



KINGDOM
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MINISTRIES
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THE CHURCH

GOD HAS ALL THE AUTHORITY

PART 12

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“that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;” (Philippians2:10 KJV)

Looking at the world stage in the last two to three years brought me back to what the scripture described in Genesis 1:2,

***“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.
And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”***

There is no doubt that many will be able to relate with the imagery of the earth being without form. We can look back at our lives in the last two years and marvel at the terrible and drastic change that we have experienced. Some who were gainfully employed are now jobless or combining two or three jobs to make ends meet. Some who were joyfully married are now enemies that cannot withstand the presence of each other. While some couples are opting to give one another some space by taking a break from being together, some are outrightly divorced. Spousal abuse has been on the rise, a recent popular case being that of a gospel singer in Nigeria whose husband secretly and oppressively abused repeatedly leading directly or indirectly to her death.

Furthermore, terrible diseases have become the order of the day; the world is getting sicker by the minute with various illnesses of the strange order. We are all becoming helpless and defenseless against these occupying forces invading our territory. Hunger and pestilence abound as part of the devil's agents of affliction. Many are making strange compromises because of a lack of what to wear or eat; they want to live large by any means necessary. It is no wonder there have been increased activities of ritualistic killings and serial killers; things that we have never heard of before are becoming normal occurrences. In some parts of the world, people are now scared to book a ride because they have heard of many others who did and vanished into thin air. There have been reports of those who checked into a hotel only to go and meet their end. Just a few days ago, someone went to a train station (subway) and opened fire on innocent bystanders, killing some and maiming some—all for reasons unknown to anyone! Really, it is quite unbelievable what is happening in our world. The habitation of the earth is full of cruelty, and all of creation is groaning in anticipation of the ultimate restoration of our God.

The image of Genesis 1:2 is more or less re-living itself in our very eyes! From economic and social indicators, as well as climate statistics and predictions, gloom and doom loom large on the global stage. Fraudsters are on the rise; governments are not being forthright with their citizens and the world as we have always known seems to be burning up. Darkness, indeed, is upon the surface of the deep. Yet, to put all of this in an eschatological framework, the biblical verdict is that this is merely the beginning of sorrows! It makes one wonder what the 'middle' and 'end' will look like!

In any case, the one constant and ageless factor that has always been and will always be capable of proffering a solution to these problems is God! Genesis 1:3 points us in the right direction, it reads:

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”

The same light that fixed the disillusionment at creation remains capable of fixing what the world has become, even now! The Word of God—which is the light being referred to—gives us the authority needed to rule our world. This is why those who know Jesus and have received Him as their personal Lord and Savior will continue to be on the winning side and constantly live in the light. Here's how I know:

“that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;” (Philippians 2:10)

Jesus is the Word of God and the Light of God. He gives us AUTHORITY in all realms of existence. At the mention of the name of Jesus, everything must surrender—be it darkness, emptiness, hopelessness and all forms of calamities. There you have it! For as many as have surrendered to the lordship of Jesus and are walking in the knowledge of their inheritance in Christ, whatever is going on in the world does not affect them. They know that they have authority in the air, on the land and in the sea! No weapon can work against them because they are carrying *the* higher power. If you are not born again, however, you are exposed to all forms of trouble. The good news is that there is still time to change your narrative by simply accepting Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. This will be the beginning of everlasting relief for you. If you are making that decision, please say this prayer out loud: ***“Lord Jesus, come into my life today. I accept You and confess You before men. I know that You died and rose up on the third day. I surrender to You and ask for grace to follow You.”*** My friend, it is as simple as that! Now that you are born again or rededicating your life to Christ, let me be the first one person to welcome you into the Kingdom of Christ.

THE CHURCH (Part 12)

Jesus Christ is the Head of the church and the Firstborn among many brethren. This should give us some assurance that God means business when it comes to the church's agenda. Jesus said that there is no one born of a woman who was greater than John the Baptist, but He also added that the least in the church age is actually greater than John the Baptist. The church is a place of separation where God puts a difference between those who serve Him and those who are just passers-by. Prophet Isaiah showed us how to fully maximize this gift of a family of God (i.e. 'the church' which is often symbolized as 'Zion' in the Old Testament), viz:

“Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.” (Isaiah 52:1-2)

In other words, Prophet Isaiah is showing us that for a church to be influential and fulfill its purpose, it must wake up! The church of the end time (namely, you and I) need to rouse itself from its slumber in order to fulfill its mandate powerfully. Are you a part of a church? Are you awake to the things of God? Are you still bringing the uncircumcised behavior to the church? Are you still unclean? Are you the one giving the church a bad reputation? Are others seeing Jesus in you?

For the church to be relevant and remain so, the Body of Christ must shake herself from the dust and rise to take charge. It is high time the church — which is supposed to rule the world — take absolute control and not be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. The church must get her act together and sit down for proper planning and lose the grip of the world system brought into the church so that the church can rule and dominate the world.

LEARNING FROM THE CHURCHES IN REVELATION

THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA

We have looked at the churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, and Philadelphia as a way of us knowing how to identify what a good church looks like. Today let's look at another church—the church in Laodicea:

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:14-16)

This is a church every child of God must run away from. It is a lukewarm church—a church that is no longer doing the things of God. It is a self-centered and agenda-driven church which, sadly enough, is more of a club than it is the church. Revelation 3:17 tells us why:

“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”

In other words, status matters more to those who belong to this 'club'. They think they are rich when, in fact, they are poor, wretched, miserable, blind, and naked! Yet, many are flocking to this 'club'. Can you evaluate yourself and see if you are in the right church? It is very important to know where you stand because associating with the wrong crowd in the name of 'church' may negatively affect your destiny in life.

HOW POWERFUL IS THE CHURCH?

We have been considering King Solomon's profound insight into God's idea of His church. In **2 Chronicles 6:18** he asked, ***“But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!”***

Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple provides some insight which we began to unpack a few weeks back. So far, we have considered the following indices of the power and relevance of the church even till today:

- 1. The eyes of God are always open upon the church**
- 2. The power of restoration finds expression in the church.**
- 3. The church is a place of deliverance.**
- 4. The church is the place where God's power is real.**
- 5. The church offers the guarantee of God fighting our battles for us.**
- 6. The church is the solution to every captivity.**
- 7. The church is a solution ground.**
- 8. The church is where God's answer to prayers is guaranteed.**

Let's look at one more reason why the church of God is still powerfully relevant today.

9. The church is God's resting place.

“Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness.” (2 Chronicles 6:41)

The church is the resting place of the Almighty God. No wonder Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, ***“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*** If you have been toiling in labor and you are heavily laden with troubles and calamities, you can always find rest at the resting place of God. Do yourself a favor and find a church home if you are yet to have one.

ANCHOR TEXT

David was sold out to God, however, it will be difficult to fathom his level of commitment to God without carefully peeling the layers of what the scriptures revealed about him. We have been studying for the past 12 weeks why the church is the safest place on earth, and this series has opened my eyes to why God loved David so much. Take note of how he prepared for the building of the temple (which God did not allow him to build) as recorded in 1 Chronicles 22:5,

“And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.”

When someone shows this much affection for you, it makes sense to open your treasure and give such an individual unlimited access. Hence, King David gave us the theme of our study. It is found in Psalm 122:1-2,

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. Our feet shall stand Within thy gates, O Jerusalem.” (Psalm 122:1-2 KJV)

PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH

David knew the importance of praying for the church so that the church can be there when we need her to meet our needs. Likewise, Jesus cared and prayed for the church and commanded us to do the same.

So our prayer for the church this week is in **John 20:22** —

“And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:”

1. Pray that the Body of Christ will receive the fresh breath of God to function in these last days.
2. Pray for the Body of Christ to experience a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit in 2022 and beyond.
3. Pray for the church of God in Ukraine and for Ukrainians at large; pray that there will be healing of all kinds of wounds and injuries in Jesus' name.

THE REASONS WHY THE CHURCH OF GOD IS THE SAFEST PLACE ON EARTH

We have been highlighting some reasons why the Church of God is the safest place on earth. We have considered these points so far:

1. THE CHURCH IS THE SECRET PLACE OF GOD
2. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF UNUSUAL POWER
3. THE CHURCH IS WHERE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM ARE DELIVERED TO US FOR FREE
4. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF UNUSUAL COMPANION
5. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF UNCOMMON WISDOM
6. THE CHURCH IS A DANGER-FREE ZONE
7. THE CHURCH IS THE GATEWAY OF HEAVEN—THE PLACE WHERE GIFTS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO THE SAINTS
8. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE WHERE JESUS IS IN FULL CONTROL, BRINGING TOTAL DELIVERANCE TO HIS BODY
9. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE WHERE WE GET TO SIT ON OUR THRONE FOREVER
10. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF UNUSUAL AND UNCOMMON REVELATION
11. THE CHURCH IS WHERE WE BRING OUR TITHE FOR OPEN HEAVEN

We continue from there today.

12. THE CHURCH IS A PLACE OF COMPLETE RESTORATION

“How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.” (Psalms 137:4-6 NIV)

The main reason why many Christians are defeated is simply because they are still living in a 'foreign land'. Many are in the church but not a part of the church; they continually bring strange fire to the altar like Abihu and Nadab in **Leviticus 20:1-2**,

“And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.”

Abihu and Nadab died physically but there are many in the church today with a dead destiny because of the strange fires they are offering unto the Lord. The Lord detests lukewarmness; for a complete restoration, you need a complete devotion to the house of God. Then and only then can Psalm 126:1-3 become your testimony:

“When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, We were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing: Then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. The LORD hath done great things for us; Whereof we are glad.” (Psalm 126:1-3)

It is dancing time for you; you are next in line!

CALL TO ACTION

- Are you aware of your authority?
- Are you in the light?
- Do you read the word regularly?
- Are you lukewarm?
- Are you awake?
- Are you sold out to God?
- Are you fully restored?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD”

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” (Psalm 23:1 KJV)

The end to all wants in life is to be domiciled in the house of God, i.e. your local church. Shalom.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, as a member of your church, draw my attention to the areas where I am sleeping and quicken me by Your Spirit in the name of Jesus.
2. I receive the grace to be sold out unto God for endtime exploits in the name of Jesus.

PS: Remember to reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom of God in your area. God bless you as you do so. Amen.