When Lucy dropped me off at the airport she said, “I know this trip will be good for you.” In recent times I’ve been in Africa and the Dominican Republic and back and forth through Texas which is another whole country. (laughter) So you know as the year comes to an end we’ve been trying to complete commitments I had made and what also happens is you get tired and she said, “This trip will be good for you,” she said, “you’re going to hang out with one of your best buddies.” So she knew that I would come down and Michael and Melinda would look after me and that has happened - we got our limit, four guys got their limit on ducks two mornings ago. (laughter) Now I had to take off all those layers of camo because increasingly I’m speaking to a worldwide audience and they’re not familiar with me as a swamp person. (laughter) So it’s funny how you have to pay attention to details that you used to just take for granted. So I think some of them would have been underwhelmed (laughter) by my camo outfit. I think I’ll do what Jeremy has elected to do when I do these things and they’re photo ops I think I’ll have a glued on beard, (laughter) some of you got it, except not really. So anyway, I’ve been having a great time and as usual whenever I get with Michael and Belinda we talk well into the night but it’s not work at all, it’s the joy of laboring.

Just as a brief sort of catch up, I was saying to someone not long ago that when these things started - “these things” being the message of the Kingdom and the order and government of God and those things - many years ago when I started out with those understandings I really didn’t have a plan as to where any of it was going to go and in fact, by in large, I thought that because of the initial pushback that I got I thought that I would settle for making life a little easier for the next generations because I saw how many things were left unfinished to our watch - to my watch in particular. And I thought that if I could give the next generation something of a level playing field from which to start that was a highly accomplished life because I had no anticipation, let alone expectation, that things would change and become so different. One of the things is - there has been a convergence of two things: one is the volume of revelation that has come and the other is the change in the earth that has come and you know when I was coming along I didn’t have many persons with whom I could have this sorts of conversations because when you’re coming right at the point of a massive shift in things you’re not quite where you used to be and you’re certainly not where you’re going to be. And so it’s nobody fault that a road map is not available. And what I saw with the Lord was that He prepares you in a variety of very specific ways; He prepares you in terms of educational backgrounds and experiences and the like but He also prepares you with suffering and trial. It’s not that God is lost and doesn’t know where He is going, it’s that we are not yet disposed or orientated toward being able to receive downloads from heaven that will both illuminate our path and prepare us to become instrumental in the shifts that are to come.

I think forever - it seems like - we have favored the perspective that the fathers of the church from antiquity have done and said everything that needed to be done and needed to be said to position the church for all time in the world so that from then to the return of the Lord all we needed to do was to learn again the things that were once taught and practice them in the venue of our time and space and it would be ok. But that is not true and the reason it’s not true is because there are things in heaven that God intended to bring into the earth in the fullness of time and as those things migrate into the earth they actually change the economy of the earth,
the change reality as we have known it. This is difficult for us to conceptually grasp because we like certainty, we like predictability and our souls are constantly striving to reduce all variables so that we can have as close to pristine predictability as we might because it allows us to stay in control. The problem is - from that viewpoint - the problem is that the understanding of God and the understanding of what is in heaven to come into the earth can never rest in the earth within the human soul, it rests within the human spirit and the human soul is required to obey the spirit. And so the whole transition of heaven to earth creates an inherent turbulence whenever it comes and God has to prepare a people in every epoch to be suitable to steward the economies of heaven and bring the peace and good order of the kingdom into the earth in their time. Now it does not negate what God did with the fathers of antiquity but if that’s all we have then our souls will automatically default to that form of measurement and predictability and will try to shape everything to fit within those paradigms and that is the very thing that makes us unprepared for the coming into earth of heaven itself, the mandates of heaven coming into the earth.

So when we are at those critical turnout junctures where massive new things are coming into the earth from heaven, God has to first prepare a people in those generations so that they can actually be disposed toward the wisdom, the understanding, the counsel of heaven and be able the receive, in the earth, what is being endowed from heaven. That's why there are critical times when you find yourself somewhat at a loss because it’s not that the wisdom of the fathers has been negated or their doctrinal perspectives are rendered useless, no, it’s that when you are child you think as a child, you understand as a child and you act as a child but when you become mature it’s time to move on from those rudimentary perspectives. It’s not that the fathers were children, it's that the whole church was in a state of infancy, so the fathers were the best fathers for that time, now they were fathers no doubt but they were the best fathers over an infant church and they were in their stages of maturity as defined by the standards of that time. If that’s the standards we have we are like children in our time because there’s this huge dynamic of the eternal coursing through time so that the original intent of God is fulfilled on earth as He originally conceived it in heaven. So let me give you an example of that as we start.

Now what I want to talk to you about, really, today is what lies ahead, what lies ahead for us. You’ve all heard the blood moon nonsense and all the other speculations and conjectures and so on. You know what I wonder, I wonder when will there be - in the overall church - sufficient maturity that people are able to look at these tomes that are written and say, "These things are rubbish," before it’s proven to be just rubbish, rather than after the fact say, “Oh, this is rubbish.” When it first came out people asked me what I thought and I said, “This is rubbish,” and it’s a matter of record because if you understand the order of the heavens and the earth then these sort of shots in the dark are hardly anymore than that but we must have accurate, foundational templates to evaluate…it’s not that I care what these fellows are saying, it’s that I care about the level of maturity in the church. They would not have any free pass if the people of God actually grew up. Now I’m speaking to people who have intentionally chosen to discipline themselves and to be disciplined to come to maturity, so I’m not speaking really to you about these things, I’m saying that you are in a way first fruit of that which I believe is coming into the earth and when it does fully come into the earth we will not be blown around by every wind of doctrine and the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful schemings, we’ll bat those things aside. But let me say this also, it is critically important that we come to this stage very rapidly because the earth itself is convulsing around us and every paradigm for safety is being blown up in a hail of gunfire in cities like San Bernardino, I mean that is, you know, as stable an environment - I was saying I think Buck Owens used to live there. (laughter) But it’s as middle of the road as it gets
is my point and no enclave is safe but let me back track for a moment, I’ve told you where I want to go with you but let’s back track for a moment.

If you were to look from the viewpoint of God, you would see what God sees and you would know where things are going. For example, when God said, “Let Us make man in Our own image, after Our own likeness,” and then He proceeded to make Adam and Eve, a domesticated version of the Scriptures would say, “When God made Adam and Eve He completed the statement, ‘Let Us make man in Our own image and in Our own likeness’” but add some layers to it for a moment. You see it’s the glory of God to conceal a matter and it’s the honor of the mature - of princes - to find it out. So it’s classic to the soul’s perspective to take a single statement and make that the whole picture, when we do we leave so much on the table and it’s a self imposed blindness. Now everything I’m going to say to you, you already knew but this is a challenge to you to press the Lord for more than a linear understanding of the Scriptures, to press the Lord for a more dynamic, complete view of the Scriptures which would require the spirit to engage God bringing the soul under its dominion and then you will see from the viewpoint of the throne of God. Now when God said, “Let Us make man in Our own image and in Our own likeness,” here is something you already knew; that God knew the end of what He was about to accomplish from the beginning. Did He not? He’s Alpha and Omega, He sees the end of every matter from the beginning. So when He said, “Let Us make man in Our image and in Our own likeness,” what was it He was seeing when He said that? He was seeing one Man in the earth who was a fully mature Son; one Man, many members. The fullness of the stature that belongs to Christ, was that not what God was seeing when He said, “Let Us make man,”? If it were not, why is He making man? The whole creation was established to accommodate God’s vision, in its entirety, that He knew from the beginning when He said, “Let Us make man.” God had in His mind in the moment He said, “Let Us make man,” a certain kind of man. This Man would be in the image and likeness of God, the physical man was less than either the image or the likeness of God. Why? Because God is a Spirit. So far, what have I told you that you haven’t known? Nothing. You knew God knew the end from the beginning, you knew God is a Spirit. If you layer these understandings together what do you have? God wanted a Man who was spirit like God is Spirit, that’s what image means, image means a mirror of yourself; however you look when you look into the mirror that’s what you’re going to see, that’s called an “image”. If God were a man with a physical shape and form, then when He made Adam that would have been the mirror of God but when He wanted a man - and He stated His intention, “Let Us make him in Our image,” is that what He meant? If it’s not, what did He mean? Image means “image”, reflection. So when God started the process He wanted His own reflection but He didn’t just want a reflection, He wanted to replicate His own character in another, likeness. Now God is invisible because He’s a Spirit - you see the nature of God as Spirit is He’s so vast, God is so vast that He cannot be contained in anything that’s why God cannot have a physical form, He maybe contained in a physical form by an endowment of Himself but how do you capture the thing that is bigger than everything? You can’t, it’s inherently invisible. But to be inherently invisible does not mean that you lose personhood, you’re just bigger than can be captured in any form but you’re very much a person.

So the invisible may be accurately discerned by attributes, not by physical containment. Around the entire earth and extending into space there is atmosphere, it’s why you can’t take an Instagram shot of the atmosphere, it’s too big but if you can get outside of the earth’s atmosphere you can actually see the layers of the atmosphere, you can see where the atmosphere, more or less - begins but when you’re in it you can’t take a picture of it because it’s bigger than you and it’s bigger than you’re ability to conceive of it and see it. If it were possible
to get outside of God - and that’s the problem - then you could see Him, you could actually see that He exists. Since it’s not possible the only way to accurately grasp who He is is the replication of His character which is known as His likeness. Language fails us, quite frankly but we can get glimpses, wisdom will give us glimpses into a thing. So spirit is not “non-existence”, spirit is simply too vast because God as a Spirit is a corporate being, you’re inherently corporate if you contain everything, you’re inherently a “corpus”, a body - if you contain other things and because of the total inclusivity that defines the nature of God, God is a corporate being. Now that's the only thing you could refer to simultaneously as singular and plural. Let me give you an illustration of corporeity and I've used this example before. If Tim Cook is giving a briefing on Apple’s new products he will refer to Apple, properly, as a corporate entity, not to himself as the chairman of Apple but as a spokesman for the corporate entity so he would say “We at Apple are about to roll out certain new products.” But he’s actually speaking of one thing: a corporate entity with a logo of a bite taken out of the side of a Macintosh apple and he will say of that entity described by this symbol, “We,” Would that be inappropriate? No because he’s talking about the multiplicity contained within the one. But if a writer were describing the conversation that Apple’s Tim Cook had and were defining all of it as a singular entity that reporter would say, “Apple has announced a slate of new products,” “has”, singular. The one speaking from inside of the thing would say “Us” and “We” because he’s referencing not himself with particularity but the whole of which he’s a part and so he’d say “Us” or “We”, the spokesman refers to it in it’s corporeity. A reference to it by a third party will be a reference to its singularity

That’s why when the Scriptures say, “Let Us make man,” God is speaking from the viewpoint of His corporeity because He has man within Him that He’s about to give separate being to, visible being to. So when God says, “Let Us make man,” He’s talking from the viewpoint of God as corporate being defined by what He encloses. On the other hand, when Moses is writing about what God has done Moses says, “So God made man in His own image, in the image of God created He him male and female, created He, them.” So when God conceived of the creation of man He saw the end of the matter from the beginning and what He saw was a spirit being like He is Spirit, image. But He also saw a being in the earth who mirrored the characteristics of God himself and that would be likeness. When the end of the matter comes about and what was conceived in the beginning is executed in its entirety in the end, God will look in the earth and He will see the perfect likeness of Himself - image and likeness of Himself - a spiritual man who has matured to the fullness of the stature that belongs to Christ and God will say of this being in the earth, “This is My Son, this is My Son,” because that’s what God made in the beginning, He made His son. And just an example of this notion of corporeity, when God made the first son He made him as a seed. What is contained in an acorn on that tree just outside? In a single acorn, what is contained? You’re all correct. A) the ability to replicate itself, B) how many times might it replicate itself in one tree. What is actually contained in one seed anyway? If it’s the first seed what is contained in it? All of the subsequent iterations of the same thing. Who was contained in Adam? All mankind. Therefore Adam was a seed. The first son God put in the earth He put in the earth as a seed carrying all humanity from whom God would select the house, a family, but the selection would not be complete until God himself inhabited that temple of mortal clay. That’s why Jesus said, “I’ll send you the Holy Spirit.” When the Holy Spirit comes He will activate what God placed in you which was a spirit that was endowed out of God himself by a gift to you but remained dormant in that it did not exercise dominion and control over your activities - over your thoughts - since the days of Adam because man chose to be identified with creation in the Fall rather than to be identified with his Father. He clothed himself in the likeness of the creation around him and hid from his Father when he separated himself from his Father. Since that time the mindset of man toward God has been that God is his opponent, God is his
threat, not that God made him to be His son. It required the reconstitution of his thinking that came as a result of Jesus first coming and showing Himself to be the perfect Son, spirit ruling over flesh and reconnecting mankind in that process to a vision of God that had been lost since the Fall. But it was not until the Holy Spirit came that man was resurrected from that state of death and brought back to life as a son so that now, following the model of the Son, being assembled to the corpus of the Son, he might indeed again be a son to the Father like God created him to be and become.

Jesus came to establish the template for sonship and to die for the pardon of mankind and to present in the earth a spiritual body to which all who would be resurrected from death to life might be assembled, might be matured and might grow to the fullness of this perfection that God will ultimately view in the earth with the fondness of a father as he regards his son, that’s the original intent. Now how much of this did you not know? You knew all of this but you knew it in pieces. I do not believe other than perhaps my vision of a thing being so large - but even that you understood, even that you understood. This is not new information, it is just that it is a time for skilled workmen to come and to restore in the earth the vision of what always was. In fact, when you hear the truth what typically happens is there’s a leaping inside of you and it’s that thing of saying, “Yeah, I knew that,” well go ahead and say it, I knew that, because you did know that, take ownership of the thing the moment your spirit witnesses it because you already knew the letter but the leaping of the spirit within you now gives you the confirmation of the letter and the spirit and that’s yours, it becomes yours the moment you receive it. That’s the goodness of God, now it’s no longer somebody’s idea of these things, you could honestly say without overreaching or grasping, “I knew that.” You knew that what God had in mind when He said, “Let Us make man in Our own likeness and in Our own image,” He had in mind you assembled in Christ as Son. Am I wrong? I mean, do you disagree with me? I mean you’d be wrong if you did but (laughter) but there’s a reason I’m asking you. If you agree then it’s yours, it’s your vision, you have revelation from God that’s yours. Now is it just finding lovely jewels as we walk along a beach? This is how we reorient ourselves, change your mind; you’re not out of step, you’re not lost and you shouldn’t be scared in these times. You will be scared if you think this thing is going wildly off the tract. If you think ISIS is now going to invade your town and kill you at a Christmas party, then panic and fear will come in. Now watch the unscrupulous, watch what they will do, they’ll try to sell you condos in Utah, (laughter) four stories under ground, bomb proof shelters. Preachers have taken to selling freeze dried food for survival and people actually follow these clowns, I use that term like Jesus would call them “hypocrites”. We must not pay attention to these people as if they have any credibility at all because they’re speaking out of a theology of fear and if you agree with them they’ll make you fearful but I’ve read where it says the fearful and the unbelieving - they’re together you know - the fearful and the unbelieving run together and they shall not inherit the Kingdom of God because the Kingdom of God is not the product of wild and crazy thinking, the Kingdom of Heaven is this: it is a state of being that is characterized by righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, in this time.

You know what’s good about these times? It requires us to actually decide not just what we believe on Sundays, these times require us to actually have a foundation of belief upon which we live everyday and make every decision, from you’re wakening in the morning to your going down to sleep at night. It was always supposed to be a way of life, we divided into church life divorced from reality and divorced from how people actually live and the need for anchors to the human soul, so it was we thought on Sunday and how we lived on Mondays through Saturday but it’s not going to work anymore and God has pulled back the Restraener so that you’re going to have believe or you will perish in the Abyss of fear. These are those times. So it’s imperative
that we gain again a firm hold on the original intent, a firm hold, not a shaky hold, not one that will lose with the pressure but a firm grasp because this is what is required, these are the characteristics of the mature. No more should the blind lead the blind in the House of God, no more should children, who themselves are terrified by fear be allowed to speak for God, they should not be followed or emulated. You see some preacher teaching or advocating storing up and protecting himself or herself - reject those, they are not capable of leading, they don’t know God, they’re preaching to you through the uninformed human soul and if you follow them you’ll follow them into the ways of death, you’ll be dead while you’re alive. When this is done, God will have in the earth a glorious people comprised of every tribe, every tongue, every language, every nation; people from all the different ways humanity is divided will be congealed together by the Holy Spirit and assembled into one corporate Man and that corporate Man will have the privilege of carrying the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Body of Christ. That’s where we are.

Now three years ago in the city of Midland, Texas I brought a message and it was something that had been developing in me for probably six months before that and I won’t detail the events because I’ve spoken to and written about already and it’s readily available on my website. In that time, it was I think December the 10th or something like that in Midland, Texas, three years ago, I made the statement - prophetically - it was a composite of things. This was a time in which the Restrainer would be removed, in fact I have a piece on the website called the Removal of Restraint and that dovetailed with a response that God required from the people of God and that response was, “Come My children, enter your rooms, close your doors and hide yourselves for a little while,” because God is about to come out in judgment on the nations. It was the beginning of a time of judgment upon the nations and judgment would come will the simple removal of restraint, when you remove restraint it’s like removing the covering, things become evident what they always were. Restraint is mercy, restraint is kindness, restraint is compassion but when mercy, kindness, compassion are removed - and these things come as attributes of the Restrainer, the One who is the Restrainer is the One who brought order to creation, “The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters,” and if the water is the word out of which creation came then the understanding of what exists has to be understood through the prism of the Holy Spirit because He “hovers over”. He makes sense out of it. Every understanding of what is captured in the word requires the Spirit, the Spirit “hovers” over the water. Water in the account of creation is the word, the understanding of God as word - the Word came into the world as flesh, did He not? These aren’t just double speak you know, there’s a way to understand God through the soul and there’s a way to understand God through the spirit; when you understand God through the soul all that you can see are types and shadows because the soul is like a veil to the reality of things.

So God speaks to man who operates in his soul through language, through symbols, He speaks through analogies and stories, the Bible is like that. The way God expresses Himself to the man who lives in the soul is through parables, stories, symbols, numbers and so on. Why? Because those are things related to the natural world. Paul once said, “I could not speak to you as spiritual but as carnal,” it was not just that God is doing that, those who speak for God do the same thing. If you go to the Corinthians and they’re carnal do you reveal the wisdom of God that may only be apprehended by the spirit? No, it’s folly to and as a practitioner of grace Paul knew the difference between those to whom he may speak plainly and those to whom he could only speak through types and shadows because there is this duality because the human being has this duality; God put a soul in this corpus known as man and He put a spirit in the corpus known as man because in putting a spirit into him He put the ability to connect to the heavens, Spirit to
spirit. When He put a soul in him, He put the ability to translate the wisdom of the heavens into the earth, so heaven and earth are in this one creature known as man but the understanding of the heavens requires the Holy Spirit to break it down and reveal it to you. The understanding of the spirit may be presented into the earth through pictures, through types, through shadows, through numbers, things that are tangible, things that by their definition allows you to apprehend, in physical symbology that which is inherently not susceptible to the same kind of grasping. You see? That’s why, that’s how it works, whether we believe it or not, that’s how it works. But the spiritual man is connected to the heavens and I’m not condescending in any fashion to you, I’m just saying, you know these things but most people don’t know these things but everybody ought to have known these things and when we find our way back we’re not going to find our way back along the same path that’s taken us this far down because that path cannot deliver the truth, the soul cannot deliver the truth of the heavenlies to mankind and our hope is vested in the Living God and not in the ability to control our circumstances. This is the big shift right now that we’re having to make.

So when the Restrainer was taken out of the way darkness would come because there was not even the pretense of keeping the knowledge of God in the minds of men, and what would result from that? A depravity, a reprobate mind. When you choose not to retain God in your knowledge you have no way, no template, for the discernment of even the times and the seasons. Where would you get it from? When you choose not to retain God in your knowledge you yourself are without restraint and you will interpret things in creation in a very domestic fashion, meaning you will interpret it as it appears good to you and to a consensus of people who will agree with you. That’s the blind leading the blind. We’re in the time when we must speak plainly, if there’s no certainty of the sound no one can prepare for the battle. That’s what God is raising up, a mouthpiece, a people, a corporate entity who will speak into the earth with the wisdom of heaven and we can’t any longer politically assemble people, we tried that, we tried that at a time when every man wanted to do what was right in his own eyes and leaders would not be restrained by the truth. So God let people run and three years ago He began to say, “I want you, My children, into your rooms. I don’t want you engaging the discussion in the earth because they’ll mock you.” Comedians on late night tv like fools and blind would mock the truth, so don’t say anything to them, “Come into your rooms, close your doors.” Go to ground, be silent and let it be a parade of men and women who are delighted by the sound of their own voices. It would be Mardi Gras for three years and that is an ugly thing, (laughter) that is profoundly ugly - Mardi Gras, three years. Let em’ parade because if you are speaking to them in the time of their drunken revelry they will actually attack you, “I’ll pull you out, come into your rooms, close your doors, hide yourselves for a little while,” and by the wisdom of the Lord I declared that a “little while” would be three years. Look at what has happened since then, do you realize three years ago ISIS wasn’t on the scene, three years ago Trump wasn’t on the scene? (laughter) Shall I go on? (laughter) [audience voice - You can’t Trump that] (laughter) Now if Havart starts speaking with Carl we will have an echo in here that will be a harmonic distortion. (laughter)

If you just go back and look at where things were three years ago, now no one knows what they’re doing, the best military planners don’t know how to engage the current times and preachers talk about the randomness of the preachers now has become untenable. They’re declaring things about God that are absurd and they’re desperately trying to find a Republican candidate to align themselves to, in this country, now. God is not mocked, you will reap what you sow, the church walked away from God about forty years ago and joined the political parade. I was almost at times a singular voice crying in the wilderness saying, “Don’t go this way,” at the same time when people were congregating to pray for the election of Republican
leaders and formed great movements over that, I said, “This is a red herring, don’t go this way,” but they said, “But we’ve got to do something and this is the best opportunity, it’s the lesser of the two evils,” and I said, “Anytime that you admit that it’s evil you don’t have any business associating with it,” because evil doesn’t ultimately become righteous, evil makes an evil person of you because I read where it said, “A little leaven will leaven the whole lump,” and my contemporaries back then said, “You’re just an isolationist,” and I said, “No, no, no there is another way and that way has to be perfected before we have anything to say to a debauched nation,” and I held the course with that all those years but three years ago God said, “Stop, stop talking to the public. In fact, pay attention only to that measure that I have given you. Pull back and concentrate on the measure I gave you.” Don’t engage the pastoral meetings and those things, “Even there what I’m saying can’t be heard because their minds are predisposed to what they want to hear.” But what He did say to do - He gave me several visions, one was of this crazed driver coming down the street and like in a rote of brownstone houses in New York, person on a hill, children playing in the street and he was about to make a run through the children and I saw like a father coming onto the landing of one of the houses midway down and calling in very urgent terms, “Come into your rooms,” and the children got up and went into their rooms and the doors were closed. I didn’t see whether the driver went through or not. After that, the vision changed and I saw what being in our rooms was about, the vision changed to that of a tree in winter, all the leaves were falling but I could see below the ground and I saw this massive taproot being engorged with the sap that was coming down and the gravitational force pushing this taproot down into the substrate toward the water table. And I also saw - also below ground - the root system spread out in multiple directions, almost an interlacing of roots, so I saw primarily below the ground and I understood that a preparation was being made for the end of that time, for the end of the three years and I understood in my spirit that three is the number of the days that you’re buried, that you’ll arise again after three days. I understood that and so I could see underground and I was actually not occupied with anything that was going on above the ground.

So I was looking into what God meant to do in the three years of burial, where we’re not to be speaking to the world, we’re not even to be speaking to the church but only within the spheres that God had given us, there would be some interlacing and interconnecting but not to reach out, not to try to say anything to anybody who was not disposed to hearing. And then God showed me below the ground I saw the massive taproot was reaching down into the very presence of God, reaching into God himself and that what would result would be an explosion of insight and revelation from the throne of God and I think some of you have followed some of the things I’ve been saying on the Internet and some of the others with whom I’ve been working. When people tell me today that the heavens are brass, I’m thinking, “You must be crazy, I can’t keep up,” it’s an absolute explosion of revelation of God himself, God is showing who He is. So my counsel is - but I’m not giving much of the way in that counsel - move from under your heavens. If you’re under where the heavens are brass, move because you’re in the wrong place because heaven is open in a way that I have not seen it. I would say that I have seen more and understood more of the profound things of God in the last three years than all of my previous life put together, multiplied by many times. It is an incredible volume of flow and I am not the only one, there are dozens of people that I know - some of you being particularly included in that I know what is going on personally with some of you and with so many of you. There’s just this incredible explosion of things.

So I saw the taproot reaching for the water of life in the hidden stratus below the ground and I also saw that it was moving out and growing outward and I understood that when the season
changed two things would happen: there would be new growth above ground and that growth would be voluminous, multiplied times what it used to be, number one. And number two, it would attract great resistance. Voluminous growth but the very nature of it would attract great resistance. So I understood that the support of the new growth coming in the spring time had to reach the deep water tables, if you didn’t reach the deep water tables it could not have been sustained going forward and the spreading out of the root system was to stabilize the tree in the day of resistance. And I saw that three years was actually the minimum time that we would need to achieve this status of preparedness for what was coming next.

To recap, the first vision was the crazed driver getting ready to run down the street in his car and the father coming out on the porch, calling the children into the house and the doors close. The second vision was that of a tree in winter. The third vision I saw was a disclosure, it was like a pulling back of a veil and I understood that we were not going to be disassembled out of our rooms because the room now was our place in the Body of Christ, we were not going to be disassembled again but we would learn to work together with each joint supplying, not just as a unified grouping of parts but as one complete entity and we’d function out of that place to the point where when God began to pull the veil back the earth would see the template of how it ought to govern itself across the kingdoms of the earth and they would know that such a thing did not come up by the craft of men’s hands but it was assembled, it was assembled in obscurity by the Living God himself. So this is the time for the pulling of the veil - and the veil will not be jerked back because not everything is functioning like it should but God will begin to pull the veil back, as people’s eyes adjust to the light that is coming out of this thing He’ll pull the veil back more and more, and more and more and within a time ahead of us all of what God has done as a template will be revealed to whoever has eyes to see and ears to hear. And this thing that God has done and will reveal - in fact, as soon as He finishes that standard in you He’ll reveal it, He’ll reveal it into your spheres.

So you must understand there are ranks, there are ranks of this order; the rank is not about who is better, don’t get that in your heads, that’s old thinking, that thing has worms in it and it stinks. Every person has been given a calling in the Lord and the calling was determined by God and the characteristics of your calling have been ordained by the Lord together with your own character. I promise you this, this is what it will look like, as much as you could ask for, or think, or imagine the endowment of what God has for you exceeds those things, so there’s nothing to be grasped for. If you could get it in your heads - you don’t have to grasp for anything. There is exceedingly, abundantly more than you could think or ask that God means to put under your rule. There’s no purpose to be served by jealousy, there is no value to what another has that is greater than what you have; it’s not competitive, it’s not equal, it is unique. There is no way for you to compare unique things and the One who ordained the expression of Himself in and through you is the Living God himself, He set your measures, meets and bounds and He created you to be able to carry His presence in the fullness of the measure that He has allotted to you before you were in your mother’s womb. Our thinking is going to change, our thinking has been influenced in the time in our rooms in this fashion: that we’re no longer in unity, we are one. It’s not a spirit of unity, it’s the unity of the Spirit and that produces one, for he says, “Endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,” not the “Spirit of unity” because there’s one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all who is above all and through all and in you all. When we understand that in the aggregate we are one then the value of the individual is amplified by the existing of a condition of oneness, so every joint will supply.
So begin to think about what sort of supply are you to the whole. If you will lay a hold of that, “What sort of a supply am I to the whole?” You will have everything you want or need for your own measure, for your own consumption and that would be a rounding error, that would amount to a rounding error. Then you will have the opportunity to represent the Lord in the excess, in the excess of His grace that appears through you. For some it will be money, for others it will be revelation, for others it will a standard of righteousness, for others it would be the glory of kindness, for others it will be the beauty of compassion, for others it will be the creative graces of art, for others it will be how you rule a family of people in the workplace as a father. It won’t be the same thing for everyone because each part is unique but there is now coming the grace of God, the economy of God upon the House of God that there will be an overflowing. So if I can give you a mental picture - if you think that you could contain it all for yourself it’d be somewhat like trying to drink from a fire hydrant. (laughter) Get that mental picture, get that mental picture.

It is time for you to stop thinking as orphans with regard to “how much can I get and hold of money and power” and start thinking about what is the native grace that I carry that represents the nature of God. Because when you give what you have in this unique configuration called the Body of Christ what you need will also be supplied to you, you’re not both one who gives and one who supplies his own need, that’s not what it’s going to be like because what’s coming into the Body of Christ is the very attitude of God the Father in the many members. His nature is to care for you and He’ll supply care for you through the other but there will be no unproductive parts, every branch that does not bear fruit He will prune. So if there still is an attitude of how this is going to be personally for me, the consumer of all graces, God is likely to give some an early promotion to heaven, seriously. Shift from the attitude of your hearts about how does this benefit me to understanding this truth, that, “I carry the presence of God as a supplier of grace for others.” You could continue to be a consumer of grace or you could become a supplier of grace. Listen, you should have reached down into the substrate and drawn life from the subterranean river and you will not dry up in this season when everything around you dries up. This is the season where you will bring your fruit in its season because you are like a tree that is planted by the rivers of water. Back away from thinking about how little you have and how much you have to protect it, to how much you have and therefore how much you need the other parts to be all that the other parts are capable of supplying.

Now you might think, “This is really good pep talk,” (laughter) or not but I’m telling you I’m living in that reality now, I’m living in the thing I’m telling you. Gene, not in my wildest dreams would I have imagined, in such a short period of time that I would have been catapulted to such a place of prominence in the earth but what I understand is how much I need the other parts to be all that they are supposed to be. You see, we’re not called to function in a local congregation, that’s not the big picture, we’re called to function in a Holy Nation but our vision has been limited to a local congregation. Now some people have a measure that is local but it’s amazing how God can take a boy’s lunch of five loaves and two fish - five of course being the number of grace. When God receives five loaves and two fish from the natural order it passes through the membrane - if you like - of grace and it now becomes symbolic of something else, it becomes symbolic of bread from heaven. Now the lesser is always contained within the greater, the greater is not contained in the lesser, the lesser is contained in the greater, that’s obvious. So it was still bread to be eaten but it also came to represent something else, bread from heaven. And so you have this duality going on where when grace attends even material substance it becomes sufficient to feed an entire multitude and they’ll all eat and be satisfied that day. And then He will instruct that they pick up the fragments of grace - if I can say it that way - they pick up the fragments of five loaves and then He would deposit these fragments into twelve carriers of grace, all the fullness that is described in Him. He came and He was full of grace and truth.
and the next day He would say to the ones who followed Him, “I am the Bread of Life come
down from heaven. That thing yesterday was a picture of Me, now will you eat of Me that you
will live? You only want the physical substance but what you saw yesterday was grace come
into the earth, bread from heaven came. He was the five graces, the five loaves of grace that
were broken and put into twelve canisters, twelve baskets, the twelve disciples carried the
fullness of the grace of which He was full into the earth from that point forward. He was showing
them a picture of how He in you becomes the supplier of grace for others for all time, for as long
as you live and this multiplication has carried on and carried on and carried on. So I want to
challenge your thinking because this is what God is about to do as He pulls back the veil, this is
what God is going to reveal: He’s going to reveal carriers of His presence, carriers of bread from
heaven; carriers of grace, not merely consumers of grace. Change your mindset because it’s
that mindset that limits you to only what you can manage; if you bring the mindset of the orphan
to the economy of grace it will always only just be bread that you can eat, you’ll always only be
thinking about how much can I do to supply myself. But if you bring the understanding of the
spirit to bear on these matters you’ll stop thinking about how all of this works for me and the
moment you start thinking - I promise you this, this is truth - the moment you start thinking about
how is this to benefit others, how is the thing that I am carrying from God designed to benefit
others, everything you are doing will overflow. Why? Because we are tapping into a different
supply, the economy of the heavens.

Let’s stop here, let’s eat some natural bread, think about those things you’ve heard in the spirit
then we’ll come back in a little bit.
In the first session we connected the prophetic words from three years ago to present things and we also talked about the coming forth of an economy of grace to sustain what God is doing in the earth. In the beginning of this session I’d like to talk a little bit more about the economy of grace to sustain what God is doing in the earth but I won’t spend a lot of time talking about that because I want to talk more about what is it that it is going to sustain, this thing of which we are part, what is that and why therefore is the economy of grace going to support that. So let me speak for just a little bit about grace itself. One of the things I know you’re all experiencing in this time is a radical, urgent, overwhelming need to upgrade our Sunday school level understanding of the Scriptures. Do you realize that most of our “church going” experience reenforces a view of God that we learned in Sunday school? Do you realize that’s the level of the insight and understanding that the vast majority of the people who go to church on Sundays, have? And part of the reason is the leaders do not want - assuming they could - they do not want to challenge the people beyond those levels because they don’t know what the outcome will be. When you’re in Sunday School you learn Baptist doctrine because that’s the whole point of Sunday school is to indoctrinate people, young children coming forward to a particular set of beliefs unique to a church - it doesn’t matter if it’s Baptist or Roman Catholic or Church of Christ or even Pentecostal. Sunday School is about exposing them to what the view of that church is and from that point on nobody dares change those paradigms because if you do either the people will say, “Well we’re Baptists,” or “We’re Pentecostal and you’re not preaching our gospel.” Or if they change you don’t know how many people are going to change and leave with you and it’s a very unsettling thing, to risk change.

So the majority of the revelation today is attempting to work within the framework of your infancy because the risk is too great to step outside of that and so quite obviously what has occurred is that most of those saying things today can do no more than appeal to your reason, they cannot reveal the Scriptures to you. And even when the thing is pretty obvious, they still miss it. You know again, the blood moons as an example; you don’t need a sign in the heavens if you have the Holy Ghost. It’s simple, this is elementary, what need do you have for a configuration of planets and moons in the heavens if you have the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit work with you and within you? The Spirit himself testifies to our spirits, it’s Spirit to spirit. Is there any need for interpretation when it’s Spirit to spirit? No, because the mind of the Spirit, which is the mind of Christ that’s now in you, is perfectly capable of hearing what God is saying word for word, sequence for sequence, frequency for frequency. Why would God need to go outside of the communication of the Holy Spirit to show you something that requires conjecture? Why? Why? Why would you ever need - as a believer - why would you ever need blood moons as a sign? Who needs those? The unbeliever. Who said that? “An unbelieving generation needs a sign.” The believer does not need a sign in the heavens because he has the Holy Spirit who is perfectly able to communicate without any risk of loss of the message, exactly what the Spirit is saying to the church. I read that somewhere. (laughter) That’s why Jesus would refer to people in His day in these terms, “Oh you fools and blind. You’re foolish because you’re led away and you’re blind because the things you should see you don’t see.” Now I’m not saying that to you, please don’t misunderstand me, Jesus was saying that to people in the context of a people who seek a sign. Now who needs a sign? One who does not have the Holy Spirit.
Now what is a sign supposed to be, a mystery? No, if a sign is a mystery it’s not a sign. (laughter) It’s pretty simple, isn’t it? If it’s a mystery it’s not a sign, it doesn’t qualify as a sign, a sign says “Stop!” and it means to arrest you. So the thing about a sign is that it’s obvious, for it to function as a sign it has to be obvious and when you’re speaking to unbelievers with a sign it doesn’t require them to believe in order for the sign to be telling. These are simple things. So if you have a sign in the heavens (laughter) you say by this sign, “Jesus is coming back.” What use is that to the unbeliever? Because the believer doesn’t need it, he has the Holy Spirit - what use is a sign in the heavens to unbelievers that says Jesus is coming back if that’s the meaning of the sign? He doesn’t believe in Jesus, he doesn’t believe He went or He’s coming so it’s a useless sign. So the sign has to be a one-to-one correlation between what you’re trying to say and what it’s obviously saying, so when you see moons in the heavens with blood what does that say to the unbeliever? Let me give you a hint. Two thousand years ago some astronomers, they were Arabic people from the upper Euphrates from around where Baghdad and those places are now (where they always were) they saw a sign in the heavens. You know what the sign was? There was a star - because they were astronomers - they saw a star the name of which was the Desire of the Ages, they named it the Desire of the Ages. They saw this star appear in a constellation called Virgo, you know what they said? “I got that,” the Desired of the Ages is being born in the earth through a virgin so they came to look for a man who would be more than just a king, yes they brought presents worthy of a king to Him but they also said, “We have come to worship Him,” and nobody came to worship kings, they came to worship Living Gods. So they knew the One for whom the ages longed, the Desire of the Ages, was born wherever this star would stop and He’d be born from a virgin. And that’s what they said, “For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

Unbelievers require a one-to-one correlation between the sign and what’s going on in the earth; a sign in the heavens should tell you what is going on in the earth and more to the point it should tell you that heaven is in control of it, it’s not random in the sense of being out of control, heaven is in control of this. God is saying, when He configures the heavens to show you something on the earth, “I got this, so come to Me for your refuge because this thing, I’m in control of it.” So if you see the whole earth referred to them as blood moons, what would that say to an unbeliever? It doesn’t require him to believe in Jesus, what does it say? It says this is a time in which peace is taken from the earth and replaced by bloodshed, it’s what it would say; blood will flow now upon the earth. What has been happening? So many of these guys cannot resist the urge to monetize everything they get so they sell the bread to their children, to the believers, and the bread has worms in it and it stinks. If that’s your interpretative paradigm it will embarrass you and sicken those who eat of that bread but they’ll reboot in a few months, they’ll come out with something else and a foolish generation will charge right after it because they will not keep their feet in check, they’re still living out of a Sunday School understanding of the Scriptures. That’s why they’re tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful schemings but there is an alternative to all of this and finally there will be a people who are sick enough of eating trash - the funny thing is even when it’s so obviously false people will still say, “You shouldn’t come against the man of God.” You don’t have to come against anybody but you can hold up the template of the Scriptures as the standard for judging those who are false and everyone ought be able to do that so that within the spheres of your administration and graces you can indeed be light.

So I want to talk a little bit about what all of this is leading to now and it’s leading to a new release meaning a greater measure of the release of grace in the earth. Our Sunday School understanding of grace was that grace was “unmerited favor” and the funny thing is people will
actually argue with you for a more complete definition because they love the familiarity of their Sunday School understandings. For example, Paul spoke of grace in these terms, to the Ephesians he said, “You have heard of the grace that was given to me for you Gentiles,” how does that fit into “for by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves it’s a gift of God” (unmerited favor)? You know what, it doesn’t fit but in our linear thinking if it doesn’t fit it’s a contradiction. No, that’s nonsense! That’s the way children think. Grace has many facets to it; one grace has been given to save you, another grace has been given to empower you because once you’re saved that’s not the end of the story, you’re saved to be reconciled to God, you’re saved to be conformed to the image of His Son, you’re saved to become an exact representation of His person and each of those aspects of “becoming” requires a different understanding of grace. You see, if you insist on the Sunday School understanding then invariably it’s “this or that”, you’re required to choose between this thing or that thing but if it’s a design to supply many things then supplying each of the things that it is supposed to supply is a valid understanding of the thing itself and your better understanding of the same thing is as it applies in all of its permutations.

So when people insist that the only understanding of grace in the Scripture is more something that is akin to mercy than it truly is akin to what grace is, then the deficiency of that understanding will define the understanding itself and you’ll end up being deficient. The way we understand grace from our Sunday School years is indistinguishable from the concept of mercy, grace as we understand it is no different from mercy as mercy is and it’s in fact not a proper understanding of grace. We understand grace as a motivation, not as an economy. What motivates God to give you favor? That’s the mercy of God; God who is rich in mercy has saved us, the Scriptures. So as far as we’re concerned, carrying on Luther’s version of what grace is we actually are defining mercy, the motivation for saving us; God had mercy on us and so He gave us grace. Grace however is an economy and this economy is designed to accomplish everything that is inherent in this mandate for the sending of grace, the mandate was this: God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, II Corinthians chapter 5 - “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting men’s sins against them.” So in the person of Christ there was sufficient grace to accomplish reconciliation, reconciliation is the restoration of the original intent, reconciliation is the restoration, bringing back into being the original intent. Now to return that condition you must find the person where the person is and bring him or her all the steps back to that. So where is the man or woman when Christ finds him? He’s lost. What is the condition that defines his being lost? His soul rules his spirit, utterly and that’s why he’s lost, if his soul did not rule his spirit so completely he wouldn’t be lost.

So the first order of salvation is to save the soul. What does that mean? That means bringing it back to the original design because you can't restore his purpose without first restoring the order within the being. You could drag him along, you know hit the ball and drag...(laughter) but you can't get him back to where he is without fixing him, internally. So when the Scriptures speak of “by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it’s a gift of God” the first element of salvation is not about going to heaven, it’s about restoring the internal order of the being but because the Roman Catholics defined salvation, since the days of Constantine, as going to heaven every reference we find in the Scripture to salvation is automatically listened to in the frequency of going to heaven. But salvation does not always - nor does it often - refer to going to heaven in the Scriptures. For example, there was a time when Moses said to Israel when Israel was on the edge of panic, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord your God. Now, nobody went to heaven that day because I don’t think any of the Egyptians did but was Israel saved that day? Sure, it was saved from Pharaoh, it was saved from bondage, it was
saved from a type of Satan, the oppressor of the believer but nobody went to heaven that day or at least none of the good guys went to heaven that day. It automatically defaults in our Sunday School understanding that salvation means going to heaven when you die. No, please understand I have absolutely nothing against going to heaven when I die, especially when you consider the alternative (laughter) and in fact, when I’m not here you may accurately presume that I’m in heaven. If on some point we disagree this too God will make plain to you, (laughter) only let us live up to the measure of what we’ve already attained.

So we have to back away from these elements of understanding that we have so entrenched in our cultural understanding of God and the Scriptures that we have made our cultural understanding the same as what the Scriptures are saying. This is part of bringing a people to maturity. Jesus when He came, the Scriptures say, He was full of grace and truth, full of grace and truth. That means the fullness of what is grace He carried, the fullness of the economy of grace He carried and it says from His fullness we have received grace upon grace, from His fullness; we’ve received grace and then we’ve received grace again. As we said at the beginning, God speaks to the natural man with numbers, symbols, stories, parables, signs to the natural man but all these things have a spiritual coefficient. So grace as an economy in the realm of humanity is typified by such things as the strength of your right arm and the fingers on your hand because these represent your economy. So the number for grace in the Scripture is five. I alluded to that earlier on when I said He who was the Bread of Heaven was typified in five loaves which were then broken and put into twelve containers that fed the multitude naturally but the spiritual coequal of it is He who is bread from heaven was broken and put in twelve disciples to feed the multitudes that would come in His time and to the end of the age. So that’s how this works, alright. So when it says He came and He was full of grace and truth it means that there were five distinct economies of grace contained within the definition “full of grace”. Five pillars on either side of the temple held up the temple; five gifts, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. The numbers in the Scriptures are not accidental, it’s how God speaks in typology, He reveals heavenly mysteries through tangible expressions around which the human could wrap his mind. So if you’ve got five fingers on your hand and you could hold and implement what it is you use to produce labor to produce an economy then you can understand that by these five fingers on your hand that there is an economy there to do something. Five pillars on either side of the temple, there’s an economy there to hold up a house and so on. I could go further into what the word means in terms of how grace is an economy.

Let me talk about the five definitions of grace and then I’ll talk briefly about what is the substance of grace that flows in these five administrations. When Jesus came into the earth He was sent full of grace and truth and He was sent to reconcile man to God in His person. So the fullness of what is grace is contained in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and the purpose for this fullness of grace was to find man where he is and bring him all the way back to the original intent. To do that, the economy that God put in the earth is called grace. The first of these economies is the grace of salvation, it’s one of five administrations of grace, the grace of salvation. The purpose of salvation is realign the person internally, to realign you internally, to bring the soul back under the rule of the spirit because until and to any degree that that occurs one begins to gain traction in your journey with God and in fact, the biggest struggle that anyone ever has as a believer is in exactly that realm, to bring the soul back under the rule of the spirit but you have grace for it. I haven’t defined yet what actually is the substance of grace, I’m just telling you how it works, whatever it is it is sufficient to bring your soul back under the rule of your spirit because that grace was contained in the person of Jesus and it’s one of the
necessary graces to lead, sequentially, back to the original intent. So there’s grace in God to save your soul but we’ve always thought saving the soul means saving the soul from going to hell, that’s an end result. If you’re never rescued by Christ, if you’re never assembled to Christ you will go to hell but even when you’re saved initially by believing in Jesus you still need to “work out” your salvation. What’s that? I mean do you get it or do you have to work at it? The answer is yes. (laughter) Because what you get is the grace to work it out, He gives you the power to become, He gives you power to become which is not an uncertain outcome but it’s reference to a process, it means the finished thing doesn’t happen immediately but you have everything necessary for life and godliness.

The economy is not of you, not of works lest you should boast because there is a supply from God which is in the Body of Christ to enable you to bring the soul back firmly under the rule of the spirit so that you can live, you can live an eternal life. Now that’s salvation, an outgrowth of which is you will never be separated from God again which means you won’t go to hell but there’s nowhere in the Scriptures that there’s an implication that the grace of salvation means you are saved from going to hell, you are but that’s not what it means. That’s a byproduct but the thing that you’re saved from is a pointless life. In the elementary doctrines what is the first thing you’re supposed to learn? How to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. What does that look like? The first of the elementary doctrines is a pattern of repenting of acts that lead to death, that’s how the soul is saved, routinely, systematically, regularly you repent from acts that lead to death - God shows it to you, you repent. That’s working out your salvation with fear and trembling that’s because you have a grace to do that and it’s in the Body of Christ. When you’re assembled to Christ there’s grace coming through that measure, the fullness of which was in Him to be able to resist the devil. So if somebody says, “I just can’t do that,” he’s speaking a lie because grace exists to overcome but it doesn’t happen in a day but it will happen. This is the grace of rescuing the soul from its condition of having departed from the rule of the spirit because when the soul acts independently of the spirit the wisdom of the soul is compromised - the wisdom of the soul the moment Adam separated himself from his Father - the wisdom of his soul was manifested in the fact that he thought of himself as only another being of creation and not as a son of God, he saw himself like the animals of the field and like objects in creation. He lost connection to a divine understanding and so the wisdom by which he lived in the created world was learned from nature. The highest level of fallen wisdom is science, the highest level of wisdom of fallen man is science, it comes from observation...of what? The creation. Analysis of what he sees; synthesis, overlaying ideas; and theory. So when men say, “Science says,” they’re proclaiming the belief in the highest level of wisdom that the soul could ever access. It’s all that it ever is or can be because it begins and ends with observations upon the creation and the creation itself is but a type and shadow, it’s meant to unveil to you its Creator. And that’s what Paul was saying, he said we have a wisdom that is from God, not of this world because the wisdom of this world is at enmity with God in the same way that a shadow substitutes for the reality or an idol substitutes for God. I don’t have time to unpack that but can you see how all these things fit together, elementary doctrines and other? I don’t have time to go any further with that.

The wisdom from heaven comes because of the ability of the human spirit to connect to the divine mind so you could know what He was saying when He arranged the order of the earth in this fashion. One is as seeing in a mirror dimly, the other is seeing face to face. If you could get a letter from someone or see the person face-to-face which would you prefer? [audience - that would depend on the person] (laughter) That’s true, it would depend on the person, so if you could see God face-to-face or get a letter from God which would you prefer? Depends on the
person. (laughter) Depends on the seer. (laughter) Some would much rather prefer to get a letter from God than face-to-face, in fact a whole nation preferred a letter from God from a mountain rather than face-to-face and that's a problem because what God says is, “What we have here is a failure to communicate.” But the spirit man accesses the very frequencies of heaven and when we come to even just a brief description of what the substance of grace is you will see the importance of that, to be able to be on the same frequency as God himself.

So first there's a grace of salvation, to bring the soul back under the rule of the spirit. The first expression of rule that you will ever have in your life is internal rule. If you won't get it right inside God will never turn you loose outside to represent him and you can get it right inside because you have received the grace. For somebody to say, “I just can't do it, I just can't do it,” it is to deny that from His fullness - and He was full of grace and truth - it is from His fullness that we have received grace upon grace. So for the believer, He has given us the power to become mature sons of God, we're born again but when we're born again everything that is born is always born as an infant. I mean that shouldn't be surprising, should it? (laughter) A baby elephant is not born as a full grown elephant, it's born as a baby elephant, a child is born as a child but we think just because you hit the ground that you're mature. That which is born is always born as a child and in that state all the grace is vested in you to become but all the grace is not evident in you at that time, so it doesn't mean you're lost because you only have the power to “become”, it means you're born with the capacity and the failure to utilize the capacity means that you will remain in infancy and the process of reconciliation will not be furthered in you, you will remain an infant. And Paul said to the Corinthians, “you’re immature..” which means you’re still children; you’re carnal, that means you still are governed by your soul, that’s I Corinthians chapters one, two and three and he said, “by now you ought to be teachers but you’re still on milk that's why I can’t preach to you this message of wisdom because this message of wisdom belongs to the mature.”

So the first element of these five graces that were full within the person of Jesus, He had the complete economy to deliver you from where He found you back to the original intent, the first of those was to bring your soul back under the rule of your spirit, once it’s initiated it’s a continuing process. So it’s grace, upon grace; you get it, then you get one level and you get another level and you get another level and they all continue like a fivefold cord. Grace upon grace, a full economy. So there's not a time when you can say, "I've fully arrived," but there's a time in which you can say, "I am not a child," there's a time when you ought to say, "I am not a child," and "I am not going to give in to these foolish works of darkness nor am I going to be deceived by every wind of doctrine because I am not a child. I’ll take ownership of what I’ve already attained and I’ll live up to the measure of it if I’m the only one doing it." That’s a sound that hasn’t been in the earth before but it’s coming with a greater strength and ferocity because a people are tired of being defined by their infancy, that’s why it's such a travesty to keep the church in a nursery school which is what happens - for the most part - on Sundays, every Sunday, they’re running a nursery. People are being fed pablum - no, some of you are probably dairy people, you know what “Blue John” is (laughter) - Blue John is when you’ve extracted every conceivable usage out of the milk product and all you’re left with is blue water. Michael would call that in another analogy “everything but the squeal” and for whoever listens to this on the Internet, if you don’t understand I’m sure in your country there is an idiom that will relate to this, I don’t know everything about everything so you fill in the gaps. So there’s a time to become mature.

The second level of grace is the grace of reconciliation, that means that God had an original plan for you, the grace of reconciliation recognizes at the core that you have an identity in God.
before you were in your mother’s womb. As God begins to bring your soul back under the rule of
your spirit He begins to reacquaint you with what was in His mind before you were in your
mother’s womb; how does He see you and with that vision He will begin to transform your
understanding of what He saw, from heaven, when He put you here. Without this vision you will
go back and forth all of your life and if you don’t have clarity about this almost anyone can at
any time, toss you around. When you control whether or not someone sees himself or herself
accurately you can jerk them around from one place, to another, to another. And one of the
things that has characterized many of our journeys is we’ve gone from place to place, from
move to move and we have allowed others to define us by their vision. Many in this very room
can tell all of the different, distinct moves of God that they were part of but really the reason all
of them failed was because none of them was descriptive of all that God wanted to do and the
weakness in all of them was that they put you in a place of supporting what they were doing and
defined who you were in God by what they needed you to be. You have to go through all of that
when you’re a child, it’s called taking candy from a child, that’s how you know you were a child.
So when you think back on that don’t say, “Man I just feel so badly that I could be so gullible,”
that’s what children are, they’re gullible but God would say, “It is better for a millstone to be hung
around the necks of these predators and they be drowned in the depths of the sea than that
they should harm one of these little children.” Nobody got away with it and you don’t have to
worry that someone would have gotten away with it and made you feel stupid, when you were a
child you thought as a child, you understood as a child and you acted as a child but it’s not loss.
It would be a loss if you let that decide who you are.

Life inherently, life is a journey, you should not end up where you started, if you do, you didn’t
live. Life is a journey. I’m going to ask you to say that with me, “Life is a journey.” That’s the truth
and it’s a journey from being born to being fully mature so you can represent who your Father is
and part of the journey is predators will take advantage of you, it’s not your fault, shame on
them. A lot of folks have drowned with millstones around their necks because they took advantage
of the little ones. When you’re little, when you’re young, you will make mistakes, you will be
gullible, you can’t not be gullible, that’s why there are laws to protect children. God doesn’t
expect you to be any more than you are when you are little and I’m hoping by these very words
today to release you from this self condemnation that some of you have been under because
now that you are further on the journey you’re looking back on that time and you’re saying, “How
could I have let them take such advantage?” Because when you’re a child you think like a child,
you understand as a child and you act as a child, that’s why and it couldn’t have been otherwise
and God lets it happen to you because it has the effect of defining for you later on what the truth
is and even if it is injurious to your physical body the body will pass away, what remains forever
is your spirit and these things cannot mar your spirit because you have an indestructible life. I
read that somewhere. Like I said, my problem is I’m a believer - the power of an indestructible
life overcomes the bruising of misdirections when you were a child. Paul said it, if Paul could
say it, “When I was a child I acted as a child, I thought as a child, I understood as a child,” then
you probably don’t have much opportunity to be “when you’re a child I am also a man” and “I’ll
act as a man when I’m a child”. No, when you’re a child you’ll always think like a child and
you’re supposed to you know, otherwise you lose the mystery, the wonderment of childhood, it
all comes together, it’s one package, you can’t have one without the other.

So I hope by these words today in this place when you hear these things let them echo in the
corridors of your spirit and cause you to reawaken again and throw off the curse of abuse
knowing that you could not have been different when you were a child. The same thing could
not happen to you today. Why? Because you are no longer a child. Now if you still lose money
on the instant replay (laughter) - some of you are Cowboy fans - (laughter) if you still lose money on the instant replay then you’re emotionally challenged (laughter) and that’s ok, there are millstones for the necks of those who take money from you on instant replays, there’s no great victory for them. But you’re growing up and you ought to credit yourself with the price you’ve paid to be here. Can you now be deceived by the same things that deceived you when you were a child? What should you be saying? No! Do you not see it coming mile off? Are you still in the same place where you were when in your early years you heard a sound and it said, “Huh, I’m gonna see what that is, I’m gonna get some of that.” When you get out of the trap you don’t want anymore cheese. (laughter) You know you gonna get got but you’ll get more than you get got, though. (laughter) That’s the wisdom of Marshot and Lynch. (laughter) Can you imagine this is being heard globally and somebody trying to figure out what I meant by, “I know I’m gonna get got but I’m gonna get more than I get got though.” For those of you in Benin that’s speaking in tongues, (laughter) in Switzerland don’t even try, (laughter) that’s for a local audience.

No, you’re not in the same place where you were, you’re not, so live up to the measure of what you’ve already attained and there is grace for that, there’s grace for reconciliation which is to see yourself no longer according to the flesh but according to the spirit, “From now on we regard no one any longer according to the flesh but according to the spirit, though we once regarded Christ that way we do so no longer because if any man is in Christ he’s a new creation, the old has gone the new has come! All this from God,” that’s what grace is “from God”, “all this from God who reconciled us to Himself and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” It’s a vision of yourself from before you were in your mother’s womb, it’s what God put in you when God put a spirit, which is an endowment of His being God is Spirit - He put an endowment of His being into you and that’s your identity, that’s how God reveals Himself in and through human flesh. When you were lost in trespasses and sin the thing you lost was that eternal vision that defines you but you know what? God never took it back, you just lost the vision of it and because it’s associated with the choice of children you think it’s lost and your enemy helps you by saying - which is no help at all - “You can’t be like that, look at how stupid you were.” Now if you think that’s the voice of God then indeed you’re stupid. If you think God would say that to you then you’ve believed a lie. If you think God would say, “Because you behaved as a child when you were a child I took back the gift of My being that I placed in you so that I could live in the world through you in this particular manner.” If you think God would say, “I took it back because when you were a child you were taken advantage of because you acted as a child.” I don’t know how else to uproot these things but they’re the controls upon our thinking but instead I speak the truth to you. The gifts and the calling of God are without revocation, God says, “I’m the One who gave it to you, I’m the only One who could take it from you and I swear to you I will never take it back.” It doesn’t depend on you, grace is not grace if it depends on you, not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing that comes from the Holy Ghost and that renewing is to reconcile you to the thing for which God foreknew you before you were in your mother’s womb. That’s grace, that can’t be overturned, it came to the earth in the Person of the Word of God who was full of grace and truth and from His fullness you have received grace upon grace.

So the second order of grace - there are five of them, I’m just giving you bullet points of what these are, we don’t have the time to explore grace in its many forms. The first was to bring your soul back under the rule of your spirit and that begins and continues that’s why you have power to “become” mature, when it says “power to become the sons of God” the word is “huioi” and huioi refers to not an infant but a fully mature son; you’re born to become and He saves you
and there’s grace for you to become everything that is the potential when He rescues you, He brings you back to conform you. The second element of grace is the grace of reconciliation because there was a vision in God for you and He made you according to the specifications of that vision and that vision was in His mind, He wanted to live as Himself in this fashion in the world, in your time and that’s why He made you, so you could port, you could carry - you could be a porter of His presence in this particular fashion. So when He saves you He reconciles you to that vision of who you are, that’s how He gives you back an identity. Reconciliation is to an identity for which God foreknew you, the biblical concept of predestination is not about this silly notion of God knowing whether you were going to heaven or hell and you’re saved or lost based on it. No, you were saved to be reconciled to what God foreknew, that’s predestination and that’s a particular facet of the Son of God, that measure of grace; He carries the fullness and you can find a reflection of that grace in Him to which you will respond so perfectly. That’s why you can be Christ like but all of who He is is not put on display through you because He’s a many membered form, He’s a corporate Man but that’s why there are some aspects of His nature that are so perfectly reflected in you; from His fullness you’ve received this measure of grace, that was your allotment. Grace, the Scriptures tell us, has apportioned - you see these trucks going over the road with license plates that say “taxes apportioned” that means they have divided the total sum of taxes by a formula for each state to receive a particular portion of it. There is a particular or precise - almost formulaic - apportionment, it’s a legal term which refers to a predetermined share. Grace has been apportioned to you, God has given you a share in who is Christ, you have a share in who is Christ and when that grace appears through you, Christ appears, “When Christ who is your life appears,” He of course appears through you but the likeness is identical to Him because it’s your share, it’s your apportionment of Christ that God determined in advance for you to walk in. These are the good works - my goodness, don’t you not know these things? (laughter) We’ve always known this stuff but now it’s coming out of the heavens and vesting in a people.

So then after that is the grace of conformation, not only does God show you who you are in Christ, who you were before the foundations of the world relative to gifts and callings, not only that but then He conforms you to it. Conformation refers to the bringing out of a standard, the standard is the heavenly standard. There are standards of accounting, there are standards of law, there are standards of medicine and before you could determine what is malpractice you have to determine what the standard is because everything is judged with reference to a standard, “to the fullness of the stature that belongs to Christ, then we shall no longer be infants tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful schemings,” - standards of engineering. Among humanity we know that there are these standards and in fact one of the most closely guarded and regulated possession of this nation are its standards; its time standards, its measurement standards, its weight standards. Is anybody familiar with that? The Bureau of Standards. It’s carefully guarded and things have to be re-calibrated to the standard. Any time you “wig out” or as they say in West Texas, any time you “twist off” - that’s not a dance move (for the rest of you), that’s a West Texas saying meaning anytime you deviate from the standard. What has to come back is first the standard has to be brought back, when you bring back the standard everything can be re-calibrated and once again it is as it used to be, it’s the once and future thing; you bring back the standard and you bring back order, the moment you bring back the standard you will bring back order and that’s true of our lives personally. When God begins to conform us - and there’s grace for conformation - conformation does not mean that you’re engrafted into a church system by a series of creeds, that’s a counterfeit for the biblical concept of conformation. Conformation is the declaration of who you were before you were in your mother’s womb and then God extending to
you the economy to bring that back to you so you could occupy it, you could live in it, you could be defined by it, you could become the thing itself.

People haven’t heard these things for centuries but they have been for years now coming back to us, they are being retrieved from the places in which they were lost that when the work men found the scrolls of the law and they brought them to Hilkiah the High Priest and he read them and knew they had departed so far he didn’t see how they could get back. So he said, “Give them to the scribe, let him check it out to see if these are real.” (laughter) You know, “We can’t do this stuff, hopefully the experts could judge these things, they’re copies, they’re fakes.” But Shafan the scribe decided that no, “These things are real.” And so then now the question is “What do we do with what’s real?” And the answer was, “Give it back to the king.” Give it back to Josiah. And Josiah called a fast and Israel was restored and God spared the destruction that was slated for the days of Josiah, the standards are found again in the ruins. You hear what I’m saying? In the ruins of all this collapse that’s been around us the standards are being found again, the work men don’t know what to do with it so they’re bringing them ultimately back to the kingly grace, the grace that brings back order and we are being reformed according to the standard that originally existed. That is the grace of conformation, conform to the image of Christ, that component of Christ that was your share, your apportioned share that no matter who else has what they have, no one else has your apportioned share. No one can take it from you, it was never given to them, it was given to you. When you arise in that measure then Christ will appear as Himself in that measure that you were designed to carry and the earth will see the glory of Christ in that facet of the diamond that you are. So God now is re-establishing you according to this standard and there’s grace for this reconfiguration, it can happen because there is grace for it, it will happen because you are willing because the people will be willing in the day of the Lord. So there’s the grace of conformation.

Then there’s the grace of maturation - again these are just bullet points, I’ve written a whole book about this and it’s actually already written and we’re going through the editorial process now, 400 pages of this kind of stuff. So the grace of maturation, you not only see what the standard is and receive it again but you’re to grow up into it, to fill it out, to wear it like a tailored garment for you. This is the grace of maturation. So the struggles and trials you’re going through are the ways that the adjustments are being made to fit the form that you are to be in to carry this grace. Again, how different is this from the journey of growing from infancy to full maturity? It’s a description of the journey and within those descriptions everything that you have been through not only fits but it’s purposeful, it’s intentional and - may I say - redemptive. When you understand “why” then all of a sudden this is where you were on the journey but the journey did not end with you in the cave, the journey did not end with you in a bottomless pit, the journey did not - and does not - end with you in the prison of despair, an angel will come and unlock the prison and you’ll walk out in the appointed time and that time is now. Maturation - when I was a child I thought as a child, I understood as a child and I acted as a child but now that I have become a man I put away childish things, “I put away…” there’s the grace for you to agree with God to put away the incidences of your coming here. When you’re a child you’re gonna behave as a child, things will be done to you that can be done to a child and you will do things that a child will do but it does not define you in the final analysis…It does not define you in the final analysis because when you’re fully 30 the heavens will open and God will say, “This is My son,” and all the years and the training and the suffering and the trials that sometimes cause you nearly to despair in the land of the living, all of a sudden they make sense as training weights when you now become part of the mature Son of God, He gives you the power to become a mature son.
Again, these are just bullet points, no great depth to the administrations of grace because I wanted to get through them. The 5th grace is the reason why all of it took place anyway and it’s the grace of exact representation, “I only do what I see My Father doing. The Son does nothing of Himself, only what the Father,” you can’t do that, you can’t function in that carrying of grace unless and until you become mature, “we have a message of wisdom for the mature”. It’s not the wisdom of the world but it is the wisdom that is from God and so God can begin to speak heavenly things to you with the frequencies of heaven and you’re above the line in that you can hear heaven and execute on the earth what heaven is saying and it will be so. Why? Because you can accurately carry the presence of God. You’ve gone from this, to this, to this, to this. What people want is to become a new believer out of the drug scene or out of the scenes of debauchery, they want to say, “I got saved and now praise God, I’m gonna lead the church of God.” Talk to me after 30 years when you really do have something to say and let me see the limp you walk with and then we’ll talk. Our instant entertainment culture is no substitute for the reality of being formed by grace in these five formations of grace. Exact representation is “when you see me you see my Father”. Why? Because not only have you been configured to the standard, you become the carrier of the standard and where you go there is light because you see the son has life in himself and that life, ported through your being becomes light to the world - His life is the light of men.

Now at that place and when we see the rising of the corporate Man in that place, the world will see the light and glory of God again in the earth. This isn’t talking about how the corporate Man is to function, this is just the administrations of grace the fullness of which was in Christ, He came here as the Word full of grace and truth and that fullness of grace contains all of these five steps to save you by bringing your soul back under the rule of your spirit; to reconcile you to a vision that is transcendent by its nature, it was before you were in your mother’s womb, it’s to define you according to heaven and not by the earth. Then it’s the grace of conformation, to conform you to the standard of that. Grace of maturation - to cause you to grow up fully into the thing so that you and the thing are indistinguishable, you are that part of the actual spiritual Man known as Christ, you are that part of Him, you are members of His Body and He appears as your life. I read all this stuff, I just believed it, (laughter) didn’t know what it meant when I read it but years later and many trials, now I see. And finally, when you speak and when you act it is the same as God speaking and God acting because you are the exact representation of His being, all by grace, not of works lest any man should boast, all by a sovereign and divine economy that is from God, that was released to accomplish these things and to allow you to flow and function in it.

I have not - I’m going to stop here - but I have not described what it is, I have described what it is supposed to do and I have described its administration but I have not defined what it is. So tomorrow I hope to take “another lick” at it and to talk a little bit about the substance of grace, of what is grace made up and perhaps if God wills - we’ll unveil the vision of Ezekiel which speaks of the complete manner in which this grace is carried corporately in the earth. And from that viewpoint when we look at it we’ll see in the earth what God originally intended when He said, “Let Us make man in Our image and in Our likeness.” How God will see the reflection of spirit in the earth that is like God in its behavior and God will call that Being what He called Him once before when He came up out of the River Jordan, God looked on Him and He said, “This is My Son.”
He under played that. (laughter)

[Michael Barrett background - You know what I meant to say was we were just having a discussion as to whether or not Sam was an international Chief Apostle (laughter) or actually an intergalactic apostle. (laughter) I think we came to a consensus that intergalactic is more aggressive so we’re gonna go with that. (laughter)]

So my theme song will be “Ground control to Major Tom”. (laughter)

Well this morning’s message will be a continuation of yesterday’s two sessions and yesterday afternoon we got into the administrations of grace, we talked about five graces, the administrations of grace and we talked about the purpose of grace which was to reconcile man to God and that through Christ Jesus. And inasmuch as that is so, Jesus came full of grace and truth and we talked about five being the number of grace, five being the number of the fullness of grace as it regards the expression of God’s intent to find man in his condition subsequent to the fall and to bring him all the way back to the original intent. The original intent being that the son - God created man as His son - the son would be the radiance of his Father’s glory, the source from which God’s glory would radiate and the exact representation of his Father’s being so much so that if you see him you see the Father. We talked about how the process of getting somebody from the place where God finds him back to exact representation involved five distinct administrations of grace, the first being the grace of salvation which unlike how it is presented - the grace of salvation is the saving of the soul which is a progressive thing and the definition of the saving of the soul is to bring the soul back under the rule of the spirit. I'm simply recapping here, I'm not expanding at this point, although I will.

The second grace - the second administration of grace - is the grace of reconciliation, the grace of reconciliation recognizes that there is a distinct purpose for which God put you here in the earth; before you were in your mother’s womb, God knew you. So your birth and your journey through this earth are not accidental, they’re meant to follow an arc, a trajectory that is foreordained and in fact the biblical concept of predestination is how God created you with the intent of showing who He is in the earth, through you and to that end He gave you both a calling and gifts but when and because of the fallenness of man all of that languishes, it lapses. So part of the return through grace that you receive is the recasting to you of the purpose for which God originally put you here. Oddly enough when you’re lost - in the sense of being separated from your Father - the most difficult issue is to determine with consistency what is your purpose and the absence of understanding of your purpose causes a condition to exist in which you do not think that what you do actually matters. So there’s no measuring of your conduct against purposeful, intentional, predestination which God actually put in you before He put you in the earth. He said to Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I set you apart and I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” The way you make a slave out of a person is to take away from them their identity and their purpose and it doesn’t matter after that if they’re famous, if they are rich, if they are powerful; there’s this incredible hole right through the midst of their being and it’s the absence of any sense of something of a transcendent order guiding or dictating or validating even, their very existence and at that point
it’s very easy for people to lose their way because they think what they do doesn’t matter. So God has to reconnect you, reconcile you to a destiny, to an identity, to a purpose for which He actually created you. There’s grace for that. We haven’t talked about what grace is, this is about an administration of grace but there’s grace to bring the soul back under the rule of the spirit; grace is when God elects to do something simply because He’s God and there is no ability in creation to resist God’s intention to do something because He’s God, He triumphs over it all.

So when we talk about administrations of grace we’re talking about what God intends to do and for which there is no effective blockage. So if God intends to bring your soul back under the rule of your spirit, that is entirely possible, it requires your cooperation but that’s all it requires of you, to yield and that is the foundation of belief, we’ll come back to that. So once that happens then God presents you again with a vision of what He had in mind before you were in your mother’s womb. And you know what, when you actually understand what that is the most profound sense of peace comes to you because it’s the framework - like the banks of a river - it’s the framework through which your life is meant to flow otherwise your life flows as an indiscriminate flood uncontrolled by banks. And it’s easy to turn around intelligent people, talented people, gifted people, hard working people - very easy to turn them around and cause them to lose themselves if they don’t have the banks through which this river flows and those banks are: what is your identity and what is your calling. Everybody looks for this, whether they can articulate it or not, they still look for this. Now beyond that grace and there’s grace for that, that is God’s intention is to give you that but again we don’t receive it because we don’t know about it, our Sunday School understanding of grace radically, desperately needs to be upgraded. People are living out of teachings they learned before they were 12 years old and are wondering why God doesn’t make sense to them, why between where they are and the knowledge of God there is this unbridgeable chasm. The reason is you’re living out of - for the most part the artful, cunning preaching are attempts to make grade school understanding of Scripture work for mature people. I watch very intelligent people try to explain things in a way that does not violate, or require an upgrading of, a twelve year old’s understanding of the Scriptures and so much of what is taught in Bible schools and colleges have to do with very highly skilled, intelligent people trying to make this vast concept of truth fit into the pre-existing understandings of twelve year olds and that’s why we look stupid. I mean if the thing doesn’t fit it means your base is not broad enough, it means there are gaps in your understanding and you can’t ever make it fit - but enough of that.

The grace of conformation is the third administration of grace; the grace of salvation, the grace of reconciliation, the grace of conformation. Conformation is the bringing out of a standard, returning the ancient standard and conforming you to that standard so that you are defined by the measures and weights of heaven rather than by the traditions of men, particularly religious traditions. You’re brought back to, among other things, the understanding God created you as a son but you have subsequently come to be defined as a sinner saved by grace. That’s not a definition of anybody and the fact that we’ve gotten away with it for so long shows that we’re still working out of a twelve year old’s understanding. Yes, we sin and yes there is a salvation to rescue us from that identity but rescue us to what state? Why do we even refer to it as reconciliation - the gospel of reconciliation - if there is not a prior existing identity? Reconciled to what? Reconciliation is an accounting term, it presupposes a prior existing state but we don’t define the prior existing state, we define the state of our fallenness and we hope to tie that - Larry’s laughing because he’s a CPA and he recognizes what I’m saying, that reconciliation is what you do to standards, you reconcile things to standards. So prior existing standards are presumed in the gospel of reconciliation - God is in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, IL
Corinthians chapter 5. So there has to be a prior existing state and conformation requires, at the threshold, the application of a standard that makes sense out of the process for you. So the grace to conform you to heavenly standards exists and the identity that comes when you’re conformed to a heavenly standard is that you’re a son of God; you’re not a foreigner, you’re not an alien, the things of heaven aren’t supposed to be so foreign to you as to be entirely unreachable.

Then there’s the grace of maturation which is that God will bring you to what He has begun He will finish, He who has done this good work in you will complete it against the day of our Lord and that looks like you filling out the measure of sonship. So you’ve been given power to become the sons of God, that doesn’t mean you’re not a son, the word for “son” there is distinct from the word for “infant”; the word for a son who is an infant is different for the word power to become “sons” of God, that speaks of a mature son, the kind that the Father would present at the Baptism in the River Jordan to the world and say, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” So whenever you think of “power to become sons of God”, think of this statement, “In whom I am well pleased,” because that is different from the child that is born; “nepios” is the son who is the child who is born, so unto us a child is born to become the son who is given. You don’t give a child, you don’t give an infant, this is not about sacrificing babies and frankly that’s why the lives of so many are not sacrificed to the purposes of God, God takes no delight in sacrificing a baby. Now some babies have beards and you have to part their beards to give them a bottle - that’s not a reference to anybody in this room, considering how many bearded men there are but you know the type. The moment you say something that displeases them, instead of being like the Bereans to seek it out to see if it’s so, they begin to protest, well they want a bottle…I have a new grand child and her brother - a new grand child just born three weeks ago and her brother who is almost four didn’t like to hear her cry. So I was holding the baby and he was sitting on my lap and she started to cry and he put his hands over his ears because he’s a very sensitive boy. So I said to him - his name is Zion - I said, “Zion, you know how you can tell grand dad what you want?” He said, “Yeah,” I said, “Well the only way she can tell grand dad what she wants is to cry. So if she’s hungry she’ll cry, she’ll say, ‘Waa waa’ grand dad I’m hungry but it doesn’t make sense like you. Or if she’s wet she will say, ‘Grand dad put me down.’” And he said, “Oh, ok” and he took his hands of his ears and I said, “But you can tell me when you want chocolates,” and his eyes got big and so on. Anyway, I think you can tell that I’m enjoying being a doting grandfather but when you hear a man with a beard behaving like a baby that’s the only way He knows how to respond. Paul said, “By now you ought to be mature but you’re still behaving like infants, are you not immature?” So usually people, even though the grace to mature is available, people don’t avail themselves of it but I believe part of that is that they’re not aware that the grace exists and part of the lack of awareness is they haven’t been taught but there’s an administration of grace to bring you to maturity. And finally, there’s the grace of exact representation, which is if you see that son you will see the Father.

So we spoke of the administrations of grace as they relate to the progression from the salvation of the soul, which continues to be ongoing but you achieve certain levels of glory in the process. The Bible says, Paul speaking to the Philippians says, “If on some point we disagree this too God will make plain to you, only let us live up to the measure of what we’ve already attained.” It’s critical that you realize that in all your years of walking with God, you’ve actually attained to some things and it’s not boastful - you’re not being proud or haughty - to live up to those standards that you’ve already attained to, in fact, you’re required to because if you’re always starting over your life will slip away from you before it really amounts to anything in the Lord and
it's not pride to confess what God has done in you and to live in it. In fact, if you won't do that then the only testimony you have is a testimony that says that after forty years of walking with God I'm proud to acknowledge that despite every effort that the Holy Spirit has made to try to conform me to the standard of Christ my confession is I'm the same today as when I was first saved. If you can't see that there's an accumulation in you as a result of revelation and insight, as a result of experience, as a result of teaching, as a result of suffering, that's probably the biggest one. Suffering gives you the opportunity - God is not afraid that you make mistakes, God is not afraid that you are making or have made mistakes and will make mistakes, God is not afraid of that. He intends to draw out of your mistakes those lasting values that are meant to accumulate in your spirit over time and establish a foundation of certainty in you that you will see the goodness of God in the days of your trouble just like you have seen the goodness of God in prior days of your trouble, it's your testimony and this defeats the devil.

So sufferings and trials are part of what God utilizes to bring you to maturity. How do you learn to obey? A mature son obeys the Father, alright? How do you learn to obey? Jesus learned obedience by the things He suffered. And it doesn't matter if your suffering is self induced, it's not advisable (laughter) and you tend to pay a higher price that way, sometimes you lose money on the instant replay and that's not a good thing but it's also subject to redemption, God can redeem it and bring you on because of the particular characteristics of grace. So five graces constitute the administration, the purposeful administration to find the person at the place to which he or she has fallen and to bring them all the way back to the original intent of exact representation. Do not ever subscribe to the view that life is not a journey, life is a journey. Yesterday you will hear me make much of the fact that you would have been abused and sometimes would have even been an abuser in parts of the journey and there's no way for a child not to be taken advantage of, there's no way; when you're a child you're vulnerable but you don't define yourself in your adulthood by things you could not avoid when you were in a different state. I'm not saying children should be abused, don't misunderstand me but I'm saying vulnerability subjects you to abuse and it's the rare person who is not. I don't know anybody who made it all the way through without suffering some form or other of abuse, some forms are much more horrible than others and leave greater impressions and scars but everybody - in this world you will have trials. So don't define yourself in your adulthood by the inevitable vulnerabilities of childhood, come up past those things, extract the value that those sufferings exposed you to and let them be part of the treasures that inform your way later on in life when they're useful, when those trials are behind you but do not be defined by them.

Now what I want to do here is to shift back to the first message for a moment and to talk about the nature of man. The first message was on what God understood when He said, “Let Us make man in Our own image, in Our own likeness,” our tendency is to see that as being fulfilled in Adam but God knew the end from the beginning. So when God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our own likeness,” God looked well past and well through Adam and saw a Man in the earth who was spirit like God is Spirit. That is the image, an image is when you hold a mirror up and the reflection of the thing is perceived in the medium; if God is a Spirit, when God said, “Let Us make man in Our own image,” He meant to see a reflection of spirit in this Man that He’s making but it wouldn't be just Adam, He was clothing spirit in flesh in the fashion that would allow for that result eventually when flesh did not define the being. So He anticipated Christ, the Body of Christ, the spirit Man comprised of many members. And so when He said, “Let Us make man in Our own image,” God was seeing man as a spirit. God is corporate and we talked about that yesterday. I won't revisit that, corporate simply means “the ability of the one to contain the many. “Corporate” is from the Latin term “corpus” which means “body”, a corporate entity is the
one that contains the many; God contained all that would be put on display through creation before it was put on display in creation, it came out of God. All manner of things were in God, things such as time; the reason God has no beginning and no end is because the very thing by which beginning and end might be measured were in Him. So He’s the Lord over time, He ordains the times and the seasons, He says so. So time does not exist independently of God, time is a permission of God. See we have to think differently, dimensionally different when we think of God, God is not linear. As we said yesterday God is corporate and God is so vast that He encompasses everything therefore He is inherently invisible because you cannot get out of the thing to observe it, when a thing is so vast that its presence is inescapable you cannot observe it as from a perspective outside of who He is; you may only observe God as a function of His characteristics. That’s why the nature of God is of the twin things of what God made man to be; one is to be His image which is spirit like Spirit and likeness, His characteristics are mirrored in the man.

So image and likeness are what God had in mind when He made man and therefore He made a spirit being in time. Now to do that, to make a spirit being in time and of course God calls that “son”, spirit like He is Spirit, in image and characteristics of love, mercy and compassion like He is, so if you see Him - if you see the visible which is the only thing you can see - you may accurately infer the invisible. So spirit is contained in flesh for the purpose of visibility; the invisible God intended to become visible through the son He created in the fashion of encasing spirit in flesh. When He did that this is what He actually did: He imparted spirit into formed earth, fashioned from the dust of the ground, a container for an endowment of spirit so He could put spirit into this container. Now what He put into this container by the way of an endowment of spirit conferred being to the thing He shaped, it wasn't just that He gave it life, He gave it all of the incidences of being. We’re used to thinking in our twelve year old understanding of “spirit” as it being the breath of life, that’s true, life comes as a result of the possession of spirit but think of all the things that spirit are that are more than the capacity simply to breathe, what can you do with that spirit? You may worship God, worship is the most complex undertaking of a spirit being because it has to recognize the grandeur of the thing that is worshipped, it has to have some framework for the evaluation of something so superior, so sublime and it has to intentionally direct emotions of the deepest sort to the adoration of this Being. That is the most complex maneuver that the human spirit is capable of exercising and it is the very definition of being sentient, of being alive, functional, capable, creative. One of the founding fathers, I think it was Thomas Jefferson, described artistry as being the highest form of human enterprise; beyond politics, beyond business - artistry because he said in artistry we mimic the Creator. Worship is our ability to appreciate the Creator and the expression of worship is the most sublime act of creation that we may direct our fondest emotions to the adoration of another, motivated by the deepest sense of awe and wonder at the other. For God is a Spirit and they who worship Him must worship Him in spirit…so don’t tell me that spirit is just breath, that’s a twelve year old understanding of what spirit is, it’s the most rudimentary and observable fact of being the recipient of a spirit but it by no means defines the levels beyond that of spirit.

So when God put spirit in man, God put the totality of being in man; when the soul triumphs over the spirit and determines being that’s when man loses his identity because his identity is defined by his Father who is also his Creator and if you don’t know who your Father is you’ll always struggle with your identity first and with your purpose subsequently. So restoration to that ideal reanimates the ability of man within his own being to connect to the wisdom of the heavens; when you see through the spirit you see reality as God sees reality because there’s no difference of vision. If you, by spirit, are connected to the heavens whose point of view do you...
have? You have God's point of view, inevitably so. Where are you seated then? Heavenly places. You know, you actually know this stuff, you know this stuff. This should become how you should speak to yourself and how you speak to others on a daily basis. I know that you noticed that I’m telling you all these things and I’m not referring to notes, I’m not pointing that out to cause you to be in any measure of wonderment, you know how I could do this? Because this is real to me, you can give what you have. If it's not real you can't impart it but if the word has become flesh in your flesh then it’s a simple matter of explaining what the thing is. If it’s already true in you, you can explain it, fluency comes over time, fluency of explanation comes over time and it comes subsequent to possessing the thing but we should be pushing on to - Paul said it this way, “All of us who are of the same mind should believe these things and if on some point we disagree this too God will make plain to you, only let us live up to the measure of what we have already attained.”

So when God gave you spirit He put in you the totality of being - you’re identity, you’re purpose - and He connects you to the economy of the heavens so that you may actually be integrated into the same mind that was in Christ. Now what’s the importance of this tact? I’ve taken a tact with you while I’m speaking about grace, we’ve spoken about the administrations of grace and the power of grace to accomplish these specific administrations but what is grace, what is grace? We’ve added a bridge between the administration and you, saying you are positioned in Christ to be a conduit for the flow of grace because whatever grace is you have been configured because you are a spirit you’ve been configured to operate out of the mind of God, that’s why you have a spirit. Same mind that was in Christ is in you because God imparted to you - when He gave you being - an endowment of Himself that is capable at any time of being perfectly reconnect to His mind, that’s why He made you that way. You couldn't be connected to the mind of God if all you were is a soul, the soul was given to translate the wisdom of the heavens into action in the earth but the spirit was given to connect you to the wisdom of the heavens. So in man - that’s why God calls him a son - heaven and earth exists in one being, that’s what’s called “son”, it’s not just some exalted name that we pick out of the Scriptures and label man with that name. When God calls him son it’s because God endowed him with the capacity to be a reflection of spirit and the nature of God, image and likeness.

Now God will assemble all of this together in the container He has already put in the earth to receive each of these spirits and to assemble them into one spiritual Man, He’s doing that as we speak by having assembled our spirits to that container designed to receive the spirits of men who have been reconciled to God, that container is called Christ. That container remains in the earth but the head that governs it is seated on the throne so there’s no mistake where the wisdom to operate in the Body comes from, it comes from the throne of God and that’s what makes this being in the earth unique in the whole earth; it’s the many sons in the one Son, all the sons are defined by the Son. This is the corporate Man, this Man has a head and a body and the body does not operate apart from the governance of the head and the mandates that exist in the head because for the same reason that God put man in the earth He has brought Christ into the earth; He put man in the earth to be the image and likeness of God and gave him dominion to rule, when he forfeited the rule God restored him by assembling his spirit to Christ and calls that assembly the Corporate Son. No man has a relationship to God apart from this connection to God, “No man comes to the Father except by Me,” Jesus said. He lived as Jesus Christ, that reference being that Spirit for assembling mankind back to God existing in the body of a man named Jesus of Nazareth but when He was raised from the dead death brings to an end the triumph of the natural over the spirit because what happens with death is the natural man expires. Resurrection is the transitioning from the natural governing to the spiritual and the
evidence of that is eternal life, life that cannot be destroyed. Now guys, you’ve known all of this, I know you’ve known these things but it’s time for a new breath of revelation to assemble what you know in a fashion to define your being going forward from these times.

So yes, God put eternity in our hearts, He put spirit in flesh; He put heaven and earth in one being. Why then should it be strange that we would suffer trials of many kinds if the purpose of trial is to restore the order that God once created man to operate within. What was that order? Spirit ruling soul. How did it get out of order? The eyes of his soul were opened and the perspectives governing the soul predominated and changed his view of reality. So now how do you have access again into the true reality? You have access by faith, it’s by faith you access grace. Grace then, is the very substance that defines the nature of the invisible God. I’ll say it again because this we have not known so clearly, we have known that it is unmerited but we have not known what it is - grace is the very substance that defines the nature of the invisible God. Now let me walk you through that and we’ll come to it from an angle that I believe is useful. The way God administrates what is in His mind is by declaration, God speaks and it is so, God declares and it is so. So we’re familiar with the administration of God by the declaration of His word and His word is associated with the power to establish what He foreknew. So we know what He foreknew based on what He creates. It’s not rocket science, these are the low hanging fruit here, you can pick these low hanging fruit very easily. You know what’s in an artist’s mind by what? By the painting she paints, you know what’s in a chef’s mind, you know they’re describing all these flavors and how they work but if you’re like me there’s a pretty objective test (laughter) of whether or not he knows what he’s doing, (laughter) ‘give it here’. (laughter) ‘Bring it on out.’ A golfer or a footballer has a play in mind, a quarter back has a play in mind, gets in the huddle and tells them what they’re going to do. How do those fellas know where to run on the field after they’ve talked to the quarterback? Because he’s told them what he’s going to do, you go there and hope it’s not picked off as a pass.

So you know what’s in a person’s mind by what they do and God does things by declaration, by speaking. So here is this fascinating passage of Scripture that I don’t think is an exaggeration here. Do you know I’ve at this for like 50 years? I started preaching when I was 15, just turned 15 and I’m now 64, I’ve passed the mark and into the 65th year which is coming up pretty soon, I preached my first message when I was 15 so I’ve been at this a long time and the anniversary passed without me taking an offering. (laughter) I think I’m missing something, think of the anniversary I could of had. (laughter) This is the golden jubilee of the intergalactic...(laughter) I ought to have been able to retire on that, well maybe I’ll call it later. Anyway, it’s funny. Now I forgot what I was going to tell you. (laughter)

So we understand that the substance of grace, this amazing passage of Scripture speaks to the substance of grace and I don’t think it’s an exaggeration that in 50 years I would have read this passage of Scripture a thousand times and I still keep seeing things in it. The passage is, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God, He made everything and without Him was not anything made that was made,” verse 11, “and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory as the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth.” Now a particular configuration of language. The worlds were framed by the declarations of God and the embodiment of the very power that framed the universe, the framing of the universe was a result of God’s intention executed, God intended to frame the universe, to form all that is created that we now may see, He intended it before He did it and at the time He did it, He did it by declaration, God said and it was so. So the instrument that carries out what is in the mind of God is described as the term “word”, the instrument that executes
what is in the mind of God is defined with the term “word” and it mirrors the fashion in which God gives form to what is in His being, what is in Him. When God chose to incarnate that central aspect of His being - the word “incarnate” means to come into the flesh. He came as a man, born as a child to become a man who was full of grace and truth. When the power that frames the universe is incarnate it is seen as grace, when the power that gives expression to the very nature of God is incarnate, it is understood as the fullness of grace. I think we just broke through our “twelve year old” understanding of grace, don’t you think? That’s why heaven and earth would pass away before grace could be withdrawn. But we must not understand grace as “mercy”, we must understand grace as an economy that exists to support what God wishes to create in the world. There are two creations: the first creation and the new creation, if any man be in Christ… how is that new creation formed? By the same grace that formed the original creation this new creation is formed, it’s formed in five distinct administrations.

What is the likelihood that what God foresaw when He said, “Let Us make man in Our image and in Our likeness,” to which He subsequently supplied grace in the pattern and form of a son who is the very carrier of the authority to establish the thing in the earth, the authority being grace. What do you think the likelihood that it will not happen? What is the evidence that we have that it will absolutely happen? The natural creation. So don’t tell me that you have no purpose and you’re going to fail, don’t tell me that, not as a son of God. I cannot listen to that because it’s not the voice of God, it’s the voice of an enemy. It does not depend upon you, what it depends on as far as it concerns you is a willingness to be conformed by the grace that exists to conform you to what He foreknew you to be. We don’t yet know what we will become but we do know this, when we shall see Him, we’ve always thought of that as “in the sweet bye and bye”. No! When He reveals Himself to us, in that moment grace is standing in our presence to transform us from here to there, when we shall see Him we shall be like Him because we’ll see Him not through the eyes of the flesh because we’re to see no one any longer according to the flesh even when we regarded Christ that way we should do so no longer because we are a new creation, the model and form of which is Him. This is grace, this is the sound of grace we should be hearing now from the House of God, a thing that will lift us up and reveal the heavens to us, a thing that will reveal an understanding of who we are, set against the background of the heavens, not against the background of our humanity or the times in which we live because by definition we are in Him and we are “out of time” and space although we live in time and space.

So what I want to do now in the time that is remaining and I have just enough time to do this - I have not unpacked grace, I have just defined it in a sufficiently concrete fashion that you can lay hold of it but dig this thing out and mine it like you would mine for a diamond. I want you to look with me at something that I have been trying to get on record now for some time and I have not been - let me just leave this place with this exhortation from Romans 5. I’ll leave this particular piece of the teaching with a reading from Romans 5, it’s obviously something that I’m going to develop much more in the future going forward but before I segway into this other teaching on the vision of Ezekiel I want to leave you with this. Romans 5:1, “Therefore, having been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” justification being that term of the application of a standard, “we have peace with God,” How? “Through” that is, within the corpus of Christ we’ve been reconciled to God, we have peace because the middle wall of partition has been broken down and by being assembled to Christ we’ve been restored to an environment of peace with God. If you’d contrast that with Adam who fled from the presence of his Father and confessed that he was afraid, fear is not an environment consistent with peace but through Christ - the Last Adam - we’ve been reconciled to God and our environment becomes again the peaceful habitation of the presence of our God. So, “peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” This is the glory Jesus spoke of when He said, “Father, the glory You have given to Me, I have given to them.” That is the glory of exact representation, so, “if you will see Me you will see My Father,” Jesus would say, “because the Father and I are One.”

Now I want to go to the book of Revelation and I want us to have a reading from chapter 4. What I left you with was to say we should see our lives and our definition of our purpose in the earth and even the definition of ourselves against the background of what is already true in heaven because that’s not subject to passing away, it’s not subject to negotiation; it is the permanent identity that defines who we are both in heaven and on earth. But as is true when you see things in heaven they’re seen in their completeness; when you see the same things in the earth, they’re seen in types, shadows, vision, symbols and numbers because that’s the way God had to speak to the soul inasmuch as He first speaks to our souls because our spirits are not first what is available. But He will lead us from the realms of our soul and the realms of earth, into heaven, there, at the center of all things, we get to understand who we are in this venue of time and space. So when you see the thing in heaven, it’s complete; when you see it on the earth, it’s a shadow of what you saw in heaven and it’s veiled in things like numbers, visions, types, stories, symbols. Are we clear? That’s why you need the grace of the prophet to interpret the symbols and times because God tells the prophets what these signs and so on mean and once we know what they mean then all of us may benefit from what God told the prophets. So if God once explained to the prophets that the number 5 is grace because it represents an economy you don’t have to be prophet to say, “Now you know the number 5 represents the economy of grace.” Learn from these things, everything does not have to be new “ad-initio”, these things are for our learning, the gifts are for the Body so once these gifts have imparted what they have, take full ownership of them and talk about them as if they were given to you initially because that’s the intention of God. Do you think that anything I’ve spoken here today is mine? If it is then you ought to discard it, if it came from me then it’s mine. If when the mailman comes to bring the mail to your door he shakes a particular package and he says, “You know, I like the sound of this thing, I think I’ll take it.” (laughter) “This is mine.” If I’m presenting something from God to the intended beneficiaries and I say, “Well you’re going to have to pay me $15.95 for this,” (laughter) Then I’ve lost sight of what it is that a delivery man is, ok?

So when you hear these things make them yours quickly, as quickly as you can incorporate them into your vernacular, as quickly as you can incorporate them into your framework, expand your framework, grow in it, be enriched by it and claim it all as a gift from your Father and whoever delivered it, that was just his day job. (laughter) That will blow a hole in some of these guys who want to sell you every revelation they got and the funny thing is people buy this stuff and they wonder why it was on sale, don’t you love it when some of them say, “This week only,” (laughter) “you get this package of 5 CDs or 4 DVDs but if you’ll write in, it’s a $99 value but it’s yours for $49.95,” and you think you’re getting a great deal because you’re getting discounted revelation (laughter) when they’ve warned you it’s discounted, they’ve already discounted it. (laughter) It’ll come to you. (laughter) They’ve discounted it themselves, they don’t believe it. (laughter) It’s when you want to say, “Boy had it,” good West Texas statement, (laughter) if that don’t beat all. (laughter) I know I have to edit this tape. So when you see things in heaven they’re the complete picture, alright? When you see them mirrored in the earth, they’re types and shadows of what’s in heaven. Heaven is where spirit is purely spirit and flesh is clearly subject to spirit, of course earth is the place where the soul must be overcome in order
to understand what is being spoken to the spirit. These aren’t complicated things, these are the
low hanging fruit.

So John now is in heaven, he says, “After these things I looked,” now the purpose of this is to
show you who we are from a heavenly viewpoint, what does this Man look like, who is
corporate. When God said, “Let Us make him in Our image and likeness,” He looked all the way
through creation to the end of the matter and said, “This is My Son.” What does this look like?
What will it look like as it appears in the earth and grows to its fullness. So John was taken into
heaven to be given a preview of this, “After these things I looked and behold a door standing
open in heaven and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me saying,
‘Come up here and I will show you things that must take place after this.’ Immediately I was in
the spirit,” now just note that in passing, he was in the spirit, as opposed to his body and
governed by his soul, so he’s seeing things as one would see if your spirit saw things.
Remember, we said the spirit was given to configure you to the frequencies of God so you could
God, you could see reality as God sees reality, “and behold a throne set in heaven and One sat
on the throne and He who sat there was like a jasper and sardius stone in appearance and
there was a rainbow around the throne in appearance like an emerald.” So the picture is, here is
the throne in the center and there is One who is sitting on the throne who is radiating an
appearance comparable to a jasper, sardius stone in appearance and circling the throne was a
rainbow which appeared like an emerald. “Around the throne were twenty four thrones,” I want
you to get a mental picture of this, “around the throne were twenty four thrones and on the
thrones I saw twenty four elders sitting clothed in white robes and they had crowns of gold on
their heads and from the throne proceeded,” note this please, “lightnings, thunderings and
voices seven, lamps of fire were burning before the throne which seven lamps are the seven
spirits of God.” Now you’ve read Isaiah so what are the seven spirits of God? What appears
before the throne of God like seven lamps? The spirit of lordship, the spirit of wisdom, the spirit
of knowledge, the spirit of understanding, the spirit of counsel, the spirit of power and the fear of
the Lord, seven spirits. These seven spirits in heaven would become embodied in a rod - or a
standard - that would come out of stump of Jesse. These seven characteristics of God who is a
Spirit would be embodied in the measuring rod, the standard by which heaven would be
declared in the earth accurately, would come from a human stock known as Jesse who
produced a king named David to confer upon this line - in human terms - the royalty associated
with the promise. So a shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse and it means to distinguish
the shoot as new growth out of a stump that had been cut down, you get a stump from cutting
down the thing. So it’s a new line, it’s a heavenly line that comes up through an earthly line, so
it’s God and man. These same seven spirits are incarnate in a Man but before they’re incarnate
in the man where were they? Always before the throne of God. So when He says, “All authority
in heaven and on earth has been given to Me,” is He making it up? No! He’s carrying this reality
into the earth but we could spend hours here, this is like a touch and go.

Now before the throne there was a sea of glass like crystal and in the midst of the throne and
around the throne. Now note this, there is the throne, it has the rainbow like an emerald and
One is sitting on the throne and around it are twenty four elders but in the midst of the throne, so
it’s speaking now of an inner circle, in the midst of the throne and around the throne, so closer in
than the twenty four elders were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. That
means that they saw in every direction; they saw the past, they saw the present and they saw
the future. These creatures, four of them, eyes in every direction, in front and in back; in front
means looking forward, back means looking back. So what these creatures see is how what
was hidden in God for long ages past - if I could insert Ephesians three here - they saw how
faithful God was to bring out of Himself - God is the past of all things just like He’s the future of all things, things were hidden in Him that are expressed through the word. So out of God now comes the past and the future. So these four creatures had the ability to see what was hidden in God and what would be brought out of God and established. So this is both a prophetic function and a testimony of the faithfulness of God. So the first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf (like an ox), the third living creature had the face of a man and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle, four. Four creatures variously described as a lion, an ox, a man and an eagle, “The four living creatures each having six wings were full of eyes around and within and they do not rest day or night saying, ‘Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty who was and is and is to come,’ whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne who lives forever and ever, the twenty four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worships Him who lives forever and ever and cast their crowns before the throne...” So you notice that the elders who sit on these golden thrones - twenty four of them take - their queue from the four living creatures, so it’s the four living creatures who first speak and in response to their speech the twenty four elders bow and worship that’s because the four living creatures are closer in to the center of the throne which of course suggests greater influence. And they sing the song of the Lamb, “You’re worthy to receive power and honor for You created all things,” and by the way, of whom would it be true that this song “You created all things” who would that be referring to? So note something marvelous here, these four living creatures are the ones who speak who are the closest in proximity to the One who is the Lamb and when they speak to the One who is the Lamb, when they speak all of heaven responds to them, “and by Your will they exist and were created.”

Now look at this, lets read on a little bit before we come out of heaven, “And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back,” in other words, written on both sides, “sealed with seven seals and then I saw a strong angel,” I like that, this is no Raphael cherub, it’s a strong angel “proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scrolls and to loose its seals?’ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. So I wept because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me,” now those would be the twenty four elders, one of them said to him, “Don’t weep, behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David,” so we did not misspeak when we said the seven spirits of God were in a shoot that comes out of the stump of Jesse in the earth, they were incarnate in a man. “The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seals. And I looked and behold in the midst of the throne,” look at this now, “I looked and behold in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders stood a Lamb.” Now we know who the Lamb is, where is He standing? In the midst of the four living creatures and they now are surrounded by the twenty four elders. These four living creatures must be something, mustn’t they? They’re calling the cheer section in heaven and the Lamb when He’s revealed is revealed in the midst of them, the One who in the earth carries the seven spirits of God that like lamps are blazing before the throne of God, He’s the one standing in the midst of it all and they are right with Him. And the Scriptures make a point of showing them with the Lamb, look again, “And I looked and behold in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders stood a Lamb as though it had been slain having seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”

What is a horn? What is the purpose of a horn? The horn is the economy of a horned animal, it’s how he gets it done. The horn is the economy, the grace and the eyes are what the truth is, full of grace and truth with seven horns and seven eyes. What is the number 7? Full, full of grace
and truth because He will not see - this shoot that comes out of the stump of Jesse, I keep referring to Isaiah 11 - He will not see by the seeing of the eyes or hear by the hearing of the ears but with justice He will judge. He’s not ordinary, He doesn’t see by the human standard nor does He operate by human power, He has His own horns and eyes and they are complete. That is why when He comes into the earth His abilities are described as full, full of the economy of God, full of the truth - He sees things with the exactitude of heaven so on the earth He behaves as one who sees from an eternal perspective because He’s full of eyes and He has seven horns and these are said to be the economies of the Spirit, there are seven spirits of God, “And then He came and took the scroll out of the hand of Him who sat on the throne,” and everybody of course falls down, as they should, and worship Him. Verse 11, “And then I looked and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures and the elders and the number of them was 10,000 times 10,000 and thousands of thousands,” that was just in case you didn’t get the idea that there was a bunch of em’. (laughter) Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory. Every creature which is in heaven and is on earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea and all them that are in them I heard say, “Blessings and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, forever and ever,” the four living creatures said, “Amen.” The twenty four elders fell down and worshipped Him who lives forever.”

So wow. For today’s purpose we want to focus on these four living creatures as they’re seen in heaven, heaven is described as the place where the throne is central as is the One who sits upon the throne, the throne is central because of the One who sits on it and He holds in His hand things that have been sealed up for long ages past and it’s now time for the revealing of those things. And as the scene is set and John is invited to look in on it he sees the throne and then he sees the twenty four elders and then he sees remarkably the four living creatures, the throne is surrounded by a rainbow and lightning and thunderings come out of the throne and the awesome power of God is everywhere. And in the midst of that, of all of that, in the center of the throne the Lamb is revealed, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the possessor of the seven spirits of God who possesses the economies of grace and truth in their fullness and the four creatures are allowed to speak of the glory of the Lamb and all heaven responds when they speak; neither the One who sits on the throne nor the Lamb says anything, the activities are choreographed by the four living creatures who are allowed to walk with the Lamb in their midst who is the Lion. I could point out that the Lion and the Lamb are one and I could explain why the Lion and the Lamb are one and why when it said there was a Lion you will see a Lamb but that’s not for today.

Now I want you to come with me to the old vision in the Bible and I believe this is the time for the unveiling of things that were hidden for long ages past, come the Ezekiel. Perhaps other than Elijah, Ezekiel may be among the greatest prophet of visions in all the Scriptures. We’ve heard every conceivable nonsense spoken about the wheel in the middle of the wheel, we’ve heard people theorize that these were spaceships, you’ve seen television programs with that nonsense. But men in their foolishness try to speak of things that require revelation, so come and see today, come and see something, Ezekiel chapter 1, “Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month and on the fifth day,” now what is the chance that this is just a series of casual references to numbers? You know enough about what he is going to say that he’s writing a vision. So what is the thirtieth year? The thirtieth year is the year of the king. Joseph became king over Egypt at what age, how old was he? He was thirty years of age. David became king over Israel at what age? He was thirty and the greatest king of all - the one who was humble - heavens king was Himself about thirty, the age of thirty when God said, “This is My son,” but
He’s speaking against the background of the second Psalm which says, “Why does the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing and the kings of the earth and their rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against the Lord’s anointed and say, ‘Let us break asunder His bands and cast aside His cords.’ He that sits in the heavens will laugh, He will mock the kings of the earth in derision and He will say, ‘I have established My king on Zion My holy hill,’ and He calls the king His son, kiss the Son unless He be angry with you and you perish in the way. How was the king anointed in his thirtieth year? Not by a horn of oil held aloft by a prophet, that was a type and shadow of the Holy Spirit, the King himself was anointed by the Holy Spirit himself and I saw heaven open and the Spirit of God descended on Him in the form of a dove and I heard a voice saying, “This is My beloved Son.” That second Psalm spoke of that event and the prophet stood aside and he said, “I would not have known Him except that the One who sent me to baptize said to me, ‘The One on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain He is he of whom I spoke.’” And he said, “I testify to you this is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” The perfect symmetry of the prophetic Scriptures, not a word wasted.

So it’s the thirtieth year, that’s the year when somebody comes to maturity as king. If this vision speaks of four creatures as somehow carrying the presence of the King, as they do in heaven then it will come about in the earth in the thirtieth year, in the year when maturity is crowned with the anointing of the King. Are you with me? This stuff is sublime, it was there all along. So it’s the thirtieth year and it is the fourth month and it’s the fifth day. The fourth month, was the number “four” in the Scriptures? Four is the number of corporate man. How do you know that? The Ark of the Covenant that carried the presence of God, that contained how God elected to manifest His presence was carried on the shoulders of the corporate man because the government is on His shoulders; He’s carried in the corporate Man which is why we need each other. It is the fourth month, that is the chiros of God, it’s not chronology now, it’s chiros; this is when heaven and earth meet and the horizons touch, the horizons of heaven and earth converge and that moment is called “today”. It’s a timeless perspective where the economy of heaven invades the earth in the “today of God” and in that “today” it’s the fourth month, it’s the number four, it’s the corporate Man. It’s a time when the awareness of the singular vision folds into the heavenly reality of the corporate Man. So this is about time - it’s not about the corporate man - it’s about the time for the corporate Man, just like thirty is the time for the mature son to rule as king. These are all elements of time and it’s the fifth day. What is five again? The number of grace. There’s such wonderful things associated with the number five in the Scriptures. Five loaves of bread were broken and put in twelve baskets and fed the multitude, then the double meaning, they collected back up what was left of the five loaves and they reinserted them into the twelve baskets; first the natural, then the symbolic. The symbolic is how He who is the carrier of grace, the Bread from heaven, not like what their fathers ate in the wilderness but the Bread of Life that a man may eat and live. That bread that we are admonished is more than bread alone, natural bread alone but the word of God, the Word that became flesh that now is typified as bread and it’s put back in twelve baskets in anticipation of when He would be crucified but all that He is would be put in twelve baskets, to twelve apostles, to be carried into the earth.

So in the thirtieth year, the fourth month so it’s the chiros of God, on the fifth day, grace comes in five. I don’t have time to open this whole vision in this fashion, looking at every symbol, I just wanted to do that up front so that you’d know, “Hey, this is something else.” So I’m going to go for the main portion of this - I’ve been trying to unpack this thing for quite a while and I won’t unpack it all today, we’re closing in on the end of our time. He said, “The heavens were opened and I saw visions of God on the fifth day of the month which was in the fifth year of Jehoiakim’s
captive the word of the Lord expressly came.” Don’t you just love it, what comes with the word?
Grace and truth, the One who is the word comes and it’s five and five which is saying “Grace,
and grace”, of His fullness we have received grace upon grace. This stuff will run over you. “The
word of the Lord,” I just love this, “came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, son of Buzi in the land of
the Chaldeans by the River Trabar.” So while you are a captive in a religious system the word of
the Lord will come to you, five and five, grace and grace because there is no place in which to
hold the people of God captive. You could be in the land of the Chaldeans when grace will come
to you. Egypt was about economic slavery, Babylon was about religious slavery, it’s more
important that you know that there’s deliverance from religious slavery. I wish I could unpack
some of this stuff but it’s just there, I know you’ll take it and run with it, you should, it’s yours.
Then I looked and behold a whirlwind came forth out of the North, a great cloud with raging fire
engulfing itself and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of
amber out of the midst of fire.” This is a type of the day of Pentecost when there came the
sound like as of a rushing mighty wind and cloven tongues like as of fire because one of the
manifestations of God is by phineros, one of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit is by fire, He
simply is God. When He comes He sweeps things away to bring in a new order.

So this is a preview of a thing that will have multiple fulfillments, one of the multiple fulfillments is
the day of Pentecost when there comes a rushing mighty wind and cloven tongues like as of
fire. And by the way, whenever the authority of the throne of God is present there will be
rumbling and peals of thunder and flashings of lightning because there is power to shape the
order of things, whether in heaven or on earth; you see the absolute connection to the authority
of the throne in the imagery of brightness, color and so on. But then, also from within it came the
likeness of four living creatures, I wonder how they look? Let’s take guesses as to how these
four living creatures, how they look. Do I have a suggestion? A lion, an ox, what else? An eagle
and a man. Well you all have really gone out on a limb here, (laughter) either that or you read
ahead. You see how easy this is? You know where it’s going. Four living creatures and this was
their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.” So those who said “men”, check that off,
you’re right. Now notice in heaven each one of them had just one face, so there was one face of
the four that had the face of an eagle, one face of the four had the face of a man, one face had
the face of the lion and one face had the face of an ox but here each one of the four has all four
faces, each one of the four. But notice they have in both cases, they have the likeness of a man,
the likeness of a man; they come shaped like men but they have different faces to them. Each
one had four faces and each one had four wings, now Carl will quickly point out to us that this is
not an exact match because in heaven they had six wings, that’s because they’ve moved from
earth to heaven and when you’re on the earth with two wings you cover your faces, with two
wings you cover your feet but you don’t fly. When you’re in heaven you need the other two
wings because with twain they did fly, they’re in a different dimension so they have all six but on
the earth they’re masquerading as earthly creatures but they’re heavenly configured, they walk
around in the form of a man.

Lets look at this. “Each one had four faces” - it’s plainly spoken - “and each one had four wings,
their legs were straight and the soles of their feet were like the soles of calves feet, they
sparkled like the color of burnished bronze, the hands of a man were under their wings on their
four sides and each of the four had faces and wings. Their wings touched one another, the
creatures did not turn when they went but each one went straight forward. As for the likeness of
their faces each one had the face of man, each of the four had the face of a lion, on the right
side each had the face of an ox, on the left side each of the four had the face of an eagle. Thus
were their faces. Their wings stretched upward, two wings of each one touched one another and
two covered their bodies and each one went straight forward and they went wherever the Spirit wanted to go and they did not turn when they went. As for the likeness of the living creatures their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures, the fire was bright and out of the fire went lightning and the living creatures ran back and forth in appearance like a flash of lightning.” That’s all I’m going to be able to talk about if I’m going to finish what I want to do. I will point out to you that apart from the four living creatures were four wheels and the wheels were covered with eyes, the wings were covered with eyes but the wheels were covered with eyes and the wheels followed exactly the motions of the four living creatures. Now I’ll have time to wrap up that much but I want to go back.

So the four have four faces, you’re seeing the human being, the corporate Man, this is a vision of the corporate Man who follows the Son of God who carries the presence of the One who is in their midst in the earth. The reason we went to heaven first was so we could see what heaven intended, if we started with the vision of the earth it would be confusing to us but these are the same four creatures. In heaven in their midst they carry the presence of the One who is the Lamb and they walk in the authority of the Lamb, they are the ones who are given the place of honor in heaven. Now on earth Ezekiel sees a vision of them without the Lamb in the midst of them but they come in a year of kingliness, they come at a time of maturity and they carry grace with them and they are the corporate Man. Now understanding the corporate Man one sees at once individuals but they also see a functioning together of individuals that is totally devoid of competition or even individual activity. They cover one another, you notice that, they cover one another and their wings were stretched up. Their pointed upward which is to say what? They’re moved by the heavenly direction and they move as one and they cover one another and they see what is coming and they see what is past and they live in the earth with an intentionality that is governed in its entirety by the mandates of heaven, they are not of this world but they live in the world and in them they have four characteristics. So you’re describing not human beings but beings that appear as humans with divine characteristics, you’re describing spirit beings. In the Spirit of the corporate Man - and notice everybody, each of the four has all of the things that the four have, it’s redundancy so it means in you are these four things just like in all of us are these four things because we’re a different species that function as one. We are a spirit being with all the characteristics of spirit and we’re designed to function as one under the headship of the One whose presence we carry in the midst of us.

The face of a Lion. Well that’s the face of the ruler, the Lion of the tribe of Judah has overcome. In each of us is the mandate to rule the sphere that has been given to us and we have the grace to rule the sphere, this after all is the fifth month, grace and grace. You’re not having to ask permission to rule, “As the Father has sent Me now I am sending you,” that’s the mandate, He is in the midst of us, “I will never leave you, I will never forsake you, behold I am with you always,” He’s the head, we carry His presence and we carry His authority as grace, full of grace and truth and that’s why part of our spirit is configured to rule, that’s why we are typified as the lion, the face of the lion is a configuration of your spirit. Can you believe these things? Will you believe these things? In each person in the corporate Man is a configuration to rule. You know why God set the animals up in the earth with characteristics like that? So we could see them, so when there was a reference to us as having the face of the lion we see the king of the jungle, the one who is capable of ruling. So creation reenforces the truth of who we are in spirit, each one had four faces and they all had the same faces, so as spirit beings we have the ability to rule and as spirit beings we’re as stubborn as an ox, “Be you therefore steadfast, unmovable,” be as trees that are planted by the rivers of water because the water that flows through you is the River of
Life. You shall not be moved. “Be you therefore steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the
work of the Lord because your labors are not in vain,” nobody can take that from you or give it to
you, it is who you are. You have the strength of permanence for you are seated in heavenly
realms in Christ Jesus and you shall not be moved. Every time your enemy manages to
persuade you otherwise it shakes your confidence but go back to the reality that each one has
four faces; you’re configured to rule and you’re configured to overcome, to pursue. These are
how aspects of grace looks when it bears your face and runs through your persons.

The right to rule. Grace supports you in it. The right to persist, grace supports you in it. The
eagle soars prophetically because the natural environment of the eagle is between the realms,
between heaven and earth, we come boldly before the throne of God, we have access to the
wisdom of the heavens, we have eyes to see and we should see. We can see what the past
means and we can see where the future is going because we soar in the heavens where
understanding of past and future are commonly, present before the throne of God. In your spirit
you’re configured like an eagle, you’re capable, you are capable of functioning among the
dimensions of flesh and spirit. Look how complete it seems the robbery of our identity has been.
And then we have the face of a man, of a human, so we could engage humans on the level of
the eternal. Now heres a hint: it will not do when your face is visa vie your wife - men - for you to
have the character of an ox with a beak, that does not avail. When you speak to your wife have
the face of a man but be as discerning as an eagle, don’t be wishy washy, be steadfast in your
convictions and do not give up your place of rule but let all of that function behind the eyes of a
man who lives with his wife in an understanding way. And woman do not, I repeat, do not
screech at him like an eagle less he resist you, that’s just a word to the wise. (laughter) Know
when the face is appropriate for the occasion, dress for the occasion, dress for the occasion.

This is who you are in the spirit and this reality has long been established before the throne of
God and it’s in this company that we carry Christ ported on the shoulders of the corporate Man.
Grace, grace. We’re rediscovering treasures that have been lost for so long, it almost seems too
marvelous for our eyes to behold but the day has come and the Morning Star has risen in our
hearts. Heaven and earth are meeting in an environment called the corporate Man and we’ll
handle the authority of our Father with the practiced grace of mature sons. Why would we ever
think to be afraid in these times? It was for such a time as this all these things have been written
a long time ago to be uncovered and unveiled now and in a people so come up to the mountain
of the Lord, come joyfully to this reunion of the general assembly of the church of the Firstborn,
higher than Jerusalem to Mount Zion, come to the general assembly of the church of the
Firstborn, to the spirits of just men made perfect. We’re going home at last but home isn’t
heaven, that’s a stop on the journey, home is to what God saw when He made man, home is to
the Father and in the earth a people are being formed, a people of the Spirit, a people formed
by the Spirit to carry the presence of Christ in all the glory thereof in the earth in these last days.
Behold, the wedding of the Lamb has come and His Bride has made Herself ready. Maranatha,
so be it.

So I want to release then, this word over you that this is now a vision that you may lay ahold of
and receive to walk in for the rest of the journey that you will be here. I sense that there is
among us here today are varying degrees of people who feel out of place, who feel lost, washed
up, disorientated, displaced, uncertain and I believe this word is meant to welcome you home.
I’d like to ask Michael if he would to take over from here and I’ll join him in any administration
that he feels necessary and willingly participate in. Would you take over from here Michael?