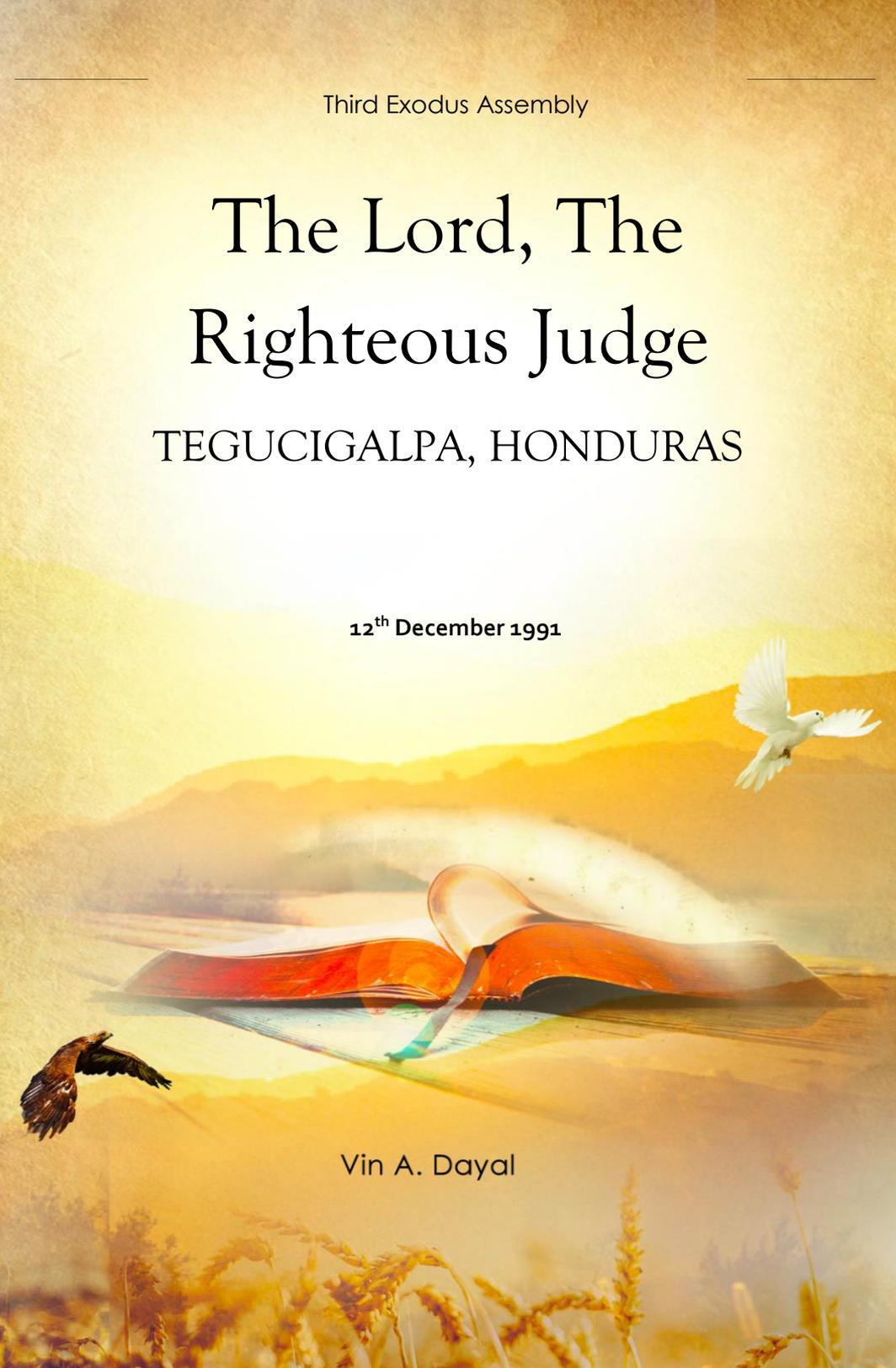

Third Exodus Assembly

The Lord, The Righteous Judge

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

12th December 1991



Vin A. Dayal

Third Exodus Assembly

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Excerpts:

Hezekiah didn't see any justification in the sentence which was handed down by God's prophet. That is this Age. The Prophet said, "This Age is ready for judgment. God is going to destroy this earth. These systems will die." But we look around and see so much good in the systems that sometimes we think that God is being a little too harsh, and if they are given some extended time, they will get better. Twenty-six years have passed; has any of the churches repented? They have gotten worse, though they are seeing daily the word of the Prophet was the Truth. Amen. Now the king of Babylon is deceiving them and their sons are being taken into captivity right into Babylon. Amen. [Page 26]

This Age God told them, "Because thou sayest I am rich and increased with goods." He said, "That was their self-estimation." They saw themselves that way, but God saw them sick unto death. God said, "You are blind, wretched, naked, miserable, and don't know it." [Revelation 3:17 -Ed.] God spoke to them through His Prophet telling them their condition. But that is the nature that is in the world, that is in many people coming into the Message and have not received a new nature. Jesus even told Nicodemus, He said, "Marvel not that I say unto you, who obeyed all the law, who is refined, who is holy, who is religious, who is living clean, who knows the Scriptures very well, marvel not I say unto you, you must be born again. Amen. [Page 29]

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THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER 1991

BRO. VIN A. DAYAL

Amen. Let us bow our heads then, for a word of prayer. We are certainly happy to be here tonight, and may God just give us our heart's desire. Amen.

Our gracious Heavenly Father, with joy and gladness in our hearts, we thank You, dear God, for having appointed us a time like this, Lord, that we could come and gather together, seated in Heavenly places. Even as we feel the wave of the Holy Spirit moving all across this building right now, Lord, we say like David, we were glad when they said unto us, "Let us go into the house of the Lord." Oh, blessed be Your wonderful Name, Father!

May You do something special for us, this evening. Your children have come praying up, Lord. They have come with expectations in their hearts. Oh God, we have come confessing our sins and our shortcomings. And Father, You said in Your Word that through confession and faith, we are subject to all the powers of God that are in Heaven.

May You move among us, tonight. May You do the exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think. Heal the sick, Lord. Deliver the captive. Baptize with the Holy Spirit. Open up the Word. Shine forth Your great, glorious Light. Save them that are savable, Lord. Oh God, may You grant it tonight.

Bless all that is gathered in Your Divine Presence; all that will be here with us over these next few days, Lord. Those that might be on their way, may You bring them speedily and safely. Oh God, may You just get glory out of these services unto Thy Name. Hallelujah! May it be

a time we will long remember, Lord, for the marvelous things that You will do amongst us.

Lord, God we know Your Coming is at hand. Judgment is fixing to be poured out upon the earth. Oh God, we see the darkness upon the world and gross darkness on the people. But You said, "Arise, and shine for Your light is come and the Glory of the Lord is risen upon you, and it shall be seen upon you." That's Your Word, Father. This is the Hour that the glory will be seen. Man will look with the eye and see the great Glory of God being made manifest, Jesus Christ, the Word, being made flesh again. Oh God, we thank You for such a promise. Hallelujah.

We submit ourselves unto You in humility, Lord, and in the fear of God. Just lead and direct us in the paths of service. Bless Your Word; send It forth with Power. May both speaker and interpreter, and hearers, be in the same Spirit, Lord, Your Spirit, Heavenly Father. And may, Lord God, You be seen in our midst tonight. In Jesus' wonderful and precious Name we pray, amen and amen.

God richly bless you tonight. I'm certainly happy to be here with you again. It just seemed like the Devil wanted to stop us, but God made a way for us. When there seems to be no way, He can provide a way. Amen. So I'm just expecting that something good is going to happen. Amen.

I'm certainly glad to see all my friends again. Amen. I see the brothers from Nicaragua here, Bro. Wilfredo and the brothers, Mario, (amen) and maybe the others are yet to come, the brothers from San Salvador.

But we are certainly happy for the Lord Jesus, amen, for what He means to us. This Message that He has sent forth, is truly becoming more real to us as the day approaches. Amen. It is transforming us, bringing us into a Super Race, into a Super Church. He said He was going to do it. We are experiencing it. We are seeing it happening. It is becoming a reality. Even the world will

see it, amen, a Ministry of testimony to give witness for them who have rejected His Word.

But blessed are you who believe, for there shall be a performance of those things told you from the Lord. [st. Luke 1:45 -Ed.] The Lord spoke through His Prophet. Those words will not return void; it shall accomplish His purpose, a great Threefold purpose. Amen. Glory! And one of those Folds is coming to pass in you. That is your blessed assurance that you are in the Rapture right now. His Word is being made real in you. Amen.

So I would like to invite your attention tonight to 2nd Kings Chapter 20 and we want to, maybe, just get adjusted to you tonight, laying a little foundation in this opening message. Amen. And we are going to try to bring it in a personal way (amen) that we might look at ourselves and examine our lives by the Light of the revealed Word.

The Bible said that if you judge yourselves, you will not be judged. And we have the Word, Who is the Judge Himself, that we might judge ourselves by His righteous judgment. His Word can never be wrong. His Word is always right. Let every man's word be a lie and let God's Word be the Truth. Amen.

2nd Kings Chapter 20. And let us follow close to the reading of the Scripture. It's a little story in the Old Testament here, but it has a great spiritual application that we want to apply.

Verse 1:

1 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.

Look at the picture here: a great, mighty man, but he was sick unto death. His house was in disorder; it needed to be put in order. Then came a prophet, a vindicated prophet, with a message that was THUS SAITH THE LORD, to this man who was sick and ready to die –

something like what happened in this Hour. Amen.
Glory.

2 Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying,

3 I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept [very much].

4 And it came to pass, [before] Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

5 [Return] again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.

6 And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

7 And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.

8 And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day?

9 And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?

10 And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten

degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees.

¹¹ And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.

So he got his confirmation. He asked for a sign and he got it, and he knew that he was going to have an extension of fifteen years. But look at this now.

¹² At that time Berodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, the king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah...

At that time.

...for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

¹³ And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and shewed them all the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.

He began to get friendly with the king of Babylon. Amen. And Babylon is where Satanic religion had its origin. Amen. And that prophet Isaiah had prophesied against Babylon in Isaiah 14. But the king really wasn't listening to the prophet's message, so he was getting close to the Babylonians when he ought to have been putting his house in order. Amen.

Okay. Verse 14:

¹⁴ Then came Isaiah the prophet unto the king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from Babylon.

15 And he said, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All the things that are in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.

16 And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD.

Watch that same prophet now: out of his mouth had come mercy, healing; out of his ministry had come a sign of confirmation, out of his mouth had come instruction to that king, but this time he is going to bring judgment to the same man because he failed to put his house in order. Amen.

17 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.

18 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

19 Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. And he said, Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?

Just for a couple of verses of Scripture again, let us turn to 2nd Chronicles Chapter 32, verse 24.

24 In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD: and he spake unto him, and he gave him a sign.

25 But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem.

26 Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of this heart, both he

and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

Verse 31:

³¹ Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to [test] him, that he might know all that was in his heart.

Amen. May the Lord bless the reading of His Word! You may have your seats.

I want to take for a little title tonight, **“THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE”**. In 2nd Timothy Chapter 4 verse 8, Paul speaks of the appearing of the Lord and he calls Him the righteous Judge Who is come to judge the quick and the dead. Also, in the Book of Revelation Chapter 16, verse 7, It speaks of the righteous judgment of the Lord, how the saints in Heaven, they cried out, “True and righteous are Thy judgments, oh Lord.” Amen. Also, in Revelation Chapter 19 verse 2, when they saw His judgment on the great harlot, (amen,) they said, “True and righteous are Thy judgments, oh Lord.” So He is the righteous Judge and all of His judgments are righteous. It is done in truth. Amen.

As we think of the Lord being the righteous Judge tonight, we know that whatever judgment He will pronounce upon our lives will be a true and righteous judgment. Amen. Because the Bible says, “A false balance is an abomination in the sight of the Lord, and a just weight is His delight.” [Proverbs 11:1 -Ed.] Amen.

You know, the scales is the symbol of justice, because back in the time of Babylon when Daniel was the prophet, God came and said, “You are weighed in the balances and found wanting,” pronouncing His judgment upon Babylon. Amen. And we see even in the natural courts of the land today, they have the scales as a symbol of justice. The doctors, they have the

symbol of the Serpent on the pole, the Brass Serpent, as a sign of Divine healing. Amen. They took these things from the Bible, because God in His Truth gave these symbols, (amen,) but they really belong to us as believers. Amen.

As we look at our Scripture here, you know, God has His Truth hidden in the Word. The Bible was written for examples, so as we read these things in the Old Testament and we see how God dealt with an individual man, we realize that whatever God does is correct. He cannot change or improve on His ways. His first way of doing anything is always right because God is infinite. Amen. He is omniscient. He knows all things. He cannot learn anything. Amen. When God does something, it is the best way to do it.

That is why the Prophet said, "There is only one Way provided by God for everything." There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end is death. [Proverbs 14:12 -Ed.] But Jesus said, "I am *the* Way." Amen. There is only one Way to do anything and any other way would be a perversion of the original and correct Way. Amen.

So when we see God did something in the Bible, we can expect Him to keep on doing that very same thing, working in that manner, whenever He is confronted with the same kind of situation, amen, because He is the same yesterday and today and forever.

So as we look at God's character in judgment, whether He is judging a man, whether He is judging a family, whether He is judging a nation, whether He is judging the world, He, the righteous Judge cannot change His principle. Amen. Glory. His principle remains the same. Though the situation might change from an individual level, to a national level, to a church level, (that might change,) but the principle of judgment remains the same. Amen.

The Prophet told us, "There is no more national repentance. There is no more national deliverance (amen) because the world is gone. God is dealing with

individuals now (amen) as far as the Gentiles are concerned” [1963-1110E - para. 48 -Ed.], amen, because Israel will be saved as a nation. Amen. Glory.

The same principle that brings the Message to us as individuals, will take the Message to Israel as a nation. God will work in the same principle of bringing His Truth whether it is for a nation or whether it is for an individual. Amen. The same way that a nation becomes ready for judgment... A nation can sin away their day of grace, the same way a man can sin away his day of grace. Amen. And the same way there will be no more mercy for a man, there will be no more mercy for a nation. Amen.

God is so rich in mercy, He tries to save the world. If He can't get the world, He will try to get a nation. If He can't get a nation, He will try to get a family, because the nation is made up of a collection of families. If He can't get a family, He will get an individual. Amen. He will keep on coming down because He is determined to save man. We can see that in His nature. Isn't that wonderful to serve a God like that Who is so interested in delivering people; in saving people?

If He cannot get the nation of Honduras or Nicaragua, He will try to get a family; He will try to get a church. If He cannot get that, He will try to get an individual. Hallelujah! Glory be to God! Hallelujah! We see that in the Bible.

When we see God is so willing that none should perish, amen, but that all should have Eternal Life, (amen,) then we realize if God pours out judgment, then that judgment is righteous. After He has long-suffered, when there is not one person that He can get ahold of, then He will pour out His wrath. Like He told Abraham, “If I find ten righteous, I'll spare the city.” Amen. “Regardless of how much abomination, how many sinners, how much filth, how many make-believers, how many perverts, (amen), I'll still spare the city if I can find ten righteous.” Amen.

God is not just going to do something rash. He is coming down. He is searching out. He investigates (amen) before He brings judgment. There is an investigation. He wants to find out if there is anyone willing to serve Him.

He is doing that tonight in this meeting. He's coming down in His Word moving from heart to heart (amen!) to see how willing we are. Amen. He wants to get ahold of you. Even though your life might be tied up, even though you might be in chains, even though the Devil might be holding you in some bad habits, but you are trying to break free. You want to serve God. You cannot do that which is right, you are so weak in yourself, but you have a desire to be delivered from that condition. God will send His Word to break your chains, to open your prison doors to bring you out, because He is determined to deliver you. Hallelujah.

He wants a man and a woman who will serve Him. He wants a boy and a girl who can be an example. He wants a father and a mother who will stand for righteousness, raise a Christian family. He wants a Minister who will take Him at His Word, who will step out with faith, not compromising, not holding to man, amen, but is willing to trust God. God will send His Word. God will bring deliverance. Do you believe it? Amen.

That is the hour when God judges something, when He pours out His wrath, it means to say that person has finally fought their way to Hell. The Prophet said, "It is not easy to go to Hell. A man fights his way to Hell." [1962-0124 - para. 29 -Ed.]

Look at Balaam. He heard the Word. God revealed His will to him! God spoke to him. That was the grace of God to bring a revelation; for the voice of God to come to him. Because remember, you can't see a vision just of your own ability. No. The revelation is sovereign in God. You cannot pull anything out of God. Amen. We, Ministers, know that. You could study, study, study, and sometimes nothing is coming. Amen. And then

sometimes you are not even studying and the grace of God pours out. God wants to teach us, it is by grace that it might be by faith. Amen. Glory.

After God showed His grace to this man and this man knew what God's will was, yet with a little pressure from some politically-minded people who knew how to put him in a situation and pressurize him away from the will of God, and he not being able to stand up for his conviction, what God showed him, then he went back around (amen) and tried to get God to change His Mind. What for? That he could please man. Amen!

Could you imagine that? A man trying to get God to change His Mind so he could please man, that man with their evil ambitions, with their fleshly desires, could be able to achieve their goals. And he was trying to influence God to let these men carry about their evil thoughts, and wanted to be called a servant of God. Amen. God could have killed him right there, but look at the grace of God.

While the man was going on his way, going after money, going after popularity, going after the world, God came right there and tried to stop him. Hallelujah! God manifested the Supernatural, not for entertainment, not for a show, but grace was trying to turn a man back. Amen. But the human nature could get so obsessed with the things of the world, and at the same time be so religious, (amen,) that God had to come down there and stop him. God even had the donkey to talk in a man's voice. Amen. The donkey at that stage was having more revelation of God's Presence than the prophet who was only seeing money and popularity, worldly ambitions, that the donkey had to preach to the prophet.

Let me tell you this: when God has to take a donkey to preach to a preacher, you are in bad shape. Amen. Hallelujah. But if we look at that we can see how people, human nature, the things that it can do, the type of resistance it can put up against the revealed will of God,

all the while carrying out religious works. Amen. So when that blind prophet came to his destruction, it wasn't that God didn't try to stop him; God's grace just couldn't reach him anymore. Amen. My!

So when we look and we see those things, that is why we desire the New Birth, a genuine Birth because you realize you could have visions, you could prophesy, you could have revelations, you could know how to approach God, you could know all the different principles of God, but yet you have a nature that cannot obey God's Word. Such is the human nature. Such is the unconverted nature.

Because Balaam, unconverted, was the most dominant spiritual figure of his time. That was why Balak sought him out. There were many other prophets in the land, no doubt, but Balak wanted Balaam, because he was the one that he felt could get the job done. He had confidence in the man's reputation. He knew that the man could bring the Supernatural. He knew that the man's influence was great. He also knew that the man could be bought. That comes to a man.

You know, Bro. Branham, as he delivered his Message unto us, uncovering this evil Age, (this Age that was going to reject the grace of God to such a point that God will have to turn around and burn this world, amen, and destroy the wicked, because they will come to such a spot that God will not be able to reach them; their hearts will be hardened to such a condition that the Word of God would not be able to penetrate with the grace of God, amen, glory, in unfolding the nature of this Age,) the Prophet took certain characters of the Bible.

In one message, he took the rich, young ruler who he typed with this Age. The rich, young ruler was so religious, was rich and increased with goods, and he was confronted with the Ministry of the Son of Man which Elijah revealed at the end of the Old Testament. And when he saw that Ministry, when he saw the Word

made flesh, and he saw the Word having pre-eminences in a human being, when he saw the union of God and man (amen), he realized he had religion, he didn't have Eternal life because he was in the Presence of the Reality.

So he came to Jesus and he began to ask Him, "What must I do to have Eternal Life?"

You see, he was under the influence of the substitute and the substitute was the law so he thought he could do some works to get it. And Jesus referred him to the law.

He said, "Obey the law, keep the commandments."

The man realized, he did that since he was small [young -Ed.], and he still didn't have Eternal Life. Amen. He rejected the Word... Now, watch what that Word did because that man was a type of the Age. His life had the characteristics to reveal the nature of this Age: religious, rich and increased with goods, refined and cultured, sophisticated, had their religion so classical, amen; had all their forms and orders and rituals, but it was dead; didn't have any life. Amen! Hallelujah.

When the Word looked at him, the Word loved him. He was a nice man, had a personality; had a way about him. He knew just how to behave before the cameras. He had his mannerisms just right. Amen! Hallelujah. The Word was impressed with how refined the human nature was, clothed in theology, (amen) but the Word knew that couldn't face the challenge of the Hour.

The Word went beyond the flesh. The Word went beyond his spirit. He had a nice body, he had a nice spirit, but that doesn't qualify you tonight. God is not going to take you in on that. The Word went beyond that. The Word went to the inside of the inside, went to the soul to see if he could take all the Word. Not part of the Word; all the Word. Hallelujah!

That's the challenge, friends. It is not how religious you are, not how obedient you are to all the laws and form and rituals; down on the inside of the inside, it is

what you are there. When the Word looked there, He said, "One thing thou lackest." Amen! One thing; not three and four and five. Amen.

You see, it has to be every Word. It was one word broken that caused us to come out of the Garden. We cannot get back in unless it is every Word. Do you understand that? Amen. That is why Jesus said in the middle of the Bible, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word." [Matthew 4:4 -Ed.] Every word! And at the end of the Bible, He said, "To add one word or take away one word." [Revelation 22:18-19 -Ed.]

Let us meditate on that, friend. It is that serious. Amen. And that is the Hour people are denying more and more words every day. We ought to be coming up to the place where we could take every Word. Amen. Glory.

When he rejected the Word, he went on for a season. He expanded. He grew bigger. He seemed more powerful. Amen. Bigger cathedrals, bigger crowds, more money, even had great television networks. Amen. But what happened? He had already sinned away his day of grace. Amen. He ended up in Hell. That man was a type of this Age.

Then Uzziah, he was a type of this Age. The Prophet took him and revealed another part of the nature of this Age. He had great achievements. He was blessed, and when he was so blessed, he became lifted up, and he became self-secured, and he became arrogant. He was being deformed. Not transformed; being deformed! He came to a place, he couldn't take correction from the Word. He felt he was bigger than the Word. He felt he could live any standard he wanted because he was glorifying in his achievements. He was looking back at his experiences. But it is not what you were yesterday. It is not what God used you to do two years ago. It is not how many victories you had in the past. Can you take the Word now? Hallelujah! That made the difference.

Just like the Pentecostal church: blessed, became powerful. From women without stockings on the corner just beating the tambourine, and men playing the box-guitar, they became so powerful; had more converts in one year than all the denominations together. They built million-dollar buildings, went on television; became so popular. Amen. But then they couldn't take the correction. They became self-secured. Leprosy struck them. Amen. God didn't qualify them by their victories in the past. God didn't qualify them by their great achievements.

Do you think He will qualify you by that standard? No, friend. He is the same, does the same, acts the same; cannot change His nature. He will qualify you by your attitude to His Word even tonight, amen; in this very hour. Amen. Glory be to God!

But look at Hezekiah. We want to look at him too because he also holds part of the secret of the nature and the character that shows the behavior of this Age when it was confronted with the Word from the mouth of the Prophet. Hallelujah!

The rich, young ruler, he was confronted with the Son of Man just like this Age. Amen. Glory. Uzziah was confronted with the Word coming from those Levites just like this Age because they were quoting the Word of the prophet, the prophet Moses, who went into the Pillar of Fire and got that Word and brought It, "THUS SAITH THE LORD." And they had It in 'book' form. Hallelujah! Glory!

So we look and see that Hezekiah, he too was a type of this Age. If you read his history, he was a great and mighty man who was greatly blessed of God. He had a great revival. Amen. He repaired the altar. He repaired the church. Amen. He assembled the people. Great things were happening; very notable achievements. A great and mighty man. He was blessed of God (amen) and he was full of outstanding achievements. There were few men, few kings, who had a record like him.

Out of the nine hundred and sixty-nine denominations there were few that had achievements like the Pentecostal Age – greatly blessed, had revivals; all these things. But Isaiah, a prophet, who brought the whole Bible, all sixty-six chapters representing the sixty-six Books, a prophet that brought the full Word in a type to a great and mighty man, greatly blessed, but we find this man became lifted up in pride. And as we look at Hezekiah, we see him sick, sick unto death.

Have you ever seen a church like that? One time they were full of life, but then they began to drift away. They begin to become obsessed with their achievements. Amen. They begin to settle down, get at ease in Zion, begin to flirt around with the world, take things lightly, and the time is running out.

A cancer struck him, the great cancer Age, amen, before the Lion roars in judgment. Hallelujah! The Prophet said, “A boil wouldn’t kill you.” He said, “It was a cancer, but they called it a boil at that time because the man was sick unto death.” [1963-0724 - para. 42 -Ed.] And here God sent a prophet. He didn’t come on his own. “Behold, I send unto you Isaiah the prophet to declare unto you My righteous judgments.” Amen. “You shall die and not live. Hezekiah, your time has run out.” And that prophet with those eagle eyes looking at this rich man, great king, powerful man with good achievements and had to pronounce a message like that upon him. Not he will live; he will die. Hallelujah!

When the Prophet came, he didn’t come to tell the Pentecostals that you shall live, he said, “THUS SAITH THE LORD, they shall never rise anymore.” Amen. “You shall die.” [1962-0408 - para. 49 -Ed.] He saw them sick unto death, amen: morally sick, spiritually sick, amen; dying. And that Prophet, Malachi 4, looked upon that Church, looked upon this Age in their condition sick and dying. What is your condition tonight of your life; of your home? Hallelujah! Glory be to God! Amen. Hallelujah.

That prophet as he looked upon him, he was not judging him by his past records. Amen. If he had looked back there, he would have seen great achievements. Amen. But he had to pronounce to him the judicial sentence of God. Hallelujah! Glory. That prophet saw that the man's house was not in order. What about your house? Amen. The house of God? Your house at home? Amen.

The Word from the mouth of that prophet didn't water down the message, because the prophet wasn't trying to become popular with the king. He was being obedient to God Who sent him with the message.

Many times, you see Ministers, they try to be popular with the people and they try to water down the Message to make it acceptable at their level. But that doesn't kill the flesh. That doesn't bring a New Birth. It might make the man popular with the people, but the people will only be reformed and remain unconverted in the benches. No wonder many don't enter into Rapturing Faith; they become sick unto death. Amen.

So Isaiah stood there with his message and he thundered, "THUS SAITH THE LORD!" Glory! "You are sick unto death. THUS SAITH THE LORD, you shall die and not live!" Oh my! What a message. Glory! It was THUS SAITH THE LORD. Hezekiah in that dying condition, just like this Pentecostal Age, they were dying (amen), and they were in their dying condition. They were all taken over with sickness, and with those dim eyes, in that weak body eaten up with disease but looking at the Prophet standing in the Presence of God and they were hearing a straight Message; a Message that was revealing his condition, showing him, his end had come. Amen.

What does a man do, what does a woman do when they recognize by spiritual discernment that they are in the Presence of God, God is speaking through a channel of communication, (amen) expressing the inspiration of God, and the Word, the Voice of God, the Thunder of God, thundering out from the Throne of God, saying,

“You shall die, amen; your time has run out”? What does a man do when he hears such a straight Message? Not some message on politics out in the world, not some message pointing the people backward, not some message justifying them in their backslidden condition, but a Message revealing God’s will to them. Hallelujah! What do they do? Glory!

Hezekiah realized it wasn’t time to play church. He saw the sternness in the face of the prophet. Amen. He trembled at the voice of his words. Amen. It shook him. He turned his face to the wall and he began to cry, and he began to plead. He began to weep. Amen. He was under the effects of a message that was delivered by a prophet who was a prepared servant, a prophet who had seen the Lord, high and lifted up and His Glory filled the temple; a prophet who was in action with reverence and humility; a prophet who was a prepared servant, who was anointed and commissioned, who brought the true reports; who revealed the arm of the Lord. Hezekiah realized this wasn’t some ‘fly by night’ [irresponsible; untrustworthy -Ed.] preacher trying to make a name for himself, or who was after a little popularity, but this was a channel of God bringing the Word of God. Hallelujah!

In his dying condition, he prayed for an extension of life. He pleaded to God, “Oh God, don’t take me yet. I need some time to put my house in order.” God might have said, “How much time do you need?” He began to examine his different responsibilities, using all of his reasoning abilities. Oh, he was so mentally devout, he said, “Well, Lord, maybe fifteen years are going to do. Amen. I need about fifteen years to get my house in order.”

But I want to show you something: when that message struck Hezekiah... Just like it came to Moses that time. God told Moses, “Moses, go up in the mountain and die.” Amen. The Bible said, “Moses was one hundred and twenty years. His eyes weren’t dim. His natural force wasn’t abated.” He wasn’t sick, but his

time was up. He had completed his third forty. His ministry was over. God doesn't make mistakes. Moses didn't desire an extension of life. Amen. He finished his course. He kept the faith. He was going to his reward. But Hezekiah, when the Word came from the mouth of the prophet revealing the will of God, watch human nature (amen) how it could get away from the will of God.

Let's examine our nature when we hear the Word of God coming from the mouth of God, the final Voice to the final Age (hallelujah) saying what God said through the Prophet. Amen. How does our nature react?

Hezekiah in that dying condition had a desire for an extension of life. He saw that he could get the job done and he desired something other than the revealed will of God, which was spoken to him by the mouth of a vindicated prophet. The prophet wasn't speaking his own thoughts; the prophet was revealing God's thoughts. He was God's mouthpiece to the generation. Amen. And he couldn't help but speak what he heard. Hezekiah had lost sight of the power of infallibility that rested on the prophet. He had failed to see the close union between God and His prophet. Amen. He had failed to realize that *that* was the determinate counsel of God. Amen. Glory. He was so taken up with his own achievements.

What are you taken up with tonight? Amen. How are you hearing the Voice of God? What are you desiring after the will of God is revealed to you? Amen! He desired something else other than what God had spoken through His prophet. He began to pray that God would change His Mind. He began to weep. He didn't see any justification in the sentence that was pronounced upon him. He thought maybe God didn't consider his good works. He thought maybe God overlooked how he walked upright. He thought God should have been more compassionate in his sick condition. He had lost sight

of the Divine purpose of the infinite God. He had failed to recognize that God's judgment is righteous.

Human nature was not saying, "Lord, You are wrong," but was saying, "Lord, change Your Mind." When you say, "Lord, change Your mind" after He speaks His perfect will, then you are actually saying, "God, You are wrong" by trying to get Him to change His Mind. Amen.

Hezekiah was so taken up (amen) with his own achievements, he got lost in his little world, in his little kingdom (amen), that he had built up in his reputation, in his influence, that he wasn't hearing the Word of the prophet the way he was supposed to hear It. So he was asking God to do something for him, different to what the prophet spoke to him.

I hope tonight, you are not trying to get God to alter His Word to accommodate you. God has given the qualification of a Minister. God has given the revelation of marriage and divorce. Amen. God has shown us how to raise our children. God has shown us our responsibilities. God has shown us the standard that the Church should be in, in this Hour. He spoke it through the mouth of a Prophet. Are we trying to get God to alter His Words to accommodate us? Are we wanting something different from what God spoke through His Prophet? Are we trying to appeal the sentence of God? Amen!

Hezekiah decided to appeal the sentence. He couldn't accept the Word of the prophet. He was going to pray, he was going to cry, he was going to beg; he was going to plead. He began to remember all of his good works, he began to remember how he walked, and he began to plead these things before God. God didn't overlook it. God knew how he walked, God knew his achievements, God knew how he served Him, but God had still sent the prophet, and told him, "It is time to die." Amen. "Set your house in order."

That was where the emphasis was. Because God saw his house was drifting. God was seeing, his house was

being polluted. God was seeing what was going to happen to his house. God knew what kind of plans the Devil was making for him; how he was going to use the king of Babylon. Amen. God knew all about it and God was trying to warn them.

But they didn't like order; they liked to postpone order. Amen. They like to allow disorder to continue for a long while. Flesh can have preeminence. Human spirit could be exalted. Man with self-will can do what they want. They don't like order. Order checks [stops or slows down -Ed.] that. Amen. Order brings discipline. Amen. Order strangles confusion. Order resists confusion. Amen. Order allows God to have preeminence.

God said, "Set your house in order. Forget trying to do this and that – all these things you are running after; all these things you are trying to make so important. 'Hold your horses'. [Slow down; stop and think -Ed.] Set your house in order." Amen.

But he was not listening to the message of the prophet the right way. Amen. All the while the message was coming forth from the mouth of the prophet, he was seeing: "He hasn't even mentioned how I walked. He never even mentioned my good works. He never mentioned my achievements." Amen. So he decided that he was going to blurt it out before God.

Isn't that the nature of man? The Word finds us in certain conditions and the Word zeroes in on it, and the Word says, "Straighten that up. Get rid of that. Put these things away," and we begin to make a defense by trying to look at the good things we do in our lives. Amen. God sees the good things we do, but He also was saying, "Do this now." Amen. But instead of accepting the righteous judgment of God being revealed through the Word of the righteous Judge, which was coming through the mouth of His servant, (amen), Hezekiah had a concept of himself, so he presented his concept of himself before God.

He said, “Lord, I’m a good man. I’m a sincere man. I’ve been serving You since I was small. I gathered back the people. I repaired the altar. I had a great convention. Amen. We were blessed with Your Presence.” Amen.

God said, “Yes, it is true.” God realized He couldn’t get to him anymore, so He said, “Okay, do you want fifteen years? Take fifteen years.”

You see, what he was actually saying was, “If I get fifteen years, I’ll prove to God, (amen,) I will get this thing done, and that I was right and God’s prophet was wrong.” Nonsense. Amen. Glory!

So God gave him his fifteen years. God gave him his own desire. He didn’t want the perfect will of God that was being revealed by the prophet. He prayed for the permissive will of God and God gave it to him. And at that very time, the king of Babylon wrote him a nice letter; sent him a nice present. Amen. He said, “Tell me more about this great miracle that took place. My, you are a special man. You have the Supernatural following you. I would like to learn more about these things.”

You know these Pentecostals thought they could have won the Catholics, and they went to the Vatican, you know, David duPlessis and the whole set of them, after they heard the Word coming through the mouth of a Prophet warning them about the king of Babylon. But the king of Babylon, that old Serpent, was going to come in and take the kingdom by flatteries. Amen! And he capitalized on the moment. The timing was right. He saw the right situation to make his move.

All the time, Hezekiah was desiring for greater achievements: “I am going to do what nobody else ever did. I’m going to win the king of Babylon. Now I’ll be great. My, there will be nobody like me in the land.” Oh my! How unsuspecting he was. It happens to us many times. We want our own way, but we fail to realize how much trouble is going to come. And when we go our own way, after we leave the Lord’s way, we have no defense and we are unable to overcome on our own ability.

Though the Lord's way may seem difficult, you have His help. He will take you through. Amen! But if you try to go your own way, you have no defense.

So, what he thought was actually another great achievement... And the king of Babylon, so subtly, began to put pressure on him. He said, "I need to pay you a visit. I need to come and look at the great kingdom you have built. After all, we are not too big that we can't learn some things from you. Show me your treasuries. Show me your temple. Show me your cities. Let me see your military. Let me understand how you operate. My, I'm impressed." All the while they were learning all their secrets, and in learning their secrets, they were going to come back and use it to conquer them.

The king of Babylon, the Pope, he saw them rich and increased with goods. Amen. He saw them very wealthy – Laodicea, the Pentecostals, and he looked at them and he coveted their wealth. Amen. And he was trying to find a way to corrupt them even though he had to come with a false humility that made them feel that they were winning him over.

Those men came back from the Vatican and they said, "Bro. Branham, oh, we had a meeting with the Pope; it was so spiritual."

And the Prophet cried. He said, "What is the matter with these men? They are not listening to the Message. They are trying to go with the high-class people. They think God is out there. They fail to realize God dwells in humility; He is revealed in simplicity."

Amen. Look what was taking place. Hezekiah was already being deceived. And the prophet came up to him, and he told him, "Your sons will be taken into captivity by the Babylonians. You will not see it in your time, but they are going to be taken into captivity."

We see how Babylon captured them: Jim Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart [American evangelists -Ed.], the children of this great, rich nation. Amen. The king of Babylon came in among them, speaking in tongues too, sending gifts;

they were exchanging gifts; they were comparing gifts, (amen!) because they were not listening to the Prophet.

How did they end up there? Because the Prophet had told them, "You are dying. Your time has run out. It is a new Age. It is another time." Hallelujah! But they began to cry out. They wanted something different. They looked back at their great works when the Holy Ghost fell in all the great meetings; all the signs and wonders. They looked back at those great achievements and they pleaded before God. And God told His Prophet, "I will give them a little time." Amen. "I will let the judgment linger."

Now listen to this. The sentence pronounced upon him lingered. God gave him his request, but the judgment itself, God didn't change His Mind about His Word because God's Word is perfect.

Many times, we sit in church and we hear the Word and the Word shows us our wrongs and the Word speaks to us, but we go home, we pray, it seems like we bypass the judgment of God until we think it is no longer necessary. Promises we make to God, we don't even keep them, and we think it is alright. Do you think that God changes His Mind? No. The judgment is just lingering. God is letting you condemn yourself. God is letting you manifest your own folly.

You see, God knows what is in man, but man needs a lot of convincing before he would actually humble himself and accept the will of God, especially if man's opinion of himself, his own self-estimation, is different to what God is saying about him. Hezekiah had his opinion, his own concept about himself (amen) and he was not just going to say, "Okay God, I'm going to get my house in order and die." No, no, no. He was going to put up some resistance. He was going to call a prayer meeting. He was going to get desperate. He was going into fasting and praying. He was going to get a word from God too. But that didn't change God's Mind. No, sir! It only lingered the judgment. Amen. It only stayed

for a while so God could give him enough time when he would see truly what is in him; when he would see what God saw in him what he couldn't see in himself.

Remember one time in the Bible, Jesus told Peter, "You will deny Me."

He said, "Not me, Lord. Not me. Maybe one of the eleven. I will die for You."

Amen. But the Lord was seeing something in him that he couldn't see in himself. When the Word was expressing it, he was giving the estimation of himself, because he had an opinion about himself, and he wasn't going to lay down his opinion and humble himself to God's opinion. So God had to let him come and manifest what was in himself and then he was convinced that God was right and he was wrong.

This human nature, we ought to lay it down, friends. May God give us the grace tonight to lay it down and die out completely to our own thoughts, our own self-will; just surrender, (amen,) accepting that God's Word can never be wrong; It is always right. Amen. Glory.

Look at the grace of God. After the prophet came with "THUS SAITH THE LORD" and blasted forth his message, God came and told the prophet, "Go back around and tell him, he is going to live." My. The prophet had to humble himself and come right back and say, "No, you are not going to die; you are going to live." Amen. It looked like the prophet was contradicting himself now. But you see, God doesn't just want to bring judgment until He first gives man a chance, amen; until He does everything He can to save the man. Amen. If the man pleads sincerely before God, and the man sincerely believes that he will measure up to God's Word if he's given the chance, God gives him the chance.

He is going to give it to you tonight, friends. Sure. Amen. You might get yourself all messed up, you might be in a condition you never thought you were going to be in, you might be sick unto death spiritually, even physically, and you may want to live even though God

tells you are going to die, (that is God's will,) but because you have a desire different to God's will and you will plead that before God, God is going to let you have your way if He realizes you are more determined to have your desire than to accept His will. Amen.

Now watch. Hezekiah thought that maybe his good works weren't taken into consideration. Do you honestly believe tonight that there is something in your life that you are sincere about, have honestly done before God, and if God pronounces a sentence upon you that God might be wrong in doing that because you don't see you deserve such a harsh judgment, and you are going to stand up before God and appeal the sentence? Amen.

Hezekiah didn't see any justification in the sentence which was handed down by God's prophet. That is this Age. The Prophet said, "This Age is ready for judgment. God is going to destroy this earth. These systems will die." But we look around and see so much good in the systems that sometimes we think that God is being a little too harsh, and if they are given some extended time, they will get better. Twenty-six years have passed; has any of the churches repented? They have gotten worse, though they are seeing daily the word of the Prophet was the Truth. Amen. Now the king of Babylon is deceiving them and their sons are being taken into captivity right into Babylon. Amen.

It is appointed unto man once to die. [Hebrews 9:27 -Ed.] He has to die at some time. All men must keep that appointment. God always determines the time when a man must die, and God determines the type of death a man must die. You don't die just any death. Jesus had to be slain. He told Peter in St. John Chapter 21 that He was going to die by crucifixion. He revealed to the Prophet that his death will come by an accident with his car. Amen. He told Abraham, "You will die of a good, old age." Amen. He told Moses, "Your time is up; go up and die now." Amen. When Jesus had to die, it must be at the Passover; had to be in April. The time He had to die

was appointed. There is a time to be born and a time to die. There is a time to sow; there's a time to reap. [Ecclesiastes 3:2 -Ed.] But Hezekiah failed to realize, his time and manner of death was ordained. Amen.

Are we getting away in this Hour from the fact that the Prophet had the power of infallibility; that he spoke God's will; he revealed God's perfect will? If we miss that, then it is very easy to desire God to change His Mind. Amen.

Now watch something. When Isaiah came back with the Word to Hezekiah, Hezekiah was in deeper trouble than he had ever been in his life. During those last fifteen years, he had a son by the name of Manasseh. When Hezekiah died, Manasseh became king. He began to reign at the age of twelve. Let's read that in the Bible. 2nd Kings Chapter 21. We are going to close-off with this. Let's read the last verse in Chapter 20 first.

2nd Kings 20:21:

*21 And Hezekiah slept with his fathers:
and Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.*

2nd Kings 21:

*1 Manasseh was twelve years old when
he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five
years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name
was Hephzibah.*

Before we continue on in the chapter, just turn back to Chapter 20, verse 6. God told Hezekiah:

...I will add unto thy days fifteen years...

Okay. So, if this boy was reigning at the age of twelve, he had to be born in those last fifteen years in the time that was given as an extension, when he [Hezekiah -Ed.] was seeking something else other than the will of God revealed by the prophet. Amen. Glory. Let's continue now.

*2 And he did that which was evil in the
sight of the LORD, after the abominations of
the [nations], whom the LORD cast out
before the children of Israel.*

³ For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made [an idol], as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

⁴ And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name.

⁵ And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

⁶ And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with [mediums] and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

⁷ And he set a [carved] image of the [idol] that he had made in the house, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:

⁸ Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them.

⁹ But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.

Could you imagine that? This one man was doing more evil than all of the seven nations; which the iniquity of the Amorites was full and God was going to judge them when Israel went in the land. And this one

man, was the son who was born in the extension of time, when the man sought his own desire and failed to humble himself to the Word of the prophet, because he felt the sentence was too harsh that he tried to appeal the sentence; he tried to reason with God's Word.

He never put his house in order. His whole house was corrupted, the house of the Lord was corrupted, and all the land was corrupted. Look what he brought on the people. God was seeing it all and God was trying to tell him, "Your time has run out." Amen. But that human nature, that concept he had of himself, the self-estimation...

This Age God told them, "Because thou sayest I am rich and increased with goods." He said, "That was their self-estimation." They saw themselves that way, but God saw them sick unto death. God said, "You are blind, wretched, naked, miserable, and don't know it." [Revelation 3:17 -Ed.] God spoke to them through His Prophet telling them their condition. But that is the nature that is in the world, that is in many people coming into the Message and have not received a new nature. Jesus even told Nicodemus, He said, "Marvel not that I say unto you, who obeyed all the law, who is refined, who is holy, who is religious, who is living clean, who knows the Scriptures very well, marvel not I say unto you, you must be born again. Amen.

Look at Manasseh. Look at verse 16:

16 Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

Amen. Now if you take that same principle, even on a national level like in the time of Jonah when he went forth and pronounced his judgment upon that city of Nineveh, it wasn't one man now; it was a city. And what happened? They cried out to God when they heard the will of God concerning them being revealed through the

mouth of God's prophet, showing them that they were sick unto death, morally and spiritually, and God pronounced His righteous judgment upon that city that was ready to die. When the people of Nineveh saw that, *that* prophet, his message uncovered their condition, they cried out to God. They repented. They asked for an extension of time, and God lingered His judgment. Amen.

But yet God knew what was in them. Amen. Because one hundred years after, God raised up Nahum the prophet. When he came forth in the Book of Nahum, he was pronouncing judgment on Nineveh. The same nation that had repented, they had become more corrupt. Amen. And God said, "This time I will not acquit the wicked." Amen! Glory. He said, "They cried out for mercy because they were faced with death and destruction, but they never really totally separated from all unbelief to come into a true complete union with God, where God could have the pre-eminences." Amen.

Many times, when man sees death and destruction facing them, it throws them into desperation. It causes them to repent and make promises to God, but God knows what is inside of them. Amen.

As we close this meeting tonight, we too will be judged by the same principles. Before God brings any man, or any city, or any church, or any nation into judgment, He warns them first. He brings His mercy first. Amen. But when a man may repent and plead before God for an extension of time, God will give it to him, but that doesn't mean God has changed His Mind about His Word. Amen. Because God's judgment is always righteous. He knows what is in man.

But sometimes we feel within ourselves, we can serve God and please Him without truly being Born Again. We can get this old nature so polished up, so trained to all the religious works; we can get so educated in the Message that we'll be able to please God. We fail to realize, only God's Life can please God. Amen.

And friends tonight, that is what it is going to take. If you have pleaded that before God, don't stop short of going all the way to receive His Spirit, His Life, where you are so dead to yourself. Only then can you see a behavior that God can respond to where He can say, "This is My beloved son, this is My beloved daughter, in whom I am pleased to dwell in." Amen.

But that is human nature, friend. How it deceives us many times. Amen. God has already pronounced judgment upon that nature. It must die. Amen. If you are asking to live, let it not be that nature, but let it be His nature. Let it be living by His Life. Amen. Glory be to God. Let us stand to our feet.

How many would desire that tonight (amen) to say, "Lord, let Your Word live in me"? Amen. "I want to be true to the Word. I want to become one with the Word. I want to submit to all of the Word. I want the humility that will cause me to be humble to bring me to a real surrender." If you desire that tonight sincerely, would you lift your hand and say, "Lord, remember me," tonight. Amen. Glory be to God. God bless you for that. Amen. Do you really want that tonight? It is not time to play church, friends. The Message is serious, the Message is straight; the Message is challenging us. Can we take all of the Word? Can we be true to every word? Amen. That is the Church that will come into a rapturing condition.

Almighty God, Father, as we stand in Your Presence tonight, we know the Word that came through the mouth of Your Prophet was not his word, it was Your Word. It was the righteous judgment of the righteous Judge coming forth, Lord. We do not want to appeal that tonight. If It says we were wrong, we want to confess that, Father, because then You can be a true High Priest Who is willing to intercede on our confession. Oh God, we don't want to plead anything else. If Your Word says we are guilty, we want to say we are guilty, Lord.

Like David, he said, "Let me fall in the hands of God." Amen. "Don't let me fall in the hands of man, but let me fall in the hands of the righteous Judge. He knows what is best. He knows how to work all things together for good. Let me not try to combat His Word with my thinking. Let me not try to exalt my knowledge above the Word, but Lord, give me humility."

Father, I pray tonight for this congregation. Lord, and they that have sat under the influence of Your Word, and they have responded, desiring Lord, that You give them the humility to receive Your Word because they acknowledged it was the Omniscience of Almighty God, the infinite God; it was the determinate counsel being expressed through the mouth of a vindicated Prophet.

Lord, we just want the Spirit of Obedience to do what You require, Lord. We don't want to walk in our own way. We want to lay aside every weight tonight, every sin, Lord. We want to lay down all our self-will. We humble ourselves under Your mighty hand tonight. Move upon this people, Lord. Let this message go deep down into their hearts. May it cause them to examine their lives by the Light of Your Word.

I pray tonight, Lord, that it will cause us, Lord, God, to submit in the fear of God that we can be led by Your Spirit to a full, complete surrender that will give You the pre-eminences, (hallelujah!) that any extension of life would be the Life of Christ; not we that liveth, but Christ Who liveth in us, and the life that we live now, we live by the faith of the Son of God. Oh God, may You grant it tonight, in the Name of Jesus Christ.

I commit this people and this message into Your hands. Deal with them, Lord. And over these next few days, may the Spirit of the Living God continue to unfold to us and emphasize to us Your will so clearly that we will know Your requirements and how we should live and walk and serve You in this Hour. Grant it, Lord. In Jesus' Name we pray and ask it, amen and amen.

God richly bless you. Amen. As I turn the service back to the Pastor. Amen.



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