

## Preface to "Walking In The Reign"

The following writing is what I hope one day will be a book inspired by my own journey to understand the Kingdom of God and His Church. I especially write in hopes of my children, real or in the faith, and their children and children's children in hopes of giving them reason to not abandon faith and salvation as foolish fable.

I understand the difficulty in trusting and believing in the institution called 'church' in its fractured state of existence. Not only is the church divided hopelessly into a myriad of denominations and sects and non denominational entities but so are the teachings of each. What I hope to convey is the reality that there is a universal church that consists of those who have been saved. Saved or purchased or redeemed (however you wish to term it) is by the Blood of Jesus and by their faith in Him as Lord and Savior. Truly it is God who does the saving.

In truth, everyone who has been saved through Jesus has been added to the Church universal regardless what church they worship with or belong to. Each church, by whatever they have called themselves, is not without their problems. This work is to help bring some clarity in regards to what the real Church is and what the Lord and God of that Church expects of His people. If you are saved, then you belong to that Church. Paul insisted in his letter to the Romans that "Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him" (Romans 8:9b)

John and Paul speak about you in regards to your position in this life on earth and your responsibility to your Lord and God and His name is Jesus. Let me encourage you to read and investigate in God's Word the following short treatise and see if what is written is reasonable and true to Scripture.

Blessings to you in Jesus' name. Michael L. Hesterman

## **"Walking In The Reign"**

What is Jesus' Job?

(right now: 2021/22)

We know that back almost 2000 years ago Jesus came for the express purpose of establishing forgiveness of sins. **John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (ESV)* And **Acts 4:12** *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. (NIV)* That was His job. You could ask: what His job description looked like? The answer would be staggering. Consider every prophecy He had to fulfill<sup>1</sup> and every sin He had to resist<sup>2</sup> and every word He was commanded to utter to satisfy the Father's demands.

**John 12:49** *"For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak."* (ESV)

Consider every act of kindness as He healed and drove out demons.<sup>3</sup> Consider the other great miracles and wonders He performed for God's purpose and glory.<sup>4</sup> Consider too the labor of teaching disciples for their task of becoming Apostles. **John 17:6** *"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. 8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have*

*received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. (ESV)*

All of these things that we know He did were all done for the express purpose of redemption. That was His job in becoming a man like all the rest of humanity; the job of establish salvation for the world.

After Jesus was resurrected from death and the grave and after He had demonstrated and proved the absoluteness of His being alive He then ascended up into the Heavens.<sup>5</sup> It was then, just prior to His ascension that He revealed that He was given all authority in Heaven and earth.

*Mat.28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (ESV)*

After going up into heaven He was placed upon the throne of the Father to do what? (it is at that point in time Jesus' new job was established and given to Him.) *Eph.1:19b-21 That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. (NIV)*

Consider what His job is and what His job description looks like as He fulfills His purpose as King eternal. John in Revelation 1:5 refers to Jesus as King of kings. *"Jesus Christ, who is the*

*faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.” He is just that, King of kings!*

There are so many questions that should be asked. For instance: It is easily shown what Jesus' job was when he came to earth as a man almost 2000 years ago but why was that His job? What I mean is this: His coming and successfully establishing the means through which a person can be saved is wonderful, but why do it? Not just why but what was His ultimate purpose for doing so? God likely could have chosen a different method to save but He chose the way He did because He had a greater agenda than just forgiving us our sins. Now the question becomes: What was God's agenda for saving humanity thru the process that He chose with its specific outcome? Yes, I too have an agenda for asking. God chose to save mankind in a specific way with a specific outcome for a specific reason. *(Saving mankind is of course only those men and woman who accepted God the Father's offer of salvation thru the means offered in Jesus Christ)*

## **Chapter 2 God's Agenda**

In answering the question: What is Jesus' job right now in 2\_\_ \_\_? *(what ever year you are reading this)* First it would be good to address the reasons for God choosing the method thru which He chose to save humanity. *(All humanity has the availability to be saved. They must follow the prescribed (recorded) method thru which God chose how He would save. If God's process is not followed then it is plausible to conclude they are not saved.)*

What Jesus is doing right now in 2017 as I write this is intimately connected to why God chose how He saves and the reason why He saves in that prescribed method. Ultimately these answers will lead us to what Jesus is doing right now and how that affects us as His children.

Jesus job right now, to some degree, is dependent upon what His current nature is. Before Jesus became man He was God without form or substance.<sup>6</sup> Then Jesus became man, God in flesh. This was in my opinion the greatest of Jesus' sacrifices because in becoming flesh He committed Himself to an existence intimately connected to His own creation. In essence Jesus committed Himself to being trapped in substance, time and space just like you and I. It gets worse; if He had failed in His attempt to live sinless He would have been trapped in the same fate as all humanity. (Death Eternal) All God's eggs were in one basket: Jesus!

The good news is that Jesus did in fact succeed and thru the power of God's resurrection He then became a brand new entity: "The Firstborn from the dead." Col.1:18 ***And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*** A brand new creation if you will. It is in this form that HE currently serves in His job. (Don't give up, this is where the news is going to get better yet, especially for you, me and potentially for all humanity.)

Jesus' job has been different over the ages. Before creation He was involved in the planning and designing stage of His job. From there they moved into the work of creation. Six days after that they rested. I say they because we perceive God in plurality. (The Triune God: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit) The first glimpse of this is lost to us in English but Genesis 1:1ff begins with "and God" (Elohiem) in the original Hebrew "Gods." We would understand this as the earliest of references to the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit.

After the job of design and then the execution of that design which was the six days of creation there was the day of

rest. I suppose it is best to defend the statement that there was this pre-creation episode of activity I have called "design". Consider God's questioning Job in Job Chapter 38 and 39. All of God's questions speak of design before form.

Several other passages lend to this understanding as well. 1Pet.1:20 speaks of Jesus the perfect sacrifice known before the foundation of the world. ***1Pt.1:20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.*** There are several other passages which shall be used shortly for another argument. Jesus, the Son, begins his work (job) in Design, followed by six days of creating. After which there was a day of rest from the work of Their labors. Other tasks follow in Jesus' pre-incarnate state. (*A Theophany - God sighting*) That I will leave till later too.

We could spend some time talking about what Jesus' job entailed but we would have to spend a vast amount of time explaining what the physical presences of God was throughout the Old Testament, which would be greater than the scope of this brief discussion. Jesus was the "Rock" that accompanied the Israelites through the desert, among other instances.

The theological idea of Jesus, the Son, in His pre-incarnate form is referred to as a theophany. Any time that God manifested Himself in a physical human form such as one of the angels (men) who visited Abraham, that is believed to be the Son. (Jesus before He became flesh.)

Moving forward to Jesus' ascension. Jesus, after His resurrection was referred to later as being "the first born from the dead" (Col.1:18; Rev.1:5, there are more similar references which we will touch on later) Jesus in establishing salvation was in fact, in doing so, primarily establishing the means through which God desired to bring about something new or different.

Jesus, in establishing the means for the rest of humanities salvation, did in fact become the very first one. Everyone who accepts God's offer of redemption or favor crosses over from old to new. (From Death to Life) What Jesus is, so we too are becoming; this brand new thing! *(Let that sink in a bit before we flesh this idea out more clearly.)*

What Jesus' job is right now is intimately linked to what the finished work of His last job was. Jesus came to establish salvation for humanity! That was His job! What Jesus had to do to complete that task/job is the stuff that the Gospel accounts are written full of. His being resurrected was the final, finishing work of that job.

Had Jesus not done His job to perfection, the resurrection (remember that Jesus' resurrection was not the same as being brought back to life like Lazarus and the others. It was radically different.) would not and could not have taken place. Death has a legal right to everyone who sins. Had Jesus failed to live righteously, Death could have legally kept Him. It was the law, no exceptions. And no, I don't want to talk about Enoch or Elijah. They are different too.

Salvation is a past tense, finished work! Jesus is no longer doing that. All who are now being saved are only accessing a finished work in order to gain the promised, present and future results. It is this ongoing result that involves Jesus' present job. Jesus did not and may not or might not ever return to what He was before He became this "New Creation". This is what makes Him qualified for what He is now doing.

Some of what Jesus is doing now is all in service to His primary job. Yes, He works or labors as High Priest. This facet of His duties involves the mediation of our persistent daily sins. Remember that His death sacrifice was a once and forever thing.

His death has provided for all time forgiveness of sin. But since then (His death and resurrection) He takes His stand between man and the Father but this is only one of His duties. This duty is in service to or for man to maintain peace between God and the redeemed.

Another facet of Jesus' duties involves His being King. Both priest and king are integral in His fulfilling His primary job and ultimate purpose. Both are positions of responsibility and authority that involve the human element; His human element and ours! He is, because of His having been one of us, aptly suited to carry out both roles for our benefit. Empathy at its highest level: total identification.

***HEB 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.***

His pre-resurrected humanity qualified Him to be the sacrifice. His resurrected God in human flesh qualify Him to represent us as priest and rule over us as King. The reason why there is a difference between the lost and saved needs addressing. There is a qualitative difference.



To explain the qualitative difference, consider this picture



of a random guy wearing a shirt with the "superman" emblem on it: what can you tell about this fellow from the picture or even if you ran into him on the street? Is he saved or lost? Is he superman? There are hundreds of questions you might think of but looking at him or his picture reveals little truth about the man. He is of course not 'superman' the comic book legend.

At some point in the future God the Father is going to tell His Son Jesus, who is now currently ruling all of creation, to return to earth for judgment. Jesus and the heavenly angels, who are a little below Jesus and a little above us humans in design, will then burst forth into the sky, trumpets blasting, to separate the lost from the saved (redeemed) I can not see what the harvesters of humanity (the angels) are looking for with my human eyes but the angels can. It is their task, at that moment, to make distinction between the two kinds of people.

What the angels are in fact looking for is the "mark of purchase" found on/in everyone who has been purchased by the blood of the lamb. ***Col.1:21b He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*** The "mark" is of course the Spirit of the living God within each of the redeemed. The lost do not have it: Do you? Back to the fellow in the picture! He would tell you that his shirt is correct but the "S" does not stand for "super" but rather "supra-man". Meaning that he is more than human because he is redeemed (saved) and being saved, indwelt by

the Holy Spirit of God which makes him more than human because of the metamorphosis taking place within him by the work and hand of God. If you have been purchased by the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus the Christ, then you too are "Supra-human".

Saving humanity, at least those who have willingly accepted being purchased and have submitted themselves to Jesus' Lordship, was not a contingency plan. The saved are purchased. ***Rev.5:9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.*** Remember earlier it was said that there was a planning session before there was a creation activity? God made plans to save humanity in the prescribed way for the specific outcome. He had a plan, no surprises.

Jesus was supposed to become a brand new creation. And HE did! A never ever before existed living entity. Every person who was, is and will be purchased will become or is becoming this "new creation being" also. The evidence found in scripture suggests that His whole creating endeavor was aimed at accomplishing this metamorphic state of life. Yes, metamorphic! That is the word Paul used to describe what is taking place in all Christians. (2Cor.3:18) transformed = μεταμορφώω = metamorphoo

Be mindful that God designed and communicated the method or process that mortal, sinful, fallen human beings must go through so that they might become this new creation. They must be re-birthed. Jesus insists that a person must be re-birthed or born again if they are going to see the Kingdom of Heaven.

***JN 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." JN 3:5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.***

**6 *Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.* 7 *You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'***

The outcome is a God thing; the submitting to His prescribed procedure is a human thing. When a person submits to God's prescribed method or plan then God is free to execute His power to re-birth. ***Jn.3:6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*** We know that this is a God thing because God is Spirit. I can not effect this change and neither can you.

How do we know that God was aiming for this *supra-human* being? We know because of what Apostle Paul says: ***Eph.1:4 Before the creation of the world, he chose us through Christ to be holy and perfect in his presence.*** (God's Word Trans.) #\*

God was seeing the redeemed, (people transformed into new creatures because of Jesus' finished work of the cross and its planned effects upon those who respond) out in the future before He even created anything. We, the redeemed in Christ Jesus, are the finished product of His creation endeavor. Be mindful that the redeemed are not totally finished until resurrected. It must also be remembered that without being redeemed the transformation will not happen. His goal was to convert fallen human beings into what Jesus now is. Wow! *Supra cool!* Fallen humanity is, if you can accept it, the raw material for God's desired product: the "new creation" in Christ Jesus.

Jesus' job now is multifaceted but how each of these facets is connected to His primary objective will be looked at a little later. Jesus' primary objective/job is: ***For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*** 1Co.15:25 (Other passages that speak of His reigning: 1Co.15:27; Eph.1:22; Heb.2:8)

When you look at these passages you will see some of those facets including Jesus' role as Head of the Church. (Universal Church inclusive of all saved peoples) In the verse highlighted previously you will note Jesus' primary job is to subdue all resistance to the sovereignty of the Father's Throne. What is the resistance or enemies to God's sovereignty? Everyone in the Church was at one time enemies against God's sovereignty but have willingly submitted to and become subject to His rule and reign over their lives. (It good and necessary to make that choice while in the land of the living because it can't be made after) Every un-submitted person in the world is in fact a resister (enemy) against His sovereignty.

It was in God's plan for Jesus to become like us humans. As human to go thru life and death and succeed in being resurrected so that He could become this "new creation". Why? Because it made sense to God in His design and planning that He that rules should be the same as they who are ruled. (read Hebrews to see glimpses of this logic)

There is something grand in all this; way bigger than this "church" thing we do on Sundays. Remember that Jesus is King of kings? (Rev.1:5-6) The active part of what Jesus is currently doing now in 2017 (or what ever year you may be reading this) has to do with His being Head of the Church. This will be defined by what He has the Church doing. No, not so much what is done on Sunday but has more to do with Jesus being King of kings? What?

This next section is going to be a huge step in helping to see what Jesus is doing now but what He is doing is dependent upon what is happening on earth with His "Church". (The redeemed)

**Rev.1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us**

from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Notice in this KJV passage from Revelation that Jesus is Prince of the kings of the earth. Who are these kings? Second, notice that this same Jesus who is ruler of the kings also made the 'saved' kings and priests. So who are these kings of earth? And what or who are these priests? I would suggest that the two references to "kings" are the same people: the redeemed, those who are yet on earth amongst the land of the living.

Two other passages are going to contribute to this line of thinking. (Connecting the dots if you will)

1. Rom.5:17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provisions of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. (NIV) We see in this passage 3 things, one being dependent upon the other two.

- Those who receive the abundance of grace
- Those who also receive the gift of righteousness.

These people (those who have been redeemed) who have received the abundant provisions of grace and the gift of righteousness are the ones who: "reign in life." So I ask you, who are these kings? Answer: They are the same ones who are "reigning" as kings on earth.

2. Rev.5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." (NIV) (Compare verse 10

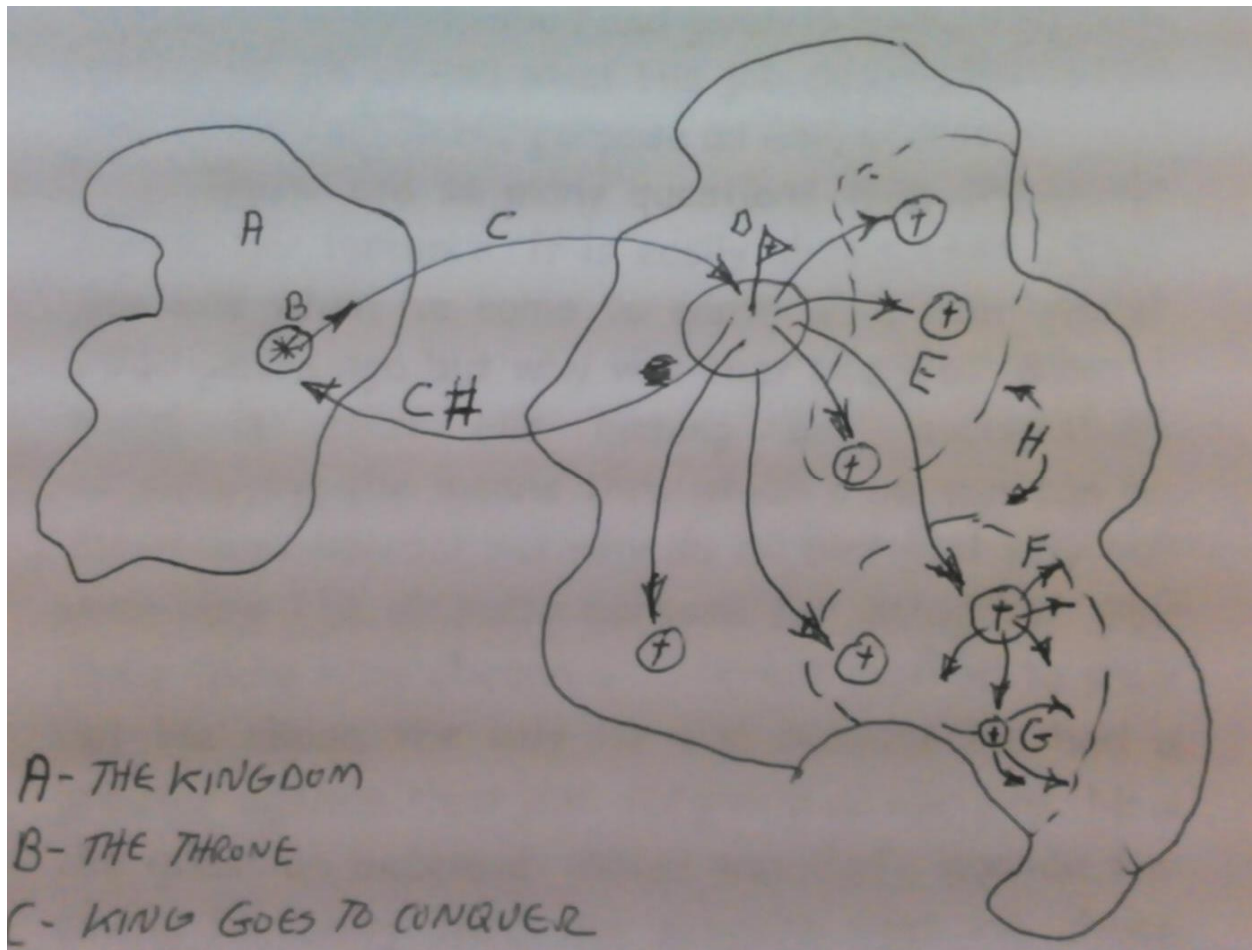
*from the KJV "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.")*

We see in this passage a similar language to Romans 5:17 and Revelation 1:5-6. Here we see the ones purchased by the blood of the Lamb are made a kingdom (kings) and priests and they "reign on the earth."

When we put these passages together we see something going on, or at least is suppose to be going on, on earth, by the Church. That is those who have been redeemed or purchased by the blood of the Lamb. This "reigning" business must and will be dealt with next.

Let me try and put this in perspective by painting a verbal picture from which to describe what Jesus did and is doing and what we are, or should be, doing.

Think of the glorious days of King Author and his conquest to take back his territory once having been lost to another, a usurper. See drawing below:



- A. The Kingdom
- B. The Throne of the Kingdom
- C. The King goes to conquer evil kingdom and overthrow the evil king. (C.# after the King establishes the kingdom He returns to His throne to rule both kingdoms.)
- D. King conquers and establishes kingdom (leaves regents in place to expand kingdom)
- E. Every new subject given authority to be kings and priests (given charge to expand territory or dominion in the name of the King and teach about the glories and expectations of the King)
- F. Every new subject given authority to be kings and priests (given charge to expand territory or dominion in the name of the King)
- G. Same as E. and F. and so on
- H. Collective gathering of the kings in each given territory to honor the King and maintain His Authority

God sent Jesus to a wicked, perverse and hostile world in order to defeat the evil ruler and establish the Kingdom of Light, the Church universal. Mission accomplished, beachhead secured, evil ruler defeated and faithful subjects given authority and a charge (commission) "Go and Make" ... The truth is, like King Author might have done, God is only taking back or regaining what is rightfully His: the world lost to satan, (not capitalized on purpose) fear, sin, and death.

Now that you have studied King Author's picture you can make comparison to what Jesus accomplished when He came as man. Be mindful of this; Jesus came to conquer fear, sin, death and the devil. To what has man, since the beginning of time, been ruled or enslaved by? Those things just mentioned! Did Jesus come to establish a throne over a physical kingdom? No. It is Spiritual Kingdom but has lasting residual, physical effects.

Jesus came into the world and established His Kingdom, a Kingdom where fear, sin, death and the devil have no authority to rule. None! The gospel message is God's invitation to humanity to escape the tyrannical rule of satan and renounce citizenship from the kingdom of darkness so that one can enter and be a part of the Kingdom of Light. A citizen of God's Kingdom of the Son He loves. This offer is real and tangible with great blessings to be gained! Gained blessings not only in this life but far greater blessings in the one to come.

To refuse God's invitation is to willingly maintain allegiance and citizenship with the devil and the kingdom of darkness. The grave and terrible danger in refusing is that satan, the evil one or the devil, is already defeated and condemned. All who remain aligned in their allegiances with him will also gain his judgment



because they are already condemned as sinners. Their fate is sealed.

Enough of their bad news. The following is what it means to now be a citizen of the Kingdom of light. Remember the "Supra-man" comments? Jesus established salvation, a one time, past tense, deal with forward, future, continuous tense effect. Everyone who submits themselves to Jesus' established provisions of salvation crosses over from death to life. (see John 3:36; 5:24)

In this crossing over from death to life the person gains forgiveness, a cleansing of the person, not the physical but Spiritual, inner person. This cleaned (by God) person now is a vessel fit for the Spirit of God to be fused (I lack a right word here) with the persons soul/spirit. This joining of God's Spirit and man's marks the person (visibly by God and Angels) as having been purchased or redeemed by Jesus' purchasing price, His spilt blood.

***Eph.1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.***

From that moment of crossing over from death to life and from darkness to light, the person then begins to undergo a metamorphosis that will culminate in the resurrection as it did for Jesus. Jesus, as was previously shown, was the first born from the dead. In reference to the resurrected from the dead, Jesus' was different than every other person who was brought back to life as recorded for us in Scripture or He would not be the "first". The most famous person brought back to life from the dead would likely be Lazarus, Jesus friend. (see John 11)

Between the crossing over and the final transformation to follow after our physical death, we are given, as new citizens of the Kingdom of God/Light, some things that we are to be doing. These things are inclusive of everyone: be priests and be rulers (kings). Be mindful that what Jesus is doing is intimately connected to what His Church is doing. Let me explain:

Recall Rev.1:5-6 where Jesus is referred to as "Ruler (King) of the kings of the earth" (verse 5) and "made us kings and priests" (verse 6) Jesus has done this, even if you are unaware. Recall also Rev.5:9-10 where the text explains in the new song that those who were purchased by His blood were made (because of being purchased) "kings and priests" and "they will reign upon the earth." (Reading in KJV) And while you have your bible out look also at Rm.5:17 to see that those who are recipients of God's abundant provisions of grace and the gift of righteousness "reign (rule) in life". Who reigns except a king or queen, prince or princess?

So what is this "reigning" or "ruling" business? Before a person was saved or redeemed they were in fact enslaved. Not only did salvation set a person free but thru the salvation process God made the person His child. That person is now Jesus' sibling (kid brother or sister). As a child of God the person is now called to rule or reign thru Christ Jesus but over what? (Princes and princesses, wow.)

The first domain to rule over is the flesh that so willingly resisted and resists being subject to God. We are called to bring our fleshly appetites under the subjection and will of our Lord Jesus. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> level of subjugation we are called to rule over, under the authority of our King (Jesus). The next larger circle of rule goes beyond our own flesh. This ruling over our own flesh has a huge impact on every other place we strive to rule

over. If the change in rulership over our lives, when we submit to Jesus, is not visible and apparent to those around us, it will undermine our/your influence. If the claim is made, "I have been saved!" but the flesh still rules all life's decisions, how can anyone say "Jesus is my Lord now!"? The first order of business is to cast off and cast out all things that do not submit to the Lordship of Jesus.

I understand it is an ongoing battle for control of ones life and so does Jesus. (Part of what Jesus is doing right now is interceding Romans 8:34) The next advancement of the subjugation and defeat of the enemies of Christ and His cross, (sounds ominous don't it?) is the closest circle of influence and responsibility around you, the person.

Family, Friends, home and work! These areas are affected most by the change in the Lordship over a person's life. How a husband treats his wife and children. How a wife treats her husband and children. How a husband rules his house. The kinds of things that must no longer happen in the home and the things that now needs to be done. The same for how a transformed person now behaves in the work place. (There is so much that needs to said here.)

Remember that Jesus' primary job is subduing the elements of resistance to the sovereign will of the Father? The redeemed are His ambassadors of good will and the Church is the embassy. The war is spiritual for overcoming the enemies of the cross. (more to be said here)

As a prince/ruler/king/son of God/brother or sister to Jesus, you have a new life to live. As you step away from your old, dead, enslaved way of living into the new, living, powerful and free way, you must remember who you are. You were called into God's

kingdom, rescued through His power and love, invested with authority and purpose; you His child!

So how does one "reign in life" and "reign on earth"? Stay connected to and focused on the Author and Perfector of our faith; Jesus the new Adam, the First Born from the dead; the Lamb that was slain and with His blood you were purchased.

Start with the territories of the heart and mind! Take captive your thoughts. Resist the overthrow of your affections and desires and wants, they are now to be the Lord Jesus' and must reflect that. How? By prayer, study, devotion, fellowship! These keep you growing as a babe in Christ grows from milk to meat. They also engage the activity of our Lord Jesus. So what is Jesus doing in 2023 or what ever year you are reading this? What have you been asking Him to do? Frivolous and base or exalted? Just how big is your God?

Jesus did not die on the cross so you could become a church member. I am not interested in what church affiliation you belong to. (Ok I am interested, I have my preferences but that isn't the point) The point is that Jesus died to save humanity, the very same reason God the Father sent Him. Jesus built His church as a militant body of believers who no longer are under the control and servitude of satan.

Why do I say militant body? Jesus told Peter that He (Jesus) would build His church and the gates of Hades would not prevail against it. The Church is to be advancing against the gates! And the gates can not/will not stand! That is militant. Jesus came to conquer and the church (the body of all believers, the redeemed) is His army that is advancing against the gates of hell and they will not stand the assault.

The Gospel message, the very Word of God, the Sword of the Lord! All who submit to the gospel call gain redemption and

are added to the Book of Life and to the army of the Lord. They, each and everyone, are given authority to reign/rule over, thru the name of Jesus, every facet of their lives for His glory, for the expansion of the Kingdom of Light and for the defeat and subduing of all elements of resistance to His (Jesus') and the Father's sovereign will.

Is there a part of your life that still behaves or calls you to act like you did when you were lost? The enemy lost any legal right to you as their property because you were purchased by Jesus blood. Purchased lock, stock and barrel! You have the authority to stand toe to toe with satan himself and tell him to go and take his garbage with him. In Jesus name get out, let go and be gone. Retake the lost ground of your life. Reign! In Jesus name, Reign!

As a side note, going to worship service every Sunday is more important than you might think. Especially if you are one of those poor folk who believe satan's lie that you can be just as good a Christian without going to worship services. No You Can't! It is a lie! The fellowship of the saints is more vital to Christian health and well being than two parents are to a growing child. Just because you don't understand the value of either of those, it doesn't mean that their value is of little consequence. God instituted both because of their value and commanded both for the same reason, they are necessary. End of side note.

There is a lot that could be said at this point about how to live as prince/ruler/king over your life, and every facet of your circle of influence, but will limit it for now to the following: "fruit of the Spirit"

Because a person is redeemed they are given the indwelling Spirit of God that marks them as purchased. (now owned by Jesus) The lost do not have it and can not produce it! Paul insists that if you do not have the Spirit of Christ you are not one of His.

(Romans 8:9) This is true, take it to heart! Paul also tells us that the Spirit has fruit. That is there are evidences that the Spirit is growing and flourishing in the redeemed person. Paul uses the term "fruit" singularly but lists multiple attributes or facets of this singular fruit.

**Gal.5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (ESV)**

What you need to know is that these Spirit born attributes are diametrically and radically different than their counterparts found in the un-regenerated, unsaved state of existence of the lost. The lost do not have this fruit because it is a product of the Spirit that God causes to live within His purchased people. What the world (the lost) has in regards to these attributes is what is remnant in humanity because of who we were created in the image of to begin with. It is no wonder these Godly traits show up in diluted form in fallen mankind since we were created in His image and likeness. (Gen.1:26-27)

#### Intro to Fruit of the Spirit-The Light Within

(John 1:1-13) In Verse 5 John tells us that "the light shines in the darkness but the darkness has not understood it." There is more to light than what meet the human eye. We know John is writing about something more than natural light. Even so, by comparison, truths about the spiritual world can be gained in observation of the physical world.

Light teaches us what the fuel is that is burning within its source. It takes special tools to see what is imbedded in the light; this light signature is the code that shows what it is made of. A spectrograph or spectroscope is just such a tool to analyze light.

A prism is also an example of a tool used to examine light signatures.

Science teaches us that light has certain qualities that can be examined and in so doing teach us many things. We know that every element burns with its own color signature. That color, when found in a particular light source, then tells us what the chemical/elemental is that is burning within the light.

1John 1:5 tells us that "God is Light." John goes on to communicate to the reader that light can reveal some things of value. (Verses 6-7) A person walking in this light must practice truth, must be in fellowship, and is made clean from their sins. What that means is that walking in the light verses walking in the dark improves the quality of ones fellowship, improves ones handling of truth, and improves ones sin state by reducing sin.

I do not like the idea that I am darkness. (Lk.11:34-36) I much prefer to be light. So if I desire to be light and not dark, the conclusion I am willing to draw is that I must get God since He is Light. Humanity lacks true light in and of its self. (Isa.50:10-11, Jn.8:12) So how does a person get God? How do they get Jesus? Is that even possible? In a manner of speaking, yes!

Consider the following passages:

- Jn.1:12 "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." (NIV)
- Jn.8:12 "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."" (NIV)
- Col. 1:10 "And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11

being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (NIV)

- Eph.5:6 "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,"
- Acts 26:15 "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' " 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 16 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. 17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'"

Several conclusions can be drawn from these and other like passages: You are in the light if -

1. You have taken Jesus to be your Lord and Savior.
2. You have been redeemed by Jesus.
3. You have been purchased by Jesus' blood.



4. You have had your sins removed by Jesus.
5. You have received the Spirit of God.

The opposite of this would also be true "if" you are still in darkness and have not yet come to the light. For all who are born of the flesh are born in darkness and in need of the Light. As light bears the signature of its source, even so the Spirit bears the signature of its source: God, who is Light and Spirit. As color is the signature of light's elemental source, the fruit of the Spirit is the Spirit's elemental signature.

The fruit of the Spirit is the signature of God within; He is the source. His Spirit is the fire that burns within and is, like a color signature reveals the light's fire source; even so these attributes of the Spirit are His signature. (Gal.5:22-23)

Why is this important to know? What does the fruit of the Spirit have to do with what Jesus is doing right now in 2023? It is important because Jesus is radically different than what He was before He became one of us and because He was successful in becoming this "New" creation, the "First Born from the dead", which makes Him more radically different than either previous state of existence. It is also important because He is now, still, continuing to Reign over all creation. And because He is the "Head of the Church" (all the redeemed, everywhere.) In His radically different state of existence He is still saving and in the context of saving still indwelling His redeemed with his essence.

Because of all these reasons, and more, it becomes apparent that what Jesus is doing is in fact intimately connected to what we are doing. What we, the redeemed are doing ought to be what His Spirit empowers us to do.

This is true because everyone who has been redeemed has also been diametrically affected, (transformed - metamorphically changed) because of Jesus accomplishing what was brought about

through His death and resurrection. He was the "first" of a new kind of creation/creature and we are through the rebirth made like Him, a new creature too.

This effect empowers us to overcome the enemies of Christ and live victoriously over all that previously had us enslaved. This effect is also what makes it possible to be in heaven eternally. As empowered Children of God, we now have a more direct link to the throne and the King. Jesus is as active in the world around us today as we are asking Him to be, and more, because He sees beyond our limited abilities. How busy is Jesus? I don't know; how busy is the Church? How busy are you?

So reigning over our flesh and over the rest of the affairs of our lives should and does contribute to the growth of the Fruit of the Spirit. Examples:

**1Pet.1:3** "His great mercy has caused us to be born again.."

**1Pet.1:13** "therefore, prepare your minds for action..." ("Gird the Loins of your mind" KJV)

**1Pet 1:22-2:3** "...you have been born again...of seed which is imperishable...like new born babes long for the pure milk of the word that by it you may grow in respect to salvation..."

(See also: Rm.8:5; Eph.4:20-24; Col.3:2; Heb.8:10)

We can see by the content of the following verses: 1Pt.2:1 "Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." We can see that a rejection of fleshly qualities is needed for the spiritual to grow.

This is made clearer in 1Pt.2:11 "..abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul." Peter gives this kind of warning also in 1:14 "..do not conform to the former lusts.." and also in 4:2 "..so

as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God." We can overcome! Why? Because the fruit that is watered and fed grows best. What are you watering?

Peter insists that we have been given everything we need to succeed as a child of God. And he is right! Consider this passage next.

The following text is from the NIV 1984, I am using this one because I want to make example thru the sentence structure used. (yes, English 101, ha.)

**2Pt.1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.**

Some questions to ask of the text:

- What has His divine power given us?
- What was the channel or source that He used to give us everything we need?
- What was used to call you to Him (God)?
- What are the "these" in verse 4?
- What are the "them" in verse 4?
- How does one "participate" in His divine nature?

The next verse (5) says: "For this reason,.." For what reason?

Several other questions: What are His "great and precious promises"? If "these" (verse 4) point to His "Glory and Goodness" (verse 3) then His "very great and precious promises" are what is given. Next you must decide if "them" (verse 4) is pointing to the precious promises or His glory and goodness. Isn't this fun?

Why do this exercise in linguistics? Because you need to know what the text says. Someone translated what has been preserved for us because not only do we need to know what Scripture says but because of your own kingship, (See Deut.17:18-20) but also because of your own priesthood. (2Chr.15:3; Mal.2:7)

Remember Rev.1:6 "and made us kings and priests to God..." (MKJV) And Rev.5:10 "...made us kings and priests to our God, ..." (MKJV) As Rev.1:5 refers to Jesus as "King of kings" even so He is King and so are we kings and even as that is true so are we also priests. As priests: **Mal.2:7 "For the priest's lips should guard knowledge, and they should seek the Law at his mouth; for he is the messenger of Jehovah of Hosts."**

There is a passage that encourages teaching and it is a priestly duty as we can see from the above passages. Since we are all priests, we all, every redeemed person should learn the Word of God so that that person can live it as they 'reign' and teach it as they carryout their priestly duties) Consider this light reprimand in **Heb.5:12a "for though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles..."** (ESV)

I understand that we all should not be teachers (Authoritative position in the church.) but we all should be able to speak the truth about Jesus and what He has accomplished for humanity (teach). We do not at this point have time to speak of the various authorities and levels of responsibilities and the gifts that are given for the various duties that go along with these responsibilities. Another time perhaps.

So how does a person "priest"?

The role of priest is best explained by looking to our primary picture of priesting. (A new word I guess.) When we survey the Old Testament for answers to what the role of a priest was, back

during the Tabernacle days and the days of Solomon's Temple, we see the role is diverse. Not all priests offered sacrifice. All priests had to be from the right family and the various lines from that family.

One line was responsible for the music and songs for worship. One line tended the fire. One line served as the guards. And the list of duties in service to the Temple or Sanctuary grew, not endlessly, but diametrically in relationship to services rendered. Only priests served in these capacities and all priests came from one family name, Aaron!

What has changed to some degree in the Church is how things are dispersed as far as family lines and their responsibilities. Now it is not that you are born with my surname or someone else's. Our earthly, human classifications have little to do with it. When a person is born again of water and Spirit that person is given the promised Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38-39) This event is the person's entrance into the priesthood. The universal priesthood of all believers!

So what is a person's role of responsibility as priest in service to the Kingdom? That depends on what spiritual gift package the person is given when they enter the Kingdom of Light. The gift mix contributes to the role that a person is given in the Kingdom. I am not aware of a gift package that qualifies a person for being just a pew warmer, ha.

To help understand the diverse nature and role that all believers (the redeemed) have, consider the US military. How many branches? How many job classifications in each branch? Is everyone in the military trained as a soldier? Is everyone in the military trained in a particular job skill or duty? Is everyone in the military a member of the armed forces of America or what ever country you might be from? If you can expand your thinking

to the scope and magnitude of what is called "military force" then you are getting close but not big enough. The Kingdom of God is much, much, much bigger and far more diverse.

Remember the original question? What is Jesus doing right now in 2017? (What ever the year you are reading this.) After embarking upon this journey with me to unravel the answers to that question you have been exposed to a larger picture of what the Church is hopefully about. What Jesus is doing right now in our present time is intimately connected to what the Church is doing because He is the Head of the Church and the Church is His body.

Jesus is not just sitting on His throne twiddling His thumbs. He is actively laboring, thru His body, (the Church) to subdue the entities, physical and spiritual, that resist being subject to the Father's sovereign will.

The following passage gives a glimpse into how Jesus extends His (Leadership/Lordship) rule over the Church:

**Eph.4:11 It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

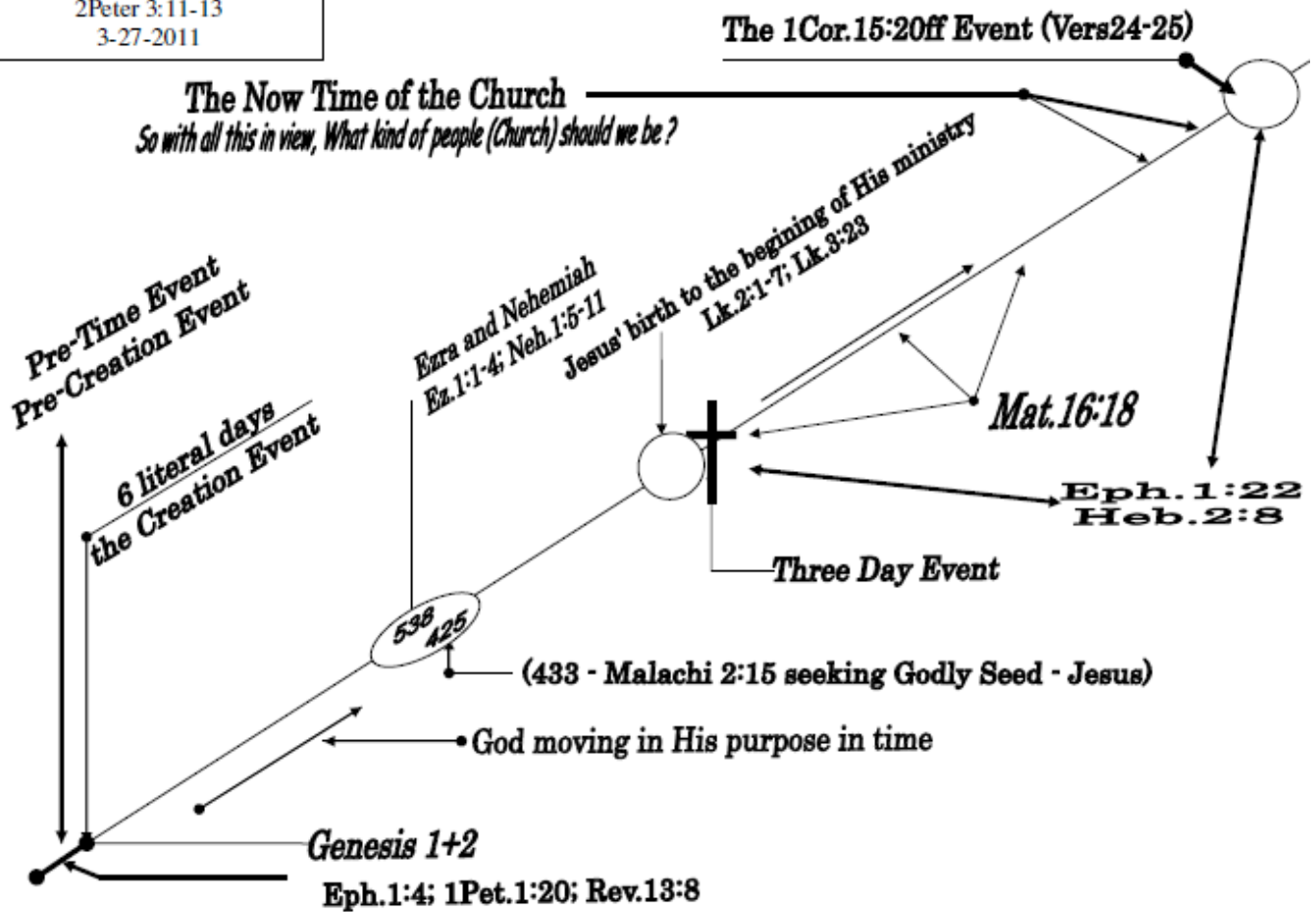
**4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From Him the whole body, joined and held together**

by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (NIV)

I am willing to recognize that my role as a minister and teacher places me within the scope of this passage as one who is to be "preparing God's people for works of service." This bodes the question: What are "works of service"? Paul does a good job in answering this question as do other writers in Scripture.

**Eph.3:10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

We can see that the Church is to be cooperatively working towards the same goal that Jesus is. Every person in the world that becomes saved (redeemed) becomes one less resistant, enemy who stands against the sovereign will of the Father. The following diagram, as limited as it may be, depicts the grand scheme from pre-creation to end time judgment:



Every Event in Scripture is working towards God's purposes and goals.

From the diagram and the verses at each point along the time line we can see that God is still moving towards that final episode, deliverance and judgment.

FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Prophecies concerning the Messiah, and their fulfillment by Jesus the Messiah:  
 Gen. 12:3, "And I will bless them that bless thee..." [Gen 12:3](#); [Gen 18:18](#);  
[Gen 22:18](#); [Act 3:25](#); [Gal 3:8](#)  
 Gen. 17:7, "And I will establish my covenant..." [Gen 17:7](#); [Gen 17:19](#); [Gen 22:16-17](#);  
[Luk 1:55](#); [Luk 1:72-74](#)  
 Deut. 18:18, "I will raise them up a Prophet..." [Deu 18:15](#); [Deu 18:18](#); [Act 3:22-23](#)  
 Psa. 2:1, "Why do the heathen rage..." [Psa 2:1-2](#); [Act 4:25-26](#)  
 Psa. 2:7, "Thou art my Son..." [Psa 2:7](#); [Act 13:33](#); [Heb 1:5](#); [Heb 5:5](#)  
 Psa. 8:2, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings..." [Psa 8:2](#); [Mat 21:16](#)  
 Psa. 8:4, "What is man, that thou are mindful of him..." [Psa 8:4-6](#); [Heb 2:6-8](#)



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Psa. 16:8, "I have set the Lord always before me..." [Psa 16:8-11](#); [Act 2:25-28](#);  
[Act 2:31](#)

Psa. 16:10, "Neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One..." [Psa 16:10](#); [Act 13:35](#)

Psa. 22:1, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" [Psa 22:1](#); [Mat 27:46](#);  
[Mar 15:34](#)

Psa. 22:18, "They part my garments among them..." [Psa 22:18](#); [Mat 27:35](#);  
[Mar 15:24](#); [Luk 23:34](#); [Joh 19:24](#)

Psa. 22:22, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren..." [Psa 22:22](#); [Heb 2:12](#)

Psa. 31:5, "Into thine hand I commit my spirit..." [Psa 31:5](#); [Luk 23:46](#)

Psa. 41:9, "...hath lifted up his heel against me." [Psa 41:9](#); [Joh 13:18](#); [Act 1:16](#)

Psa. 45:6, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever..." [Psa 45:6-7](#); [Heb 1:8-9](#)

Psa. 68:18, "Thou hast ascended on high..." [Psa 68:18](#); [Eph 4:8-10](#)

Psa. 69:21, "...and in my thirst they gave me vinegar..." [Psa 69:21](#); [Mat 27:48](#);  
[Mar 15:36](#); [Luk 23:36](#); [Joh 19:28-29](#)

Psa. 69:25, "Let their habitation be desolate..." [Psa 69:25](#); [Psa 109:8](#); [Act 1:20](#)

Psa. 95:7, "To day if ye will hear his voice..." [Psa 95:7-11](#); [Heb 3:7-11](#); [Heb 4:3](#);  
[Heb 4:5-7](#)

Psa. 102:25, "Of old hast thou laid the foundation..." [Psa 102:25-27](#); [Heb 1:10-12](#)

Psa. 110:1, "...until I make thine enemies thy footstool." [Psa 110:1](#); [Mat 22:44](#);  
[Mar 12:36](#); [Luk 20:42](#); [Act 2:34-35](#); [Heb 1:13](#)

Psa. 110:4, "Thou art a priest for ever..." [Psa 110:4](#); [Heb 5:6](#)

Psa. 118:22, "The stone which the builders refused..." [Psa 118:22-23](#); [Mat 21:42](#);  
[Mar 12:10-11](#); [Luk 20:17](#); [Act 4:11](#)

Psa. 118:26, "Blessed be he that cometh in the name..." [Psa 118:25-26](#); [Mat 21:9](#);  
[Mar 11:9](#); [Joh 12:13](#)

Psa. 132:17, "There will I make the horn of David..." [Psa 132:11](#); [Psa 132:17](#);  
[Luk 1:69](#); [Act 2:30](#)

Isa. 7:14, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive..." [Isa 7:14](#); [Mat 1:23](#)

Isa. 9:2, "The people that walked in darkness have seen..." [Isa 9:1-2](#); [Mat 4:15-16](#)

Isa. 9:7, "Of the increase of his government..." [Isa 9:7](#); [Dan 7:14](#); [Dan 7:27](#);  
[Luk 1:32-33](#)

Isa. 11:10, "...there shall be a root of Jesse..." [Isa 11:10](#); [Rom 15:12](#)

Isa. 25:8, "He will swallow up death in victory..." [Isa 25:8](#); [1Co 15:54](#)

Isa. 28:16, "I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone..." [Isa 28:16](#); [Rom 9:33](#);  
[1Pe 2:6](#)

Isa. 40:3, "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness..." [Isa 40:3-5](#); [Mat 3:3](#);  
[Mar 1:3](#); [Luk 3:4-6](#)

Isa. 42:1, "Behold my servant, whom I uphold..." [Isa 42:1-4](#); [Mat 12:17-21](#)

Isa. 49:6, "I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles..." [Isa 49:6](#); [Luk 2:32](#);  
[Act 13:47-48](#); [Act 26:23](#)

Isa. 53:1, "Who hath believed our report..." [Isa 53:1](#); [Joh 12:38](#); [Rom 10:16](#)  
 Isa. 53:3, "He is despised and rejected of men..." [Isa 53:3-6](#); [Act 26:22-23](#)  
 Isa. 53:4, "Surely he hath borne our griefs..." [Isa 53:4-6](#); [Isa 53:11](#); [1Pe 2:24-25](#);  
[Mat 8:17](#)  
 Isa. 53:9, "...neither was any deceit in his mouth." [Isa 53:9](#); [1Pe 2:22](#)  
 Isa. 53:12, "...and he was numbered with the transgressors." [Isa 53:12](#);  
[Mar 15:28](#); [Luk 22:37](#)  
 Isa. 54:13, "And all thy children shall be taught..." [Isa 54:13](#); [Joh 6:45](#)  
 Isa. 55:3, "...even the sure mercies of David." [Isa 55:3](#); [Act 13:34](#)  
 Isa. 59:20, "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion..." [Isa 59:20-21](#); [Rom 11:26-27](#)  
 Jer. 31:31, "...I will make a new covenant..." [Jer 31:31-34](#); [Heb 8:8-12](#);  
[Heb 10:16-17](#)  
 Hos. 1:10, "...Ye are the sons of the living God." [Hos 1:10](#); [Rom 9:26](#)  
 Hos. 2:23, "...Thou art my people..." [Hos 2:23](#); [Rom 9:25](#); [1Pe 2:10](#)  
 Joel 2:28, "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh..." [Joe 2:28-32](#); [Act 2:16-21](#)  
 Amos 9:11, "In that day will I raise up the tabernacle..." [Amo 9:11-12](#); [Act 15:16-17](#)  
 Mic. 5:2, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah..." [Mic 5:2](#); [Mat 2:5-6](#); [Joh 7:42](#)  
 Hab. 1:5, "Behold ye among the heathen, and regard..." [Hab 1:5](#); [Act 13:40-41](#)  
 Hag. 2:6, "Yet once ... and I will shake the heavens..." [Hag 2:6](#); [Heb 12:26](#)  
 Zech. 9:9, "...behold, thy King cometh unto thee..." [Zec 9:9](#); [Mat 21:4-5](#);  
[Joh 12:14-15](#)  
 Zech. 11:13, "Cast it unto the potter..." [Zec 11:13](#); [Mat 27:9-10](#)  
 Zech. 12:10, "...look upon me whom they have pierced..." [Zec 12:10](#); [Joh 19:37](#)  
 Zech. 13:7, "...smite the shepherd..." [Zec 13:7](#); [Mat 26:31](#); [Mat 26:56](#);  
[Mar 14:27](#); [Mar 14:50](#)  
 Mal. 3:1, "Behold, I will send my messenger..." [Mal 3:1](#); [Mat 11:10](#); [Mar 1:2](#);  
[Luk 7:27](#)  
 Mal. 4:5, "Behold, I will send you Elijah..." [Mal 4:5-6](#); [Mat 11:13-14](#); [Mat 17:10-13](#);  
[Mar 9:11-13](#); [Luk 1:16-17](#)

(Source from Nave's Topical Bible)

<sup>2</sup> **Heb.2:18** Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (NIV)

**Heb.5:7** In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. **8** Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. **9** And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, **10** being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

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(ESV)

<sup>3</sup> John 5:19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> John 17:4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Act 1:3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (ESV)

## Chapter 2 - God's Agenda

<sup>6</sup> John 17:5 And now, Father, **glorify** me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.