, as we see it today, seems to be no different to the generation of Israelites that eventually perished in the wilderness barring a handful. The individual lives of so many are also somewhat identical. Many seem, to be marking time at the same spot! Many seem to be going round and round in endless circles, from one meeting to another meeting. Many seem to be chasing their tails in confusion and distress. Beloved, it is high time we took stock of our lives in the Lord.

Now and then we hear of claims to strange and often amazing happenings in the midst of

church gatherings. People have spoken of seeing 'shining light' above the heads of some so-called ministers of God. Some have had visions of a shining light at some place; they built pillars there and now people receive healing at these spots! We all should know that the Bible tells us of two kinds of lights: one is the true light of God and the other is the satanic - 'angel of light'. Beloved, let us remember well that despite the fact that the Israelites daily saw the true light of God's fire from one camp to another camp, yet they did not get anywhere! The very presence of the Lord, day after day, all those many years in the wilderness failed to bring the Israelites to a place of approval in God. What we need in this hour is not the proof of some photographic shekinah glory but a change in the attitudes and the heart of God's people. The children of Israel did not get very far although the pillar of His fire was constantly with them. Let us therefore not rely on these outward signs anymore but instead let us humbly confess that we have not really moved forward as we ought to have done. If the church persists in going the way in which she had been moving these last few decades, she will eventually come to a place of nothingness. There may be a remnant of Joshuas and Calebs, but the majority of the church generation will wither away

as did her predecessors- the church in the wilderness. She is retrogressing with great speed despite the tall claims of some spiritual leaders.

The situation in the forty-first encampment seems to have been bleak when we see what had happened to the old generation. They had not got very far from the place where they had started. It dawned upon them that they had not made any progress at all. This may have sounded disturbing to the religious man but to the hungry soul this situation brings much encouragement. For the period of wandering in circles without getting anywhere had come to an end in the forty-first encampment.

It was in this encampment that the old generation was passing away and the new generation that was arising came to a realization that they had at last come to the end of the fruitless and purposeless journeying around in circles. From this time onwards there was going to be a change and a forward progression. *Hallelujah!!*

Let us all look at our lives and see whether we have a testimony that is akin to that of the older generation? Have we been going around in circles

in our spiritual lives without any definite fruit and sign of progress? Let us be frank with ourselves and admit that our personal testimonies have not deferred very much from that of the Israelites in the wilderness. When the Lord spoke to us at the last meetings, we said that we will change but we did not see much change? Are we weary with the situation in which we find ourselves? Have we come to the forty-first encampment in our lives? Are we ready to take a step of faith and go forward to possess the promised land? For this time we will go forward to take the whole land!

THE SECOND HEARING

At the very hour that an older, weather beaten generation was perishing, God was also raising up another new generation – another people who would be so different to the former generation. They would be a people like unto Moses who looked unto the One who was invisible in the midst of the howling barren, dry wilderness.

The new generation had grown up in the wilderness and had witnessed the terrible judgements of God upon their fathers and relatives. But now they were ready for something more

meaningful in their lives. They would not let unbelief come into their hearts any more. They would not allow the spirit of rebellion and disobedience to rule them. Instead, they would trust the Lord and move forward at his command. This time they would not fail.

The Lord's new generation needed to rise up in faith. The forty-first encampment marked the transition to a new generation. There would be a new life-settled habitation in the new land instead of wanderings. There would be a new determination arising out of a change of heart. There would be a change of leadership. There would be a new anointing and a new unction coming upon God's people. Under this anointing they would move forward into the land set before them. Joshua would lead them to the promised land to inherit all that God has kept for them. Let us also consider what God wants to do in our lives. He wants to give us a *second chance* as He gave the Israelites. Let us also realize that only Joshua, even the Lord Jesus Christ, can lead His people to the land that is set before them. We need to walk behind Him in trust and obedience. Though we have failed many times in the past and our lives have been one of wandering in circles, yet now under the leadership

of the true, heavenly Joshua, things will certainly be different. We shall not look back any more. This time we shall not retreat.

‘And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.’² The armies in heaven followed Him. The new generation will follow this Joshua. He is the one who will go before this new generation. And there shall be an entering in into the Promised Land by this generation as they go with Him. It is not going to be as individuals but as a people, moving together with the Spirit of God and with Christ the anointed one. Yes, there will be a moving forward as we line up behind the heavenly One and desire to claim the inheritance set before us. This new generation, the sons of God conquering the enemy and completely subduing the land that Christ had purchased for them some two thousand years ago

but which they had failed to inherit or appropriate. They will move into the realm of the heavenlies which they talked about, admired, claimed to possess but could not really appropriate.

The word ‘Deuteronomy’ is taken from the Greek ‘deuteros’ which means ‘second’ and from ‘nomos’ which means ‘law’. In Deuteronomy we have a second giving of the law or rather a new expounding of it to the new generation of Israel who had grown up in the wilderness and needed to have the law repeated to them before they entered the Promised Land. This implies that God was giving His people a second chance. He made a second offer to His people. As the Lord spoke to the Israelites through Moses, he gave a second chance to the people to hear His Word. As the former generation had all but died, God began to speak to the new generation so that they may be prepared for what lay ahead. Look at God’s faithfulness and his gracious, wise and righteous dealings with His people. Despite the disobedience and perversities of Israel in the past, God will ever remain faithful to His promises, his purposes and His people. Let us therefore draw comfort from the second chance that God offers us when things seem to have completely gone out of control.

**THE PREPARATIONS OF GOD IN OUR
LIVES**

These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain over against the Red sea, between Paran, and Tophel, and Laban, and Hazeroth, and Dizahab.

Deuteronomy 1:1

When the children of Israel came to the plains of Moab, Moses began to remind the people of all that had happened in the past. Inspired by God, Moses first looks backward and recalls the provisions of the law unto the Israelites and then he looks forward to the things they must pay heed to before entering their inheritance. In the retrospective part of the book (chapters 1 to 11), we find that God wants His people to seriously reflect upon all that had happened to them and to resolve to change their ways.

In the 41st camp, we see that God is determined to take His people into the promised land and that He spares no effort to warn them, counsel them and prepare them for what lies ahead. Nearly forty years after the deliverance of the people of Israel from the Egyptian masters, there was a generation that stood at the very

boundary of the promised land. All that the people of Israel had waited for, after going through several months and years of trials, temptations and heartaches, now suddenly seemed to be within reach. This time was the critical point in their history. Everything would depend on how they acted as they stood poised to launch an offensive under the leadership of Joshua. But the Lord would like to say to us that before we go the book of Joshua in our lives there is a book of Deuteronomy for all of us. We cannot skip the book of Deuteronomy, which was nothing but a repetition of the declared ways of God for our lives, and jump to the book of Joshua which is a book of conquest and victory, without first appropriating His ways into our lives. In other words, before we go into our inheritance we must mark time in the book of Deuteronomy. There is a Deuteronomy that is necessary for you and me. It is preliminary to the conquest and victory that shall be ours in the coming days. We may talk about the promised land and the heavenly places but such 'talking' doesn't automatically place us in that land! We first need to experience the preparations of God in our lives at the 41st encampment.

Amongst those who take the name of Christ today, there are many who can be counted

to be amongst the dying generations of Israel. They do not have the faith to believe that God is wanting them to prepare themselves to cross the Jordan. They talk of Canaan and say that Canaan is theirs; they say that Canaan was given to their father , Abraham, as an inheritance; they agree that eventually, somehow, God will bring them to Canaan in their lives but they do not have the faith to believe that it is possible for them to go forth now, even in this day and age to possess Canaan. They confess that Jesus is able to lead them to the land of abundance, that He will do so when the time is right, but they utterly fail to hold on to the truth that the land of Canaan is already theirs and they must appropriate it in their lives.

In the midst of such a confession by a nominal, half hearted generation, the Lord is causing a new generation to hear the law a second time. There is a second giving of the law to this generation who are poised to take a leap forward by faith. Oh, if only the former generation had obeyed the gracious counsels of God. The parting counsels of Moses speak of a living message to us today for it is the same God with whom we have to deal today. It is He who has brought us out of satanic bondage and it is He who counsels us to

boldly step out into a wonderful inheritance in Christ. He asks no less of us today than He asked of Israel through Moses long ago in this book of Deuteronomy. May God give us hearing ears and responsive hearts!

While the book of Deuteronomy lies open before us let us see that there was a difference between giving of the Law at Sinai the first time and the giving of the Law to the new generation. The law was the same but the Lord wanted His people to benefit from their experiences of the past and so, while the law was reiterated the second time, the Lord added something more. God reminded His people that when the Law was given at Sinai the people had been quick to say, 'we will do it'³. But in reality the forty years following the giving of the law were a sad testimony of their unbelief and the hard-heartedness of their fathers. He told the new generation all about the history of the failures of Israel; he told them of their rebellion, their disobedience and their lack of faith; he told them of their inheritance for his righteousness sake; and not only this, he told them how to get there and what to do when they would cross the Jordan river. We can see God opening His heart to the new generation that had assembled

in the plains of Moab. God was trying to teach Israel were her priorities lay and how she could guarantee not to forget them. We should carefully note the emphasis of God upon remembering Him everyday, upon keeping His words in their hearts, 'thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up' ⁴. In other words God wanted His people to have him as the center of their daily lives - which was the only way to avoid the mistakes of their fathers. God took their fathers through the wilderness to humble them, to prove them and to bring them to their inheritance.

Beloved, we need to take heed to the counsels of God at all times. We have an inheritance through Christ. It is a promise of God upon us. Even the inheritance of the children of Israel was a promise to their father and forefathers. The inheritance was not given through or by the law but it was a promise to them, 'That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which

the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.' ⁵ If the law was not given to them to bring them to the land of their inheritance then what was the purpose of the law? The law was a schoolmaster (Galatians 3:24) to bring the people to the land of their inheritance. It was given to them so that it may help them to prepare their lives. The discipline of the law was necessary to bring them into the realization of their weakness, to manifest their failures and shortcomings and to teach them to depend upon Him and trust Him.

In the same way the discipline of the Spirit (the 'Law' of our day) is necessary to bring us to a realization of our mistakes, to prepare us to come to the place of our inheritance and to show us where we are in our lives with respect to the purposes of God. We need a 'Deuteronomy' in our lives; for it brings us into the realization of our past failures by reminding us of our mistakes, showing us how, through it all, God is working a needful discipline and preparation in our hearts for the day when He would bring to pass what He had promised for His own sake.

Our inheritance in Christ is a promise to

us; but we need 'tutors and governors' until we come to maturity. God's Word is given to us to prepare our lives. God's desire for us is to learn this lesson quickly because His time to restore all things is at hand. Must enter into the land of their inheritance. They must arise and move into the new land now., our old ways need to be laid aside. We need to forget the old forms and traditional glory.

The Word says that we are not under Law but we are under grace (Romans 6:14). And yet, when we see the New Testament church today, we see a lack of the manifestation of God's grace. Often we testify and say that we are under grace but so much of His grace seems to be lacking in our lives. If the Lord is not abiding in the house of our lives we can be sure that someone else is abiding there! The 'law' of the old paths may still be dominating our lives; the law of sin and death may still be abiding strongly in us. Let us not make empty theological claims to justify ourselves. May God bring us to the point of realization that we need to hear the Word of God again in our lives in order that we may realign our lives and live according to the Word. May we be quick to learn this lesson, for the new generation must arise and go forward.

CUTTING SHORT A WORK IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Chapter one and verse two of Deuteronomy is one of the most revealing verses in the book of Deuteronomy it reads "(There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadeshbarnea.)". God was reminding the new generation that the real distance from Egypt to Canaan was merely eleven days! The way from bondage to inheritance was not a long one after all! But the children of Israel took forty years to traverse what God intended to an eleven day journey. We read in Exodus Chapter thirteen and verses seventeen and eighteen; "And it came to pass...that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt: But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea:...". The Word clearly tells us that the Lord led them by the long way of the wilderness. The way of the wilderness was God's way. But God did not plan the long forty years of travel for the children of Israel.

To many people it may seem that the way

to maturity and greater fruitfulness is long and arduous. But the Lord would like to tell us that God can do a quick work in the earth in this hour. He can cut short a work in righteousness in these days. The way unto maturity get longer only because of our own reluctance to obey. It is our unbelief and rebellion that makes the way a longer one. It is God's chastening and disciplining that takes a long time because of our own flesh nature. The Israelites took forty years to come to the place that God wanted them to come to in eleven days! God also wants us to come to the place of our inheritance in Christ in this hour. Let us therefore not frustrate the grace of our God in our lives.

We must know the fact that restoration is not mere repetition of history. Under a strong north wind Israel wandered farther and farther away from the land of their promise and heritage. But when the south wind blew, then the Israel started back towards the north! So also as the strong north wind blew upon the church it gradually drove the people of God farther and farther away from the truth. But when the south wind of reformation began to blow over the church she too has begun to come back to the place from

where she started.

The history of the church also illustrates how she the delayed the perfect-will of the Lord. The church should have come to a place of maturity and perfection ages ago. God's grace would have done a quick and great work in the lives of God's people. But she is still barren and has not brought forth any fruit because of her rebellion and indiscipline.

Much depends upon our reaction and our response to God's initiative in our lives. What should be the reaction of those who have had the opportunity to hear God's Word again? May the voice of the spirit reach deep within us to remind us that God would like to complete his work of maturity in us quickly. Let us respond positively to this offer of God in our lives.

'The LORD your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. (The LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as he hath promised you!)' ⁶. God would remind even this new generation how in His mercy He hath blessed the former

generation. Despite their rebellion, their lawlessness, their disobedience and despite everything they did against the Lord, God did bless them out of His love for them. The Lord was pointing out to the new generation that despite their rebellion and murmuring He had condescended to bless them, yet their ways did not meet with His approval. Surely He had multiplied them in every way but that did not mean that what they did contrary to His commandments would be winked at.

Beloved, the blessings we receive from God are not a mark of God's approval!

Often we see the hand of God's blessing and grace upon our lives and we begin to think that God is on our side and that whatever we are doing has His seal of approval. There can be nothing more deceptive. God's love and mercy is given to us despite our sinfulness and our disobedience. His grace does not depend upon our righteousness. All that we really deserve is the cutting edge of His judgements but it is His great love that prevents us from being consumed by His fire. Let us never, never imagine or assume that our halfheartedness, our luke-warmness and our lack of faith in His

promises meet with His permissible will.

'Yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD your God, Who went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents in, in fire by night, to shew you by what way ye should go, and in a cloud by day.'⁷. Can you see the mercy and love of God towards this rebellious people? We are no different from the children of Israel. So let us solemnly receive this warning into our lives. The Lord shall 'search out a place for us to pitch our tents'! His love for us is in great abundance. Let us not be as casual as the Israelites of old or else we shall also miss out the perfect will of the Lord in our lives.

'And the LORD heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying, Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers'⁸. God is faithful in our lives but He will not tolerate any misbehavior, any whispering and murmuring or any unbelief towards His purposes in our lives. Despite all that God had done in the lives of the Israelites, yet they remained a disobedient and rebellious people. Again, the Lord reminded them why He had

brought them out of the Egyptian bondage. Yet they believed not and obeyed not.

Many often think that the way of 'holiness' exemplified by Jesus is too difficult to follow. They reason that it is not possible to of for God's best, the fulness in Lord Jesus Christ, then it is best to settle for His second best. Beloved let us be aware that anything less than God's best for us amount to DISOBEDIENCE AND REBELLION in our hearts! God's call to us even in this hour is to go for God's best even that which God has set before us in our lives. God's desire and longing is that we may not frustrate what God desires to bring forth in this hour. God would lid to bring us to the land that he has set before us in our lives. And the way there unto is but an eleven-day's march away. Let us not prolong and delay God's purposes in our lives through our rebellion and disobedience. But if we cooperate with God He will surely do a quick work in our lives.

Beloved, this is the focal hour in the history of man. This is the culmination of our long period of wandering, of bareness and of frustrations. We have come to this hour and to the hearing of the 'Deuteronomy' again for this purpose! Here we

stand ready to make that final and great conquest for which we have waited all these centuries.

He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit is saying.

-
- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Numbers 33:48-51 (<i>Amp Bible</i>) | 5. Deuteronomy 30:20 |
| 2. Revelation 19:11-14 | 6. Deuteronomy 1:10,11 |
| 3. Deuteronomy 5:27 | 7. Deuteronomy 1:32 , 33 |
| 4. Deuteronomy 6:7 | 8. Deuteronomy 1:34,35 |

5

He Brought us out To Bring Us In

And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers *Deuteronomy 6:23*

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began... *2 Tim 1:9*

The Lord delivered the Israelites from the land of slavery. The purpose of the Lord in bringing them out was that he may bring

He Brought Us Out To Bring Us In

them in. God wanted the new generation to be acutely aware of His purpose for them as a people.

Let us take this word and apply it unto our lives. God has brought us out of the bondage of sin so that He may bring us into the glorious freedom of His perfect will. God desires His people to have complete victory over the flesh, the world and the works of Satan. God's ways are 'little by little' and that in no way minimizes the extent of the victory. He has separated His people so that He may lead them to the land of spiritual abundance and His fulness.

Let us be sensitive to this purpose of God for our lives. Anything less than the perfect-will of God is nothing but rebelling and disobedience. God would like to bring His people to the appointed place of His perfect-will. Let that be our aim as well. To be satisfied with the 'second-best' is to miss the mark of His perfection because of compromise somewhere along the line. Let us be aware that the second best amount to disobedience before God. God's best is to enter into the land of promise and anything short of this is disobedience and rebellion in the eyes of God.

‘Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he swore unto thy fathers: And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee. Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle. And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.’ ¹

In these verses we see the blessings that God promises to lavish upon the new generation as and when they enter the Promised Land. It is good to remember that the blessings of God are conditional upon the obedience of His people. The rewards we are to receive are contingent upon the good works of faith and obedience for it is written, ‘And behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.’ Here we need to just pause and consider our attitude

towards blessings and rewards in our life. We know that the people of the world are basically blessing-oriented; they desire the grace and the blessings of God primarily to satisfy their own needs; they prefer to do things that bring some kind of direct or indirect blessing. The more visible and outward the blessings are, the more they cherish them; the more distant and hidden they are the less they desire them. But God’s ways are so very different. God desires that we should first seek the Lord Himself, and His kingdom above all else; then He promises to meet our need (Mathew 6:33). Man normally puts the cart before the horse and asks for happiness, success, riches, wealth and property before meeting with God’s demands for obedience, faith and trust. Often affliction and suffering is the way that God chooses to provide us blessings in our lives but, more than often, people lack the discernment to see the hand of God in the situations that God puts them through. In Exodus 1:12, we read that the more the Egyptians afflicted the Israelites, the more they multiplied and grew!! Beloved brothers and sisters let God’s people cultivate the right attitude in praying and asking God for blessings. When King David sat in his house he said unto Nathan the prophet, ‘see now I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains’ ². We should also have such a

spirit to think first of that which is God's will, His burden and His desire. The Lord's Prayer in this respect is a model for all of us.

God desired that the new generation of people be quite fearless before their enemies not because they had suddenly become very strong but because the Lord would drive away the enemies before them. Let us look upon these words of the Lord to his people in the plains of Moab on the Eve of their crossing of the river Jordan, as prophetic words for the present generation of His people. 'And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee. If thou shalt say in thine heart, these nations are more than I; how can I dispossess them? Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt; The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid. Moreover the LORD thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and

hide themselves from thee, be destroyed. Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for the LORD thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible. And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee. But the LORD thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed.' ³

God is telling us not to be afraid of the enemies that we face today, namely, the flesh, the world and the devil. O, how often people lead defeated, disappointed discouraged and disheartened lives because they refuse to really believe that the one living in them is greater than he who is in the world. How very often we have ignored Paul's counsel to the Philippians, 'Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:' ⁴ The Lord is doing a new work in His people, little by little and day by day. The enemy within us, our flesh or the self, shall be given no safe place to hide; the hidden things shall be exposed; the enemy who tries to hide in the things of the past shall be driven out as we submit our lives to the Holy Spirit. The Lord shall deal with

the enemy who lurks behind our self-life and weak flesh, till we become totally free. But on our part we must not provide the enemy a place of rest in our lives. We must constantly be on the offensive to chase him away.

In the book of Numbers, there is an interesting reference to the enemy being 'bread' to God's people, 'neither fear ye the people of the land for they are bread' ⁵. Joshua and Caleb exhorted the people not to be afraid of the enemy. Joshua was prepared to swallow them up as easily as bread is chewed because the enemy was without any covering. If we have proper nourishment (i.e. Divine Bread, our precious Lord Jesus Christ) then we shall be spiritually strengthened and we shall have victory over things, which worldly people fear.

Many of us are apprehensive of this victorious life in and through Christ Jesus. Perhaps it is because the majority of believers do not show any signs of an overcoming, victorious life. How often we see people with a burning zeal for Christ but how seldom we see people with victory over anxiety, backbiting, anger, irritability, jealousy, envy and pride. Is there any hope of having a life of habitual victory over these enemies? The Word of

the Lord is 'moreover the Lord thy God will send hornets among them, until they that are left and (continue) to hide themselves from thee be destroyed'.

'If thou shalt say in thine heart....' The Lord reminds His people through these verses that there is a hope; there is a promise and there is also a command. The question that many ask is "can I really live an overcoming life?" The answer is plainly and flatly NO, not in and by our strength. But by and through the Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer and savior we can. 'Thanks be unto God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ' ⁶. God is calling His people in this hour to trust their Lord and savior with their lives. There is a need to be willing to trust him and to put ourselves totally in His hands so that He may lead the way and fight our battles.

It is true that many of us are afraid. We are afraid mostly of the future; we fail to trust God with our lives. Many find it difficult to trust God to give them victories over their sins; they have little faith in the promise of an abundant life and therefore, they seek pleasures of this world and sometimes indulge in sinful living. But God says that it is He

who has brought us out and He will also take us in. The Lord will send the hornet to ferret out the enemy that lurks within, hiding in corners and darkness.

‘The LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.’⁷ What a realm this is, beloved people of God! Well, this is a realm where love dominated. Here all things are dominated by love. It is a realm where the fruit of the Spirit abides perpetually; which shall minister life and blessing and sustenance. In this realm even the gifts of the spirit lose significance just as the moon loses its brightness in the dawning of the morning. That which is in part shall give way to the whole, the perfect. It is like the seed, which breaks forth the blade, then the ear and finally the full corn (Mark 4:28). Even so it shall be that faith shall progress into hope and hope shall go forth into love. As it is written, ‘without faith it is impossible to please him’. So a people shall move forward in faith and his love

shall be formed in them. This great God of love shall live in them in a dimension, thinking His thoughts, doing His will, manifesting His wisdom, knowledge, purity and righteousness in the world of sin and darkness! What a land is lying ahead of us!!

“THOU SHALT REMEMBER ALL THE WAY”

And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. Deuteronomy 8:2

God wanted the new generation of his people to remember what He had done for them all the way from Egypt to the borders of Canaan. There is an emphasis upon remembering what God had wrought among His people all the way, and not just remembering Him one day or on some specific occasions like Christmas and Easter. As the people prepared to move forward, the Lord wanted them to remember all that God had done in the past forty years, in their midst. When we consider the manner in which the Israelites roamed around in circles for forty years it seems amazing and astonishing that it was God who had led them all the way through

their fruitless journeys!! The Lord makes it clear that it was He, Himself who had led them as they went around in circles. Was it not their disobedience and unbelief that caused them to roam aimlessly for forty years? Yes, it was. But even as God allowed them to go hither and thither without achieving anything, He had a divine purpose in doing so. That purpose was 'to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart'. God wanted a prepared people so that they may be taken into their prepared place. He wanted to equip His people and make them ready for what lay ahead. God wanted the new generation to know two things clearly: firstly, that as God's people they had failed miserably to obey the Lord and walk in His ways and secondly, that in spite of their failures, God remained faithful to His promise to bring them to a prepared place.

Let us look at our lives in the light of this word. Isn't it true that we have all wandered in frustration for many years because of our disobedience and rebellion? Let us pause and reflect upon the condition of our lives from the time God brought us into the light of His kingdom. Why has the Lord not done a quick work in bringing us to maturity in our lives so that we may be used of Him

for His kingdom purposes? It is so that He may humble us through His chastening; it is so that He may work upon our lives and prove us. As we progress spiritually, God wants us to know that in order that we may come to a place of victory and triumph in our lives, He needs to first humble us otherwise pride may get the better of us later on causing us to backslide and lose ground in Him. Beloved, most of us are at a point of transition in our lives. We are waiting to move forward and possess all that the Lord has for us; we are yet at the borders of a breakthrough in our lives. Many of us have spent years in utter emptiness and fruitlessness. But now God would like us to march forward under His banner. This point in our pilgrimage is so important, beloved. We need to see clearly what God has been trying to do in our lives. God wants to bring a change in our lifestyles, so that we may conform to His pattern. Is our life really in line with God's will for us? It is the same God of the Israelites who is also leading us in our lives. Let us therefore not murmur in our tents but instead see what is in our hearts.

Have you brought your motives before God's altar?

Maybe, you are at a place of transition and change. Now it the time to take a decision and move on in God.

The Word of God here says that He humbled the Israelites and suffered them to hunger; 'And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.' ⁸ This is God's way for His people. He humbles us and allows us to suffer in our lives so that we may increase spiritually!

We are living at a time when there is so much preaching on prosperity in Christian circles. False preachers would like us to claim the desires of our heart and believe that God would meet our every desire. They ask us to claim that fancy car we admire, a six bedroom house we cherish and many other luxuries in life, they say, 'believe and it will be yours'! Materialism is engulfing God's people in this hour. The desire to have every worldly gadget and to posses all the wondrous belongings of the worldly neighbor is eating away the entrails of the modern day church. The sin of covetousness is destroying

the people of God. In the midst of this the Lord says, to His people, 'I suffered thee and humbled thee...' Consider this, beloved, people of God, before you succumb to the false teachings of prosperity. Today, many cannot accept this Word, 'He humbled and suffered thee', 'He led thee in the wilderness'. But this is the way of the spiritual man and the way of the Lord. But this way is alien to many in the church world.

Do you have a deep hunger for the things of the Lord?

Do you have persistent unrest in your life for more and more of His presence?

Are you dissatisfied with your spiritual condition and do you thirst for His abiding presence, moment by moment?

The dissatisfaction, the unrest, the constant hunger for more of Him is ordained of the Lord. God is pleased if we harbor a driving hunger for more of Him; He wants us to go forward into the land before us with a strong desire for the manifestation and visitation of His fullness. *Hallelujah!*

Beloved, do you realize that manna in the wilderness was fed to the children of Israel so that it may bring forth a greater hunger for Him in their lives?

The manna of God is not given to us to satisfy our hunger but it is an appetizer that brings a greater hunger for more and more of God in our lives. It was designed for this purpose. But it also meets our present need!

Until we come to the Promised Land, the Lord will keep us in a place of hunger, humility and dependency upon Him. We will not experience real satisfaction in our lives till we come into the promised inheritance and will of God. Our satisfaction must not lie in acquisitions and material gain; such desires can be fulfilled by the god of this world - mammon. But our Lord will cause us to constantly hunger and thirst for more of His Word. That is the wisdom of God. Manna, the Word of God, is not intended to remove or satisfy our hunger but it is given to us so that our hunger may increase and we may be driven to His Word every day. God is faithful to meet the needs of His people. He met all the needs of His people in their journeys through the wilderness, every year of the forty long years of

travel. He met their need and again left them in a place of need for yet more of Him! *Hallelujah!* '...That he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live'.

We see that God told the new generation that He had provided them with heavenly manna so that they may know that they should not live by bread alone but by every Word that comes out of His mouth. The purpose of the manna was not only to keep the children of Israel in a place of hunger so that their hunger for the Lord may increase but also to make them totally dependent upon God. But man in his wisdom wants to be absolutely independent of God; he wants to guide his own future and to make it secure for His children and his children's children! Man would like to control his own health, the environment in which he lives and the destiny of his offspring's. People do not want to be led and to be told what to do; there is an inherent carnal longing in everyone to be free to do whatever he or she would like to do with their time, their energy and their resources. But God would like to say to this generation, which He is raising even in this hour, that He will keep His people in a

place of hunger, need, humility and dependency so that they may learn to cry out and draw near to Him. O! what a difference there is between those who belong to the world and those who would like to walk with Him along the narrow way.

There is a Divine intention that is covering the people of God. His intention is that His people should come to a place of total reliance upon Him. So beloved, know this well that your security is not in your job, your business, your occupation, your money, your insurance policy, your bank account, your investments or your possessions. No, no, no! Your security lies wholly in the Lord.

The Lord brings about sufferings and humbling experiences in His people so that they may know that they are to depend and trust Him above all else. We may cry out to God to meet some great need in our lives; we may depend and trust Him to meet that need and God will certainly hear the cry of His people. But when that need is met there will arise another need in our lives, and if that were to be met, there will come up yet another need so that at all times we are in a place of need; one need gives way to another greater need! Why? It is God's way of bringing us to a place of humility and dependence upon Him. When we suffer and cry

out in our need, the Lord hears but divinely arranges circumstances so that our security may at all times be tied to Him. *Hallelujah!* It is God's plan that we should be sensitive to His Word, knowing always that man does not live by bread alone but by the Word that proceedeth from His mouth, which is none other than through the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The apostle Paul, in chapter 4 of Philippians verse 10 onwards, shows us how he continuously depended upon God to meet His needs. Regarding his needs and wants, he said that he had learned to depend upon God, which means that he was quite content with whatever God provided him. God had brought him to a place of absolute dependence. Paul had learned to be independent of circumstances by becoming solely dependent upon God.

'Not that I am implying that I was in any personal want, for I have learned how to be content (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am. I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or going hungry, having a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without

and being in want. I have strength for all things in Christ who empowers me – I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me; (that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency).’⁹ Paul had learned the secret of meeting his needs. He knew how to get along with scarcely anything; he knew how to live when things became difficult; and he also knew how to face prosperity and live in abundance. The secret was that his security was the Lord Jesus. He was ready to face any situation through the strength of the One who lived in him. He knew both to abound and to suffer need because he depended upon the Lord for all things. And then he says, ‘But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.’¹⁰

We need to know one thing very clearly. The children of Israel had manna everyday from heaven; they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them (I Corinthian 10:4); they had a cloud to lead them in the day and a pillar of fire to lead them at night and to keep away the wild animals; they had it all but God was not pleased with them! It is because they did not have the spirit of wisdom and revelation concerning God’s promised land. They never desired to feast upon the Word of God in their lives.

Beloved, these things are examples for us, warning us to beware of the same pitfalls in our lives. We may have all the gifts, the money, the resources, the education, the background and the very mercies of heaven but if we have not any revelation, wisdom and vision of the purposes of God in the Lord Jesus Christ then we shall come to a place of frustration in our lives. It is imperative that our dependence and security be upon the Lord in this hour. He would like us to be in a place of humility and affliction so that we may always look up to Him for our needs.

‘Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels’ food: he sent them meat to the full... He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea: And he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations. So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire; They were not estranged from their lust. But while their meat was yet in their mouths, The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down

the chosen men of Israel. ' 11

Look at the marvelous way in which God met the needs of the people of Israel! Their food was prepared in the heavenlies!! It was 'food for the mighty' as it says in the margin of one Bible. But what we see is that men wanted meat and not manna. They desired to meet their daily need for food by looking to the earthlies instead of the heavenly provisions. And God met their needs and their carnal desires in a miraculous way but He also brought leanness to their souls and finally He brought His judgments upon this unbelieving lot. Let us also beware of seeking to meet our needs in worldly, carnal and materialistic ways rather than depending upon God's provisions. God's principles have never changed. For we read in the New Testament that Jesus said, 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.' 12

What does 'these things' mentioned here mean? They are the daily needs of man, the food, the raiment, the shelter, for Jesus says a few verses

earlier 'Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?' 13

Beloved, God is faithful to supply that measure of sustenance we need. God's people in this hour should know this truth. There is manna from heaven daily, there is water from the Rock, there is healing, there is the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. But without the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; without that feasting upon the word with the eyes and minds illuminated and ears quickened to hear what the Spirit is saying to His Church in this hour; without that vision of Canaan's fruitfulness and victory, there can be nothing more than frustration and defeat and a looking for a kind of restoration of the 'good old days' of the past revivals. The reformation may have been the greatest revival since the dark ages; the Wesleyan revival perhaps was greater than anything that the world had known till then. The Pentecostal revival may be the greatest since the days of the early church. The church may be refreshing under the palm trees and drink of the water and eat of the figs from the oasis of Elim. But God would lead His people into the realms in

Himself, such as the Church has never known. Dear saints, God refuses to take us back to any place of blessing that He brought us through in the past, God is sending His manna, 'the spiritual meat', the bread of the mighty, by His Holy Spirit, that His people may feast upon the Living Word, which illuminates and enlightens and gives them a vision of the heritage that lies before them and prepares them for the victories ahead!

-
1. Deuteronomy 7:12-15
 2. 2Samuel 17:1,2
 3. Deuteronomy 7:16-23
 4. Philippians 1:6
 5. Numbers 14:9
 6. I Corinthian 15:57
 7. Deuteronomy 8:7-9



Arise
AND GO OVER

And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho. And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel.

Numbers 22:1-3

The children of Israel made their last encampment the forty-first one, in the plains of Moab as they prepared to cross the river

Jordan into the promised land of Canaan. The Israelites were in a jubilant and victorious mood. Sihon, King of the Amorites, who refused to allow Israel to pass through their land, had been utterly destroyed by Israel. The Lord had also given Moses courage to deal with the next enemy, namely Og the King of Bashan. So the Israelites smote him and all his people and they possessed his land. Then, in the plains of Moab, Moses began to teach the new generation the lessons of Sinai and the wilderness wanderings. In this, the last encampment, several things happened. The people began to settle down and live in ease in the aftermath of their successful battles against Sihon and Og. On the one hand there were those who were seriously preparing themselves for the days ahead when they would possess the land across the Jordan, and on the other hand there were those who were content to be in the plains of Moab, so much so that it became questionable whether they would ever be able to rouse themselves and move forward to the 'Promise Land' in their lives! In the Book of Numbers, Chapter 23 through Chapter 25 we see what happened to the people of Israel in the plains of Moab.

We see that in the plains of Moab, 'Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.'¹ Israel began to indulge in many things of a carnal nature. One wonders how this happened among a people whom God had, a little earlier, given victory over the enemies. We read that the King of the Moabites called the prophet Balaam of Beor to speak against and curse the people of Israel. Balaam was summoned to speak words of destruction unto Israel so that the people may be destroyed and God's purposes would be nullified in His people. But Balaam was not able to speak against Israel. He said, 'How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? Or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied?'² Yet, the Word of God says that Balaam taught the king of Moab how to corrupt the people whom he could not curse. He encouraged the people of God to sacrifice to the gods of Moab. 'And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.'³ Balaam was a prophet who had turned away from the right path; he was only interested in marketing his own gift of prophecy, he was one who

was driven by a desire for the material things of this world in preference to godliness; God had to get a beast to speak to him and check his madness and lust for money offered by the Moabite king. In and through the counsels of false prophets and the enemies of God, the Israelites began to tempt the living God and finally they even departed from Him. All this happened while they were in the plains of Moab in their last and final encampment. Balaam knew that through his counsels the people of Israel would turn away from God and that this would anger the Lord. Balaam expected that God's anger would be roused against the people of Israel. He hoped that in God's anger toward Israel for their carnality and disobedience, God would finally destroy His own people and no one would enter the 'Promise Land'. This idea came from none other than the evil one whose real aim was that the purpose of God would be frustrated and none would enter into the inheritance of Canaan. O, how diabolical! How cunning and wicked! And the children of Israel co-operated with the enemy! They began to marry Moabite women in their lusts, they began to worship other gods and they began to tempt the living God. It happened in the days of Moses, in the forty-first encampment; and so also it is happening in the church today! There are many

•

warnings in the letters of the Apostle Paul to the churches regarding materialism and worldliness. By and large, believers today are careful not to bow down to idols made by the hands of man. The Balaam's of today, know that believers will not stoop down to such things in this day and age. So they have sought to deceive the people of God and to lead them astray in a variety of other ways. The enemies of God today use more sophisticated and subtle ways to lead believers into apostasy. Materialism and worldliness have gripped the lives of many who had once devoted their lives to the Lord.

Once when I was abroad, a foreigner remarked that there were many idols in India. He wondered if this doesn't adversely affect my ministry. I told him that the idolatry in India was really nothing compared to the idolatry in many of the developed Christian countries, where materialism and worldliness has caught everyone in a tight vice. O, beloved people of God, there seems to be a prevailing desire in the hearts of most believers to bow down before the idols of materialism, consumerism and worldliness. They have accepted the counsels and teaching of none other than Balaam in the plains of Moab. In these

•

last days, we can think of ourselves as being in the plains of Moab at the very borders of the 'Promise Land'. The evil one has no greater desire than to prevent us from entering that appointed place of God. He will use every trick in the book to deceive believers. Let us be doubly careful in this hour. God wants us to be a different people.

**A NEW GENERATION OF CONTENTED
PEOPLE**

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
1 Tim 6:6-11

Many believers have a false sense of security in this hour. They imagine nothing will happen to them if they are careful and disciplined. But God would like to tell them that in this forty-

first encampment, there would be many who will bow down to the idols of materialism and worldliness. They will not be content with what God has given them.

Contentment is a sense of inward sufficiency. The Word of God says that empty handed we came into the world and empty-handed, beyond question, we must leave. We can't carry away a single penny when we die. So we should be well satisfied if we have food and raiment. The word raiment means roof or shelter! It talks about a covering! We should be content having sustenance and covering for our families and for ourselves, for our God guarantees to provide this to His people. Jesus had no place to lay His head. But when He made a true and living way for us He made sure we always have a covering. He loves us so much that what He didn't have for Himself, He provides for us! The Church, the Bride of Christ shall be presented to the King in beautiful raiment's. ' She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.'⁴ Her head shall be covered with the beauty of her glory.

Many false prophets like Balaam have been brought into the forty-first encampment. They are ensnaring God's people into many unwise and harmful ambitions, which plunge people into destruction and ruin. In the midst of such traps and temptations we must be careful not to expose ourselves to all sorts of pernicious cravings and hurtful desires. The new generation has to be a different people – a people with a contended spirit, whose resources and strength are hid within.

We can have a very good idea about our inner cravings and coveting if we examine how we use our spare time. Do we spend our spare time to pursue after righteousness and godliness or do we spend our time and energy in the acquisition of material things?

What matters occupy our thoughts day and night?

Are we more concerned about the future and the kind of life we shall live tomorrow?

It is truly sad to see the way in which many believers plan their future. Recently I met a person who really loved the Lord and served Him diligently for many, many years. He had four children and a

good house in the Southern part of India. God had honored him and blessed him with good health and several other blessings. But when I met him, at the age of about eighty, all his grandiose plans for a happy and peaceful old age had been shattered. In his last days, there was no one to look after him and his wife. His youngest son and family were living in the same house but they lived apart, even cooking in a separate kitchen! The other sons had left for greener pastures several years earlier and were too involved in worldly pursuits to bother about their parents. All they were really concerned with was their due share of the father's property. What had really gone wrong? What happened to all that meticulous planning for his future? Though he had worshipped God in all sincerity, yet his whole life had been spent catering to his natural needs and the needs of his family. Oh, what a sad end of a life dedicated to the Lord. He failed to invest all he had in the Lord.

Let this small anecdote make us aware as to where our treasure is! We have brought nothing into this world nor can we carry anything away. In the midst of all the materialism, the fleshly cravings, the worldliness and the greed for better and better living, the avaricious and covetous longings of

people, let the new generation, be a people who are content with the food and the raiment that the Lord provides. And let us invest whatever the Lord has provided wisely so that it is multiplied by the Lord and ploughed back into the kingdom of God. Let us not waste our time and effort pursuing after worldliness instead of godliness!

LO! THE PEOPLE SHALL DWELL ALONE

*For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills
I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not
be reckoned among the nations. Numbers 23:9*

From the text of this verse we see that this was a prophesy by Balaam. Balaam had a heart that was terribly wicked; moreover, he had a greedy spirit. He reasoned with his natural mind that if Israel would be corrupt then their holy God would be forced to curse such a people as Israel. With this in mind he advised the King of Moab to tempt the Israelites. And we know that Israelites succumbed to the temptations and corrupted themselves in the eyes of God. Perhaps, Balaam would have liked to curse Israel but he found that he could not do so. It was the Lord who put a word in Balaam’s mouth (Numbers 23:5). He was unable to curse Israel.

Glory to God! The Lord defended and looked after His people in the forty-first camp. There is no doubt that the Israelites committed adultery and idolatry in Moab. But God’s purpose was not to be altered because of their failures. The Lord would surely discipline His people at the right time but here we see that God refused to bring his judgments upon the people. Instead, Balaam sees the whole Israelites camp from the mountain and testifies of their beauty, for the Lord Himself had given him a word. It was not Balaam’s opinion but that of the Lord. It was the Lord who saw His people in the plains of Moab and He saw a generation without iniquity. It is in this context that Balaam prophesied and said, ‘He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.’⁵ Let us take great encouragement from this. Let us not ever think, as many tend to do, that the Lord is always bringing judgments upon His people in righteous anger. Beloved, the Lord sees us with a heart of immense love. He knows when to chastise us, when to discipline us and when to encourage our feeble hearts, for He is compassionate and long suffering God. He upholds us when others would try to destroy us because of their envious hearts.

There is something else that we should notice in the prophecy by Balaam. Balaam saw the whole Israelite nation by his natural eyes, but in the spiritual it was a prophetic utterance concerning a new generation of corporate people- the new Israel, which is His church. In verse 9 we read that Balaam saw one man (notice the word 'him'). He saw one people. It is symbolic of God's people who have been fully united with Christ. By his spiritual eyes Balaam saw a company of the sons of God, a people without iniquity, spot or wrinkle. *Hallelujah.*

The prophecy tells us that the 'people shall dwell alone' and that 'they shall not be reckoned among the nations'. In the midst of all the materialism, we see today, in the church there shall be a people who shall be separated from the world and from the church that is going in the ways of the world. They shall not be a part of the systems of man.

When we think of those with whom we can move about with ease, there are just a few who come to mind, isn't it? We are in the world but not of the world. This is the testimony of the new generation. We are not reckoned as a part of the world or as those who are at ease in worldly

surroundings. Have you not found that you feel quite uncomfortable in the company of the people of this world whose only thought is to make money and yet more money? God is bringing about a deeper separation in the lives of all those who prefer to be of 'no reputation' and who shall not be reckoned with any group other than with the people of God, however few they may be. In the forty-first camp, God's Word over us is that we may be separated people unto God in the midst of a corrupt and material world.

HATH HE SAID, AND SHALL HE NOT DO IT?

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

Numbers 23:19-20

From the text we know that this was yet another prophesy by Balaam, concerning the children of Israel in the plains of Moab. Although Balaam desired to bring a curse upon Israel, yet the Lord put a word in His mouth and Balaam could not but bring a blessing upon Israel!

The enemies of God are united in their desire to prevent the people of God from entering into Canaan, the land of the fullness of Christ. They have one purpose in their hearts. Their aim is to somehow stop God's people from entering into this land. Despite the iniquities, the worldliness, the selfish and materialistic attitude of God's people; despite the extreme craftiness and shrewdness displayed by the power of darkness and the forces of evil in the earthly sphere, the Lord, our God stands strongly behind His people. Surely He alone is our defense. We would have succumbed to the wiles and the slyness of our enemies long ago had not the Lord been our strength and our fortress. In the midst of the perversion and corruption that surrounds us in this world, the Lord is faithful to His people.

God has determined in His heart to take His people to the land of fullness and abundance in Christ. From the foundation of the earth He has ordained and established this purpose. Therefore, He will never change this purpose in Christ Jesus, His Son. He will never reverse it. He has blessed us in and through His beloved Son and He will not reverse it. *Hallelujah*. He has spoken His Word that He will take His people unto maturity; that He will

bring them to a place of sonship in Christ; that His church will be without spot and wrinkle upon this earth, that He will have a people who will manifest His Son and be sons unto Him; beloved people of God, no one can change it; no one can reverse it – neither the Balaam's of this present time nor the powers and principalities in heavenly places, nor Satan and his cohorts. The Lord has said prophetically, "I have blessed them" No one can stop God from fulfilling His purposes.

When we talk about these purposes of God we often face heavy artillery fire from the enemy! We come across great opposition. It is true that people accuse us of being haughty, judgmental, without love and compassion, Pharisaical, presumptuous etc. They indict us, they censure us. "Who do you think you are?" they say, "Hardly a handful of you and yet you make such tall claims! You think you've come to a place where even the early apostles did not walk! Do you think that you could come into a realm in God that even great men in church history never came into?" The accusations are many. There is no defense against such diatribe. God alone is our defense. All that one can say is that God has spoken. He shall bring it to pass. He alone can vindicate His words. He has blessed a

generation and He shall fulfill all that He has said in a generation. *Amen.* This has nothing to do with what we desire. It is God's desire that shall be fulfilled in a glorious church without spot and wrinkle, in a people who shall be without fault before the throne of God. This cannot be reversed for it is His pleasure. *Hallelujah.* It is certainly not a matter of our worthiness or our ability. It is God's glorious name that is at stake! We thank God that He has chosen the foolish to reveal His wisdom, for at best we are a foolish people who grapple with things unseen. But glory is to God who purposes and who also establishes that which He has formed.

God the Father has purposed all things in Christ. By the falling down of one grain of corn into the earth there will rise up a harvest upon the earth in the likeness of the Seed. Who can stop this from being fulfilled for it is borne of the Spirit? The heavenly Zerubabel, the Lord Jesus Christ, has laid an eternal foundation for a building, even His church, by bringing Himself as a Stone (that the builders rejected!). And the time is coming when the heavenly Zerubabel with shouts, "Grace! Grace! Grace!" will place the capstone upon the building and bring it to completion. He who placed the first stone will also place the last stone upon the building.

And there shall be an assembling of the priests in the temple and they shall blow the trumpets together signifying the end of the things of the flesh. And lo! The building will be completed and the glory of the Lord shall fill it. *Hallelujah!* God has purposed this and who can change it? Who can reverse that which has been initiated and built, stone upon stone, by the Spirit? May the Spirit of God bring these prophetic words to pass. Not all may understand, not all may yet grasp the deeper purposes of God, for we have only seen that which has been His pleasure to reveal, but nevertheless, it shall all come to pass and the zeal of the Lord shall perform it.

The Word says that this new generation will be free from every enchantment and divination of the enemy, 'there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!' ⁶ The world will look upon them with awe, respect and wonder and they will proclaim, in utter amazement, "Look at what the Lord has wrought in a people? Look at what the living God has wrought in the lives of this people?" Glory to God! This prophecy will come to pass because the Lord will make it good in this new generation.

Balaam saw 'Israel abiding in his tents'! The Spirit of God came upon him and he burst out in praise of Israel. 'How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters.'⁷ Here we see God prophetically looking much beyond the times of Moses and Balaam.

There shall be a people who shall dwell by the river's side. This has been God's desire from the beginning of creation for it is written, 'The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed...and a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.'⁸ This was the first home of man before the fall. This was the vision of the goodly tents besides the waters that Balaam saw; this is the final resting place for man, the place for God's 'many membered man'. The new generation of Spirit born people! 'And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.'⁹ The rivers that flow from the throne of God water the garden. We are a planting of the Lord in this garden that He may be glorified. The eternal

•

purpose of God is that He may dwell in the midst of His people - a people fashioned by His Spirit - in the abundant garden of the Lord. God shall be exalted. His seed shall be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it. And there shall be a new heaven and a new earth! And we shall reign with Him forever and ever. And the nations shall say, 'look what God hath wrought?'

A TOTAL VICTORY

The Lord has purposed a complete possession of the 'Promise Land', the very heavenlies! Beloved let us know that the warfare in the heavenlies has for a battleground, the body, soul and spirit of man! As we grow up 'unto Him' in all things, we must come to the place where we do not give any foothold to Satan, no ground on which he can make a claim.

It is very interesting to read in the Scriptures that there will be those who have the seal of the living God on their foreheads. This seal signifies the mind of Christ. 'I heard the number of them, which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.'¹⁰ This is the realm of spiritual battles in the heavenlies! God has called

•

us to have a complete victory. And as victory is attained here in the heavenlies, there shall be ultimate victory for the soul and the body! This is God's order, for we read in the Word, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."¹¹

Beloved, there have been limited conquests in the past. But we want to encourage those hearts among us who are crying out unto God for an abundant life, and say that God shall bring you into that fullness which He has promised. 'The LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.'¹² God's Word was fulfilled in the natural. Yet the Apostle Paul takes it up again in the book of Hebrews and says, 'for we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh

day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.'¹³ Here we see very clearly that Joshua did not bring them to a rest otherwise God would not have spoken 'there remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God'. Therefore it is very clear that our heritage remains yet unconquered! It is yet to be possessed!

'The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.'¹⁴ And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.'¹⁵

The rest still remains unfulfilled, yet available! And the promise of God is 'some must enter therein'.

A WORD OF CAUTION

They to whom the promise was first made did not enter in because of unbelief. They doubted the Lord who brought them till the very borders of the 'Promise Land'. They questioned His command to enter in, they had reservations about His assurance. They hesitated in entering into the land. In their unbelief, they sent the spies to spy the land, for 40 long days, they tried the Lord! God's wrath was kindled against that unbelieving generation! 'After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.'¹⁶ What an indictment! Their progress came to a standstill! Though they journeyed they did not progress! From that day their journeys were not to the land! How tragic! They were merely marking time! They were just filling days! But from that day, there arose another generation! A new generation destined to the 'Promise Land!' 'But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.'¹⁷ While the new generation was destined to enter in, the old generation merely became a part of the

crowd, their destiny was not the 'Promise Land', they were not moving towards the land! They were with that new generation but they will not make it to the land! Beloved, those who began well, now became a part of the crowd! They were just spending their days without making it to the end! What a tragedy! But a new generation was moving on to the vision, to the land, to their destiny. *Hallelujah*

This is so true even today. A majority, a generation who had begun well, with a genuine desire for the Lord are just filling their days while a new generation is moving on in Him and journeying to their destiny.

In the Old Testament times their journeyings meant physical moving from one place to another. But in our dispensation, our journeyings are in a spiritual way. When we read through the New Testament we learn that our 'going on' spiritually means obeying what the Lord speaks to us! Saints of God, we do not move on merely by hearing or even by being told! We do not become this new generation merely because we have read about it or heard about it. No. The Lord may speak to us, we may hear His word, we may hear all the teachings He gives us. We may know the truth.

We may have had it for many years. Yet with all that, we may be standing still, we may be like that old generation who were inching closer to their grave and further and further from their calling! So moving on is not a matter of knowing what the truth is! It is neither knowing what He says! It is a matter of obeying what He says. Moving on in Him is a matter of doing what He says. That is the only way for 'going on' or for true progression!

Today, there are those who hear the truth, know it and even can share and teach it to others. But they are not moving on in the Lord. Yet there are those who are not only hearing the truth and what He says, but obeying His voice in their lives and they are the new generation, moving on to their destiny and land in Christ. Oh! May God help you and me! God wants all to go on but He does not push any one!

So how are we to go on? You and I need to quietly be in His presence and say to Him, "Lord, you have spoken this to me (It may have been a week back, a month back or months back or even a year back. But the Lord has spoken , He has touched your life, He has revealed His mind through His word) and Lord I want to obey this, that and

the other thing." You and I may know a mountain of truth and yet may not be going on and the presence of the Lord may not be with us. You may till the years of your spiritual life with teachings, but you may still be years behind! You have not moved on. The presence of the Lord is power, holiness and life. The presence of the Lord is so practical! The Lord says , "I have spoken this to you, you have heard it, you have rejoiced in it. You have said it is true and is the truth. You thanked me for it, but what have you done about it?"

True spiritual progress and the presence of the Lord depends upon bringing everything we have heard up-to-date in obedience! We read the exhortation in the New Testament, 'today'. All our progress for the future depends upon what we are doing with what we know now! The Lord is with those who are going on, obeying His voice. Our growing knowledge of the Lord depends entirely upon our daily obedience to the light. If I ask you as a reader your desire, you will say that you want to go on in the Lord. No one will say he does not want to go on. But that is not enough. Mere saying it won't do, something has to be done. The truth we hear cannot be put into the storehouse of our knowledge any longer! No. You and I have to

seek His face and know what it means and what He requires of us! Thus He is made real and living in our lives!

Saints of God, this progression is by His presence! This new generation, this remnant of God will have to be on the ground of obedience! That is how this new generation will journey on to the land of promise. His manifest presence will be their portion! The Lord is raising this new generation in this hour ! Will you be part of this new generation? May the Holy Spirit help you to settle this question in your heart so that you are found in that company!

In this day! In the day of God’s promise, if you can hear His voice. Yes it is in this ‘today’, when God’s people will hear His voice and follow on in the pathway of perfect obedience. Beloved, we know that this is that ‘today’ because we are hearing what the Spirit is saying in this hour about the impending victory and the possessing of the land!!

Let us ‘now therefore arise and go over’, O, new generation, who hear the voice of the Lord in this hour. *Amen*

Lord delight in us;

And bring us into this land;

And give us this land,

That flows with milk and honey

Lord delight in us!

-
- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Numbers 25:1-2 | 10. Revelations 7:4 |
| 2. Numbers 23:8 | 11. 1Thessalonians 5:23 |
| 3. Numbers 25:3 | 12. Joshua 21: 44, 45 |
| 4. Psalms 45:14 | 13. Hebrews 4:3-9 |
| 5. Numbers 23:21 | 14. Romans 13:12 |
| 6. Numbers 23:23 | 15. Romans 16:20 |
| 7. Numbers 24:5-6 | 16. Numbers 14:34 |
| 8. Genesis 2:8, 10 | 17. Numbers 14:31-32 |
| 9. Revelations 22:1 | |

