

¶“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

“Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

“Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

¶ “For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands for ever."

“And this is the word that was preached to you.”

1 Peter 1:13-25

# THE ETERNAL HEADSHIP OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

AN EVERYDAY LIFE REALITY

(Hobby Christianity? - Not Approved!)

Paul A Norman  
Auckland, New Zealand  
March 2008

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## To the Glory of God through the Lord Jesus Christ

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*The Eternal headship of the Lord Jesus Christ – An Everyday Life Reality  
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Published: Auckland New Zealand © March 2008  
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## Who Knows but that God might relent from What He has Warned Us of?

As John encourages us in His first letter chapter one,

“... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our  
sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

“If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his  
word has no place in our lives.

2:1 ¶ “My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But  
if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our  
defence—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.”

Think what God can do with your surrendered life by His Holy Spirit.

Are you willing to steadfastly support those who are called to go?

There are still literally billions of people around the globe who have not  
yet even heard about the true Lord Jesus, let alone had the chance to  
have their sins forgiven.

Let God move your heart for people elsewhere – are you called to go as  
a missionary long or short term? Are you called to adopt a missionary  
lifestyle in New Zealand or abroad?

Think of the people who God wants to reach out to. Are you available  
to go for Jesus?

God is wanting to reveal His Glory, and has chosen to do this by having  
a people of love and holiness living in faith in the Righteousness of  
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Its up to you.

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## Confession and Repentance and Mercy

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”  
Matthew 25:37-46

We have all sinned and let the Lord down in both greater and lesser ways. As written by the Apostle John, anyone who says they have not done so is a liar.

Let us turn to God in repentance for our sins and solemnly and meaningfully undertake to live whole heartedly for Him for the rest of our lives. Seeking Him in repentance for both willful disobedience, and casual ignoring of His word to us individually and as groups of people.

Resolving to seek the Lord Jesus earnestly to know His mind and will, and set out resolutely to accomplish those things He wishes done while He leaves us here on earth—entrusted with the saving of the rest of the human race ...

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“The Lord Jesus rebuked me and said that it all was not for my entertainment. That He had spoken in as powerful a way as these various testimonies, to His Church in New Zealand.”

“When you read the prophecy you will be struck by the fact that it is not particularly describing the days in which it was brought, but the days in which we now live. And there is a strong warning from God in it”

Have you been called to a purpose or project by God?

Are you persevering with that to His glory and for Jesus’ sake?

Are you still carrying out what God has laid hold of your life for?

Are others missing out because you are not living for God and fully trusting and obeying?

Are you moving in His gifts and callings in your life?

Are you now living for sin or for God? For Satan or the Lord Jesus?

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## Matthew 25

¶ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’” His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’” His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’” Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’” “Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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“So stand with Me at the head of the valley this day, and hearken now to the voice of God. For I have in Mystery allowed My voice to run through the valley, and I am going to follow that word by My Spirit and you will behold you will hear, you will see.

“For this word that I speak to you this morning is not a word to you as a distinctive society of people. It is not a word to you that believe unto a certain name.

“This is a word unto the nation: this is a word unto all My people: this is a word unto every denomination.

“It is a word whereby because of the end and closing of the dispensation, it demands rapid haste and development.

“Look thou into the valley and behold; look thou into the valley and hear; look thou into the valley and see — darkness, death, depravity.

“But let your hearts draw nigh unto Me; allow My Spirit to overshadow you; allow your lives to be held by My powerful hand, and you will prove that none of you shall escape the shaking, but in shaking you I will hold you as well in the security of My grip and a gathering there will truly be.

“For the anointed word of the Lord will run and free course; for the anointed word of the Lord will go to the ends of the island[s]; the anointed word will destroy and save, will scatter and will reveal, and ultimately your eyes will behold One Shepherd, one fold, one security, one eternal unfolding of purpose, of plan, of manifestation, and then you will find the secret satisfaction that you crave after.

“No man this morning can handle this word I have spoken, for it is not a word like unto the words you are accustomed to.

“It is not a word that will bring to you the ordinary manifestation and ministries of edification and comfort but it is the prediction of what I am and am going to do and take up all people, and how I will deal, saith the Lord your God.”

Can you even start to imagine what such a physical ‘shaking’ would represent to New Zealand? The devastation, the difficulties for people?

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“For I will shake without, and I will shake within, but blessed are they who are shaken.

“Many things that have claimed a part of your life and have become corroded along the manner and walk of your life, must be shaken off.

“There are things that demand the Blood; there are things that demand the Fire; there are things that demand the Purging, but their are things that can only be dealt with by a definite experience and manifestation of shaking and I WILL SHAKE, that certain things maybe taken from you, that I may be in the midst of you as My people, the all glorious Lord.

“For I am the Lord your God. There is none other beside Me, and even in the howling wilderness I discovered you, and brought you by ways that were complicated and confusing as far as you were concerned, but I brought you to Myself.

“I will still bring you to Myself. I will yet bring you to Myself, but the work I do this day is special, and must be speedy to bring you, and all of you, to Myself

“I will shake orthodoxy from the top of the islands to the bottom and I will shake out the salt of the earth that I may gather to Myself. I will shake all the fellowships that have entered into the blessing of My Spirit from top to bottom of the islands, for many things must be shaken out.

“Know too that I will walk in Majesty; I will walk this morning in dominion; I will walk in absolute authority.

“And I will gather unto Myself all that are born of My Spirit, and I will gather those who are immersed into the Mystery of My Spirit, and gather to Myself a people that will be gloriously one.

“For the shaking without shall become so terrifying that you will be glad to keep yourselves in the shaking within.

“O My people, this morning, this morning, this morning, because you have not hearkened to My word in years past, I am now going to shake you; because you have refused to apply the principles then operating, I will shake you.

60

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## Acts 4

¶ “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

“Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

5:1¶ “Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife’s full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles’ feet.

“Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.” When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

“Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.” Peter said to her, “How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.” At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

“Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

¶ “The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

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“As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.”

### **Ecclesiastes 5**

“Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. As a dream comes when there are many cares, so the speech of a fool when there are many words.

¶ “When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfil your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfil it. Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger, "My vow was a mistake." Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands.”

### **A Recent Email From Overseas**

“On a separate issue I’m wondering about tithing and giving to charity.

“Is it a minimum of 10% and what you like over and above it or can you give less or do you give what you like when you like.

“Do you give to church or charity.

“I’m just wondering as I’ve not given anything for a while now and while I’m not rich I have a few quid.”

“As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.”

### **Ecclesiastes 5**

“Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. As a dream comes when there are many cares, so the speech of a fool when there are many words.

¶ “When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfil your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfil it. Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger, "My vow was a mistake." Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands.”

### **A Recent Email From Overseas**

“On a separate issue I’m wondering about tithing and giving to charity.

“Is it a minimum of 10% and what you like over and above it or can you give less or do you give what you like when you like.

“Do you give to church or charity.

“I’m just wondering as I’ve not given anything for a while now and while I’m not rich I have a few quid.”

“But I will yet have mercy upon it. In judgement will I still remember mercy. In My wrath will I still declare My grace, but know this of a surety this day, that I will visit this nation with My judgement and I will cause her to know that in despising the revelation of providence and the glories of redemption she has made herself ripe to receive the expression of divine indignation.

“Nevertheless do I stand this morning at the very top of the valley and I will send My word throughout the land. I will cause My word prophetic, I will cause My word anointed, I will cause My Word creative, to run right through the valley, and some will hear, and you will hear a shaking, A SHAKING, YEA A SHAKING.

“For what if I declare to you prophetically this morning that in the manifestation of My judgement I will shake this nation geographically.

“I will shake it because of rejection, because of the despising, because of laying aside of the anointed word and revelation of Mine eternal Headship.

“But alongside that, I will remember the true principles of love and mercy and grace and I will shake the lives of others to see in the darkness of the valley, the King in all His beauty.

“For it is to be a time of shaking, My people, a time of shaking. I am going to allow the manifestation of My Spirit to be so operative in the days to come that there will be a shaking within the house of God.

“For what this morning, if the posts of the tabernacle, the temple, should move because of the glory of God?

“There is a long way yet for you to ascend, for you have not yet learned the new song, neither have you been captured by the Spirit of song, knowing how to ascend in the scale of true rapture until the essence of divine moving in the midst is captured whereby you can move from the comprehension of natural senses into the realm of divinely manifested realities and there see the moving of the posts of your God in His temple.

“For there must of necessity be a shaking of judgement that there may be a final unity of My people.

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## “A Word Unto This Nation.

“Stand thou by My side this morning, those of you who have been called of God and anointed by His Holy Spirit. Stand thou by the side of Him Who is Almighty, the Lord God of Hosts is His Name, and there is none greater, there is no one more powerful than He.

“For I desire that you stand this morning before the nation that you represent for My word is unto this nation, this nation — unto the nation that you are residents in and citizens of. For behold thou by the natural eye, it is a land that is fair and lovely: it is a land with external blessings and providences and mercies bestowed bountifully from the hand of an ever-loving God. For truly there is no measure that can be employed to express the expression of divine providence. But look this morning by the eyes of the Holy Spirit, and look through the revelation of your God.

“It is a nation that is like unto a howling wilderness: for there is deep darkness: there are caverns of carnality: there are pits of iniquity, and the life of humanity has become so polluted that although hidden by the fairness of the isles, it arises to My nostrils as that which is nauseating.

“For I have planted saith the Lord your God; I have caused sunshine and rain to fall and out of the abundance of My goodness have I provided for all. I have sent My servants and given to them the anointed word of authority and expression of revelation for the days in which you live but by utter and complete rejection of that which I have given and bestowed by many vessels and divine manifestations, the very isle of fairness and beauty and picturesque expression has become, in My sight as a howling wilderness.

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There are many wonderful things that can be spoken and written about the glorious acts of our great God, the eternal love of our Father in Heaven, the incredible sacrifice His Son our Lord Jesus Christ made for our Salvation, and the mighty works of the Holy Spirit in our midst to this present day.

This piece of writing however is not given to explore those aspects of God's relationship toward us so much. Instead I believe God wants the things that we should consider in our relationship towards God written up. Things that we are often overlooking or not pausing to consider how much they touch the heart of God. Some are making casual decisions which dramatically impact other people's and their own futures. Most sadly though many are forgetting the One Who they are called to serve.

In a hedonistic age where more and more focus is on people's own desires, wants and lusts, the concepts of holiness, servanthood, genuine free giving, freely putting oneself out humbly for others, and love and grace and genuine mercy and selfless forgiveness, and the needs of the poor, are all but forgotten, and seem very strange to some, even foreign and perhaps 'wrong'.

Recent decades have seen a tremendous tide change from duty, to selfish ambition, from care more for others to outright self centeredness. Doctrinally the people of God are being attacked by politically correct sugar coated social engineering Marxism, and the self-centeredness of the prosperity and feelywheely 'strange spiritual blessings' movements.

And in the midst of it all, few do meaningfully ask What should I, What should we, be doing to live in a way pleasing to God? This then is not so much about what God can do for you, but more about what God can achieve through a more fully surrendered you. Its about recognising that there are things that may seem subtle or unimportant to us fallen human beings, which are important enough to God that He is willing to shake us up to get our attention and lives back on Christ and His ways.

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## THE ETERNAL HEADSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

### “Jesus is Lord of All or He is not your Lord at all”

For some decades now the Lord Jesus has been prophetically talking to us about how as a people we are losing sight of His Headship—His being boss—and more, in all situations, both in our personal lives, together, in outreach, fellowship, assembling, and ministry teams.

The Lord Jesus’ Headship in our lives is an essential part of the Salvation that we signed on for when we were baptised into Christ.

It is a great mistake to try and separate God’s salvation and Lordship in thinking and teaching.

For if you do not walk daily, and long-term, in the Lordship of Christ, then you do not fully *believe* in Him. And a life ending up without belief personally in the Lord Jesus and what He has done for you by dying on the cross, and being raised from the dead – leads only to certain judgement and eternal punishment. Such a life is lived in the flesh, and the warnings of scripture for those who do that are very clear.

*Written to believers:* “... I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” Gal 5:21.

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realise that Christ Jesus is in you— unless, of course, you fail the test?” 2 Corinthians 13:5

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“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.” 1Cor 15:58

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load. Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Gal 6:2-10

“Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love.

“You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.” 3 John 5-8

Every big and small act of faithful obedience is important in ways you can barely imagine! There were not two Jesus’ in the garden of Gethsemane – only one to accomplish God’s will – pause and think about it.

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## Choice, Able, Outstanding

“They were able men, responsible for ministering in the house of God.  
1 Chronicles 9:13

“ — heads of families, choice men, brave warriors and outstanding  
leaders. . .”  
1 Chronicles 7:40

“ —Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of  
Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled for forty years. After  
removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him:  
‘I have found David son of Jesse **a man after my own heart; he will  
do everything I want him to do.**’

"From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Saviour  
Jesus, as he promised.  
Acts 13:21–23

¶ “See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with  
justice.

“Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge  
from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a  
great rock in a thirsty land. Then the eyes of those who see will no  
longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen. The mind  
of the rash will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will  
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“No longer will the fool be called noble nor the scoundrel be  
highly respected. For the fool speaks folly, his mind is busy with evil:  
He practises ungodliness and spreads error concerning the LORD; the  
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“**But the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds  
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In the Pacific region Christians in places like Victoria Australia, Oregon  
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And end up accepting and living out lies that God hates.

All too many Christians are failing to grow to become disciples of  
Christ, and settle instead for the false promises of the world, TV  
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There is good news for you, God has much better plans for you than  
just lining the pockets of clever righteous sounding people, or living for  
your own selfish fleshly indulgence, — no matter how well dressed up  
to look holy and virtuous it all is.

God wants you growing in your faith to be not like a child but a son  
ready to be adopted by Him at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God wants you living a life fully surrendered to Him—involved in the  
wonder of Himself, His projects and the outworking of His great  
Salvation, His healing to this needy world. Having you participate in  
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As a great number of God's ministeries, perhaps a majority of them  
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God is not willing that any should perish, and we as His believers/servants have been called into a great and noble task – to participate with God in His saving of mankind.

Are we doing that, and helping the saved be established and go on into worthwhile and meaningful lives in Christ, or are we bogged down in fleshly pursuits and ourselves lost to the grander purposes of God?

We need to reestablish our close walks with God and actually listen to what He says He wants done, and how He says He wants it all done.

“... So Jesus answered them by saying, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the Son is able to do nothing of Himself of His own accord; but He is able to do only what He sees the Father doing, for whatever the Father does is what the Son does in the same way in His turn.”

John 5:19, Amplified Bible

God has established ministeries, described in Ephesians four and other parts of the New Testament, to prepare you as God's servant for the works that He actually set you aside for before you were born, or the foundations of this earth were even laid.

“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

God wants you to experience His wonder and splendour and power. And through perseverance, and when necessary even suffering, show His wonder, splendour, and glory to a needy world though the gifts and

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## Covered or Smothered?

Waiomio is in Tai Tokerau – Northland New Zealand, in the district or rohe of Ngati Hine, some of who are said to retell their origins as being from the Waipoua amongst the Te Roroa people of the West Coast.

Bella and Patrick Mahunga in their late seventies/ early eighties were blessed in part to share in that heritage. But more important to them was that they had been born again during a revival in the 1950's that God had outpoured by His Holy Spirit at their Marae in Waiomio.

Their testimony was wonderful to hear. God had caused the gospel to come amongst them again as it had at first in the previous century, with signs and wonders and healings through the Name of the Lord Jesus. It was not through an organised denomination, but through prayer meetings that God Himself had raised up, through people, who others might think were nobodies.

Bella excitedly told us of a miracle that they had witnessed a number of times whenever the local river was in flood and they had baptisms to do. When the people were baptised under the water, when they came up sometimes they slipped out of the grip of the people baptising them. Instead of rushing downstream in the flood waters — they just stayed floating without moving an inch. It caused more people to believe in the Lord Jesus and be baptised!

Then some pentecostal preachers came amongst them and told them that unless they came under their 'spiritual covering' and had meetings supervised by their denomination, they were not in order with God (read "in sin" here). So under this compulsion reluctantly the locals let this pentecostal group take over.

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You have no idea what God has planned with what He tells you to do, nor what use the Devil can make of you, if do your own thinking instead of trusting what God says, and lean to your own understanding, and you disobey God.

Be faithful with what the Lord Jesus Christ gives to you, and follow His leading in your heart very carefully, do all that He says, nothing more or nothing less: — **In essence that’s Christ’s Headship at work.**

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empowering of the Holy Spirit—in what ever capacity and calling He graces you with.

He wants you to stick to that purpose, for Him.  
—Only a life in the Holy Spirit, led by God Himself can fulfill that great and honourable calling of our Heavenly Father.

And that is essential to the Eternal Headship of Christ being outworked in your life. A life led of the Holy Spirit, not yielded to fleshly approaches. For as Paul writes to us ...

“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

¶ “But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

“Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.  
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“But the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands.”  
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“While anyone is hearing the Word of the kingdom and does not grasp and comprehend it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the roadside.

“As for what was sown on thin rocky soil, this is he who hears the Word and at once welcomes and accepts it with joy; Yet it has no real root in him, but is temporary inconstant, lasts but a little while; and when affliction or trouble or persecution comes on account of the Word, at once he is caused to stumble, he is repelled and begins to distrust and desert Him Whom he ought to trust and obey and he falls away.

“As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the Word, but the cares of the world and the pleasure and delight and glamour and deceitfulness of riches choke and suffocate the Word, and it yields no fruit.

“As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the Word and grasps and comprehends it; he indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundred times as much as was sown, in another sixty times as much, and in another thirty.”  
Mark 4:15-20, Amplified Bible

## The Wonder of the Word of the Lord

In the early 1980s The Lord crossed my path with numerous stories of how He had led His people in various countries with revelations He gave prior to major national disasters of one sort or another, often involving severe persecution or even annihilation. The first of these accounts was about the Armenian people. Written up in Demos Shakarian’s testimony about the roots and origins of the Full Gospel Mens Fellowship International, it described how God had prepared the Armenian Christians for one of the worst national disasters that any people could ever face – planned genocide by another nation.

Demos related how the Armenian people had been a Christian kingdom since the 4th century AD. And how in the 18th century his family had

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I opened the envelope and went through the mail and there was news from different ones that gladdened my heart with what God was doing with their lives, but no funding at all.

Somewhat disorientated I left the mail lobby and walked out on the street. I bumped into some Christian leaders from well off churches and then almost immediately a woman with a baby came up to me and asked for milk formula–powder money for her baby saying that she could not breastfeed him.

And there was no doubt it was a genuine case.

I did not even have twenty cents to my name!

I was staying with a well off Western ‘Christian’ working in Suva, but all he was making available to me was literally a few cents for bus fares.

I pointed her and her husband to the richer local Christians I had just seen walk past, and they rushed off to them, I don’t think they helped though. I felt very very sad that I could do nothing, still believing that God was intending that I should have received money in the mail drop. I considered seriously having to head back to New Zealand.

But God spoke to David and Marie in Nauru, and with some difficulty they arranged the air ticket from there. Again weeks later more mail found me in Nauru, and in it was a letter from a New Zealand brother we’ll call Simon.

Simon ran his own business in New Zealand. God, he said, had told him to forward a significant amount of money (for those days) to me in Fiji, and he had reasoned to himself that he needed what money he had, and didn’t send anything.

Then shortly afterwards he had suddenly had people who had owed him money, some going back many years, seek him out and pay him out in full, and other amounts had come in and he was quite flush by the time

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Knocking on the door I was introduced to a David Angimea (the man or a relative?) from Nauru! I kept all that was written above about Nauru to myself.

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The time came for me to organise ticketing for the flight to Nauru, it was to be the very first public flight for many years between Fiji and Nauru. I had a growing expectation that my next mail drop (the first for some months) from New Zealand would have funds in it. And when I received notification that mail was available for me, I went in to town with very high hopes.

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I won’t share too much of what it has in it incase you get to read it for yourself!

What was important there for God’s purposes here, was how the Lord had raised up a young village boy to draw pictures while fasting for a week. The pictures turned out to be maps of a migration route that God was saying the Armenian Christians would have to follow one day.

With some of the pictures and symbols proving to be instructions from the Lord. Quoting form the FGBMFI web site<sup>2</sup>:

“In 1855, an eleven-year-old Russian boy who lived in Armenia received a wonderful, supernatural visitation. For seven days and seven nights he was under the power of God writing prophecy of things to come. He neither ate, drank nor slept during the seven days and seven nights. Although he was an illiterate boy, he wrote in beautiful handwriting and drew pictures and maps and charts. He foretold that peace would be taken from the earth and that Armenia would be overrun by the Turks and that the Armenian Christians would be massacred unless they went to a land across the ocean, which the pictures and charts and maps showed to be America. God promised to bless and prosper everyone who would heed His warning and go to the country where they would be free from persecution. ...”

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Not surprisingly the boy became known as the “Boy Prophet”. When he was in late mid life, the Lord spoke to him to announce that the time had come for the Armenian Christians to leave for the land indicated on the maps. The Lord also gave the man further revelation that was to be sealed up and taken to the new land not to be opened until the Lord said so. Quoting again from the FGBMFI web site:

#### “Exodus To America

“FORTY-FIVE YEARS had passed since the eleven-year-old Russian boy had written the prophecy from God. He was now fifty-six years of age and still lived in the community. Four and a half decades had passed without his prophecy coming true and he apparently was to be considered as a false prophet. Then, without any advance indication, the Lord instructed the prophet to warn the Armenians that the time had come for the prophecy to be fulfilled. Consequently, he began telling the people:

‘The time has come! Now is the time to leave this country!’

“The word quickly spread among the Armenian Pentecostal Christians, and some of them and some of the Russian Pentecostals began their exodus to America. The year was 1900. They took the written prophecy with them and preserved it in a church they built in Los Angeles, California. Demos Shakarian did not leave Armenia for America until five years later. Then he took his wife and five daughters and thirteen-year-old son, Isaac, first going to New York and then to Los Angeles. As each Pentecostal family departed from Armenia, unbelievers mocked them just as Noah and his family were mocked before the Flood, yet the Armenians knew that Noah’s Ark finally rested upon the mountains of Ararat which were in Armenia. The Armenian Pentecostal exodus to America continued until 1912, when the last Pentecostal family left Kara Kala where the prophecy was delivered.

“Two years later, the great World War I broke out, and in the terrible onslaught, when Turkey overran Armenia, every soul in Kara Kala was wiped out. The mockers and scoffers and unbelieving Christians were

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“My ex-wife was from Rotuma”, said ‘Harry’. “And I have a strong sense that the Lord is going to send you there”. The only other place that had stood out was Nauru, 17 miles south of the equator in the Western Pacific Ocean. I saw a documentary talking about its upcoming problems when it ran out of superphosphate deposits, it had a prerecorded interview with a man by the name of Angimea who had explained the local political situation in detail. He had stood out a lot to me at the time and I prayed for him.

Just a few weeks later and the Lord had me ministering in Fiji again. Based in Suva I was supposed to be revisiting the office of the Director of immigration one day, when the Holy Spirit gave me a very strong vision of a hibiscus flower painted on the side of a building in a completely different part of the city.

It was very strong from the Lord that I was to go there and miss my appointment, which was a hard thing to do as I was expecting good news on my missionary permit. Entering the country with a letter from the Fijian Embassy in New Zealand telling me to pickup my visa from the Immigrating Service in Suva, I had been shocked to find out that the service was not issuing longer visas to foreign missionaries (which missionaries to somewhere else are by definition!), and were saying that that the Fiji Foreign Affairs letter to me was rubbish!

These were lawless days following the first military coups and the Director of Immigration did not like people who were not from his traditional denomination (good as told me so!) and there was no one to enforce the law as written.

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Brian's wife said that after some years they were due to get a brand new car (ex-factory), she could see that it wouldn't happen for some more years now if they went ahead with helping the other families. Brian's brother complained that inheritance would be lost to his children (actually there were at least several potential inheritors for that one farm already, they and their eventual children would have very little, and the farm would in the years down the track have to be sold. If the plan did not go ahead—under modern law the inheritance could risk ending up being divided to nothing anyway) ... .. on it went.

Those who were of good heart to proceed were stunned and shocked by some of the things that were said that night, as previously thinly veiled greed and selfishness, came forward now as bitter recrimination and avarice. As I write, even this many years later, I still feel deeply moved with grief and troubled at how much the Lord was failed in that and like situations. With the sense of *many* people "missing out" because of it.

There is a commonly found problem with Christians who own land, run their own businesses or are otherwise self employed. They often think that they are their own bosses! Capable of acting independently of God but expecting Him to back them at all times! Often they completely ignore the Lordship of Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit. And do not yield to God's ministries as a practical outworking of the Headship of Christ. Over recent years many in ministry have reported that such un-submitted people, women with feminist attitudes, and weak men generally, are all equally a great threat to the works, and hindrance to the workers, of God. **As each of them undermines Christ's Headship.**

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Christians who had not sought the empowering and gifting of the Holy Spirit rubbished the whole thing. However a great number of Spirit filled followers of the Lord Jesus who had taken the prophecy seriously and bothered to test it before the Lord, sold up and packed up what they could carry, and set off for the distant land that the accurate maps showed they should go to.

They were to head for California in the Continent of North America.

So many left at once that land prices dropped. And the "Christians" who bought their land up thought they were making a killing.

Then some time after the last of the Spirit filled Christians had left, the Turkish army occupied Armenia, and by one means and another killed millions of Armenians. Hitler was to later use this "program", or genocide, as an example of how he could kill millions of Jewish descendants. Hitler reasoned that if the world stood aside while the Islamics wiped out the Christian nation of Armenia, so too the world would stand aside while Hitler endeavoured to wipe out the Jewish people.

Russia was later to basically repopulate Armenia with other ethnic groups when it seized it as part of the USSR.

The early parts of Demos' book covering these points had a profound effect on me. Then shortly afterwards I got to read the testimony of Polish Christians and how God warned them to leave before the full rise of communism. Russian Holy Spirit filled Christians before the October Revolution, and Czechoslovakian and Chinese Christians in similar circumstances.

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Then some time after the last of the Spirit filled Christians had left, the Turkish army occupied Armenia, and by one means and another killed millions of Armenians. Hitler was to later use this "program", or genocide, as an example of how he could kill millions of Jewish descendants. Hitler reasoned that if the world stood aside while the Islamics wiped out the Christian nation of Armenia, so too the world would stand aside while Hitler endeavoured to wipe out the Jewish people.

Russia was later to basically repopulate Armenia with other ethnic groups when it seized it as part of the USSR.

The early parts of Demos' book covering these points had a profound effect on me. Then shortly afterwards I got to read the testimony of Polish Christians and how God warned them to leave before the full rise of communism. Russian Holy Spirit filled Christians before the October Revolution, and Czechoslovakian and Chinese Christians in similar circumstances.

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The story of the Russian Christians has a direct impact on New Zealand and Australia. As mentioned earlier, before the October Revolution God started speaking by His Spirit to Holy Spirit filled Christians all over Russia telling them to prepare to leave. And then led them to the border of China where they were to wait for a long time to gain permission to enter and settle.

Then while living in China, God warned them again before communism to get ready to leave and to go to Australia and New Zealand where it would be “safe” for a time.

Knowing a little of the history of these Christians, I have been blessed to be able to witness to the descendants of the original families at times, and remind them of their rich Christian heritage.

After God had given me the original stories of the powerful way in which He had warned these various groups to leave their countries, and the sometimes dire consequences for those who remained against His will, I was starting to get really excited about the wonder of it all.

Yet another side of it was also entertaining and I actually asked the Lord when the next testimony of this nature would be brought along by Him.

The Lord Jesus rebuked me and said that it all was not for my entertainment. That He had spoken in as powerful a way as these various testimonies, to His Church in New Zealand.

As yet unknown to me, back in 1952 the Lord had a powerful prophecy brought for New Zealand and particularly His Church. The background to this prophecy is important as there are many claims made so casually about prophecy now—a—days that the notion of God speaking accurately to His people is pretty much rubbished in many people’s minds.

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And he had a firm grasp on the necessary legal documentation to set the whole thing up. He believed to offer to write up all the deeds and constitutions and related documents for free!

Then he paused, and as he did, in that instant God granted me an open eyed, full on, vision! In it I saw all the main players together at one of their homes. And certain people were arguing, and arguing and saying nonsense things. I sat silently contemplating what God was showing.

While I could still see this vision, Charles began to talk again and said,

“But I can tell you that it will not be going ahead, because as soon as these people find out that it can and will go ahead, [no matter what the Lord has shown], certain ones will pull out when faced with the reality of it all actually happening, and the whole thing will fail.”

I prayed much about it all as I left the North Island, and all I was left with was that the Lord had shown me that He had revealed what was to come. There was no sense that intercession was going to change anything. He knew the people’s hearts and what had already happened.

So when I got back down south, I did nothing on the matter at all, trusting that God would be bringing all the necessary people together at the appropriate time, and I was to take no initiatives at all. And so it was that about a month later each of the main families were all present at one person’s home, some over a hundred kilometres from their own places, and each with a different reason for being over that way.

One family were very keen to find out what was happening, as they were due to refinance their farm mortgage and needed to clarify things quite soon. So the husband, John, asked how things had gone with the Law Faculty fellow I had gone up north to see ?

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raise up just this kind of proposal and even held some money available to help. I kept this to myself initially as I continued to wait upon God over it all. The accountant knew a number of the people involved personally, and felt that by God's grace they would have a good shot at making it work.

Then I heard of a Christian man who had been a Baptist denomination preacher, we'll call him Charles. Charles believed that the Lord had led him back into his earlier profession of law, but as an academic at a New Zealand university in the North Island. And he had specialised in his private time in developing the concepts of Christians doing things together in Trust and charitable type situations.

I had a great certainty that God was leading me to meet and discuss the whole proposal with him.

And overall we had strong confirmations starting to come in form the Holy Spirit. One morning I joined some brothers to discuss aspects that the Lord had laid upon my heart, specific financial figures. And the details proved to be exactly what the two men had been talking of privately earlier. They each later privately asked me whether the other had revealed anything to me! These sorts of things were happening, with people getting Scriptures, and other revelations.

Then also the Devil raised up opposition from other non-involved people particularly through Brian's sister and husband who had even seen friends healed by the Lord Jesus during the ministry!

Nonetheless I went to the North Island and met Charles. He was a very dear Christian brother indeed with a great deal of wisdom given to him by the Lord on the relevant matters – questions of equity, capital, balanced decision making processes – social development and above all Christian doctrine – all the things that need to be earnestly contemplated before the Lord Jesus in detail, in these kinds of ventures.

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The word was brought by a medical doctor who was president of the Apostolic denomination in New Zealand.

The denomination had started in Wales / Scotland / England through revelations granted to individuals there about God's desire to restore the truth of the ministry of apostles and prophets to the wider Body of Christ.

The Turnballs in Scotland, D.P. Williams in Penygroes, Llanelli, Wales and others were granted clear revelation with powerful signs following to confirm the importance to the Lord of His means of governing His Church.

The founder president D.P Williams pled with the movement for it not to form a denomination, fearing the message would be strangled, and the rest of the Body of Christ would miss out on the restoration of the ministry of apostles and prophets.

However as time went on the movement did degenerate into a denomination and some consider that, perhaps with the exception of countries like Nigeria, it never really came to as much as it could have. In New Zealand presently the denomination is yet to fully respond to messages that Lord had brought through visiting ministeries at 'pastors' conferences, and from among their own 'recognised' prophets like Wilfred Frater; where God has told them to get back under His Eternal Headship. Now like many previously generally sound groups, it even appoints women to teaching and eldership (pastor) activities, and inappropriate men to positions God has often not even called for or created.

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Assembling as many as could get to a different main centre for each conference, the movement waited in the national gathering for the word of the Lord to come. Visiting prophets from overseas even would prophesy where the preachers were to spend their next two year periods. Families came all packed up from their last posting waiting to hear from the Lord Jesus where they were to go to next. It was signs and wonders as sometimes the prophets had neither met nor knew even the names of the men they spoke from God for.

An early prophet visiting New Zealand, McCabe, was gifted by God to call people into their gifts and callings by first, middle and last names. A brother now passed on, Harold Kuchen, related personally to this writer how early last century at the Star Picture theatre in Wellington South, God through His servant McCabe had called him by name into the ministry of Deacon in the Body of Christ. McCabe had arrived in the country off a steamship, and the meeting was an open one advertised in the paper with no one knowing who would respond to the newspaper advertisements.

God was moving in power with such movements from the days of Smiths Wigglesworth's visit to Wellington in 1922, right through to the early seventies and eighties.

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What I am going to retell here is the way in which the Lord launched a special project down there intended by Him to enable a great many people all over the world to be blessed, before what I described above went bad.

As the work in Southland/Otago grew, God surfaced more people who really wanted to be lead by the Holy Spirit in their lives, and together as community. Some of them wanted to explore how they might find more practical forms of expressing Christian community and mission in a rural setting. Serious talk and prayer went into looking at how businesses and land might be held in common to achieve greater good than just for a few individual families.

Many discussions and prayer times took place. Then several families with three farms, a milling business, a food retail store, and other assets and skills between them were prepared, it seemed, to look more deeply into the matter.

And anyway some had previously had definite visions from the Lord of others living on their land, but had given no thought as to how that might work out properly. There was a real risk of 'lord of the manner' and slave-serf types of relationships developing. For lack of some prayerful clear thinking, bondage could have resulted if any had followed the vision they had, without earnestly seeking God's total leading in the matter.

God wanted to avoid that kind of thing, putting everything on a sound footing, and to protect the individuals and families that He would draw together, providing a spiritually and practically clear framework for it all to happen in. Providing the necessary checks and balances. Putting the whole venture with an outward looking aspect – caring for others.

I believed to discuss it all with an older Christian accountant. His response surprised me. He had waited a long time, he said, for God to

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It was all very sad. Some who spoke to us said that they believed 'Brian' was jealous of the success that the Lord Jesus was displaying through the ministry. That seemed odd as I and everyone else knew that it definitely was Jesus Who was doing everything, and could not see how any one could be jealous of what Jesus was doing Himself.

Brian never approached any of us personally (—often noticed that when its false accusations, mostly they do not), but soon it became obvious that what others were telling us about his activities against us was widespread. In his campaign he was making use of his position of authority in a large outreach organisation in their region. I had viewed him as a personal friend – and soon went into some kind of depression and had a difficult struggle with sin. And mistakenly 'Brian' would have been one I would normally have turned to for help in my personal walk.

Nonetheless the Lord was extremely faithful, and got me, and others, back on our feet and kept the work going over the years that followed. While based in Southland, the Lord took three of us and another brother from up north, on an outreach into Hawaii the USA mainland for a few months. One of us went on to outreach in Europe and Israel and other places. And God graciously blessed me to go onto Fiji where the Lord moved very powerfully by His Holy Spirit for a good part of 1989.

Over the period of just under two years in Southland/Otago we were greatly blessed to witness the Lord Jesus moving in great healing power, miraculously, and amazingly in prophecy. With a number of folk being baptised into Christ. All that is quite another account though.

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When you read the prophecy you will be struck by the fact that it is not particularly describing the days in which it was brought, but the days in which we now live. And there is a strong warning from God in it.

Part of the prophecy declares that God in judgement of the church in New Zealand is going to geographically shake the nation.

And the Lord Jesus shook the town hall. On the day everyone assumed it was just a coincidental earthquake.

That was until the next day, it was found out, that there had been no earthquake. **We must therefore take all of this very seriously.**

Now the prophecy also stated that even their own movement was, in God's intentions, to be absorbed along with every other group in New Zealand, into one flock under one Shepherd.

I suppose you would have to be the president of a denomination to be able to get away with prophesying its end in God's purposes!

Although somewhat opposed by some, the prophecy was typed up and officially issued from the 'Apostolics' national church office.

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At the time I prayed and prayed (and I think even fasted) to find out about this word which God said He had already given. In the late eighties I learnt of what one old gentleman called the ‘Eynon prophecy’— but he did not have a copy.

One man I found later on did, but he was apparently bound over by his previously given word to denominational authorities, to not release it.

Then I was blessed by God to meet an early principal of a pre Te Nikau Bible Training Centre run by then ‘Apostolics’ in Hamilton. This old gentleman not only knew about the ‘Eynon prophecy’ but also knew that his son (in his fifties) was holding copies of it.

Finally I had obtained a copy of the prophecy. It was in the form of a photocopied impression of what looked like an original gestetner made print.

I took it to people still alive then who had been in the 1952 meeting and asked them to verify it. Not only were various couples able to do that, they were also able to tell me, and others with me (including Michael To’o), about how the Lord shook the town hall while the prophecy was being brought.

I strongly encourage all Christians in New Zealand to read and pray about the words in that prophecy. It is, I believe, near to being fulfilled in some measure.

And the measure to which it is fulfilled may well depend only on how we as a people respond to what God is concerned about enough, to warn us over in it, and other like prophecies that have been brought since.

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## **“But What About My New Car?”**

Sitting in a coffee bar in Wellington with a Christian friend “Bill”, ‘Steve’ and I were believing the Lord had been telling us for some months to take the Inter Island ferry down to Picton, and this was the day. We were to continue on to the deep south as the Lord led.

Bill felt strongly prompted of the Lord to mention that he knew that there was a sailing at a certain time that afternoon, and to encourage us to be on it. There was a strong sense of unction from the Lord Jesus on what Bill suggested, so after prayer we headed down to the ferry terminal and crossed over to New Zealand’s South Island.

As Steve and I were about to disembark in Picton, the Lord arranged for us to bump into a law student returning to Dunedin, who spontaneously offered us a lift all the way down there. He was in a hurry and taking a vehicle all the way through that night. We were believing to aim towards Southland, and this offer would take us towards the deep south at a great rate of knots. The man proved to be a brother in the Lord, and we went back to Dunedin a couple of times later to catch up with him.

The Lord had amazing plans for us in the deep south, and a wonderful outreach for us to walk in.

The outreach the Lord Jesus had ‘Steven’ and me on ranged over some 200km by 150km, based in a small town at the western end of the area. The ministry was varied and engaging, in fact quite demanding, and we came under even organised, as well as spontaneous, severe persecution at times.

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Really important gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans, and ministries in Ephesians 4. However any kind of song or act or performance can be used of the Lord – if He has inspired it in the first place, and the people keep themselves in the Holy Spirit—but no one can just make it happen or in the flesh reproduce it— that’s Headship again. Spiritually, Headship can refer to source, like the head of a river.

Ending up in “Trevor’s” kind of deception is a sad reality for many who bail out on something else major, that God has ordained in their lives, and a warning to the rest of us. Don’t muck around with the gospel and how people get saved! It is through the preaching of God’s word in whatever form that people get saved, not through entertainment no matter how high class. If the gospel message is not in it, and the Holy Spirit is not working with it, no one can get saved.

Be warned that there are such things that a person can do and be left unable to repent by God, for example:

“It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

“Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned. Hebrews 6:4-8

And Gal 1:8-9

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!”

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Really important gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans, and ministries in Ephesians 4. However any kind of song or act or performance can be used of the Lord – if He has inspired it in the first place, and the people keep themselves in the Holy Spirit—but no one can just make it happen or in the flesh reproduce it— that’s Headship again. Spiritually, Headship can refer to source, like the head of a river.

Ending up in “Trevor’s” kind of deception is a sad reality for many who bail out on something else major, that God has ordained in their lives, and a warning to the rest of us. Don’t muck around with the gospel and how people get saved! It is through the preaching of God’s word in whatever form that people get saved, not through entertainment no matter how high class. If the gospel message is not in it, and the Holy Spirit is not working with it, no one can get saved.

Be warned that there are such things that a person can do and be left unable to repent by God, for example:

“It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

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Other important prophecies since 1952 have identified that as a part of the Eternal Headship of Christ issue - (i.e. The Church is supposed to respond to God in how He ought run EVERYTHING) God has clearly warned that finances and resources and how the Body of Christ handles them is extremely important.

When I say Body of Christ and how it handles finances - that does not simply mean some committees or seemingly important people somewhere.

In God’s sight it first means, you, and me.

So you can see why I believe that it is an important time to reflect on how the rest of the Body of Christ can work together to support the works and His workers that the Lord Jesus Christ has ordained. How we can all remain under His leadership in the ways that He provides.

And quite simply a lot of that comes down to daily living, what we do with our time, resources, and money, how we fellowship, how our church gatherings are run, and whether we follow God’s ordained ways of appointing leadership — and who the leaders are who get recognised as being appointed, and how they behave.

Let me say quite boldly that the New Testament generally clearly portrays the Church being led by godly men called Elders, with Deacons, interacting and responding to Apostles, Prophets, and Evangelists in their respective roles. Elders and Apostles pastoring and teaching.

In life generally, that wives submit to their husbands, children obey their parents in the Lord, and workers work for their bosses as unto the Lord Jesus Himself. And everyone does everything in life directly for the Lord Jesus, to His standards of excellence, not the sloppiness of the present world around us.

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And that we all love and lay down our lives for each other, as Christ has done already for us—really living in the power of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I do not believe before God that anything in the New Testament writings may change until the Lord Jesus Christ personally and bodily comes back in the clouds for every eye to see.

And on the ground - the most important thing is love of God and fellow man, how you respond to the work and instructions of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Its not simply a matter of this or that group or 'church' is right or wrong. For the Church essentially is you and me and everybody else in Christ.

And once we have found God's freedom from false systems or other types of false religious experiences, the rest of it is about being focussed on our Lord Jesus Christ and out working faith and hope and love and truth in holiness in daily life. Truly living to honour God in word and actions.

To do that we must avail ourselves of the help of the Holy Spirit in all things, at all times.

There are I believe many Christians who have left what might be called "false systemanity", and many still in "system" 'churches' who are not actually living for the Lord Jesus Christ - some have let their 'church life' replace their life with God. While many who have believed to leave what they have perceived as 'false' groups, have not gone on as followers of Christ. Many just follow their own appetites and impulses, and are in fact living in the flesh - such does not lead to the Salvation of God.

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We never heard directly from Trevor again for many years, and then I did not know how to answer him. We learnt from others that he took his whole family off on a whimsical trip for one of his hobbies to Europe, and had some great difficulties there, and has ended up still there now. It had long-term seemed strongly that God had wanted to lead him into a real purpose of His here in New Zealand, but all has been lost now.

And during our last contacts with him we discovered that Trevor has been given over to a strange belief that people can be saved by music. Not gospel words in music, but by specially 'anoointed' tunes – series of notes – said to be from the Lord. We no longer consider him, a man who had once been used of the Lord to share the gospel widely, to even currently be a brother in Christ. He has made himself unreachable. When we last tried to speak to him about it he was besotted with it all. Music had become an idol he worships, no longer a means of worship.

Over the years so many Christian workers have noticed that this modern idea of haphazedly declaring some one with a natural musical or performing or other natural gift as having a spiritual ministry, is very wrong before God. It rarely, and I mean rarely, bears any good fruit. Meetings and gospel outreach are intended by God not to rely on the power of an entertainment system, but to be in the power of His Holy Spirit!

We could list *countless* New Zealand so-called musical 'ministeries' who have left their families and committed adultery. One wrote a song with words in it, "I had to leave her for the music", Trevor said to a common friend back then that "the Music", and not the Lord Jesus, took him to Europe. A Headship issue again.

You do not find such so-called 'ministeries' related to the arts, listed as of any importance in the New Testament! Not one! It most often provides a stage for folly, sinfulness, and many false things.

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Perhaps he would just like to ask God to bless the land and undertaking? We asked, explaining to Trevor how final dedication is, – how he would not be able to dispose of it without a direct word from the Lord and then only for the purposes that God then designated; and his wife and sons needed to understand that the purposes for which it had been dedicated stood before God, even after their father would pass on. We even explained to him that one of the main Hebrew words in the Bible for dedicating things to God meant destruction by fire, the donor could not themselves claim it back—it was passed to the Lord for ever.

I have often shuddered when farmers or others say their land or business or whatever is dedicated to the Lord, so frequently they cling on to it for grim death when the Lord Jesus actually comes knocking. A most dreadful trade off—worldly things—for Eternal Life.

Trevor thought about this and the next day said that he still wanted to dedicate the land. So we again explained the seriousness of it all, sharing Eccl 5 with him from the Bible. Still he said he wanted to do it. So a couple of days on we met Trevor on his land. We explained the whole thing to him again. No, he did not just want to ask for God's blessing on the land, he was going to dedicate it for the purposes discussed, so that others could use it as well. And so it was done.

Over a period of a year or more we stayed on the land a few times, and even started reaching out with the gospel while in the town. Others came to know about the dedication of the land as well. Trevor asked us to tell people. However we never saw Trevor set things up for his wife and family, or for any one else, as he had said he was going to do.

Then one day unexpectedly we received a letter not from Trevor, but from Julia his wife. Julia wrote that Trevor had disposed of the land in a deal where he traded it for a broken-down old station wagon, and some four by two timber to make an extension at the site they were staying on originally. Julia was worried that people would still go to use the land.

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In the testimonies that follow later on, two types of reactions to Christ's Headship are portrayed, which of the two types you end up being is the issue that is going to impact your eternity – enormously.

Some names and details have been changed to protect people, and to give glory to the Lord Jesus Christ. The testimonies show how important each of our relationships to the Lord Jesus are, and how crucial the contribution of the life of each child of God is to God's overall plans and purposes.

The prophecies that God has given for each part of His body in New Zealand are crucial. And the right reaction of each of His children to His Word to them is what He is looking for.

We must each realise that we each are part of one Body and that God looks for the loving obedience of each individual, each family, and fellowship, and ministry team. Both in small and great things.

For the Lord Jesus it is extremely important that we each, in whatever capacity He has called us, humbly accept our roles whether they seem great or small in our own eyes, and through faith and love continue and complete the call and purpose that God has for each of us, helping each other to do so, to the glory of God.

## **On the Wider Scale**

The New Zealand Church has often been badly served by those who have put themselves forward as Christian leaders in the past.

Hind sight will show that many have only been pursuing their own egos, even only desiring to line their own pockets with money. Others have enjoyed centralising power in their own hands - setting themselves up under the old heresies of centralist and bishop type government of the Church. Something neither Christ nor His first apostles ever taught.

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And while there have been many worthy ministries (perhaps truly more correctly identifiable as teachers, or evangelists, or prophets or apostles) holding the title of pastor - generally the whole pastorship system /setup had suppressed and crushed the development of genuine country, district, and suburban elder-pastor-bishop-overseers across the Body of Christ.

For God has placed the earthly government of the Church not in the hands of a man made hierarchy 'pastor system', but in the hands of elders who are told in the New Testament to direct His Church. As Peter writes, as one of Christ's first apostles, that the elders are to shepherd (pastor - the same word) - the flock.

¶ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow-elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds/pastors [Gk] of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd/Pastor [Gk] appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

¶ Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:1-7

These are some of the details that Lord Jesus is still addressing the Church today which are practical outworkings of His Eternal Headship. That means as the Son of God, the Church (us) is to obey Him to His Father's glory and not set up its own ways of doing things—often in direct contradiction or in opposition of what He has actually said.

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I reminded him that it was God's decision and grace towards him for the good of his family, and left the matter there in the Lord Jesus' hands. The next day the Lord strongly showed Michael and I to move on for other things that God wanted to do elsewhere.

Just a few weeks later we heard back from Trevor, and a lawyer friend of ours in the same area. Trevor had looked up one day to see an older man come into his shop, a man who Trevor knew had faith but who he had not seen for quite a while.

We'll call this man Bob. Bob had been strongly moved by God to go and see Trevor in his shop and tell him that he was giving a piece of land he had in a town 30 or so minutes away, free, to Trevor for him and his family to have a proper base. There was just a little bit of back rates to sort out(!)

Although right in town, the land was unencumbered by any buildings and very ideal for Trevor to move his housebus to, and build an amenities and recreation block on. Water was already available.

Our Christian lawyer friend hearing of the matter believed to do all the conveyancing fees for the property transfer, for free – praise God! Trevor took possession, paying the back rates, and planted a potato patch, and put a longdrop toilet in.

Michael and I were led by the Holy Spirit back through some time after all this had gone down. We were rejoicing at the wonder of what the Lord had done. Trevor wanted us to go with him to the land and dedicate it to the Lord Jesus for His work. He wanted to open it up for us and others to go and stay on as well as his family.

We were reluctant to do that, as we needed to see if Trevor knew what it meant to dedicate land, money or possessions to the Lord?

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Trevor had a store in the adjoining city, and had previously been travelling his young family all over the place.

The owner of the small farmlet was later to privately tell me that he only really allowed the family to stay for the wife and children's sakes, and looked forward to the husband finding a better arrangement.

However I did not know that when the Lord clearly spoke to me that He wanted to give Trevor his own piece of land, where he was to make a good base for his wife and family.

The reaction I got when I told Trevor this, was unexpectedly blunt, and quite forceful, and not a little bizarre. He said that owning land would lock him into the 'evil world system', and end him up having to pay rates to the 'evil world system', as he styled it. That in no way would God want him to own land for those reasons. In Trevor's estimation, it seemed it would all be only just a few steps removed from him taking the mark of the beast, from the way he was talking.

Strangely, Trevor was happy to squat on another Christian's land while they paid rates to the 'evil world system', as Trevor called what I assumed was the local District Council.

Nonetheless I believed to emphasise that God was going to have him given land, and he was to accept it as being from the Lord Jesus. Trevor proclaimed that he had never heard of land being given like that, that God would not do such a thing, and that he wouldn't do it himself any way.

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Paul another of Christ's earliest apostles commands:

¶ “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching”.  
1Ti 5:17

“The elders who direct the affairs of the church ...”

## God's Patience

God is generally very patient, and waits a long time often before doing anything drastic—looking for our repentance. For example God gave the Canaanite people in Palestine hundreds of years to repent of their awful sin—religion, before sending Moses to lead Israel back to the promised land and remove them. (Gen 15:16)

But God's patience must never be misinterpreted, for meaning that God is not actually concerned about any situation, whether in an individual's life, or with the wider Body of Christ, or in any place.

“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realising that God's kindness leads you towards repentance?”  
Rom 2:4

The Lord will eventually move on things as He thinks is necessary, and only waits in patient hope that we will repent. And that is what the prophecy reprinted again at the back of this booklet is warning us of.

We need to be reminded from time to time that God's previous dealings with the human race have often been irreversible. And yet there has always been some sort of build up during which God has had prophets and others warning people and calling them to turn again to God and His ways.

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At the time that God had Noah build the Ark He also was having Noah preach warning the whole human race for 100 years! And when the flood waters came – there was no escape except through the means of Salvation God had provided – the Ark. It was God who finally closed the door on the Ark leaving the unrepentant behind to drown. (Gen 7:16)

Even the Scripture records that,

“ ... God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also — not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.” 1 Peter 3:20-22

So too after the flood when God had told the human race to spread out filling the whole new world – and we stayed in Babel and set out to reach heaven by our own means – God came down and destroyed the unity of the human race, creating ethnic differences and languages that have kept us from falsely unifying against Him ever since. (Gen 11)

“ ... It saves you by the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

The whole point of God warning that He is prepared to shake us up (1Pe 4:17) over the issues of His Eternal Headship – is that we have lost sight of the fact that although we do see the rebellion of the human race and the Devil against God still playing out here on Earth – the Lord Jesus is already at God’s right hand with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to Him.

And that we as humans still on Earth are called to voluntarily and lovingly continue to choose, wholeheartedly to submit by faith to Him Who we can not yet see plainly, now. Knowing also that the Day

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At the time that God had Noah build the Ark He also was having Noah preach warning the whole human race for 100 years! And when the flood waters came – there was no escape except through the means of Salvation God had provided – the Ark. It was God who finally closed the door on the Ark leaving the unrepentant behind to drown. (Gen 7:16)

Even the Scripture records that,

“ ... God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also — not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.” 1 Peter 3:20-22

So too after the flood when God had told the human race to spread out filling the whole new world – and we stayed in Babel and set out to reach heaven by our own means – God came down and destroyed the unity of the human race, creating ethnic differences and languages that have kept us from falsely unifying against Him ever since. (Gen 11)

“ ... It saves you by the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

The whole point of God warning that He is prepared to shake us up (1Pe 4:17) over the issues of His Eternal Headship – is that we have lost sight of the fact that although we do see the rebellion of the human race and the Devil against God still playing out here on Earth – the Lord Jesus is already at God’s right hand with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to Him.

And that we as humans still on Earth are called to voluntarily and lovingly continue to choose, wholeheartedly to submit by faith to Him Who we can not yet see plainly, now. Knowing also that the Day

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## **Eternal Reward or a Useless Car and Some Sticks?**

**Bless God and His People or Stubbornly Keep to Your Own Way?**

What is Your Word to God Worth?

The Lord Jesus had blessed Michael and I with an old broken down Bedford J1 with a cab built on the back for carrying forestry workers into their jobs.

Phil Keelan and a family who had used it for carrying horticultural produce offered to help us do it up. It was sitting in the middle of some ploughed soil. It was a sturdy beast and would consume a lot of petrol. For nearly three weeks in often freezing cold conditions, wielding gas axes, sanding papers, and with the help of a Christian cabinetmaker and a builder, the vehicle was turned into basic accommodation / cooking quarters. You could only sit up in it, but at a pinch three of us could sleep in the back without having to put the tents up. Still we were a bit like sardines.

In the mid nineties The Lord later had Phil travel in it with us for some weeks as He prepared him to go on to full time gospel work.

We never took Lazarus, as the vehicle became known, to the South Island, but running on CNG it was very economical for use in the North Island of New Zealand.

Travelling a lot often put us on the edge of chronic fatigue, and there were times we just needed to rest up, with no ministry expectations on us at all. And the Lord Jesus marvellously provided times and places for that.

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healing ministry. They had been made aware that they were coming into money sufficient to do that. And believed strongly that God had told them to sort out the finances of the Lintern Street property.

This had come as an answer to much prayer by the supporters of the Healing house. Much thanks was offered to the Lord, as already people were being sent on from hospitals, often with otherwise incurable conditions, and the home was becoming an important centre for prayer for such dear ones.

Then the benefactor couple putting up the needed money shared something totally unbelievable.

Their pentecostal pastor had heard what was happening, and approached the couple—who were putting the money forward—on behalf of the Lord Jesus, and said to them that they were required to give him and his church a certain portion of the amount (which would have left the Lintern Street healing house a long way short), and as a sweetener—hadn't the wife always wanted a nice new kitchen, and the husband a new boat for years as well?

His group could have the amount they wanted, the wife her kitchen and the husband the boat he'd always dreamed of. And in essence who cared for this healing thing that was not part of their denomination (the true church?) any way?

And so at the time that I met the dear brother and sister running the healing house, they had one week left before the property was to go on the market with the bank's agreement, or face mortgage default.

I had no money to help them, and prayed with them, but had no sense that God (in this case—as in many) had a plan 'B'. Truly they vacated the premises as letters were returned to me "gone no address" when I tried to keep in touch.

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comes when He will return and things will very suddenly be very different. God will shake us now to get us ready for that Day and to accomplish His purposes of bringing His great Salvation to the world now, so that just as Noah preached to the world before the Flood was sent by God, so too people can be saved from this present world before it is too late. That is one of the main reasons God still leaves us here on Earth. Another is that God wants to prepare us for His Eternal future with Him. Are you ready for that yet?

“ I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles.

¶ First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

¶ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

¶ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

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Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen." 2 Peter 3:2-18

The Lord Jesus gives us the picture of Himself being seen as a king (and He is much more than that!). And like all kings, of even only worldly status, He rightly expects, as our Heavenly Ruler, for His Own Word to be obeyed. For His title Christ tells us that He is the One Who has been chosen by God the Father to have the Headship in all things.

That means that the Lord Jesus Christ is to be in charge of all situations in our lives, families, fellowships, and ministry teams, and at all times.

Headship means that God is the Head.

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## Healing in the Name of Jesus

Or Church Greed, a Boat and an Open Plan Kitchen?

By the Lord Jesus' leading, back in the early 1980's I bumped into someone who suggested that I should go to an address in Lintern Street Xville and meet some fine older brothers and sisters there who were running a home for people to come and stay, who needed the healing touch of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The husband Amos had ministered for some years as a traditional church 'minister', the wife faithfully supporting him in the Lord. So not surprisingly they had little money, and had plunged such 'retirement' funds as they had into the healing house ministry project.

I had been alongside a pentecostal type of church for a couple or so years, that underneath appeared to believe that only pentecostals really knew any thing of the healing power of God, but I had long known that God is a lot bigger than that among His children.

I was actually led by the Lord to be in Xville for other things as well, and while staying with dear Christian friends, believed that the Lord Jesus encouraged me to go along to Lintern Street and meet the people running the healing home.

An older couple, the husband had been in the ministry of God's word for many years, before they sunk everything they had into getting the Lintern Street home going. But they needed to freehold the property so that it would not be an ongoing drain on resources which were very thin anyway.

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I had to help him even manage getting his last payments out of that man. Ian was now actually in more debt than he had been when he started the job.

As time went by it has been hard to believe if Ian ever really deeply repented before God of the whole affair.

He has gone on to stumble from one situation to another doing similar things, additionally ending up in sexual immorality again, and more arguments with his employers. As of October 2007 (many years latter), he still does not know how many illegitimate children he is responsible for in total, he'd made no effort to find or provide for them.

And the intended ministry base never came to pass by other means. Meanwhile a dear friend in Christ has made his property available to Michael and I for which we are very grateful.

¶ “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

“For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

¶ “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

“You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. James 3:13-4:4

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How can we speed the Day of the Lord's coming?  
Through our loving obedience to Him now!

As you read the following life examples, please ask yourself where you fit in to God's plan. Which of the type of actions portrayed below are you doing, or going to keep on doing?

God is I believe raising up a new crop of young and older workers who He wants to be able to accomplish His will with a good clear run.

In many things the current generation of believers is as yet failing God. What are you going to do about it?

Is He calling you to service – in what way? How does He want it done? Are you called to meaningfully and deeply support the Lord Jesus' works and workers – in what way? How does He want it done?

In general Michael To'o, Phil Keelan, and others who have been with me have been gratefully blessed by God through the warmth, kindness and concern that various Christian people have shown to us over the years of ministry that God has called us all to serve Him. We have received dramatic support and seen selfless giving from people who often can barely afford to do it — and then often witnessed God's amazing provisions for those who have allowed God to put themselves out for Him.

What I have been witnessing in recent years though is the accumulative effect of the worldly pressures and attitudes already discussed here. The Body of Christ is moving far from the goals and general ways that God expects His people to hold to just as a normal matter of course. Some would now think that Christ's hospitality is just giving a cup of tea or even a meal to someone – it might — stretch to a bed on the lounge floor for one night.

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God has granted us to meet young men who are coming into the work of the Lord of late. **And strongly burdened my heart that He does not want these new deplorable worldly standards to apply to them.** God wants them properly looked after, lacking for nothing financially, personally, and in ministry needs, and to be sent on their way in God in a manner worthy of the Lord Jesus Himself. (3 John 5-8)

The new people, men and women, young and older, are not to be seen as cheap or free labour as they carry out their duties for the Lord, they should not be taken advantage of. They may pitch in and help as and where the Lord wants them to, but their main priority is to be the direct things that the Lord Jesus is calling them for, obvious gospel activities and any other thing by faith as led by the Holy Spirit. (1Cor 16:10)

We need a renewed understanding of God's version of hospitality. It is more than giving accommodation or a meal to someone. It flows from the heart as an expression of the character of God being formed in us.

God has chosen to accommodate us, even though we were as enemies to Him. The Lord Jesus has literally gone away to prepare a place for us, telling us that in His Father's house there are many rooms (John 14:2).

In biblical times hospitality was literally up to half your personal kingdom (e.g. Mark 6:23). Then the Lord Jesus laid down his life and told us to do likewise.

Christ upped the ante – our measure of commitment and support to Him and each other is now to be the tune of the cross and nothing is left out. The Lord Jesus does this with a few things. The Hebrew people thought that forgiving a person seven whole times was a virtuous thing to do. The Lord Jesus tells Peter His expectation of us is 70 times 70 – a Hebrew person's expression for unlimited. (Mt 18:21-22 – Robertson)

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Still the Lord really strongly nudged me and I believed that I was to gently insist on picking him up. Ian said to meet him at the Viaduct Basin (where the Americas Cup had been held).

He wasn't staggering, but he seemed unable to walk normally, and then as he approached I smelt it on his breath. Slowly he confessed that he had been drinking on a yacht in the Viaduct Basin.

We went back to where he was staying, and I believed the Lord said to go through his receipts and invoices with him. He had received a ton of money, and his outgoings were minute in comparison.

But he could not explain where the money had gone.

Bit by bit it came out that he met most afternoons with other contractors in boutique bars, and in a showy way he shouted rounds of drinks that cost \$9 — 30 per person. Ian had used the money to present himself as a wealthy member of a glossy chique community of sophisticated sinners in the heart of Auckland City.

Untold thousands and thousands, of money designated by the Lord for His works and workers, had been selfishly washed down the sewer.

To support this lifestyle Ian had started demanding more money from the main contractor, had offended him, and now he was frozen out from getting more work.

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Everyone who now knew the testimony of how God had spoken to Ian were very excited. It was wonderful to watch as God fulfilled His word to him.

God helped Ian learn the skills required, and soon he reported that he was bringing in substantial amounts of money.

Michael and I were kept busy ministering in other parts of New Zealand. And eventually three or more months went by, but no news from Ian about progress on the ministry base.

So we contacted Ian and asked how things were going. He said that the contract work had come to a stand still. Michael and I were camped and outreaching in the Far North. So I travelled down to Auckland to pick Ian up. Michael took Ian out fishing one evening and slowly it came out that Ian had been pouting over the fact that the money was not all going to be his. When that had begun, the contracts dried up.

We spent some time trying to encourage Ian that it was the Lord Jesus Who had personally spoken to him about what He wanted him to do, and then moved to actually bring it to pass, getting him the work.

We shared on how we had seen the Lord bless so many through the very kind of plan that God had given Ian to be part of.

God ministered to Ian over the days he was with us up North, and by the time I returned him to Auckland, his heart had been restored to God's purposes. And the contracts started flowing again!

Some three to four months went by and Ian said he had received a lot of payments, but he was saying nothing about progress on the ministry base. In fact by then, from what he had said to us, he'd have had enough for a pretty good deposit on something, let alone leasing or renting it!

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Everyone who now knew the testimony of how God had spoken to Ian were very excited. It was wonderful to watch as God fulfilled His word to him.

God helped Ian learn the skills required, and soon he reported that he was bringing in substantial amounts of money.

Michael and I were kept busy ministering in other parts of New Zealand. And eventually three or more months went by, but no news from Ian about progress on the ministry base.

So we contacted Ian and asked how things were going. He said that the contract work had come to a stand still. Michael and I were camped and outreaching in the Far North. So I travelled down to Auckland to pick Ian up. Michael took Ian out fishing one evening and slowly it came out that Ian had been pouting over the fact that the money was not all going to be his. When that had begun, the contracts dried up.

We spent some time trying to encourage Ian that it was the Lord Jesus Who had personally spoken to him about what He wanted him to do, and then moved to actually bring it to pass, getting him the work.

We shared on how we had seen the Lord bless so many through the very kind of plan that God had given Ian to be part of.

God ministered to Ian over the days he was with us up North, and by the time I returned him to Auckland, his heart had been restored to God's purposes. And the contracts started flowing again!

Some three to four months went by and Ian said he had received a lot of payments, but he was saying nothing about progress on the ministry base. In fact by then, from what he had said to us, he'd have had enough for a pretty good deposit on something, let alone leasing or renting it!

34

We must keep our hearts open to the Holy Spirit concerning any possession, resource, finance, overdraft, asset or other thing or privilege, service – just anything at all that is at our disposal that we would use for our self — and what the Lord Jesus wants to achieve at any point in time. We were bought at a cost – the Lord Jesus blood, and you are not your own!

The following bad examples, from the (sadly) many available, are the ones which I believe the Lord has encouraged me to retell.

They show the developing dangerous trend that must be reversed.

They represent some of the kinds of things which we are not to repeat if we are to succeed as God's chosen people, a royal priesthood, a people separated to God and His purposes– and not our own.

Let us open our hearts to learn from God about mistakes which we could make ourselves, and if we have done such things, earnestly seek Him in repentance.

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## **Gurgle Gurgle go God's Plans Down the Drain**

Tairawhiti—"The coast upon which the sun shines across the water".

In New Zealand it is where the sun first rises over the mainland. On one side the area is surrounded by the western Pacific Ocean and on the others by rugged and mountainous hills bounding the province north, south and west.

It was to Ruatoria in the northern part of this Eastland heartland of the Ngati Porou Maori people, that three of us went to spend time with Phillip Keelan, for the purposes of prayer and fasting and seeking the Lord Jesus for direction.

Michael To'o, a brother we'll call "Ian", and myself, arrived with Phil at the beginning of the week.

Phil himself of Ngati Porou descent was staying and working on a farm which had absentee Maori owners, and the empty homestead we were in provided the quiet and sanctuary that we each needed for spending time seeking the face of the Lord Jesus. Ian was out of work and needed God's help as strangely for him nothing was opening up as it normally would by God's grace.

Like all such times there was little immediately to report, lawn mowing and other things to help the unsaved owners, is about all that happened at first.

Then one day the brother we are calling "Ian", went up the hill to pray about returning to Auckland later that morning. As said, he was out of work and desperately needed guidance and provision from the Lord. Ian was away quite a long time.

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And when Ian came back down the hill, he looked quite surprised. In fact almost shocked. Unexpectedly the Lord had shown him something that he utterly did not expect.

Ian told us that God had revealed to him that He was going to arrange a very well paying position for Ian far above his wildest dreams, and that the money was to go towards providing a ministry base for Michael and myself and also others who the Lord was going to lead into full time ministry. (Unknown to us Phil Keelan was soon also to be called into full time ministry for the Lord in the South Island of New Zealand and the USA. Phil in 2008 is still about the Lord's work there.)

Ian was unsure what he wanted though! And said that he was struggling with the whole concept of using money for other people. He actually believed that God would get him this very high paying job, but initially wanted to keep all the money for himself.

We all encouraged him to stay true to what God was telling him to do as it would prove to be more important than any of us could know, as it came from the Lord Jesus. We warned him how serious and solemn it all was and how if he did it, he must stay true to what God told him.

Ian left and a few days later sent word that he had decided to do what the Lord Jesus had revealed to him. He arrived in Auckland and visited Christopher a common friend of us all in Christ.

Christopher had exciting news for Ian. He knew that he needed work and through connections of his own knew of a contracting job coming up to do with laser guided hanging of ceilings in office blocks. The remuneration was exceptional, with after tax takings of thousands over a relatively few weeks at a time.

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